

# ALFANATIC



## Next Event

**Saturday March 21, 2020**

## **AROC-WI ANNUAL BANQUET & BUSINESS MEETING**

**BRAVO Cucina Italiana**



### **BROOKFIELD SQUARE**

95 N. Moorland Road, A147  
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

**(East side – outside entrance)**  
(262) 785-0858

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## AROC-WI Annual Banquet

Please join us for an evening of food, fun, and relaxation at a great venue. Relive the events of last year and enjoy great conversation with fellow Alfanatics. With a warm atmosphere, a wide offering of food choices, free dessert, and door prizes, why would you not want to be there? A very short business meeting with election of officers will follow dinner. Hope can join us.

5:30 – 6:00 Cocktails at the bar (cash bar)

6:00 – 7:45 Dinner in the party room which is located back and to the right of the bar.

7:45 – 8:15 Short business meeting w/election of officers followed by door prizes & continued socializing.

Meal choices include anything off the extensive menu. Although you'll be placing your order at the restaurant, you may want to review the menu beforehand. This will help expedite your food order. See the following hyperlink:

[https://www.bravoitalian.com/dinner-at-brookfield\\_square.html](https://www.bravoitalian.com/dinner-at-brookfield_square.html)

Certain of the listed meals are optionally available gluten free (look for **gf.**). If you have other dietary restrictions feel free to contact the restaurant in advance.

Billing is per individual/couple and the tip amount is at your discretion.

Free dessert: For those wishing a dessert following the meal, the club will pick up the cost.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Please let Gary know by Tuesday, March 17, if you are able to join us.**

*If however you make a late decision to come, contact Gary no later than Friday, March 20.*

**Questions:** Contact Gary Schommer at [alfaman@wi.rr.com](mailto:alfaman@wi.rr.com), 262-252-3750 (h), or 414-418-0879 (c)

## **2020 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](mailto:rabhalter@att.net)

March 5-8 Amelia Island Concours D'Elegance  
March 14 CAROC K1 Speed Karting Event, Buffalo Grove, IL, [CAROC](#) Website  
**May 1-2 AROC-WI New Glarus Hill Climb**  
May 10-20 AROC Goes to Italy Tour  
May 17-19 SVRA Spring Vintage Festival, Road America  
June 6 CAROC Lapping Day, Blackhawk Farms, Beloit, [CAROC](#) Caroc  
June 12-14 Weathertech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, Road America  
June 12-13 Fueled 2020 Motogearo Tour <http://www.motorgearo.com>  
June 13-14 Le Mans 24 Hour Race  
June 18-21 NTT Indycar Series Weekend, Road America  
June 24 Tom and Pam Heinrich's Sportscar Solstice Howl at the Moon Garage Party  
**July 20-26 AROC National Convention, Colorado Springs, Colorado**  
July 23-26 Weathertech International Challenge, Road America  
July 30 - August 2 IMSA Road Race Showcase, Road America  
July 24-26 [Concours d'Elegance of America](#), Plymouth, Michigan  
August 6-8 NASCAR Xfinity Series Henry 180, Trans Am, Stadium Trucks, Road America  
**August 9 (T) AROC-WI 23d Annual ICAMS Show, Reina Intl. Auto. Brookfield, WI**  
August 16 [Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance](#), Pebble Beach, California  
August 23 [Geneva Concours D'Elegance](#), Geneva, Illinois  
August 20-30 World Challenge Sportscar Weekend, Road America  
September 10-13 U.S. Vintage Grand Prix, with [Alfas at the Glen](#), Watkins Glen, NY  
September 18-20 Ariens Art on Wheels VSCDA Vintage Weekend, Road America  
October 9-11 SCCA National Championship Runoffs, Road America

## Briefs

### Time Capsule



Bill Hall found this period *Mechanix Illustrated* photo on the Facebook 8C group. It shows former AROC member Dave Uihlein behind the wheel of his 8C 2300.

### CAROC Karting Event

The Chicago AROC is sponsoring a K1 Karting event in Buffalo Grove, Saturday, March 14. Price is \$65 per driver. Details on the [CAROC website](#).

### CAROC Blackhawk Farms Lapping Day

Our brothers to the south are also sponsoring a lapping day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway, Saturday, June 6. Both lapping and touring sessions are scheduled. Early registration is \$260 for lapping sessions and \$30 for touring. Prices increase after May 6. Register at the [CAROC website](#).

