


ALFANATIC



New President Chosen!

Randy Swanson has accepted the call to become AROC-Wisconsin's next president. Randy joined AROC in 1991 and has been the Wisconsin chapter's treasurer since 1998.

Randy assumed the gavel at the club's annual banquet and business meeting, April 2. (See Bob Ludwigson's banquet report inside.) He succeeds outgoing president Steve Wirtz, who will soon be leaving the area. He recently retired his day job and is busy packing for a move to Montana, closer to his family. His move date is yet to be determined.

Thanks to Steve for his years of service to the club, and thanks to Randy for being willing to take on new responsibilities. 




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Event Updates

Tom and Pam Heinrich will once again open the gates to the Lift Incorporated world headquarters in Glendale to host the annual **Sportscar Solstice Howl at the Moon Garage Party and Happening**, Wednesday evening, June 29. (We know the solstice will fall the week before, but this date better fits the hosts' busy schedules.)

Attendees can expect the usual assembly of friendly car people and interesting cars, many of which may be Alfas. You can always count on some surprises from Tom's garage. Food and drink are what you decide to bring for yourself or to share.


Lift Inc. is located at 2737 West Mille Road in Glendale. Festivities will start around 6:00 p.m. We'll post further details in upcoming issues of the *Alfanatic*. Pencil the date in your calendar. 

John Ehle's Mother May I? Spring Tour

For the last 10 years, club member John Ehle has organized a very popular Mother's Day weekend spring tour. This year, his Saturday, May 7, event, which draws a broad range of local enthusiasts, falls on the same weekend as our New Glarus Hillclimb. This provides Alfisti with a choice of events.

John has decided to formalize the tour's relationship with Drive Toward a Cure.TM

"Drive Toward a Cure pursues an alternative to the numerous 'for profit' rally driving programs through the creation of events that team Cars and Camaraderie to raise funds and awareness to support the challenges of Parkinson's Disease, benefiting research and patient care. To find out more, please visit www.drivetowardacure.org."

More information on the tour can be found on the [Drive Toward a Cure 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

May 7-8	AROC-WI Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, Wisconsin
May 7	John Ehle's 10th annual Mother May I? Drive. Website
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 29	The Heinrich's Howl at the Moon Party
June 30-July 3	NASCAR 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, Seaside, 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
2023	
March 3-5	The Amelia (Concours), Amelia Island, Florida

Hillclimb Reminder

On March 1, invitations were sent for this year's New Glarus Hillclimb, *das Kurzr Klausenrennen*, to be held May 6-7. AROC-WI members in good standing should have found the email in their inboxes. The low key driving and social event is open to all AROC club members and members of the Vintage Sports car Club. Others may request an invitation.

Eligible entries include stock, street-licensed Alfas ("classic" four, eight, and straight-six models), pre-WWII cars, and invited guests.

Event headquarters is, as usual, the Chalet Landhaus on Wisconsin route 69. The traditional event schedule includes Friday arrival, setup, registration, early tech inspection, and socializing, with dinner on your own. The Saturday tech inspections and drivers' meeting precedes reconnaissance laps and speed runs on the 0.7 mile Kubly Road course. An evening president's reception followed by traditional entertainment and a banquet at the Landhaus caps the official schedule.

Those who wish to request an invitation, or who missed their emailed invitation should contact event director Kevin Caulfield at kevincaulfield@crc-mn.com or 612-702-8520. 🍀

Alfiesta Coronado Hotel Filling Quickly

Make plans *now* to join us, June 13-19, in California! We have it on good authority (David Hammond, via the Detroit Chapter's Newsletter, *Giornale*) that space at the headquarters hotel is filling quickly. While plans are being made for an overflow hotel, it most likely won't be on Coronado Island, where rooms are at a premium, both in quantity and price. The AROC rate at the Loews Coronado is \$215 per night. If that sounds pricey, understand that the rooms regularly list for \$700 per night. What a screaming deal!

According to David, "every hotel room has a view of the ocean or Coronado Bay." Many great activities are planned, and San Diego is high on the list of the most desirable vacation destinations.

Registration can be found by clicking this link: [Alfiesta Coronado Registration](#), or visiting the AROC-USA.org website and following the prompts. 🍀

The United States Gets a Third F1 Race

Street Race Set for Las Vegas - November 2023

Formula 1 and its commercial rights holder Liberty Media announced last week that the series will return to Las Vegas for the first time since 1982. The site will join Miami and the Circuit of America, making it the third US race in the 2023 F1 Grand Prix championship series.

