

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 28<sup>th</sup> Street Metro Car Show

By Mike Bouse

The day started just like every day for the past week and a half, gray skies threatening rain. Dave having driven nearly three hours already; both of us looking forward to the next two and ½ hour drive to get to the event - rain did not please either of us. We left Coldwater at 7 a.m. in our Spiders, tops up. By the time we reached Kalamazoo, rain forced us to turn the wipers on. By the time we reached Plainwell, the storm was in full force, nearly requiring us to pull over; but we trekked on.



We reached Grand Rapids at 9:30, as planned. The weather breaking just as we arrived. Unfortunately, just like two years ago, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 28<sup>th</sup> Street Metro Car Show started out very slow due to inclement weather. An August deluge of rain does not draw the cars to a car show. However, we were greeted at Pietro's Restaurant with a cheerful marquee, "WELCOME FIAT CLUB". Pietro's loves having our group show at their place as much as we love having an Italian restaurant be our host. Not surprising, the pizza here is terrific!



By 10 a.m. the gang starts to gather, and by mid-day we again have a crowded corner of the parking lot filled with Italian works of art. Several Fiat Spiders are in attendance, as are two Alfa coupes from the 60's, two Alfa Spiders and at least one X 1/9. The 28<sup>th</sup> Street Show is comprised of over 10 miles of strip mall parking lots filled with show cars of all types. The restless, and the spectators are encouraged to ride the special event busses from parking lot to parking lot; however, most

choose to clog 28<sup>th</sup> Street with their own vehicle. The wise among us choose to plop a lawn chair down on the side of the road and watch the spectacle unfold before us as every car imaginable drives past. Like Detroit's Woodward Cruise the week before, this is a very rewarding day for any car nut. You name it, from Ford Model A's to a custom 'Vette with special fiberglass panels made out to look like Speed Racer, this show has it all.



Besides Dave Nicholson and his daughter Kimberly and myself, Jon and Sharron Prisbe, Tom and Cindy Walters, Mike Slayton, and Paul Dangelis of WEST MICHIGAN FLU all showed a vehicle. Others from our chapter were present without their cars and helped us as we greeted many guests; who we treated as potential FLU members. All day, there were many conversations about parts sources, carburetor tuning, and special techniques associated with keeping our cars on the road in the fine shape we find them in. I'm trying to remember if I saw this much diversity of Italian Iron at the recent FREAK OUT? For being only a local event, we sure

seem to bring out the artwork. How about a MOTO GUZZI for diversity?

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Since Grand Rapids is our adopted home town, even though we live as far away as Lincoln Park, Indianapolis Indiana, Crystal Lake Illinois, and Charlevoix, we will be back again next year. Grand Rapids puts on quite the show. Below are some more snaps of our August party. For the full photo album, please be sure to visit our website at <http://flumichigan.italiancarclub.com/>



We at WEST MICHIGAN FLU invite all to visit. We look forward to your participation in celebrating the Fiat Lancia car family. Please check out our schedule at the website listed above.

HAPPY MOTORING !!