

# IL CAVALLO ROSSO



## The Blue Taxicab No. 7489

By Tim Greenshields

This is what happened. Honest.

"You don't look like y'all are around from these parts," Eileen said through a lipstick bordered smile. "And why are you shivering that way Sweetheart, are you cold?" You could see that she was something of a looker sort of with tightly curled up red hair that wasn't exactly hers.

"I feel like I am at the North Pole," I barely breathed an answer over the hot cup of coffee.

"Oh, really? Where y'all going this time in the morning and what's wrong with your feet?" She held out a tray of warm cinnamon rolls like she was going to dump all them together with the butter, forks, knives, plates, and coffee cups into my lap.

"I left Houston, Texas last night where it was 70 degrees and the car I am driving to Colorado Springs doesn't have a heater that works. Trying to drive straight through but I've lost the feeling in my toes. I think they're frostbitten," I said.

She bobbed her head. "You in trouble?"

"Kinda feel that way," I shrugged over another sip of steaming coffee. "Everyone in the whole place here is looking at me, all dressed up with three jackets, a yellow stocking cap, gloves, and towels over my feet."

"Sweetheart, it's -20 degrees below zero outside here in this flat as a pancake county called Salina, Kansas, a place that I would love to escape." You could see her eyes open up a notch or two. "And what kind of a car in the heck are you driving anyway, probably some beat up old junker, huh? You ought to know better than to be driving a car in January 1975 with no heater. You in trouble?"

"It's a Ferrari 330 GT 2+2 Mark 1 with four

headlights," I grinned, now that I was getting a little warmed up and thinking that I had actually pulled this purchase off at nearly twenty eight years old and on a public school teacher's salary. "Comes from Italy. No kidding."

"From Italy, huh? How much did it cost y'all?"

"Five thousand six hundred dollars with a little help from the bank. About as much as that little house over there by the gas station."

That startled her. "My, my." She managed a blush. "Can I see it out the window?"

"Sure," I said. "It's parked right in front of the café, by the glass door."

Pretty damn impressed now that she had heard where

the Ferrari was and with a quick wave to the locals and truck drivers she led them from their tables and bar stools over to the frosty windows.

I started to forget some of the pain, discomfort, the clutching fear about actually freezing

to death in my first Ferrari, agony, hair-raising driving with no defroster, the droning of the two cam V12 engine without a radio that worked. Gee, how could I know it was -20 degrees below zero anyway? You have to understand that these epic quests and adventures don't come along very often in life, and you learn to appreciate them, in spite of the ordeal and occasional fears involved, because the stories and memories will last a lifetime.

Plus you can look at every guy driving along in a Plymouth or Chevy,



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## FCA ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER SCHEDULE

- Feb. 19, 2012** FCARMR's Annual Enzo Ferrari's Birthday Banquet. Guest Speaker David Hobbs. Sunday, February 19, 2012. . **Sold Out. Contact John Babos to be put on "wait list".**
- Mar. 6, 2012 GET TO KNOW FERRARI OF DENVER OPEN HOUSE. FoD is hosting an open house in which FCA members can tour the facilities, meet the staff and pickup handy bits of information. The open house will begin at 6:30. Watch for details in future emails and announcements. Contact John Babos [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com)
- May 5th CECA Track Event, Saturday, Pueblo Motorsports Park, Pueblo, CO, Contact Kent Miller at [JKentMiller@AOL.com](mailto:JKentMiller@AOL.com) (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event .)
- Jun. 10, 2012 Cerebral Palsy Concours d'Elegance at Arapahoe Community College  
Contact John Babos at [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com). (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event .)
- June 16 CECA Track Event, Saturday, PPIR, Contact Kent Miller at [JKentMiller@AOL.com](mailto:JKentMiller@AOL.com) (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event..)
- July 8th CECA Track Event Sunday, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO, Contact Kent Miller at [JKentMiller@AOL.com](mailto:JKentMiller@AOL.com) (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event..)
- Aug. 18, 2012 The FCARMR Annual Pasta Party. Keeping the tradition alive, Myrla and Bill Orth are opening their lovely home for the pasta party once again. Details to follow. (Due to the advance schedule at this point the date may change). Contact John Babos at [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com)
- Aug, 25, 2012 Morgan Adams Wings and Wheels Over Denver Concours d'Elegance.  
Contact John Babos at [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com)
- August 25th CECA Track Event, Saturday, Colorado State Patrol, Golden, CO, Contact Kent Miller at [JKentMiller@AOL.com](mailto:JKentMiller@AOL.com) (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event..)
- Sep.8 – 9 Vail Wings and Wheels Car Show. Watch for details in upcoming emails and news bulletins. Contact John Babos at [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com). (Not an FCA event).
- Sep. 15, 2012 Concours Non D'elegance. See the final day of the Colorado Grand in Vail CO. More details to follow. Contact Paul Gilpatrick at [pgilpat@hostworks.com](mailto:pgilpat@hostworks.com). (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event .)
- Sep 20 -23 Ferrari Fall Foliage Tour (Dates are still to be finalized based upon accommodations, note that is a date change from the last Bulletin). Contact John Babos at [Babosjac@msn.com](mailto:Babosjac@msn.com)
- Sept 22nd CECA Track Event, Saturday, High Plains Raceway, Byers, CO, Contact Kent Miller at [JKentMiller@AOL.com](mailto:JKentMiller@AOL.com) (Note that this is not a FCA sponsored event.)

