

il Bollettino

April 2011



ICCS Presidential Ramblings

Hello to all,

It has been a long time since we generated a newsletter, but we are back on track as of April 2011! Things are busy with the Dallas AutoRama behind us, FIAT's return to the U.S. and lots of spring car shows on the calendar.

It is also the time of year that we really start gearing up for ItalianCarFest, which will be September 10th this year. Magazine articles and advertising have to go out. And we start updating the content of the ICF web site and our eStore to prepare for the opening of registration - plans are to open May 15th.

This year ICF will be celebrating FIAT's return, with a theme of "Welcome Back FIAT!". FIAT will have an official presence and display at the show. We also hope to have a dealer or two on hand to give demo rides/drives in the new 500.

I want to give a special 'Thank You' to Art Weinman for his hard work on our 2011 calendars. We have had numerous compliments on the calendars, and even a few people requesting additional calendars. I certainly enjoy having one to reflect on at work - the pictures are fantastic! We will be creating a 2012 calendar, with photos from ICF 2011. Club members will again receive a calendar with their 2011 membership, and the calendars will be available for sale (pre-order only) on our eStore and at ICF.

We look forward to a great 2011 and hope you will join us at some shows, other events and ItalianCarFest.

Garrick

Club Business

Renewals have been coming in over the last couple of months. If you have not renewed for 2011, please do so! You can download a membership form on our website at ICCSW.com, or find a link there for our eStore so you can renew online and pay with PayPal or credit card.

New Members

Robert & Linda Vick - Fort Worth, Texas

Upcoming Events:

- 4/19 – Tuesday**
ICCS monthly meeting at The Olive Garden
- 4/23 – Saturday**
Saturday at Starbucks
- 4/30 – Saturday**
Cars & Bikes
- 4/30, 5/1 – Saturday, Sunday**
Keels & Wheels – Seabrook, Texas
- 5/7 – Saturday**
Cars & Coffee
- 5/14 – Saturday**
Vick AutoSports Open House
- 5/14 – Saturday**
DFW FCA Spring Run
- 5/17 – Tuesday**
ICCS monthly meeting at The Olive Garden
- 5/20-5/22 – Friday, Saturday, Sunday**
CVAR Marvelous May Races (vintage racing)
- 5/21 – Saturday**
SCCA DFW Map Rally
- 5/22 – Sunday**
All British & European Car Day

- 9/10 – Saturday**
ItalianCarFest – Nash Farm, Grapevine TX

For more info, see the
calendar at ICCSW.com

FIAT Returns

FIAT began delivering the first 500s, the 500 Prima Edizione models, in March 2011. Three club members have already purchased Prima Edizione models: Bonnie Morrison, #21;

Robert Vick, #195; and Marcy Baron & Garrick Whitnah, #378.

Bonnie and #21



Uncovering #195



#378 Leaving Dealership



The DFW Metroplex has two dealerships that are putting the final touches on their showrooms: Holt FIAT of Hurst, and FIAT of McKinney. Both have received shipments of FIATs, so take a look! The FIAT USA website currently shows there will be a dealer in Irving as well, but the Fort Worth

dealership has been removed from the list, so who knows about other dealerships until they are up and running.

Waiting on the Cabrio version? Dealers are placing orders for the 500C and hope to have some around June.

The new 500 is a lot of fun to drive, and very well-featured for the price. It also gets a lot of attention and questions. Most are “What is it?”. When you respond that it is a FIAT, many people are asking “Who makes it?”. Then you have to give them a quick rundown on FIAT. Tough duty, but someone has to do it. Consider it a public service.

Go test drive one!



Club Member Updates

The Dezzanys recently parted with the beautiful Austin Healey they owned for 37 years. Yes, we know it’s not Italian BUT it will provide some additional funding for the 1972 FIAT 124 Spider resto-mod project. See the article farther below.

Club members Juanamaria and Jeff Cook are relocating to El Paso. We are sorry to see them move, but Juanamaria had a job opportunity she could not pass up. They are still in Texas, so hopefully they can make it back for ItalianCarFest. Thank you both for your contributions to the club!



A Different Direction – Part 1

By Bob Dezzany

My wife, Frances, asked “Why can’t you leave well enough alone”? As most of you probably know, we can’t! Or, if it doesn’t need fixing, don’t let that stop you!

We bought our 1972 FIAT 124 Spider new in New Jersey and drove it for 106,000 miles before I decided to re-do it in “A Different Direction”. Frances supported my craziness once I said the re-do would include A/C and a new, warmed over 2 liter engine.