### Time For Another Midwest National Convention?

Coincidentally, there is more CAROC news. (No, the *Alfanatic* has not been victim of a hostile takeover.) CAROC President Dennis Sbertoli reports the club has been approached by the national organization about hosting the 2021 National Convention. The event was last held in Chicago in 2008 and most considered it a success.

Dennis reported that when the “opportunity” was presented to the membership, the reaction was indifferent—sort of like, “I’d love to attend, but, no, I don’t want to volunteer.”

Anyway, I promised Dennis I’d attempt to gauge our chapter’s interest in holding or assisting to hold the event. Is there any interest out there?

## AROC Goes to the US Grand Prix

Who’s up for a trip to Texas in October? AROC has once again teamed up with *Steve Austin’s Great Vacations* to organize a trip to the U.S. Grand Prix. The four night package, October 22-26, promises plenty of action, including pit walks, meet-and-greets, and prime seats for qualifying and race day. Lodging is at the Sheraton Hilton in downtown Austin and daily bus transfers to and from the track are included, along with some special events. Pricing is \$2,710 per person, based on double occupancy. More details are available on the [AROC website](#).



### Geneva Concours Opens Car Club Display Area Registration

The Geneva Concours d’Elegance has released registration materials for the car club display area adjacent the show field. The display/parking area is available to all interested Chicago-area car club members. Your (tax deductible) \$20 fee will net you a prime, in-close, parking place for your collector car. The catch is that you must be in place by 9 a.m. and can’t leave until the show closes at 4:00. The 2020 show will be held Sunday, August 23. Visit the [Geneva Concours website](#) for registration information.

### Geneva Motor Show Cancelled (Switzerland, not Illinois)

The Coronavirus has claimed yet another automotive event. First, the Chinese Grand Prix was delayed and other races threatened with postponement; now Switzerland’s federal health minister has banned events involving more than 1,000 people. The ban goes into effect immediately and will last at least until March 15, forcing the organizers to cancel the Geneva Motor Show, with no possibility of rescheduling.

Several significant introductions were scheduled for the show, including (perhaps) one from Alfa. We may now have to wait a bit longer for those reveals.

### A Healthy Dose of Giulietta Nostalgia

Fifteen years ago, Hemmings, well known for its venerable *Motor News* publication, took over and re-branded a magazine named *Special Interest Autos*, renaming it *Hemmings Classic Car*, then spun off another publication named *Hemmings Sport & Exotic Car*. *Classic Car* focused on American collectibles, while *Sport & Exotic* was focused on European and

Japanese collector cars. *S&E* frequently featured Alfafas and other Italian iron. Sadly, that publication ceased production in May 2017.

*Hemmings Classic Car* soldiers on and occasionally carries features of interest to Alfa lovers, like the one club member Todd Kresheck spotted in the April, 2020 edition, on newsstands now. It's a reprint of a *Special Interest Autos* feature from October 1984. It features profiles of two Giuliettas, a Spider and a Sprint. If you love these cars (and it's hard not to) you might want to pick up a copy of the mag.



## Kubica Says Alfa Has “Something in the pocket”

F1 veteran driver Robert Kubica, last year a pilot for last place Williams, is this year the backup driver for Alfa Romeo Orlen Racing. He participated in the second week of F1 testing at Barcelona the week of February 24, setting the fastest lap in the morning session, a time that was not bettered in the afternoon, giving him bragging rights for the day. The Alfa, shod with Pirelli's softest compound, posted a time of 1:16.942. No one else came within 0.4 of Kubica's time.

Kubica feels there is more speed to be had and that the team responded well to the lessons learned during the first week of testing. Although he stated there are still issues to be addressed, Kubica made inevitable comparisons with his seat time in last year's last-place Williams. He stated the difference in “feel” was palpable. It will be interesting to see if Alfa's race performance improves this year. 🍀

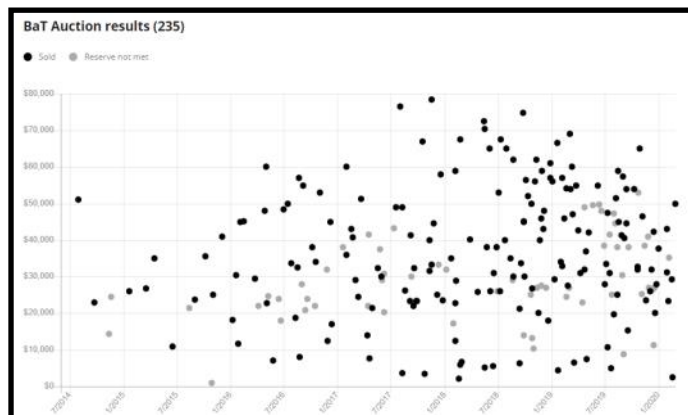
(Thanks to club member David Ziglin for this lead from [Motor-sport.com](https://www.motorsport.com))

