

## The Watkins Glen Vintage Grand Prix 2010 Report

The Old Marlboro Motor Sports Dirt Bag Racing Old Geezer Racing Enterprises – OMMSDBROGRE racer; “Luigi” – our 1960 silver and burgundy Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce has 32 weekends listed in “his” Logbook as of our most recent outing at Watkins Glen September 9 to 12, 2010 -- The United States Vintage Grand Prix – Downtown Grand Prix Festival and our feature, Alfas <100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary> at the Glen 2010 along with Allard<for SVRA>.

“Luigi” and I have had a great run since David Carte completed the paint and Matt, Rob and Chuck installed his drive train brakes and suspension at Grand Touring completing an effort Hutch and I started in 1993. “Luigi” moved under his own power and has always been road licensed starting in 1998 He did a Mid Atlantic Region – Ferrari Club track event <helped by Denny Austin> as a shake down and with help and guidance from good friend Mark Palmer we did our first race in 1999 – the Turkey Bowl – this years Thanksgiving weekend will be our twelfth “Tbowl” – the one “not to miss” weekend in our annual racing calendar.

There are logbook entries for racetracks: Summit Point Lime Rock VIR Pittsburgh <Schenley Park> Road America and Watkins Glen. “Luigi” and I are period 1960 and older – so VSCCA and VRG are our vintage racing clubs of record Our philosophy and theirs is about the same – the guy ahead owns the turn and no damage allowed.

We’ve had a rod out the block <WGVGP 05> and broken crank <PVGP 07> But otherwise, with help from Les Smith – friends and more recently support from Radcliffe Motor Cars – Richard Rich and Patty – “Luigi” has enjoyed trouble free weekends at the races.

Jack Woehrle and Carl Jensen of SVRA knew that 2010 would be Alfa Romeo’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in business making fast beautiful cars and racecars. So as in 2005 they asked Peter Krause Rob Mocas Dick Giambra Les Smith and I to put on the Alfas at the Glen feature. How many Alfas representing the long history of the marque and history at Watkins Glen could we attract? This is always a big weekend in vintage racing -- 500 plus racers usually participate with cars from the 1920s/30s to racers only ten or so years old. Allard racers from the 1940’s and fifties were featured along with Alfa – even having Bill Warner of “Road and Track” and Amelia island fame bring the 1950 WG Grand Prix winner, a wonderful J2X and driver Bill Pollack was there as well – he drove the Carstens Black J2X with wide white walls on red painted wire wheels to many west coast victories back in the day (Bill Marriott has that car in his collection).

We got started in January talking on the phone and working up the appeals we would use to get Alfa racers of all vintages to show up. Peter, our leader asked me to work on the old cars 30’s 40’s and 50’s up through the Giulietta’s. Our big hope was that Jon and Mary Shirley would bring the 38 8C2900B Touring Coupe that won the first Watkins Glen Grand Prix in 1948 <driven by Frank Griswold of Philadelphia> We had 57 Alfa racers sign up for the 2005 Alfas at the Glen – we hoped to do as well this time – I hoped to complete the weekend without the drama of another blown motor or some other calamity.

Peter Rob Dick Les and I picked up where we left off in '05 – Rob kindly set up a “call in line” and we talked at least once a month with progress and ideas and suggestions going forward – we hoped to tie into the world wide Alfa Romeo 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with hopes that Alfa would announce a return to sales of new cars in the US. Instead we were told there would be no support for our effort and rumors circulated that Alfa would either be sold <to VW> out of the Fiat Group or allowed to die like Mercury and Pontiac had most recently. We pressed on -- Peter coordinated our press releases/advertising, worked out dinner arrangements with Watkins Glen at the new Media Center and bought silver ware items and had them engraved to be used for our All Alfas Spirit awards. Rob was again our administrator/banker Dick our local to Watkins Glen and the downtown Grand Prix Festival rep and the up state New York Alfisti coordinator Les got the leadership of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club on board and supporting our efforts and I worked on

finding some nice old cars and helped out wherever I could. We all were challenged to talk anyone we knew with an Alfa racer of any kind into coming to Watkins Glen.

