

ALFANATIC



Annual Banquet Returns! Saturday, April 2

Good news! I am happy to announce the return of the annual banquet and business meeting for 2022! The date of the banquet is Saturday, April 2. This year we will be at a new venue—the Bravo! Italian Kitchen, located at Brookfield Square in Brookfield, Wisconsin. The street address is 95 N. Moreland Road, just north of I-94 as it heads west to Madison. We will be holding the banquet in the Sunshine Room, just off the main entrance of the restaurant.

As a note of interest, my wife, Frankie, and I recently had dinner at the restaurant. We found the food was plentiful, nicely presented, and tasty. So please join us for a night of food and fellowship!

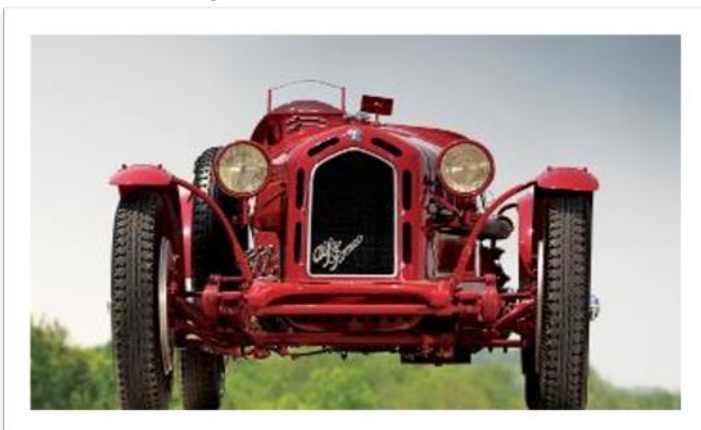
The schedule:

- 5:30-6:00 Cocktails at the bar (cash bar)
- 6:00-7:45 Dinner in our private room
- 7:45-8:15 Short business meeting and continued socializing

Please see the next page for the menu, pricing, and other details.



Thanks,
Bob Ludwigson



In This Issue

- Annual Banquet
- Updated Events Calendar
- Updated Classifieds - Clearance Sale!
- Shows and Schedule Updates
- Tonale debut
- The Borrani Story

Banquet Details

Available menu items:

Choice of Soup or Salad

- Italian Wedding Soup
- Insalata Della Casa

Entrée Choices

- Lasagna
- Chicken Parmesan with herb linguine
- Grilled salmon with seasonal vegetables
- Filet Mignon (**Extra charge applies. See below.**)



Freshly baked Focaccia bread and unlimited soft drinks, coffee, or tea are included.

Dessert is available. If you decide to indulge, the club will pick up the tab..

Pricing

\$40.00 per person.

For the filet add \$6.50 (\$46.50 total).

The price includes taxes and a service charge.

Please fill out the registration form on the next page and send it with your payment no later than March 20, 2022, to our club treasurer. (address on the registration page.)

Those interested in Bravo! Can get more details at [their website](#).

Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar

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

February 12-21	Chicago Auto Show , McCormick Place, Chicago
February 18-20	AROC Winter Retreat, Palm Desert, California
Feb 26-March 6	Milwaukee International Car and Truck Show , Wisconsin Center
March 3-6	Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Amelia Island, Florida
April 2	AROC-WI Annual Banquet and Business Meeting, Bravo! Italian Kitchen
May 7-8	AROC-WI Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, Wisconsin
May 20-22	SVRA Vintage Festival Weekend, Road America
June 4	CAROC and Lotus Corps Track Day, Blackhawk Farms Raceway
June 6-16	AROC Goes to Italy Tour #4
June 9-12	NTT Indycar Series, Road America
June 11-12	24 Hours of Le Mans
June 13-19	AROC-USA National Convention, Coronado, California
June 17-19	WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, Road America
June 30-July 3	NACSAR Cup and Xfinity Series races, Road America
July 14-17	WeatherTech International Challenge with Brian Redman, Road America
August 4-7	IMSA SportsCar Weekend, Road America
August 7	ICAMS, AROC-WI, Sussex Village Park, Sussex, Wisconsin
August 19-21	GT World Challenge America, Road America
August 20	Concorso Italiano, Monterey, California
August 21	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, Pebble Beach, California
August 28	Geneva Concours d'Elegance, Geneva, Illinois
September 16-18	Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend w/VSCDA, Road America
Sept 30-Oct 12	AROC Goes To Italy Tour #5
October 20-24	AROC Goes to the F1 USGP, Circuit of the Americas, Austin TX