## Have GTV Values Peaked?

By Bob Abhalter

BringaTrailer.com loves Alfafas and specifically, GTVs, having offered 235 over the last 5-1/2 years. The graph below lists the results. The darker dots indicate the ones that have sold. The high sale on BaT was for a freshly restored 1969 model that sold for

\$78,500 on Nov 17, 2017. To date, no other GTV has come close to that number and the overall trend in sale prices seems to indicate a steady decline. The new market range for top cars appears to be \$40,000-\$50,000, down from \$60,000-\$70,000 18 months ago.



Source: BringaTrailer.com

The most likely reason for this trend is that our cars are following the trends in the overall collector car market, where prices have softened lately. My theory, however, is that a factor contributing to the price slide is the increased supply of good cars. The number of cars offered for sale following the 2017 high sale increased measurably. The rising trend in prices realized encouraged more owners and restorers to bring their cars to market. The prospects for an improved return on investment meant more cars were fluffed up for sale, resulting in an improved supply of refurbished cars. Ultimately, the supply satisfied the demand, resulting in a softening in prices.

What's next? It's hard to say. As nice as these cars are, the universe of Alfa enthusiasts seems relatively static. The supply of good, streetable cars seems capable of meeting the demand. In the near term, some bargains might be found. Longer term, GTV values will most likely continue to follow trends in their market segment. 🍀

## Links to Like

### All the Alfa Romeo Photos You Can Handle

Pinterest isn't just for collections of bridal dresses. Member David Ziglin found this trove of Alfa pictures from every era: <https://www.pinterest.com/verumcupitor/alfa-romeo/>

### More Proof That There Is Nothing New

Parking assistance? Not a new concept. This [YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) shows how Packard did it in 1933.

## Hemmings Sells an Alfa

By Bob Abhalter



*Hemmings' 1986 Spider Graduate.*

Last year *Hemmings Motor News* launched an auction site. At its rollout, Hemmings promised to provide a better-curated offering of collector cars and well-screened buyers in a “high-touch” online environment.

If the car being sold passes Hemming’s screening process, the seller’s fee is \$99.95. Hemmings specialists write the listing using input from the seller. Reserves may be set based on an agreement between the seller and Hemmings staff. If the car doesn’t sell, it can be listed in Hemmings’ premium classified listings for up to 6 months at no extra cost.

Buyers pay a 5% buyer’s fee, with a minimum charge of \$500 and a maximum of \$10,000 (for a \$200,000 or greater purchase.) Bidder registration requires a credit card and active bidding triggers a credit card hold equal to the 5% buyer’s fee. Bidding during the last 5 minutes of an auction extends the end time by 2 minutes. Therefore last minute “sniping” is prevented.

When the auction is complete, the winning bidder’s credit card is charged the buyer’s fee, and Hemmings puts the buyer and seller together (virtually, at least). Settlement and delivery is up to the two parties.

I’ve been watching the listings since last fall and until last month had seen nary an Alfa Romeo in the auction mix, which was predictably biased toward U.S. metal.

Finally, in February, Hemmings offered a 1986 Spider Graduate, red with black vinyl, with a 30-year ownership history and maintenance records dating back to 1990. No garage queen, this Spider had travelled 142,000 miles and was regularly maintained.

That’s the good news. Unfortunately those 142K miles weren’t kind to the car’s cosmetics and ancillary equipment. The car was used-car clean, inside and out. Underneath, the chassis showed the usual oil stains but no rust. The sub-par repaint showed the typical nicks and parking lot dents, both the windshield and dash were cracked, and the center console showed wear. The radio, air conditioning and electrically adjustable mirrors were all inoperable. The tires were due for replacement. Miraculously, this Spider sold for \$7,500, not bad for a garden variety Spider with some significant needs. I would consider this car very well sold.