We all had life changes since '05 – most importantly, Rob had survived a bad crash in his GTV Alfa racer and is still on the mend. Peter is an events manager and driver coach full time Les has retired and Dick and I have new grand babies – it was good that this was the second time around. We had the full support of SVRA Jack Woehrle, Carl Jensen and Kim Hoxie <Peter Maclaughlin kept close tabs on all of it.> The Alfa Romeo Owners Club put on their Convention in Frederick, Maryland in June - Les and I talked up AATG10 with all the racers present for the time trials and concours and hijacked the microphone at the Saturday night dinner to encourage participation. Peter Rob and Dick did the same at each vintage racing event they attended.

Now the question was who would show up! Jon Shirley told us he would bring the 48 winner – 8C2900B Coupe and his 35 P-3 Tipo B Grand Prix racer and their 8C2300 Touring Spider Peter Giddings the world traveling vintage racer would bring his 8C2900 P-3 Tipo B GP car and Peter talked his friend Peter Greenfield into bringing his 8C2300 Monza sports car – the super car of the 1930s! <And it turned out Greg Whittens P-3 Tipo B was on Butch and Nancy Dennison's trailer and was available for the Friday downtown drive tour and the Saturday evening picture six 8C's WOW!> Sharon Adelman signed up next to bring her 59 Giulietta round tail Sprint Zagato <Sandy McNeil brought hers as well> Lawrence Aurianna sent Joey Colasacco with his 53 3000CM Coupe <the Fangio 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mille Miglia with broken steering car> and a lovely yellow Giulia Tubolare Zagato-1 Scott George brought the Sebring winning GTZ-1 for Roger Mandiville to drive from the Collier Museum. And Jay Iliohan brought his GTZ-1 and his early 70's T33/3 sports racer

Will Painter came from Indiana with his GTV and continued the sorting started in '05. Long time Alfa Racer and preparer Jon Norman came from California. VSCCA buddies Santo Spadaro debuted a Giulietta Sprint and Chuck Woodworth came up from western North Carolina with his Giulietta Spider. Andy Mangannaro brought his GTA-Jr Tomas LaCosta his Giulia Ti Super and a GTA – Mike Besic was there to continue his dicing with always quick Ceasar Cone – both in yellow Duetto's, Peter raced a blue Duetto, Roman Tucker provided the inspirational hit of the weekend by bringing out from Michigan Pete van der Vate's 64 factory hot rod Ti Super that he and Monte Winkler beat Colin Chapman and the Team Lotus Ford Cortinas at the 65 Marlboro 12 Hour race and the 67 Duetto Pete built to do battle with the somewhat suspect Porsche Speedster's and Datsun Fairlady roadsters. Dr. Bernie Martinez brought his special GTAs and GTVs And, Rob raced his fixed up GTV.

"Luigi" was loaded on the trailer and "Babe the Blue Suburban" was packed with more stuff than we'd use in a dozen weekends <but it's habit!> Tuesday night. I expected the Ft Meade gate guards to want to check out "Luigi" and the stuff in the Suburban Wednesday morning – but they let us go with just a cursory inspection. Being this close to the end of the fiscal year, there was a lot happening at work but I was able to bail out at 2PM – good friend and DC SCCA Region Historian, Steve Lloyd, had graciously agreed to prepare a DVD of Pete van der Vate of his Alfa exploits from back in the day from his film footage and picture files that would be shown at our Friday night dinner – we agreed to meet north of Frederick on US Rt 15 – also mostly my path to Watkins Glen. <BIG Thanks Steve!> No stress trip north. Adam Franzese and Tony greeted me at the Glen Motor Inn (we stayed as usual across the street at the Gorgeous View Motel also run by the Franzeses')

Thursday morning, Kim Hoxie, Linda Williams and Mrs. Bob Harrington all welcomed "Luigi" through registration. We set up where we were in 2005 – north toward turn '11' just outside the fence from the garages – we shared the area with Collier Cup MG folks. Joe Colasacco was set up next us, Old friend Francois Secard was part of Joe's team tending to the red 3000CM and yellow GTZ-1 – I had to stay out of the way of the many folks stopping to take pictures of these lovely cars – like Ed Mangino who would coordinate our Saturday all Alfa group shot. Bob Williams and my friends at SVRA Tech <I did tech several times before "standing" for long

periods of time became “problematic”> checked “Luigi” over - made a few small suggestions and sent us on our way. I checked in with as many of our fellow Alfa Racer participants as I could – Jon Shirley, his son Erickson and friend “MHP” Mark Hamilton Peters where testing their old 8C Alfas on Thursday Butch Dennison and crew making any necessary adjustments. I got out for a practice session late Thursday – “Luigi” survived and ran very well. Jim McCarthy, Clem and Marsha Simmons, Jim and Diane Martin and Les Smith all checked in. Good start to the weekend. I had hoped to rent a golf cart – but Watkins Glen or the Daytona/ISC people make it un-necessarily expensive -\$500 plus dollars – I was worn out Thursday night and had three days to go.