2022 AROC –Wisconsin Banquet and Business Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Bravo! Italian Kitchen
95 Moreland Road
(Brookfield Square)
Brookfield, Wisconsin
(262) 785-0858

Schedule:

5:30 - Cash Bar and Socializing

6:00 - Dinner

7:45 - Business Meeting and More Socializing

Questions?

Bob Ludwigson - 262-527-2396, or rludwigson@aol.com

Registration

Please register before March 20

Yes! Sign me up.

Name(s) _____

Menu Choices:
(indicate quantity)

Starters

___ Italian Wedding Soup
___ Inslata Della Casa

Entrée

___ Lasagna
___ Chicken Parmesan with Herb Linquine
___ Grilled Salmon with Seasonal Vegetables
___ Filet Mignon (Extra Cost - \$46.50)

Payment:

___ @ \$40.00 = _____

___ @ \$46.50 = _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to: Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Wisconsin.

Mail to:

Randy Swanson
N66W6684 Cleveland St.
Cedarburg WI 53012

AROC-US Palm Desert Event Moves to February 18-20

The 8th annual AROC Winter Retreat has been re-scheduled to February 18-20. The event, originally scheduled for January 14-16, was moved on relatively short notice. Such are the realities of our times.

Alfiesta Coronado Registrations to Open in February

According to the AROC-USA website, online registration for the 2022 Convention will open by February 1 and be accessible through www.aroc-conventions.org. Those interested in registering using the manly, old-school method can fill out and mail the hard copy registration form found in the February issue of the *Alfa Owner*. Please don't send cash.

2022 Chicago Auto Show Returns to February Dates

The Chicago Auto Show has returned to its February time slot for 2022. Last year's show was drastically downsized and slipped to July due to Covid. The show is open to the public Feb 12-21, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., except for the final day, which closes at 8 p.m. The public show is preceded by two press days and a charity event.

Attendees must wear masks at all times, but no proof of vaccination is required, except for the food areas, which will require proof of vax. Such are the byzantine Chicago Covid rules.

Milwaukee Car and Truck Show at Wisconsin Center, February 26 - March 6

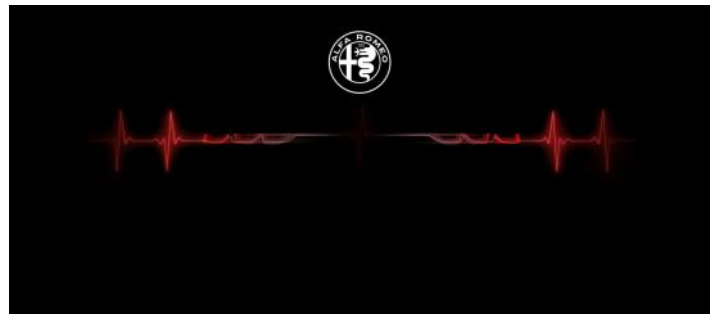
If Chicago doesn't do it for you, visit the Milwaukee International Car and Truck Show at the Wisconsin Center February 26 - March 6. All the usual players will be there. Stellantis has 20,000 sq. ft. on the upper level, so maybe there will be an Alfa or two. Who knows? Hours vary by day, so check the website before planning your trip.

No masks or proof of vaccination required for vaccinated people. Non-vaccinated people are requested to wear masks.

CAROC To Hold Track Day at Blackhawk Farms June 4

Our Chicagoland brethren will again host a track day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway, Saturday, June 4. The annual event is cosponsored by CAROC and the Lotus Corps. We're invited, of course. More details will be provided as the event date draws closer, or watch for more information on the [CAROC website](#).

Production Version of the Tonale To Debut February 8



It's official. February 8 is the reveal date for the new Tonale C-SUV. Alfa released a clip on social media showing brief looks at the tail lights (above) and blurry shots of the interior. The reveal is scheduled for 8 a.m., CST. Find it online at the AlfaRomeoUSA.com website.

