

ALFANATIC



President Wanted (Webmaster, too)

From Steve Wirtz:

We would like to inform everyone that we are currently searching for someone interested in becoming the new club president. My wife and I are planning retirement and a move to be closer to our grandchildren in the near future. We would like to start with this advance notice to allow time for this process to occur as we are not in a rush yet. Being part of the Wisconsin chapter of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club has been a great experience. Getting to know the other owners and being part of the events helped us with our move to Wisconsin in early 2002. The first event we attended was the dynamometer session at Borchardt's Speed. Having the Hill Climbs, Tech sessions (one at our house that included transmission rebuilding and homemade pasta making—the pasta was the favorite!), Fall tours and annual banquets are great memories and still things to look forward to.

We are also looking for someone to take over the website as it is nothing fancy and currently only getting minor updates and postings of the newsletter. Please contact Steve Wirtz at swirtz@charter.net, or (262) 306-8238 if you are interested in either position.



In This Issue

- Events Calendar and Updates
- New Alfa Romeo Organization
- 2020 Sales Report
- Classifieds

Invitations Sent for Hill Climb

Event organizer Kevin Caulfield has opened registration for the 32nd annual *Das Kurze Klausenrennen*, scheduled for April 30 and May 1. The emailed invitation was sent to most AROC-WI club members March 1, but some new members may have gotten theirs later. Check your inbox. Registration for the event is online but entry fees must be sent to Kevin by mail. Refunds will be processed in the event of cancellation. Anyone whose invitation went astray can contact Kevin at kevincaulfield@crc-mn.com or (612) 702-8520.

Entry is open to all AROC-WI and VSC members in good standing. Details on car eligibility can be found on the registration site.

The organizers are planning for safety, both on course and off, and are monitoring the pandemic situation, with an eye towards any local or state developments that could affect the event. 🍀

John Ehle's "Mother, We're Not Quite There Yet" Spring Tour to Run May 8

Despite positive signs (at least at this writing) on the course of the pandemic, there are still too many unknowns concerning restaurant capacity and large group assemblies, so John Ehle has decided to keep his annual "Mother, May I?" spring tour socially distanced again this year. His "save the date" notice went out March 2 to past tour participants. John is a master at searching out scenic and engaging Wisconsin roads for his tours. This year's run will start from the Lake Geneva area, reaching Lake Mills by lunch, then circling around west of Madison in the afternoon.

The event is open to all makes and types, although vintage sports cars are preferred. If you are interested but not yet on John's radar, email him at johnehle@comcast.net. Or phone him at (312) 213-4029. No charge to join up. Meals and incidentals are up to each participant. 🍀

2021 Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar

Anything missing? Send dates for events we've missed and we'll include them in the next calendar. email: rabhalter@att.net

March 20	Mobil 1 Twelve Hours of Sebring, Sebring, Florida
April 30-May 2	AROC-WI New Glarus Hill Climb
Dates TBD	Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place
May 8	John Ehle's "Mother May I?" Spring Tour
May 5-9	Greater Milwaukee International Car and Truck Show, State Fair Park
May 14-16	SVRA Vintage Festival Weekend, Road America
May 22-23	Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance , Amelia Island FL
June 4-6	WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, Road America
June 17-20	Indy Car Series Rev Group Grand Prix presented by AMR, Road America
June 23	The Heinrichs' Sportscar Solstice Howl at the Moon Garage Party
July 1-4	NASCAR Cup Series, Road America
July 15-18	WeatherTech International Challenge with Brian Redman, Road America
July 23-25	Concours d'Elegance of America , Plymouth, Michigan
August 5-8	IMSA Sportscar Weekend, Road America
August 8 (t)	AROC-WI 23d Annual ICAMS Show, Reina Intl. Auto. Brookfield, WI
August 15	Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance , Pebble Beach, California
August 21-22	Le Mans 24 Hour Race, Le Mans, France
August 22	Geneva Concours D'Elegance , Geneva, Illinois
August 27-29	World Challenge (Sportscars), Road America
September 7-12	AROC National Convention, Colorado Springs, Colorado
September 17-19	Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend, Road America
Sept 30-Oct 3	American Speed Festival , M1 Concourse, Pontiac, Michigan
October 1-13	AROC Goes to Italy Tour
2022	
January 14-17	AROC Winter Retreat Palm Desert, California
May 8-18	AROC Goes to Italy Tour

Events:

Le Mans 24 Hours Postponed ‘til August; Australia F1 Opener Moved; Still No Date for Chicago Auto Show

The **Le Mans 24 hour race** has been shifted from mid-June to August 21-22 due to the Covid pandemic. The move was announced last week. The organizers hope that the race can be opened to spectators by that time, rather than being run in private as it was last year.