Jerry and Eric Stahlman <GTV-6 racer and manager of Autocraft in York> hosted our Thursday night Alfa Racers beer wine and cheese and other goodies welcome party as they did in '05. This time we set up at Roman Tucker's big tent in the vendor area. Weather wise, it was cold humid and wet and stayed that way for about half the weekend. I had set up a dinner date with Vic and Linda Franzese; great friends and with their family, proprietors of the Glen Motor Inn for Thursday night but our Alfa racer welcome party started late and I did not make it to dinner – very sorry. Tom LaCosta asked Les and I to join he and his friends from Europe and Jon Norman, the long time west coast GTV racer for dinner at the GMI. Les and I stayed at the “Gorgeous View” Motel across from the Glen Motor Inn <where Conn. Friend Jim McCarthy bunked in>

I had an early Friday practice run that went well – than decided to go downtown for the “Smalley's Garage” Tech Inspection re-enactment – many tech procedures used by the SCCA started here. Both the fine ladies that were in charge back in the day are now gone – but this re-enactment is a tribute to their efforts – helmets, roll bars, safety belts, fire extinguishers – the list goes on. The big events for Friday would be the Watkins Glen Downtown Festival and Grand Prix re-enactment laps around the six plus mile original road circuit and our “Alfas 100<sup>th</sup> at the Glen2010” dinner at the WGI Media Center – a new facility that replaced the old race control and media tower.

Butch Dennison took the 48 WGGP winning Alfa Romeo 8C2900B Touring Coupe down to the WG Courthouse lawn in the center of Franklin Street to be on display all day alongside the red Allard J2X roadster that won the 1950 WGGP brought by Bill Warner – both would be ushered out to participate in the laps around the old street track and be at the front of the line. Bob and Linda Williams coordinate this event for SVRA participants letting in 200 or so of the allowed 120 participants – it's a great event – there appears to be 50,000 folks in town and along the old course – I always get a lump in the throat at the “stone bridge” and coming through “Milikens Corner” entering town. <And, the weather by late afternoon was chamber of commerce perfect!> This event is worth the seven-hour trip by itself. The “A100thatG2010” dinner replaced my crews usual visit to the GMI for Friday dinner <though Clem and some of the others opted for the GMI instead our our soiree;>

A 100 plus folks enjoyed the pasta salad and cake – but the best was hearing from artist Bob Colassi introducing the new award he created memorializing Rita Mangannaro – a wonderful Alfa racer who had passed away to early several years back – the award is to go to the Alfa racer who demonstrates that they are enjoying life. Jon Shirley talked about our sport/hobby and the cars he brought, Jim Steck talked about Bonneville Salt Flats record runs in “Bonnie” his yellow Alfa Spider record setter – new records this year at over 235 MPH and the great effort involved and the fun had out in Utah. Dr Bernie Martinez talked about his love of the Alfa hobby but also talked about a special relationship he has developed with Rob Mocas – who nearly lost his life two years back here at Watkins Glen when his driveshaft failed and came up through the floor – nearly cutting off his leg – Bernie led the charge to save Rob's life and leg - another lump in the throat moment. Our guest speaker for the evening was Pete van der Vate, an SCCA racer from the 1960's and early 70's. Pete won a National Championship in an MG Midget but for we Alfa folks he is best remembered for teaming up with Monte Winkler with a very special 64 Ti Super that they won the 65 Marlboro 12 hour in – 66 GTA that they campaigned in Trans Am and SCCA B Sedan and a 67 Duetto that Pete built to do battle in E Production SCCA racing – None of this would have happened without the great efforts of our leader Peter Krause – Peter is that best

master of ceremonies I know of <high compliment from someone who has NEVER shied away from a microphone;> This was a wonderful evening celebrating old cars and old friends.