The 3.8 mile, 14 corner, course will include a 1.2 mile stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard, the famous "Strip," where the cars are expected to reach a top speed of 212 mph. The 50 lap race will be held in November, under the lights on a Saturday evening. The final date is as yet unconfirmed, but Thanksgiving weekend is the most likely.

Formula 1 last raced in Las Vegas in 1981-1982. The Caesars Palace Grand Prix was run on a course laid out in the parking lot of the hotel. It was generally acknowledged to be one of the worst courses in the series. Attendance was low and the event was a money-loser for the organizers. The race was run for two more years under CART sanctioning before the backers threw in the towel. That "historic" parking lot has since been redeveloped as commercial property.

This time, a much different result is anticipated. F1 and Liberty Media, have long had their eyes on the U.S. market. Last year's race at the Circuit of America had the highest attendance of the series, and this year's race in Miami is a much-anticipated event. ESPN viewer ratings are growing. Some say that the Netflix series *Drive to Survive* has increased interest in the series. Entertainment-oriented Las Vegas seems an ideal venue, with promoters and sponsors eager to tap into the race fans' pocketbooks. 🍀



The Las Vegas circuit. The back straight covers 1.2 miles down Las Vegas Blvd. (Autoweek.)

AROC-Wisconsin Holds Club Banquet

By Bob Ludwigson

On Saturday, April 2, our club held its banquet and business meeting after a 2 year absence. The banquet was held at a new location, the Bravo! Italian restaurant, at Brookfield Square. A total of 22 people showed up to enjoy the food and each other's company.

The banquet was held in the restaurant's Sunshine Room, which was separate from the regular dining room. A variety of meals were available, including chicken parmesan, salmon, and filet mignon. I received many compliments on the food.

After the meal, a short business meeting was held. All officers except for president accepted another year's term. Randy Swanson accepted the job of club president, as our current president, Steve Wirtz, is moving out of state and has resigned. Randy is also our club treasurer and asked for help from the rest of us, which we happily agreed to do.

Gary Schommer then proceeded to give out door prizes. Thanks go to club member Bill Siegfried, who contributed a number of desirable items from his collection for the drawing.

Feedback I received indicated that everyone enjoyed the evening as well as the location. Perhaps we will return next year. We'll see! 🍀



2022 Alfa Romeo F1 Effort Off to a Promising Start

Two races in, it appears that fans of the Alfa Romeo Formula 1 team will have something to cheer about this year. Drivers Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu have both scored points. Bottas is a respectable 9th in the driver standings, after placing 6th in Bahrain, and Zhou Guanyu's single point places him 14th. The team ranks 6th in the constructors championship, up from a pitiful 9th last year.



Much effort was spent on the development of the new C-42 race car, while Ferrari's much-improved engine, so far the talk of the series, added the essential motive power. In fact, all the Ferrari-powered teams have impressed in the early outings. The Ferrari team leads the constructor standings, while both Alfa Romeo Orlen F1 and Haas made quantum leaps in performance. Conversely, Mercedes-powered teams seem to be at a disadvantage this year.

In Bahrain, Bottas qualified an impressive 6th, with Zhou slotted 15th. A poor start sent Valtteri down the order, but he worked his way back up to a 6th place finish. Zhou Guanyu also overcame first lap issues to shore a point for 10th place. He stated:

"I am so happy, I am speechless. There are so many emotions tonight but my first thought is for the team: seeing how everyone worked so hard to go from where we were at the end of last year to where we are today is so incredible. My biggest dream was to race in F1, then to score points and tonight we did both."

Things didn't go quite as well in Jeddah the next weekend. Bottas qualified 8th on the high speed course while Guanyu was 13th. In the race, cooling problems forced Bottas out on lap 36. He had been running in 6th place until the car developed its problem.

Said Bottas:

"It's a pity to retire from what had been a really good race until that moment, especially as we were looking good for P6 at least. The engine temperatures kept rising. We need to investigate what caused that, but we had to pull the car out as we didn't want to lose the engine. It's how racing goes. We now need to make sure we solve whatever issue it was and move on. Looking at the positives, the car is really good. We made another step forward from the previous race, even in the starts. We were doing a good job and enjoying some close battles: now let's make sure we get back to scoring in Australia."

Guanyu received a 10-second penalty for a first lap incident involving Alex Albon which was compounded when the team failed to properly execute the time penalty during his pit stop. This lapse triggered the drive-through penalty which ended his chances for a points finish. The best he could do was 11th place.

Up at the front of the grid, Ferrari and Red Bull are locked in a battle for supremacy. In Bahrain, Leclerc and Sainz posted a one-two finish for Ferrari. Both Verstappen and Perez encountered powertrain problems. In Saudi Arabia it was a different result, with Perez winning his first-ever pole and Verstappen seizing the win after a fierce battle with Leclerc. Sainz came third and Perez fourth, after an unfortunately timed pit stop forced him down the order.