Some writers fear that the announcement of the postponement bodes ill for **Formula 1’s** chances of running a full 23-race schedule. The usual season-opening Australian GP has already been rescheduled to November 21, and Bahrain’s March 28 date will now be the opener. A full slate of F1 races in the Americas is expected, with Canada running June 13, then the U.S., Mexican, and Brazilian scheduled for October 24, 31, and November 7 in order. (AROC-USA has put together a package for the U.S. Grand Prix. See the [website](#) for details.)

There is still one “TBC” (To Be Confirmed) date on the F1 calendar. The May 2 race was to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, but political issues caused the race to be dropped from the calendar. The replacement venue, announced earlier this week, will be the Portuguese GP at Portimao. The Saudi Arabian race scheduled for December 5 is still only penciled in pending homologation of the new track.

Alfa Romeo Racing ORLEN C41 Debuts in Barcelona



Credit: Alfa Romeo Racing ORLEN.

Alfa Romeo Racing’s C41 took to the track for the first time Friday morning, February 26, at Barcelona’s Circuit de Catalunya . Reserve driver Robert Ku-

bica had the honor of putting in the first 29 laps in testing. The shakedown went well, without any major issues, with performance tuning yet to be done in pre-season testing at Bahrain, 12-14 March.

The car was officially revealed in Warsaw the previous Monday and appeared in its distinctive new red and white livery.



Frédéric Vasseur, team principal, said: “Today’s work represents a crucial moment in the preparation of the season, and I am pleased to be able to say that the day took place according to plan. We were able to perform all the checks we had planned. Now we can focus on analyzing these first data and preparing for tests in Bahrain in two weeks.”

Driver Robert Kubica said: “It is always special to be the first to drive the new single-seater. Today’s goal was to verify that everything was working as expected and that all systems were fully operational. Performance wasn’t a goal, but that didn’t make driving a car like this any less exciting. The car gave me positive feelings and I can’t wait to drive it again.”

New Alfa Romeo Global Organization Announced—No Peugeot for USA

On March 5, parent Stellantis and Alfa Romeo Brand CEO Jean-Philippe Imparato announced a new global organization, including the appointment of Larry Dominique as head of the North American organization, reporting to both Mark Stewart, North American COO, and



Larry Dominique

Imparato. An electronics engineer by training, Dominique held positions at General Motors and Nissan before joining FCA. His most recent assign-

ment was president and CEO of PSA in North America.

His appointment is significant in that it accompanies the decision by Stellantis to cancel PSA's planned return of Peugeot to the U.S. Market. Management felt that it was better to further develop the brands (Alfa Romeo and Maserati) already in the U.S. rather than to attempt the reintroduction of the Peugeot brand, not seen here since 1991. Since Larry was to head that reintroduction, Stellantis needed a role for him that was at least as great a challenge.

With low sales relative to its direct competitors, Alfa will need additional products and quality improvements to maintain its foothold. The forthcoming Tonale SUV, slated to arrive in the U.S. in early 2022, will help. The B-segment SUV, dubbed the Brenner, is slated for European introduction in 2023, but may not come to the U.S. according to Clubalfa.it. Instead, speculation is that plans for a larger E-series sedan and SUV may be revived as these models would be more suited to the U.S and Chinese markets. It's up to Stellantis to deliver the needed improvements in quality and customer service that will grow the market.

Alfa Romeo Sales Up in a Down Year

For FCA, 2020 was a down year, with unit sales down 17% from 2019. The only brand to improve was Alfa Romeo, up 2% in unit sales from 2019. Alfa's 4th quarter 2020 sales were up 23% from 2019, with the Stelvio leading the pack. In fact, the Stelvio was the model that carried the bulk of Alfa's unit sales increase for 2020. Giulia sales of 8,203 units were down 6% from 2019, while Stelvio sales of 10,284 were up 9% over the previous year. 4C sales were 99 units for the year. If you bought one, you can say you have a rare item. Dealers are looking forward to the introduction of the Tonale compact SUV late in 2021 or early 2023, hoping that will bring more buyers in the door. 

MotorGaro 250 Vintage Rally June 4-5

The Chicago-area enthusiast club, FuelFed, will hold their annual event June 4-5. The European-



style rally event is designed for vintage vehicles and covers the byways of Wisconsin in a two-day format beginning and ending in New Glarus,

with an overnight stop near Prairie du Chien. Entry is limited and the cars are grouped in classes. For more information, visit the MotorGaro website at [Home - MotorGaro 250](#). 