This is part 1 of a 2-part story. I think you will enjoy reading and seeing what another car nut is doing to an old FIAT Spider. You may even agree that I am ‘improving the breed’. Or not. You be the judge.

The Engine & Engine Compartment

Now we get to the hot rod half of my still-with-me hot rod and custom car mentality from being a teenager in the ‘50s. In order to effortlessly handle the addition of A/C and satisfy my

desire to get to 60 mph quickly, I am having a new 2 liter engine built with twin Webers – I need to hear that sucking sound when you nail it!

And, I had only two requests: I want to get to 60 as fast as possible and still be able to have Frances easily drive it around town.

The engine compartment is completely ‘smooth’ now. All of the studs, brackets and such have been removed. The coil and relays originally mounted to the inner fender wells will be relocated to the windshield wiper motor area under the cowl. All of the wiring has been re-routed from the inside of the driver/passenger area through upper and lower front fender well channels.

Wires come out of the lower channels for A/C, the alternator, the starter, the battery, etc., and are pretty much hidden from view. Wires for the headlights and parking lights come out of the upper channels inside the fenders and never visibly pass through the engine compartment. Other than four sparkplug wires, I want to hide as many of the others as I can – just like real hot rodders do!!

The Interior

The basic interior – seats, panels, etc – will remain stock. A/C will be installed to be able to drive in the Texas heat. A custom made mahogany dashboard will contain the A/C vents so that nothing has to hang below it. New carpeting will be installed and custom mats will be made of the same material.

The Trunk

The normally front-located battery had already been relocated to the trunk a number of years ago and will remain there. The sides of the trunk will be lined with sheet aluminum and then covered in black carpeting. The rubber mat will be replaced with carpet, too.

Part 2 of “A Different Direction” will be published in a future newsletter.



AutoRama 2011

The club participated in its 5th Dallas AutoRama in February. We again displayed six club members’ vehicles for the enjoyment of the large crowds that turn out for this show.

Our display consisted of:

- 2008 Alfa Romeo 8C – John Taylor
- 1967 Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint GT – Kevin Burns
- 1976 Lancia Scorpion – Bonnie Morrison
- 1967 Alfa Romeo Zagato Gran Sport 4R – Mike Elliott
- 1987 Alfa Romeo Milano Verde – Karen Phillips
- 1972 Citroen SM (Maserati-powered) – Gordon & Teresa Sauer

Primarily a hot rod and muscle car show, our display, and those of the Austin Healey and Z (Nissan) clubs, bring a bit of import variety to the show. This year the Jaguar club also displayed some E-type jags to celebrate 50 years of the E-type.



As has become tradition, we invited the owners of our display vehicles and other club members to join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant Saturday night. We had a fairly large group meet us at Humperdinks for dinner, drinks and conversation.



Thanks to the club members who assisted with the show and the generous owners who let us display their cars, the club won Third Place for a club display. We again received many compliments, including from the show organizers, about the quality and variety of the vehicles in our display.



For more photos from club events, go to the club web site at ICCSW.com. We have created a gallery and uploaded LOTS of pictures from previous events, including some from the early years of the club.

Recommended Web Site / Internet Content

www.FIATUSA.com – Check out the models, colors and options available on the new 500. FIAT is back!

ICCS Classifieds

Club members who would like to advertise vehicles, parts or memorabilia, either for sale or wanted, please email details on the items and your preferred contact information to DucatiGuy@gmail.com. These items will also be listed on the club website. Italian-related items only, please.

2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade



2007 ICCS Picnic



1980 FIAT Spider 2000

Grigio Fumo Metallizzato (smoke grey metallic), auto transmission, fuel injected. New top, interior redone.

See more info on the club website, or contact Jerry Phillips – call at 800-466-3428 (Vick AutoSports), or email him at JerryLeePhillips@yahoo.com.

Parts for 1972 FIAT 124 Spider

- NOS 'chrome' housings for side marker lights (LF, RF and LR - do not have right rear). \$35 each or \$100 for 3.
- Front and rear bumper over-riders w/ rubber piece - near perfect condition. \$125 per pair.
- NOS left & right shock towers AND the complete inner fender panel. \$300 each.

Email Bob Dezzany at Dezzany@sbcglobal.net.

Please email DucatiGuy@gmail.com with newsletter questions, comments or suggestions.

Italian Car Club of the Southwest
For Italian Car, Cycle & Scooter
Enthusiasts from the Southwest

www.ICCSW.com