

# ALFANATIC

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## **2014 FALL COLOR TOUR**

**Saturday, October 11th**

Enjoy a relaxing and colorful Saturday drive through the beautiful Southern Kettle Moraine. This is a low key event. It is not a rally and although there may be some questions, there are no trick questions. You can even bring a GPS if you wish. Sufficient time is provided to stop for photos, stretch your legs, check out the covered bridge near Cedarburg, visit a great cheese shop in the Jackson area, and begin to explore downtown West Bend. We'll conclude with lunch at the Riverside Brewery & Restaurant in West Bend. Following lunch you are on your own to explore the Museum of Wisconsin Art ([MOWA](http://mowa.org)), the Old Courthouse Museum, or more of West Bend. Visit: <http://visitwestbend.com/> for ideas.

**Departures starting at 10:00 a.m. from [Holy Hill Church](#)**

Departures start at 10:00 a.m. from the Holy Hill Church lower parking lot. Holy Hill is located at 1525 Carmel Road, Hubertus. Enter off of Hwy 167 (Holy Hill Road) between Hwy CC (Augustine Rd.) and Hwy. K. Arrive early if you'd like to tour the Church and grounds on your own or come early just to engage in conversation before the start of the tour. Car departures will be spaced from 3 to 5 minutes apart. Directions and map will be provided.

12:30 p.m. lunch at the [Riverside Brewery and Restaurant](#), 255 South Main Street in West Bend. We'll share the highlights of the day and continue Alfa-talk over lunch. Their phone number is 262-334-2739.

**Please let Gary Schommer know** if you are able to join in the fun. [alfaman@wi.rr.com](mailto:alfaman@wi.rr.com) or 262-252-3750 This will help in planning how many maps/direction sets to prepare and how many might be expected for lunch. I will call the restaurant with the final number when the last car leaves from the starting point.

*Running late, last minute decision to participate, or got lost?  
Contact Gary Schommer @ cell phone 414-418-0879*

### **Convention Update Alfamiglia Nordest 2015**

**June 24-28, 2015**

The 2015 national meet will be sponsored by the New York and Connecticut chapters and headquartered in Rhode Island. This sounds like a perfect opportunity to plan that eastern sightseeing vacation you've been thinking about. More details soon.

### **In This Issue**

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**President’s Column**

Steve Wirtz has agreed to take over the webmaster’s duties from Jim Zyla. Steve is well equipped to undertake this role this as he had served the club in the setup and maintenance of our website some years ago. Thanks, Steve, for taking over the reins and thanks to Jim for his service to the club.

I always look forward to the Masterpiece. Besides the cars I enjoy the people. I get to see a number of people I know but may not get to see very often and also get to meet many interesting owner/enthusiasts. This year I had a nice conversation with a Volvo enthusiast who was interested in acquiring an Alfa GTV.

We had a few nice Alfas present on club day. I wish to thank those who showed their cars—you know who you are. On Sunday, Alessandra Schwartz displayed her 1932 Alfa 8C2300 Zagato Spyder. Club members Glenn Hanke and Colin Comer presented on Sunday as well—Glenn with his 1950 Ferrari 166 Inter coupe by Farina and Colin with three award-winning vehicles: the 1958 Lister-Jaguar #102 Cunningham team car, his 1935 Auburn 851 Supercharged Boat Tail Speedster, and his 1965 Pontiac GTO convertible.

Make sure to take your Alfa out for a ride when you can. The driving season seems to end ever so quickly. Hope to see you at Road America for the VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival. 🍀

Ciao,  
Gary

**Tenth Annual Milwaukee Masterpiece Club Saturday Pleases Attendees**

By Bob Ludwigson

The annual club day Masterpiece car show was held Saturday, August 23, on the grounds of the McKinley Marina. In all, approximately 200 automobiles from a variety of car clubs were presented. A small but nice selection of Alfa Romeos showed up. Cars were arranged in groups by club, and with our Alfas were two Lancias and a late model Fiat.

In spite of the fact that the day was very foggy, attendance was brisk, and many people stopped to admire our group of cars.

Many of the car clubs, including the Volvo and Jaguar clubs, used the show as an opportunity to hold a judged concours for their cars. There were also three awards given by the Masterpiece organizers:

- People’s Choice Award:  
1971 Jaguar XKE roadster
- Sponsor’s Choice Award:  
1937 Packard Roadster
- Best in Show Award:  
1958 Jaguar Mark VIII Sedan.