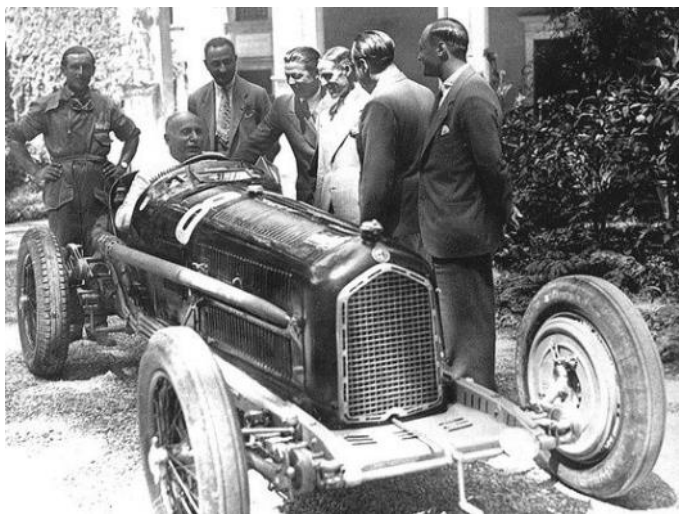
Said Leclerc, "Every race should be like this." Despite coming second, the Ferrari ace praised the wheel-to-wheel racing ability of the new-era cars. The aero packages actually allow close racing, making the on-track experience that more engaging. 🍀



Alfa Romeo and Il Duce

A Love Affair

By Bob Abhalter
(Adapted from ClubAlfa.it)



Mussolini in 1933, at the wheel of a 1929 6C 1750 SS Mille Miglia competition car

Benito Mussolini, who served as the fascist prime minister of Italy from 1922 until he was “dispatched” following the withdrawal of the Germans from Italy in WWII, was a car guy. Well, maybe he didn’t spend his spare time tinkering in his garage, but he understood that driving and being driven in exotic and expensive cars projected an image of power and speed that complemented his public persona.

And he loved to drive. He often donned a helmet and roamed the streets of Rome at the wheel of his favorite mount. Being a fierce nationalist and promoter of all things Italian, one marque stood above all others—the Alfa Romeo. The sporting Alfas of the twenties and thirties held a special interest for Mussolini. There are numerous anecdotes illustrating his love affair with the cars. Two stand out.

The State Visit

In 1929, Mussolini visited Milan and toured the Portello works, where production of the 6C 1750 was just getting started. For Benito, it was love at first sight. He turned to Alfa’s CEO and asked, “How much does it cost?”

Now, *Il Duce* was obviously a very powerful man—the most powerful in Italy—and Alfa Romeo was for all practical purposes a ward of the state, propped up by funding from a national bank. One wanted to curry favor with the big guy. After a short, embarrassing,

pause, the predictable answer was; “For you, absolutely nothing, your excellency.”

Sensing the awkwardness of the moment, Mussolini responded that he didn’t want to take advantage of the situation. He suggested a modest discount on the 60,000 lire list price might be welcomed. Back came the CEO’s response: “For you, your excellency, the selling price is five lire.”

Il Duce rummaged through his pockets, finally producing a crumpled 10 lire note which he handed to Alfa’s CEO. Unfortunately, no one in the entourage could produce change for the 10-spot. Apologies all around. Unfazed, Mussolini shrugged it off. He responded, “No problem. Just sell me two.”

Buy Italian

A few years prior in 1926, Mussolini exchanged correspondence with Nicola Romeo regarding his manufacturing methods.

He wrote: “Esteemed engineer Romeo, yesterday returning from Florence I carefully looked at the equipment of my Alfa (which drives very well, by the way). I made the following observations: the ignition is German, the clock is Swiss, the horn (which does not work) is French. I don’t doubt there are other unseen “exoticisms” within. Is this how you promote domestic production? Why aren’t you sourcing ignitions, watches, and horns in Italy?”

Unintimidated, Romeo replied: “The typical Alfa Romeo has an Italian ignition, as does the small six-cylinder under construction. Specifications have for some time called for Italian ignitions, even for the larger models. Unfortunately not all Italians want them, nor do buyers in the export markets. Thank you for the critique that, if not deserved, nevertheless gives me the pride of seeing myself remembered by *Il Duce*.”

Despite Mussolini’s disappointment that Alfas weren’t 100% Italian, they remained his favorite car throughout his life. 🍀

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 still 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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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 aroc-usa.clubexpress.com/.