Production is slated to begin in March and deliveries in June, at least in Europe. It's unclear when we'll see the model in the U.S.

Alfa Romeo 2021 Sales Down 2% vs 2020

Alfa's 4th quarter sales declined 33% from 2020 4th quarter sales, having sold only 4,057 units. Annual sales were 18,250 units, down 2% from 2020. The single bright spot was the Stelvio, which sold 10,539 units for the year, bettering 2020 by 2%. The new Tonale can't come soon enough for Alfa dealers.

10 Sweet Cars You Can Import in 2022 Under the 25-year Rule

From Hagerty.com, 19 Jan 2022, edited

There's a big wide world of cars out there that, because of federalization laws or market-specific offerings, never make it to dealer lots here in the US of A. Buying a brand-new car from a foreign market and trying to import it on your own is nearly impossible, but it is possible to secure an exemption from certain

red tape and regulations that allow you to register a car here. In that scenario, the vehicle in question just has to be 25 years or older. America's so-called 25-year rule (it's 15 years up in Canada) means that until the quarter-century clock runs down our favorite unobtainium cars, all we can do is watch them on YouTube or drive them on PlayStation.

One fun thing about the 25-year rule? Each year a new crop of cars becomes eligible for import. Below are 10 cars we've been looking at, all from the class of 1997, that meet the criteria import to the U.S. at some point during 2022. The list covers a mélange of JDM greats and European delicacies (and one Aussie) which certain dedicated fans have been watching from afar for years in anticipation.

Remember, though—your experience with importing any out-of-market vehicle will vary depending on which state you live in. Federal law is one thing, but states also reserve the right to enforce their own regulations. You're out of luck if you live in California, for example, and in 2021 some states in New England (Maine and Rhode Island, namely) began deregistering Japanese-market mini trucks for some strange reason.

Parts and service for a foreign-market car is also a whole different ball game. They don't carry Renault alternators at Pep Boys.

As always, homework for the dizzying import process from docks to driveway is an absolute must should you be determined to go it alone. Buying from a reputable dealer that specializes in foreign-market imports will come with a premium, but these outfits will often fully handle the paperwork so you don't have to. Nobody wants to have to look over their shoulder, worried that Uncle Sam will one day come with a tow truck sending an innocent Skyline GT-R to the crusher.

Alfa Romeo 156

Launched in late 1997 and built until 2005, the 156 isn't the prettiest car in the world. And with Stelvio SUVs now meandering around suburbs, an Alfa Romeo isn't as exotic a sight as it used to be for Americans since the brand's 20-year hiatus between 1995 and 2015. It also hails from right in the middle of the company's front-wheel-drive era.

So what does the 156 have going for it? Well, it's an Alfa Romeo, and Alfa Romeos are both attractive and nice to drive. The most desirable engines are the Twin



Spark 16-valve four-cylinder, and the 2.5-liter double overhead cam Busso V-6, both of which look good and make a pleasant sound. Other solid options included a Momo leather interior and mahogany steering wheel, Recaro seats, and lowered suspension. Fast wagon fans will pine for the 156 Sportwagon model, but it didn't arrive until 2000. See you in 2025!

Follow the link to [Hagerty.com](https://www.hagerty.com) at the article's top to read about the other nine cars, which are:

- Honda Civic Type R
- Holden Commodore (VT)
- Subaru WRX STi Type R (two-door)
- Renault Kangoo
- BMW M Roadster (European spec)
- Ford Puma
- Mitsubishi Pajero Evolution
- LTI TX1 London Taxi
- Nissan Skyline GT-R NISMO 400R 🍀

The Story of Borrani

From "[Shop Talk](#)," Chris Bright, January 3, 2022



British Born, Italian Perfected

For a company that is so closely associated with Italy and its iconic Grand Prix and sports cars, it may come as a surprise that Borrani Ruote's origins are actually British, founded by a Californian, and represented by a logo originating in Ireland! So while the story of Borrani has origins elsewhere, the company is now Italian through and through.

The company's innovations had Italian car makers

beating a path to their door which is why we think of these gorgeous, knock-off wire wheels as a defining element for a vintage sports car.