### Schedule of Events for the Kansa City Chapter

- Sep. 5-9 Crescent Classic Road Rally hosted by the Kansas City Chapter of the RMR. See [www.crescentclassic.com](http://www.crescentclassic.com) for details

## ENZO'S IS A SELL-OUT!!!

Enzo's Birthday Party at Linger on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> is a SELL-OUT!!!

Which will make it **THE BIGGEST EBP WE HAVE EVER HOSTED!** Guest speaker David Hobbs and the unrivalled reputation of Linger have the imagination of Club Members with some coming from as far afield as Santa Fe and Kansas City!

So- if you have been thinking of attending but have not mailed in your RSVP, email me (John Babos) today and I will put you on the WAIT LIST.

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Club memberships:

- Ferrari Club of America
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milk man in a truck, or 18 wheeler jockey you pass along the highway and see it from their eyes, that they're wishing they were with you in that Ferrari. Since I had left Houston and entered into this vast land of ice and snow, I had been charming myself over an awful lot of agony with that kind of feeling. Or so I thought.

"It ain't red and that ain't any Ferrari! It's a taxi cab and blue at that! Who are you trying to fool Sweetheart?" She stared at the car again. "I've never seen no Ferrari in person, except on the TV, and I know that ain't one. It's not like we're hicks down here or anything like that y'all know that don'tcha?"

"The car don't even have any chrome names on it or those fancy things with the horse," a truck jockey yelled out.

"Oh, really," I said. "That's because you can't see the name or the prancing horse. Everything is covered with salt, mud, snow, ice, and sand, but it's a real Ferrari. It has genuine wire wheels too, but they're filled with snow, so they don't look that great and not all of these cars were red. This is like a sedan Ferrari that holds four people and that's why it is called a 2+2," I said in a high shaky voice.

The locals were getting a little testy now and Eileen's brow curled up. "And I thought y'all was telling the truth to me and all of us. And I suppose now y'all are going to tell us how fast it is, huh?"

"Look, I wasn't trying to insult any of you, it's just, well, important that I make it back to Colorado."

One of the locals eating bacon yelled out, "How can that be so dang important? We just had the state championship little league basketball team last year in Salina."

"Well, it has always been a dream of mine to own a Ferrari, even if it's a blue one. So, I got a good deal on it even if the heater wasn't working." I could now see the sun coming up and knew that the Ferrari's windows would be clearing up with the radiant heat, so I filled up a paper cup with another hot coffee, left a tip for red haired Eileen, and waved goodbye to everyone. My bravery surprised me.

I realized that I was still all dressed up with three jackets, a yellow stocking cap, gloves, and towels over my feet. I slowly got up from table only to find my toes had remained numb from the cold, slithered toward the frosty glass door and opened the door of the 330 GT 2+2 Mark I. Eyes peered through the little circles rubbed on the inside of the café's icy windows. The ignition key brought the two dual point distributors, three doubled throated Webers on the V12 to a loud blast!

