



Garage Find Alfa



Hello everyone! I've been in the Alfa club for over 3 years now and been attending Concorso Italiano for over ten years. I've met many of you at club events. Others may have seen my photographs and stories here in Overhead Cams, Petrolicious or other publications. During this time there's been a dirty little secret, I've never owned an Alfa! Thanks to great friends and fellow ARA members, I've been lucky enough to flog around several different models enough to know that I'd love to add one to my collection. But the money/opportunity/timing





has never been quite right. That is until a Wednesday in mid-September.

Being a collector car broker, I get phone calls asking me to assist sellers in marketing and selling their cars. It's with great thanks to fellow ARA members (you know who you are) that I received just such a call about an Alfa. Like many before them, this was a well told story of a widow deciding to sell their cherished car as she was moving out of her home of many years and into a retirement community.

I saw this car, a 1969 1750 Spider Veloce (boattail) and immediately fell in love. You could tell that the owner had lovingly taken care of this car and the widow told of great stories driving down the coast or up to

Napa. It spoke to me on so many levels, it is a one owner car, purchased new as a college graduation reward from Carl Block Alfa/ Fiat on Broadway in Oakland. The original Oakland address where this car lived is only about a mile from where we live. Garaged since new, the couple drove the snot out of it the first two and a half years and then after another 12 years, it was finally pulled into their garage, not to emerge for another twenty-five years! In 2008 the owner started a very detailed cosmetic restoration on the car. Just about everything on the body and interior was cleaned, repaired or replaced. After having fun with it for another eight years or so, it was destined to stay in that garage again until we saw it. It needs

a new clutch and the underside will need a fair amount of refreshing to match the beautiful topside of this car and that is a welcome challenge

As I'm writing this, I've had it for just under a month and wow, what a month it has been! In effort to get it on the road quickly, I asked Bob over at Import Doctors to replace the clutch with one that I purchased from Ruth Ann at Alfa Parts in Berkeley. That got it on the road, but missed my deadline for driving it on my birthday by three days, oh well!

Next up was replacing the completely rusted out exhaust, but not before getting the fifty years of grime heat steam-cleaned from under the rust-free chassis. Adam Anderson at Devil Mountain Detail in Concord did that messy job and if anyone else needs to do the same, let him know that Ingo sent you and he'll give you a special deal!

The exhaust came in from Classic Alfa of England and fellow club member Joe Storm and I did the very straightforward replacement on his lift. (Thank you, Joe!) It was just in time to be displayed at All Italian Car Day where I met so many wonderful friends, both old and new! A lovely end of that day was being invited to dinner in Castro Valley where Ruth Ann, along with Tom Sahines and other friends put on a nice meal. My wife and I were thrilled to be attending our first 'true' club event!

Finally, we just tackled the much bigger job of refreshing the rear suspension. That is quite a DIY project I will tell you! Again, Joe and his lift (and tools) were huge here. We got all new standard bushings, red adjustable Koni's and Centerline sport springs. OMG, that has absolutely transformed the handling of this car and put a HUGE grin on my face. Now, I have to recuperate a bit before doing the front end.

We are very proud to be the new caretaker of this car and will enjoy sharing the story of the original owners at the many club events and regional shows. My wife and I are looking forward to continuing the tradition of this beautiful car. If you know of someone looking to move on from their prized possession, let me know and I'd be happy to assist.