The Borrani Origin Story

Our tale begins with a bicycle and motorcycle manufacturer in Coventry, England, called Rudge Whitworth Cycles. When founded in 1894, they selected the red hand of Ulster as the company's badge due to a founder's Irish heritage. While growing their two-wheeled business, a son of a co-founder named John Pugh was dabbling in the nascent sport of auto racing.

In the early days, tires went flat often. The entire tire was changed while the wheel remained attached to the car. Many of us have changed bicycle tires. It was like that, but much, much more time-consuming. Young John thought it would be better to be able to remove the wheel and replace it quickly.

In the early 1900s, he engineered and patented a detachable steel wire wheel, mounted on a splined hub with a center locking nut, what we now refer to as a knock-off wheel. Pugh's invention caught on quickly among racers as the advantages were obvious. By 1913, they became the exclusive style of the wheel used by Grand Prix cars. Thus, the idea of tire strategy was born, as tires could be made to perform better for a shorter period since they could now be easily changed.

The demand for Rudge Whitworth wheels was high, and their factory in Coventry was at capacity serving the nascent British automotive industry. To expand their sales, Rudge Whitworth wanted an outpost on the Continent. In 1922, they set up a licensee in Milan to manufacture wheels there. Carlo Borrani, born in 1887 in Napa, California, to Italian parents that had immigrated there, returned to Italy to start Rudge Whitworth Milano.

Borrani had immediate success. Within the first year, the company supplied wheels to Alfa Romeo, Isotta Fraschini, Fiat, Bianchi, Lancia, and



Carlo Borrani

Auto Union for their race cars and top-tier production cars. An early adopter was Enzo Ferrari, who insisted on using them when he was leading the Alfa Romeo racing efforts, and would later continue their exclusive use for his namesake racing and production cars after the war.

In the 1930s, the name was officially changed to Ruote Borrani S.p.A. ("ruote" is Italian for "wheels"), mainly at the behest of Benito Mussolini, who was cleansing the country of Anglicized names. The Italian outpost made advancements of their own in concert with their diverse and enthusiastic customers. Borrani's most notable improvement was manufacturing the outer rim of an aluminum alloy, which was significantly lighter and reduced the unsprung weight.



Borrani wheels on the Ferrari 125S

After WWII, to meet the growing demand for Italian sports cars, the holding company changed

names and moved its manufacturing to a suburb of Milan. After a successful period for wire wheels, the cast aluminum wheel gradually took over the market. Looking to stay relevant, Borrani began mounting a pressed steel wheel disc into their existing aluminum rims.

These "bimetal" wheels, which were produced as early as 1954, had their fair share of success. They were mounted on famous brands such as Alfa Romeo, ASA, Abarth, Fiat, Lancia, Maserati, and others. Borrani wheels weren't just for Italian cars. They were notably used on early Porsche 356s, Corvettes, and even Ford GT40s.

The Borrani Wheels Difference

John Pugh's original design for Rudge Whitworth wheels was a game-changer. The idea of a quick-change wheel simply hadn't been needed yet. As we see throughout the history of the automobile, racing is the mother of invention of these safe, strong, and light wheels. Here are the key qualities that made Borrani's better:

Splined Hub and Tapered Mating Cones. The low-profile splines provided tremendous strength that could handle acceleration and deceleration. The end was rounded so the wheel could be positioned on the

axle in one motion, no longer requiring it to be mated at a specific angle of rotation. Today, this design is still utilized on modern Formula One cars.

Self-Tightening Locking Nuts. This was a big step for safety! The center-locking hubs were designed to tighten under load by featuring reverse threading on one side of the car. The nuts were easily removed with a few blows of a soft hammer.

Forged Alloy Construction. The differentiator between what was being done in Coventry and elsewhere was that Borrani used aluminum alloy rims that reduced weight and improved steering characteristics, while also being tough enough to handle the extreme loads of Grand Prix and endurance sports car racing.

Ageless Beauty. Borrani wheels are a perfect marriage of form and function. Whether chromed or painted, they are evocative and add sophistication to a car. The knock-off spinners were offered in two- and three-wing designs that in and of themselves became iconic. Their popularity made them fashionable, setting off a decades-long period in which they were utilized on the most successful and beautiful cars. Today, they epitomize what a sports car wheel should look like.