As you can see, none of these winners were Alfas. To be fair, and not to cast aspersions on any of our cars, the winners were immaculate and very well presented. However, in my opinion, the judges missed the best vehicle on the grounds. That would be the 1950’s Porsche Tractor. 🍀

**2014–2015 Local and Regional Events Calendar**

September 12–14	VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival, <a href="#">Road America</a>
October 11	<b>AROC–Wisconsin Fall Color Tour</b> See first page for details.
October 18–19	LeMons “ <a href="#">Where the Elite Meet to Cheat</a> ,” Gingerman Raceway, South Haven, MI
<b>May 2, 2015</b>	<b>AROC–Wisconsin, Das Kurze Klausenrennen</b> , twenty-seventh hillclimb and tour, New Glarus, WI
June 24-28, 2015	Alfamiglia Nordest, Alfa Romeo Owners Club National Convention, Rhode Island
<b>August 2, 2015 (t)</b>	<b>AROC–Wisconsin, Italian Car and Motorcycle Show</b> , Milwaukee, WI

## Photos from Milwaukee Masterpiece Club Day and Concours

Thanks to Gary Schommer and Bob Ludwigson



Reporter Bob Ludwigson waiting for the other cars to arrive.



The Alfa/Fiat/Lancia corral at club day.



Club Day winners emerge from the fog.



This Porsche was Bob L's choice.



Left: Schwartz's, '32 8C2300  
Right: Comer's, '58 Lister-Jaguar



Left: Comer's '65 GTO  
Right: , Comer's '35 Auburn 851





### Members Enjoy Dining Event

There was near-perfect weather for this year's summer dining event at Lake Nagawicka's Seven Seas Restaurant, held on August 15. Eighteen of the faithful convened to talk about cars, vacations, and whatever else came up. We dined on the buffet and took a little time out to watch the sun set over the lake. 🍀

### More Alfa News

*Some reality and a whole lot of rumors*

Significant portions of the new Alfa sedan were spotted testing last month, cunningly hidden beneath the skin of a shortened Maserati Ghibli. The pictures, published by [Quattroroute.com](http://Quattroroute.com), capture the shrunken Ghibli at a local filling station. At first the speculation was that this mule was a test bed for either the new Alfa "Giulia" sedan or the recently announced Maserati Alfieri. The sharp eyes at Quattroroute, however, spotted evidence that satisfies them that what lies beneath is indeed the skeleton of the new Alfa sedan.



and the current Giulietta was tipo 940. Also seen in

## Date Set for Alfa Relaunch

Although this week's FCA headlines were captured by the announced departure of Ferrari Chairman Luca Cordero di Montezemolo and the assumption of those duties by CEO Sergio Marchionne, there was a nugget of Alfa news to be mined from the press conference that accompanied the change-of-command announcement.

According to [Quattroroute](http://Quattroroute.com), Marchionne, during his joint conference with di Montezemolo on September 10, stated that Alfa Romeo will be "reborn" next June 24, on the 105th anniversary of its founding as Anomina Lombarda Fabbrica Automobili in 1910. Exactly what this means is, of course, open to speculation, but presumably it means that there will be some additional product announcements covering the first wave of the eight to-be-introduced new Alfas. Stay tuned. 🍀



the picture, along with a hodge-podge of standard Chrysler components, is the "DNA" control knob from the present Giulietta, convincing these observers of things Fiat that hidden under the Ghibli sheetmetal is the future Alfa sedan.

### 3-Series Challenger or 5-Series Contender?

What that sedan might look like is anybody's guess. All the illustrations on the enthusiast websites have so far been in-house and freelance artist's renderings of what the new car *might* look like. Officially, FCA has provided no clue. But what size car can we expect? Recently in a posting on [Automotive News](http://Automotive News), Luca Ciferri referred to the new sedan as a BMW 5-series and Audi A-6 competitor. Most, and certainly this author, were expecting a 159-replacement, in other words a BMW 3-series-sized auto, to be introduced

first, with a larger “flagship” to follow. Perhaps this is just an editorial lapse, as most other sources are still writing that the now-identified Tipo 952 will be a European D-segment offering. 🍀

## FCA Appoints New Head of Alfa Romeo for North America



On August 18, Sergio Marchionne appointed Reid Bigland head of the Alfa Romeo brand for the NAFTA region. Bigland is a Chrysler veteran who currently is Chairman, President and CEO of Chrysler Canada, as well as Head of U.S. Sales for the Chrysler Group. He was recently appointed to the board of Directors of Chrysler Group, LLC. Prior to this appointment

he was head of Ram Trucks. “I am delighted to be able to announce these appointments. Reid has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in managing Chrysler’s consistent rise in sales and market share in both Canada and the U.S.,” Marchionne said. According to [TheDetroitBureau.com](http://TheDetroitBureau.com), “Bigland’s appointment underscores the importance Chrysler CEO Marchionne places on expanding the reach of the Alfa Romeo brand in the luxury segment around the world, which is expected to expand in the years to come.”

