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Robbie Gower
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Il Cavallo Rosso



Lighter Side of Owning A Ferri

John Babos

I'm sure we all have stories of passengers in our cars that in one way or another left an impression; some good, some bad but an impression none the less. The following is an example of one that left a lasting impression on me.

It was during one of those unseasonably warm days last November that I decided to take the 328 out for an "Italian Tune-Up." After leaving the neighborhood and picking up some speed (not exceeding the speed limit of course), I detected a rattle coming from the passenger side roof latch. I thought that when I last put the roof on I probably didn't latch it. So, not taking my eyes off the road I reached up to the latch. It felt odd and I said to myself "What's all of that sticky thread stuff on my hand?" So I looked up and there she was, a giant black widow spider whose legs easily spread across at least 2 or 3 inches. And she looked a little disturbed that her home was just wrecked. You can easily tell a black widow is irritated by her furrowed brows.

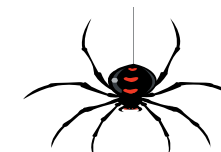
Let me digress a bit. When I was in the army it wasn't unusual to jump into a foxhole and find all types of creatures; snakes, lizards, bugs...lots of bugs. In fact it was expected. For the most part, if they weren't poisonous or stinging, I would just leave them alone. It got a little creepy at night when they started crawling over you but again, it was expected. And if a food ration dropped was missed I always had something fall back on, or in this case, step on and eat.

I've backpacked to bottom of the Grand Canyon on numerous occasions and one of the marvels of the natural world is the way scorpions phosphoresce when illuminated by an ultraviolet light (black light) in the dark. Other campers are amazed as they see hundreds, if not thousands of scorpions crawling over the rocks, the sand, their sleeping bags and tents when I turn on the light. Again, you expect that at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

However, seeing an upset black widow in my Ferrari was NOT expected. I did what any cool seasoned adventurer would do. I gently depressed the brake pedal as hard as I could leaving about 200 feet of Bridgestone rubber on the road, pulled over to the side and jumped out as fast as I possibly could and screamed like a little girl. I wonder what other drivers thought as they passed a Ferrari with its door open and a guy on the other side of the road in a state of catatonic paralysis.

After I regained my composure I decided to take some action. My plan was to call Crystal and have her come

down and remove the black widow, but without cell phone coverage that meant it would be up to me. Taking a deep breath, I crossed the road, slowly creeping up on my spider infested Ferrari. I tried to spy the spider to see what she was up to, but realized I needed to get closer than 300 feet. My plan would have to be perfect. If she decided to run and take shelter under the seats or the dash I would never get her out. I watched a lot of nature programs and recognized that she was about to produce an egg sack. That too is easily recognized by the slightly enlarged abdomen in front of her spinneret. The egg sack of a black widow contains about 10,000 eggs. When hatched, the little babies eat each other leaving only a few hundred to reach maturity. A few hundred black widows in my Ferrari was unconscionable. Luckily the hood latch was on the side opposite the 600 lb arachnid. After releasing the latch I began going through my toolbox to find the right implement to remove the black widow. I decided to put on some gloves and then I installed an 28mm socket onto a combination of extensions that put me in a zipcode away from the acromantula. With one quick motion I placed the socket over the spider. I missed (well kinda of.) I accidentally cut off one of her legs with the socket. Then, just as she was about to leap I got the socket over her, slid a piece of cardboard under the socket trapping the spider and with all the strength I could muster threw spider, the socket and all of the extensions into a field. So, being rather pleased with my performance I jumped into the now spider free 328 and decided to drive home and clean the remaining web from the interior of the car. I would also call Harbor Freight Tools and order a replacement socket and some new longer extensions. As I drove up the driveway and entered my garage, out of the corner of my eye I spotted a seven legged black widow spider skulking its way under the Dino. But not to worry, I'll just have Crystal take the Dino out for a quick spin.



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The FCA-RMR First Mountain Division

Colorado...home of most of the USA's four-teeners. But no mountain looms larger to motorsport fans than Pikes Peak!!