CAROC Announce Year's Events

CAROC, our brothers to the south, have announced several events for 2021, starting March 27 with an afternoon **Karting** event at K1 Speed in Buffalo Grove. The \$65 event includes practice, qualifying, and final races with trophies awarded to the top three finishers. Advance registration is required, with a deadline of March 20 for entry. Details and signup instructions can be found [here on the CAROC website](#).

Registration is also open for the joint Lotus Corps and CAROC Carl Grabowski **Driver's Education & Lapping Day at Blackhawk Farms**, Saturday, June 12. The single day fee is \$285, with a \$40 discount if you pay before April 12. Details can be found on the [CAROC website](#).

The **Lap the Lake Road Rally** will kick off May 10-15. This ambitious undertaking is billed as a rally circumnavigating Lake Michigan. The 1,000 mile route will begin in Chicago and wind clockwise around the lake: "1,000 Miles of Adventure," per the event's slogan. The tour is open to all enthusiasts and is not exclusively a CAROC event. If you think you'd like to try, go [here for more information](#).

The **Waumandee Time Trials**, presented by Vintage Time Trials, LLC, is another Wisconsin event some may be familiar with. (I wasn't.) Sited in northwestern Wisconsin, not far from the Mississippi, the course runs 2.3 miles, with 16 turns and a 430 foot ascent. The three day event will be held September 24-26 and is limited to 1991 and earlier vintage vehicles. The headquarters for the event is the river town of Alma. (Did you know there is a Modena, Wisconsin nearby, and that you can visit Montana without leaving Wisconsin? It's right up the road from Waumandee.) Entry fee is \$149 by June 30, higher thereafter. Six runs are promised and advance registration is required. [The flyer with all the details can be found here](#). 

Classifieds

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

Wanted

Your classified ads! Posted free! Let us know.

For Sale

Vintage Alfa Romeo Dealer Sign



This sign is 5 feet in diameter and in very good shape. There are 2 small cracks that can be repaired and the color is excellent. We had this sign mounted in our shop (Steve's British Connection) on a large pole for years. It

currently is not lighting up but it should be an easy fix. Selling because we closed our shop. The sign is located in Lake Geneva. We prefer to sell the sign to someone who can come and see it in person and take it. We're trying not to have to ship it. I have more photos I can send direct. Asking \$3,500. Feel free to call 630-553-9023 or email sbcinc@aol.com Thank you.

Gary Tree is trying to clean out his garage. He is parting a **1980 Spider** and has many other parts to sell, too numerous to list. An S2 Windshield, fiberglass bumpers, engine, transmission, door latches, etc. Just ask! Contact Gary at 608-209-2352, or gjtreehouse@gmail.com



Sold!

Congratulations to AROC-WI members Todd and Iryna Krescheck of Two Rivers on the recent purchase of this pampered, low mileage 1993 Spider Veloce from a member of the Detroit AROC. The *Alfanatic* picked up the listing from the Detroit chapter's *Giornale* and Todd followed up.

Perhaps you have a car you'd like to sell. Let us know. The listing is free. 🍀

CONTACTS

PRESIDENT / WEBMASTER

Steve Wirtz (swirtz@charter.net)
1947 Wallace Lake Rd
West Bend, WI 53090
(262) 306-8238
www.aroc-wisconsin.org

TREASURER

Randy Swanson (RSwanson4@wi.rr.com)
N66 W6684 Cleveland, Cedarburg, WI 53012
262.377.7144, 781.5568 (w)

V.P., EVENT COORDINATOR

Bob Ludwigson (rludwigson@aol.com)
N88W22526 N. Lisbon Rd, Sussex, WI 53089
262-255-1676

PAST PRESIDENT, EVENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Gary Schommer (alfaman@wi.rr.com)
W141N6672 Memory Rd, Menomonee Falls, WI
53051-5119
262.252.3750

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Bob and Chrystal Abhalter
(rabhalter@att.net)
5406 2nd Ave, Unit 2B
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-577-5212

TECH. ADVISOR

Al Pinkowsky (al@gt-motorsports.net)
520 Capitol Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072
262.695.4238 414.774.8938

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 and share with your fellow Alfisti.

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP is \$68 per year and includes both national and local memberships. Renewals or new memberships may be sent directly to the National Office or visit <http://www.aroc-usa.org/membership/>.