## ALFA 6C the New Flagship?

4C? What 4C? That’s so yesterday’s news. Despite the fact that we’ve yet to see one in the U.S. in private hands, auto reporters have moved on. They’re now talking up the projected arrival of the 6C, based on the Maserati Alfieri concept introduced at this year’s



Geneva Motor Show and expected to be released in 2016. [Autoexpress.co.uk](http://Autoexpress.co.uk) provides us with some attractive concept draw-

ings for a sleek coupe they say is slated for release in 2017. Other European sites carry similar stories, citing the new Alfa stunner as competition for the Porsche 911 and Jaguar F-Type. The concept drawings show hints of 4C and 8C styling put together in a nice package. This isn’t expected to be a volume model, rather a flagship with volumes somewhere in between the 8C Competizione and the 4C. Perhaps if you weren’t fast enough to get a favored position on your dealer’s 4C wait list, you could be first on his 6C list.

## New GTA to Tackle the M3?

There are also serious rumors about a new performance version of the yet-to-be-seen Giulia Sedan.



*An Alfa concept, possibly like something you might see—someday. This one from [Carscoops.com](http://Carscoops.com).*

Alternately identified as either the GTA or the Quadrifoglio Verde version of the new Tipo 952, the top end sedan is expected to have 500HP and all the performance goodies one would expect. Yet again something to look forward to.

## And Finally, How About an SUV?

Next up, after the new sedan and probably before the 6C, is a mid-sized Alfa SUV. One site opined that now buyers will have something to shop against the Porsche Macan and BMW X3. It’s headed toward your dealer’s showroom sometime in 2016 or early 2017. Some purists will cringe at the thought of an SUV bearing the *Biscione* on its nose, but Alfa has floated SUV concepts through all of its prior recovery plans, It was only a matter of time. 🍀

## Alfas at Auction—August Report

August is always huge in the collector car auction world, what with the Monterey events surrounding Pebble Beach and the Laguna Seca Historic Races. This year was no exception. According to *Sports Car Market*, total sales were \$428m, 39% higher than last year. A total of 828 cars were sold in six different auctions for an average of \$517,000 per car. The major headline grabber was the sale by Bonhams of a Ferrari GTO for the record-setting price of \$38.1m. Less heralded but not far behind was another Ferrari, a 1964 275 GTB/C Speciale, sold by RM for *only* \$26.4m.

A Ferrari also took best of show at Pebble Beach. A 1954 Ferrari 375 MM Scaglietti Coupe owned by Jon Shirley of Medina, Washington, was the first Ferrari and only the second post-war vehicle to take the top award.



But now back down a little closer to earth. August saw a number of Alfas in play on the auction blocks—too many, in fact, to do a complete report, but a few are worth talking about. Some cars make good object lessons and some cars just have good stories.

Giulia and Giulietta Sprint Speciales play prominently as both object lessons and good stories this month. They've become sort of the flavor of the month these days and it seems that every auction has to feature at least one. Russo and Steele sold a 1965 Giulia SS at its Monterey auction Aug 16. The auction description stated that the car had been customized along the lines of the Tom Zat SSZ cars. It appears this was accomplished by removing the bumpers and most of the

badging and adding some way-out-of-period Recaros to the otherwise stock-appearing interior. This “custom” SS sold for \$88,000.



Meanwhile, across the bay, Gooding sold a 1965 Giulia SS in the same color red, restored, with low miles and appearing completely original, for \$198,000.



The reading? Originality and preparation count. Without knowing the story, my guess is that, at restoration time, the Russo & Steele SS was missing a lot of stuff and the owner didn't want to pony up the money required to locate and buy replacements, thus the “customization.” The result can be read two ways—either the custom brought \$110,000 less than “market” or \$50,000 more than a rolling project car might bring. Maybe the buyer had access to the parts required to finish it properly.