Each year a group of eclectic single-function vehicles gathers to race up the largely gravel-road 12 ½ mile, 156-turn switchback that ascends from the relatively oxygen-rich 9400 feet at the start line, to a brain-and-motor-numbing 14,110 feet at the often snowy summit...aargh!!!

People like Babos with his ancient 246 GT Notaferrari would need a riding mechanic and mixture retuning kit just to get up there, while even the 458 Stealth Fighter of Team Gower will be gasping thru' the last few corners...assuming Bob could tolerate the stone chips and chance of summer snow!

Now, 2011 is probably the last running of this, the second-oldest continuously staged race in the US of A, after the Indy 500, before the Obama administration, in its zeal to curtail all wealth-oriented pleasures, PAVES THE ROAD! Good grief, that is akin to removing Dolly's implants, painting all Ferraris white, or putting real meat in hot dogs. It just ain't right!!

So...to celebrate the 89th running and final grit-scattering event on June 26th, I am proposing the formation of the FCA-RMR

First Mountain Division to bring the POWER OF FERRARI TO PIKES PEAK INTERNATIONAL HILL-CLIMB!

No, we won't be racing...most of us are still reeling from the humiliating admonition of grit-chucking delivered by uncle Jim Walters during the infamous Fall Foliage Tour of 1963 (I think).

Here's the plan...

The First Mountaineers will be divided into two Battalions.

The Pioneer Battalion will ascend the mountain SATURDAY JUNE 25 in assorted campers, trailers, pop-tents, FJ Cruisers et al (including AI) and **camp over-night**...the only night of the year that PP allows sleepovers that do not terminate shortly after the back-seat groaning subsidies.

The Quartermaster Battalion will arrive at sunrise on SUNDAY JUNE 26 and re-provision the Pioneers with ample soft drinks, fine wines, excellent foods, bacon, bread pudding, etc.

So – Uncle Peter needs you! Let me know if such a foolhardy event would interest you, and in which Battalion you will volunteer.

Cowboy up for a night or a day on the mountain, and be ready to witness the LAST GREAT



RACE where you can sit on a grassy bank sipping Mountain Dew while racecars hurtle past at 120 mph in a cloud of grit and dust to the great endangerment of you and yours.

Bring the kids, no dogs (Stephany!!), and LET'S DO IT! E-mail Peter Taylor today, he has a short attention span.

modenapete@yahoo.com

GOT A PLAN!

At the end of each episode of *Dirty Jobs*, Mike Rowe asks for ideas about future episodes. This is our take on that plea for our own dirty jobs.

If you have an idea for an event for the FCSA RMR, just let us know. We need to keep our reputation as a very active club. It would be very helpful, too, if you consented to plan and chair the event.

Submit your ideas to President John Babos, babosjac@msn.com or Vice President Bert Smith, enigmahist@gmail.com

John & Crystal Babos and Bert & Bobbi Smith cordially Invite you to Enzo's Birthday Party 2011

**Saturday February 26th 6:30 pm Cocktails 7:30 Dinner
Maggiano's Little Italy, 500 16th Street, Denver, CO 80202**

Come and enjoy a fine Italian dinner, the winter-time camaraderie and idle banter of your FCA-RMR friends, and marvel at the racing exploits at Indianapolis and Daytona of Guest Speaker:

Robert Prilika

Fill out the following rsvp information and mail it back today – attendance is limited!

Enzo's Birthday Party 2011

He will be 113 years old!

Price per person includes hors d'oeuvres with your cocktails and a four-course Italian feast.

Your Club will be picking up your cocktail, bar, and table-wine tab for the entire evening!!

Mail your check today to

John Babos
3530 Greenwood Road
Sedalia, CO 80135

Seating IS limited – do not delay!!

End of Year Events Well Attended

Wendy Menefee gave the FCARMR a private tour of the Henry Moore Exhibit at the Denver Botanical Gardens. Thanks Wendy!



Mike and Sharon Procopio are shown at Ferrari of Denver's Breakfast and Brazilian Grand Prix Viewing. This event was organized by Mike young and provided by FOD.



The Colorado Springs car show that supported Juvenile Diabetes was spearheaded by Peter Taylor and attended by many club members.