Les had "Luigi" perking along as happy as possible. Most of the day, Saturday <the best of the weekend weather wise> involved a practice run in the morning and a qualifying run in the afternoon (didn't really matter for me – I do not have a transponder - so SVRA does not score me at all – the time sheets do even list us as "did not start"!)

Visited with friends watched a little "racing" But the big effort surrounded herding the "cats" er Alfas at around 5:30 for the group picture that Ed Manngino was to take – 55 Alfas posted in the pit lane – up front we featured the Shirley's, Gidding's and Whitten's 8C's The GTZ-1's Sprint Zagato's Sue Gorings 57 Giulietta Spider Veloce that won it's class at the 57 Sebring 12 hour So many wonderful Alfas. You can buy a copy on the picture from Ed on our web site [AlfasattheGlen.com](http://AlfasattheGlen.com). Peter, Rob Dick Les and I agreed that we should have our AATG10 awards ceremony after the picture – the weather prediction was looking very bad for Sunday. So, we moved to the WGI victory circle and gave out the wonderful engraved pieces of classic silverware that Peter had located and prepared for this occasion. Our awards, agreed to by our committee are "Spirito" awards recognizing enthusiasm for Alfa Romeo and the vintage racing hobby – this time we used the bottles of event wine and champagne to recognize more folks.

Peter Krause was, along with SVRA's Kim Hoxie, our awards presenters - and Peter prepared a press release:

" Peter Greenfield-Tazio Nuvolari Spirit Award for Pre-War Alfa Romeos, poster car at the previous weekend's event at Lime Rock Park. Lost a differential early in the weekend.

Jon Shirley -Glen Ora Champagne Recognition for bringing three outstanding Pre-War Alfas, including Frank Griswold's 8C2900B, the 1948 Watkins Glen GP inaugural winner.

Peter Giddings -Chardonney Recognition for the outstanding drive of the weekend in a Pre-War Alfa Grand Prix car, the Tipo B.

Sandy McNeil- Bob Akin Spirit Award for 1950's Alfa Romeos, for her constant high level of performance, her excellence in her Giulietta Sprint and driving a rare Alfa Romeo Sprint Zagato.

Vince Vaccaro- Champagne Recognition for presenting an outstanding Giulietta Spider Veloce race car, the first icon of Alfa's competition success against Porsches, MGs and Triumphs.

Eliseo Carrillo- Chardonney Recognition for the outstanding drive of the weekend in a Fifties Alfa.

Jon Norman - Dick Davenport Spirit Award for GT Alfas from the Sixties and Seventies, in a car he has raced for 38 years and purchased from the drummer of the Grateful Dead! Won the Alfa Feature Race overall in front of Joey Colasacco in Laurence Aurianna's TZ-1 and Eliseo Carrillo's Giulietta. VIntage Motorsport Spirit Award.

Erik Wood- Champagne Recognition for his outstanding drive in his GTV, winning the Group 8 Optima Batteries Sprint Race overall.

Peter Ragonetti-Chardonney Recognition for an excellent drive in his GTV and bringing his family (father Tom) and three Alfas with him from Colorado.

Jay Iliohan Tipo 33/3- Horst Kwech Spirit Award for Sports Racing and Specialty Alfas. Been racing with SVRA for over twenty years.

Joe Colasacco- Champagne Recognition for his outstanding drive in the TZ-1 to win the Group 3 Saturday race overall.

Roman Tucker- Chardonney Recognition for his incredible support of the event and his presentation of two cars (Giulia Super TI and Duetto race cars) that

our honored guest, two-time National Champion Pete Van der Vate, had not seen in forty years! Vintage Motorsport Spirit Award

Kim Hoxie -Champagne Recognition and an event t-shirt for her unceasing efforts to help the Alfa group!

The Rita- Bernardo Martinez, MD. The Alfa driver who most embodies the joy of victory in an Alfa and is gracious otherwise. A true sportsman and gentleman racer!

Sam Smith, Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce, member of the organizing committee. Special Award from SVRA, Vintage Motorsport Spirit Award.

Santo Spadaro, Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint Veloce, outstanding drive in the Vintage Enduro to hound much more modern, bigger displacement cars. Vintage Motorsport Spirit Award.

Dave Durnan, Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce, outstanding drive to finish third overall in the Group One Optima Batteries Sprint Race on Sunday. Vintage Motorsport Spirit Award.