Website [Bringatrailer.com](http://Bringatrailer.com) recently entered the on-line auction business. They are partial to Alfas and usually find one or two to feature on a regular basis. One of their first auction offerings was, coincidentally, another Giulia SS, also a 1965. It sold, finally, on a second run-thru for \$165,000. The hook here is that

the SS had a very special story that had played out in the postings on Bring a Trailer for the past couple of years. The car was originally featured as a potential project car in April of 2012. Posted to the Troy, New



York Craigslist, it looked like this:

Comments were posted from far and wide. Some dismissed the project as hopeless, others criticized the seller for asking too much or being difficult to work with, then in subsequent postings criticized the buyer as a fool or sniffed about having their low-ball offers passed over.

The buyer proved his critics wrong. In a series of 6 postings over the next two years, he documented the transformation of the rolled SS into this beauty:



Worth \$165,000? I think so.

On to a story that *isn't* about an SS. This one really caught my eye because it's about a 1968 Giulia GT Veloce. Gooding sold it at their Pebble Beach auction for \$93,500. I'm thinking; I have a 1968 GT Junior in restoration (another story). How much might it be

worth? A glance at the pictures shows a really well-



executed paint job and at first glance things look pretty good. The interior is freshly done, but not in the original materials. A closer inspection and one notice



es the missing arm rest on the passenger door and the incorrect dashboard finish. At the rear, trim is missing and an auction attendee, posting at [Alfabb.com](http://Alfabb.com), noted that the door fit was off on the passenger side. Others chimed in with a litany of the car's shortcomings and one poster discovered that this was a car he had owned three years prior that he had deemed too poor body-wise to make into a race car.

So friends, given the right conditions, you too can restore a project car with a bad body, ignore attention to detail, paint it black to hide the defects, and sell it for well over the market. All you need are two bidders who missed out on the \$20m Ferrari they came for and didn't want to go home empty-handed. 🍀

## New Members

Welcome to these new members. We hope to see you at a club event soon:

Thomas Lenz of Wauwatosa cares for a 1967 Duetto.

Dennis Thraen of Chetek, WI, owns a 1983 Spider Veloce. (*Wow, Denny, I just found Chetek on a map. Where do you go for service?*)

I think John Welch of Chicago must have some ties to Wisconsin or he would have joined the Chicago Chapter. We're happy to have you, John. 🍀

## More Alfa Auction Results

This auction thing is getting out of hand. What I did the first time as a space-filler would take over the whole newsletter if I let it. I'm putting together a Google spread sheet of results I've found. It's located [here](#). It's a work in progress. Let me know if you like it. 🍀

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### Cars Wanted 1930s-1960s

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## Classifieds

*Alfanatic* will post brief non-commercial classifieds for members and friends at no charge. Email the [editors](#) to make a submission.

### For Sale

#### 1974 Alfa Romeo Spider

Sadly I must sell my everyday summer car. Runs super and looks great inside and out. Some work needed on lower panels. Personally owned 2 years. Previous owner also used daily in the summer for many years. 89,000 miles. Asking \$6,200.

Contact: Kristine Fauerbach, 1-608-877-0562, or [kristine.fauerbach@gmail.com](mailto:kristine.fauerbach@gmail.com)



#### 1985 Corvette

Red/Red, 4+3, removable hard top. 51k miles and stored inside since new. All original. Body and interior in great shape. This car is move-in ready and is a nice ride. Blue Book value \$12,000.

Contact: Jim, 262-642-5068 or [jzyla@wi.rr.com](mailto:jzyla@wi.rr.com)

#### Two Engines

1987 2.5l from a rusted out Milano. Approximately 90k. Make Offer.

1991 3.0l S motor. Approximately 200k. Make Offer. Steve Wirtz, West Bend, WI

262.306.8238 Home [swirtz@charter.net](mailto:swirtz@charter.net)

#### Parts - Make offer

Several Milano parts—Engine parts, Oil pans, valve covers, heads, small interior parts, hood, and sunroof. Don't have a Milano so I don't need the parts.

1974 Spider Hood, Cowl, Doors, Transmission and interior parts. New Left rear quarter panel and lower nose pan.

Steve Wirtz, West Bend, WI

262.306.8238 Home [swirtz@charter.net](mailto:swirtz@charter.net)



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## SUBMISSIONS

Do you have a story you'd like to share? Have a restoration in progress or finished? Taken a memorable road trip or have a funny car story? Pictures, lessons learned, maintenance tips? Whatever. The *Alfanatic* is always looking for material to publish. Email your submissions to the editor at [rabhalter@att.net](mailto:rabhalter@att.net) and share with your fellow Alfisti.

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June 24-28, 2015