I slowly backed into the parking lot, clicked the shifter into the first metal gate, revved that wonderful V12 a bit and hit the gas as the Mark 1 shot onto the west bound lane of I-70, the way back to Colorado. The dual exhaust sound of that glorious engine hit the café windows as Eileen opened the front door. I glanced in my rearview mirror and saw that she never took her off eyes off the car until I was out of sight with the sun opening up the weather for the trip home. She knew that I had told the truth when that 4.0 liter engine ignited.

Yes, the blue taxicab was indeed a Ferrari, serial number 7489, which became one of the first models in the newly formed Rocky Mountain Region of the Ferrari Club of America. I restored it and brought it back to life! I never drove back to see Eileen. I was honored to be a part of that group that founded this region in 1973 and 1974.

Bob Donner Jr. from Colorado Springs was our inspiration and first President or Regional Director for many years. I was given the unofficial title of the club secretary and recorder in those early years. By the time the dozen of us got a bit more organized we realized that there was a gentle reminder to join the FCA National level to have insurance for our two events per year. It took two years for us to figure that one out so I sent my national dues into Dyke W. Ridgley in 1974 and finally received my April 1975 paper membership card in the mail. I still have it. I was thrilled. And I had survived that cold January morning in Salina. My toes still tingle a bit in a hot shower. Look for another story from me soon as to what the early club was like. There are wonderful tales to share and some of the old photos are on my website.

Tim Greenshields  
tgrestitutions.com

## **A Message from John Babos FCA-RMR President**

**The FCA national membership period is dependent on when you joined initially. You will receive notice two months prior to the actual expiration date of your national dues. For your (and our) convenience, your Rocky Mountain Region dues will be collected by FCA national on your annual renewal date.**

**Feel free to contact John Babos at 303 688-2937 or [babosjac@msn.com](mailto:babosjac@msn.com).**

**Please forward FCA dues to the Ferrari Club of America, P O Box 720597, Atlanta, GA. If you are a new or renewal national member, your dues are \$135. If you wish, you may call the FCA national 800 number (800 328-0444) so that they may process your national membership with a VISA/MasterCard. In addition, you may join online at the Ferrari Club of America Internet web site located at <http://www.ferrariclubofamerica.org>**

### **CORRECTION**

In the article "Evergreen Disaster!" in last month's Cavallo Rosso, we were incorrect in stating that "Joe Coniglio ran over four puddles in his Ferrari." This should have read "Joe Coniglio ran over four puddles in his Ferrari." We regret the error, and understand that Joe is recovering well in hospital and is not pressing charges against Mrs. Coniglio.

The Enzo's Birthday Party is once again a sell-out. We have reached Linger's maximum capacity of over 120 members and guests. With the reputation of Linger and the wit of David Hobbs this promises to be a really great event. No doubt many of you will tell your grandchildren about this in the times to come. Our thanks go out again to Peter and Marian Taylor and Bill and Phyllis Stewart of Ferrari of Denver for pulling this together.

Speaking of Ferrari of Denver, FoD will be hosting an open house on Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 06:30. This will give many of us a chance to tour the facility and meet the staff. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters and emails.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ferrari Club of America. Events and activities will be held throughout North America to commemorate the club's history. Activities and charitable events, which support the The Ronald McDoanld's House, will be scheduled in as many regions and chapters as possible. If you would like to take part in the planning and organizing of these fun events for our region, give me a call. (I'm expecting a detailed planning schedule for each region from the FCA's Executive Board in the March timeframe).

Fred Bishel and his extremely understanding companion Carol have decided to organize the Ferrari Fall Foliage Tour 2012. The dates are not firm yet and the initial plan so far is to do a "destination tour" out of New Mexico. We would stay at the same resort each night and do day trips throughout the region. This gives our New Mexico Chapter an opportunity to show us the sites.

Thanks again for your support. If you have any ideas for improving the club or adding activities, please contact me at [babosjac@msn.com](mailto:babosjac@msn.com) or 303-688-2937.

Thank You  
John J. Babos  
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