All Borrani rims are identified by a stamped RW-code of four or five digits, the unique Ruote Borrani Milano stamping, and a stamped internal production number. The hubs are also coded and the numbers correspond to technical specifications.

Borrani Today


The legacy of Ruote Borrani is forever etched in automotive history. However, the company as it exists today is a shadow of its former self. At its height in



Early Ad

the 1950s, Borrani was producing 15,000 wheels per month. In the 1960s, cast aluminum wheels were becoming popular. Some Ferraris carried Borrani wheels into the early 1990s.

Today, the entity operates as RuoteMilano Srl as part of the international automotive concern Zeta Europe BV, a Dutch outfit. Borrani primarily manufactures wire wheels in a facility near Milan for both automobiles and motorcycles. Their main production is wire wheels for collector vehicles, but they also have modern designs that are aftermarket upgrades for modern production cars including Audis, Maseratis, Minis, and Fiat 500s.

Borrani wheels are still iconic and highly sought after, which keeps the market for originals hot, with sets selling for upwards of five figures. It is hard to imagine a product that is as well known as the cars it is fitted on, but Borrani wheels have arguably attained that enviable and well-deserved status. 



only alfa romeo could create this high performance car with 5-forward speeds for \$2995



It took every bit of Alfa Romeo's 60 years of legendary racing experience to produce this high performance, budget-priced car. The five forward speeds usually found only in cars over \$10,000 are standard equipment. This enables full utilization of the engine's torque range, providing full-power potential under all circumstances. And provides "down town" traffic flexibility, over-drive economy, and superior hill climbing performance. Not having five forward speeds, many cars try to compensate with heavy, remote controlled, "bolt-on" overdrive units—optimistically described as the 5th forward speed—and charge for it as an "extra." Examine the all-aluminum engine, gear box and

rear axle housings. Now add double over-head cam shafts and the result is a car capable of over 105 miles per hour; 21 miles to the gallon. Check the standard equipment list. It contains most items other makes charge for as "extras" ... including individually adjustable front seats, and disc brakes. Prefer a sports car? The famous Giulietta Spider, with custom Fairna body, \$3395 P.O.E., \$3450 P.O.E. West Coast. The six cylinder, 2 + 2, 2000 Spider with 3 dual-throated Solex carburetors and custom body by Touring, \$4995 (P.O.E.) Coupe models available. Also detachable hardtops for all Spiders. *Traveling abroad? Save money. Order here. Pick up overseas. Ask your dealer for details.*



Borrani Bimetal

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

Moving Sale LAST CHANCE!

**Miscellaneous Alfa Parts for Sale
Any Offers Accepted!**

Parts Not Sold by May Will Be Scrapped!

- 2 ea. V6 valve cover sets
- 2 ea. v6 lower sumps
- 1 ea. V6 rear bell housing
- 1 ea. V6 Oil pan complete
- 1 ea. Spider Oil pan complete
- 1 ea. 4 cyl valve cover
- 4 ea. Bosch intake vanes
- 2 ea. Spider Idler assemblies
- 1 ea. Spider driveshaft
- 2 ea. Bins of 74 spider parts
- 1 ea. Spider Clutch disk New Valeo
- 2 ea. Spider Transmission
- 1 ea. Spider transmission without Bell housing
- 2 ea. 74 spider doors
- 1 ea. Left rear quarter panel new for 70's spider
- 1 ea. lower nose panel 70's spider New
- 1 ea. 4 cyl Engine mount for engine stand
- 1 ea. Sperry Head with 11mm cams
- 2 ea. Spider 2.0 Crankshafts
- 2 ea. European 4 cyl cast y exhaust manifold set
- 1 ea. European 4 cyl 40mm carb intake with mounts
- 1 ea. European 4 cyl 45mm carb intake w/o mounts

For more information, email Steve Wirtz
(swirtz@charter.net)

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



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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 and share with your fellow Alfisti.

SCAM WARNING

No one legitimately representing AROC-WI will ever contact you to request you purchase gift cards or otherwise loan money on behalf of the club or its officers. Any such request should be presumed to be fraudulent.

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