Ferrari of Denver's second annual toy drive to Children's Hospital was a great success. Thank you to all of the members who donated toys and delivered them to the kids at Children's. Toys received very special rides to the hospital.



Our thanks to everyone who organized and event last year and we encourage everyone to step forward to organize events for this year.

Schedule of Events for the Rocky Mountain Region

- Feb. 26 Enzo's Birthday Banquet 6:30 to 10:30 at Maggianno's Little Italy, 500 16th Street, Denver, CO 80202. Guest speaker is Indy Driver and Sports Car Manager Robert Prilika, \$65/person. Contact John Babos at babosjac@msn.com or 303-688-2937. Reservations required.
- May 11 Private Tour of the Denver Art Museum's Contemporary Galleries led by curator, Dr. Timothy Standing from 5:30 to 6:30 and followed by dinner at Palettes Restaurant. Contact John Babos at babosjac@msn.com or 303-688-2937.
- Jun. 5 Automezzi Concours, A Celebration of Italian Motoring. Colorado College of Art and Design. 9 – 3. Contact John Babos at babosjac@msn.com or 303-688-2937.
- Jun. 12 28th Annual Cerebral Palsy Concours d'Elegance at the Arapahoe Community College Campus. Contact Dr. Chuck Kirkpatrick at charles.kirkpatrick@ucdenver.edu for questions.
- Aug. 27 The Morgan Adams Wings and Wheels Over Denver Concours d'Elegance at Centennial Airport. Contact Jim Walters for info at jbw4141@aol.com.

Kansas City Chapter

- Sep. 7 -11 2011 Crescent Classic. Visit www.Crescentclassic.com for additional information



An Affair to Remember

Robbie Gower

On October 29th, Bob and I took delivery on a 458 Italia. When we had the opportunity to buy this car, I thought it was a great investment, but I was not too excited about the color—black. When we saw it on the floor at Ferrari of Denver, that changed. It is the hottest, most sinister looking vehicle I have ever seen, and I immediately fell in love. I named him Darth.

A few days later, on a warm November day, I took the car for my first drive. We have a road in Colorado Springs that goes up Cheyenne Mountain to NORAD and it is a great curvy road leading up over the city.

As I left the driveway, my heart was in my throat because I was sure that this powerful beast was going to jump out from under me.

I drive a manual transmission everyday, and use the clutch for a variety of things – some right, some wrong. Taking off in Darth and maneuvering the curves of NORAD hill I just about wore a hole in the floor looking for that clutch.

However, it did not take many miles until I was enthralled with this car. The paddle shifter is smooth as silk, and the roar of the engine lets you know that it is responding to your every touch maybe even your every thought. **And the looks it gets.** Cars follow you home.

I have always said that when I get in my Porsche Boxster and put the top down, I am immediately younger and thinner. When I am driving Darth, I am both of those things and more and the top doesn't even go down.



A Message from John Babos FCA-RMR President

I am really pleased to serve as the FCA Rocky Mountain Region's President once again. And I would like to welcome Bert Smith as our new Vice President. Bert has been, and is extremely active in our club and has much to offer. And with the help of the returning board members: Bob Gower, Robbie Gower, and Cyrus Rajabi we will do everything possible to maintain our club as being friendly and fun for everyone.

As in the past I'm asking for any suggestions, improvements and corrections that might make our club even better. I'm beginning work on a questionnaire that will be sent to all of our members. I would like to know what type of activities are the most enjoyable to you, and on the other hand which ones aren't. All of our activities will be published in a calendar of events that can be viewed via three sources: Our web page www.FCARMR.com, the local Il Cavallo Rosso News Letter, and the National News Bulletin. I will do my best to keep these current and more importantly consistent. However, due to possible hardcopy delivery delays, the web site will be the most current and the one to default to.

As you have seen by the recent email and soon – to - be - delivered U.S. Mail we are preparing for our Enzo's Birthday Bash to be held on February 26th. Peter Taylor is doing a magnificent job pulling that together and details are nearly complete. In addition there are numerous other activities that are close to being finalized, look for those in the upcoming calendar of events.

It is really great to be back and please feel free to contact me at 303-688-2937 or babosjac@msn.com for any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank You
John J.Babos
Rocky Mountain Regional Director