So will the Hemmings auction product prove to be a viable alternative to established players like Bring-a-Trailer and eBay? It’s hard to say at this early date. The Hemmings business model is very similar to BaT’s—similar fees, rules, services, and auction structure—although BaT is now offering premium services for higher end cars. The difference between the two is in their offerings. BaT cars tend toward European performance and NextGen cars. Hemmings is heavier in American performance and collector cars.

eBay has its own issues and advantages, being more buyer-friendly from a fee standpoint—the seller pays the fees. The downside is that auction listings tend to be unfiltered and fraud-prone.

So, Hemming’s looks a lot like a BaT clone. At present BaT has far more listings and a more active bidder community, but they’ve been at it longer. Hemmings appears to have a solid backing and is run by knowledgeable car guys, but it needs some time to build a following and attract more listings. It would seem that there is room for both businesses in the marketplace.



*This kitten wasn’t included in the Spider sale.*

# YOU'RE INVITED TO DRIVE!



## CHICAGO AROC AT BLACKHAWK SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - GROUP LAPPING & TRACK TOURING - ALL MAKES WELCOME

**FULL DAY EVENT - BLACKHAWK FARMS RACEWAY**  
Join us for a day of automotive exercise - see what you and your car can do!

Three run groups based on experience - instructors available and free!  
Helmets needed for lapping - rentals available. Open cars need rollbars for  
lapping (not for Touring). Car must pass safety inspection. Blackhawk Farms  
Raceway is just 90 miles from Chicago! Registration, go to [CAROC.com](http://CAROC.com) -Club  
info \*Register by May 6th to get last year's price - full price is \$295

Questions? Robert Clauss 847.712.1040 or Dennis Sbertoli 708.579.9724

**\$260** ADVANCE \*  
**\$30** TOURING

## Classifieds

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

### Wanted

Your free classified ads! Let us know.

### For Sale

**1991 Alfa Romeo Spider** with a ZF auto trans,\$8,000. I bought it 3 years ago and put \$12,000 into it as a keeper but health and flexibility prevent me getting in and out. Mechanically good but paint not the best. Located in Green Bay. Call (920) 362-7663 Romeo Raabe.



**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](mailto:gjtreehouse@gmail.com)

**Ray Petry writes:** I have a huge pile of **Alfa Romeo literature** that I move from house to house and I think it is time I shared it with another enthusiast. It includes a metal dealer sign (reproduction) (sold), an Indy car poster from the Alfa power plant years, many copies of

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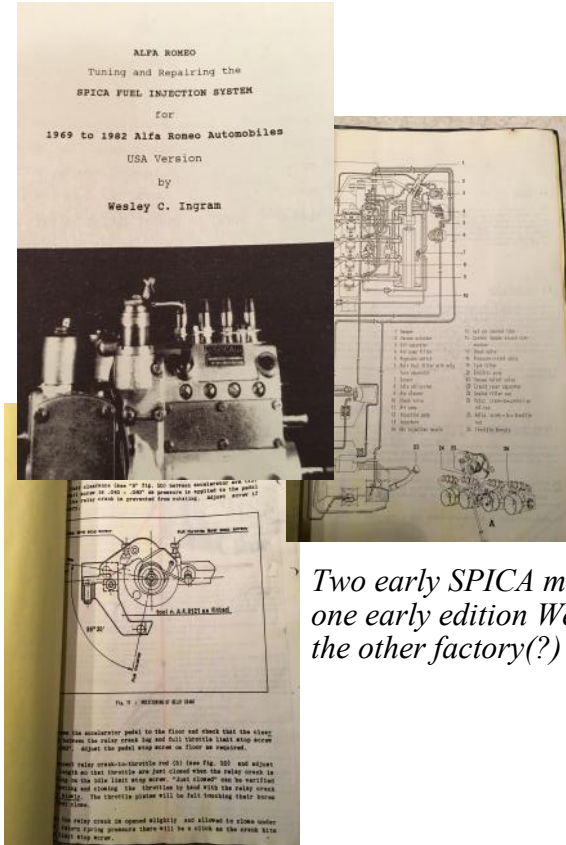
the *Alfa Owner* from the 1990s, some copies of *Quadrifoglio*, some parts catalogs, a SPICA fuel injection manual, some Alfa books, and the special 60th anniversary Pininfarina book. I was hoping to sell them as a single lot but may consider breaking it up. See the photos, below.

There are more items available. Please inquire. Prices negotiable, especially for the entire lot. Local pickup preferred but can ship if necessary. Alternately can meet in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha area. Contact Ray at [flhwelder@gmail.com](mailto:flhwelder@gmail.com)



Several copies of the *Performance Quarterly*, published by Alfa Ricambi. Offers accepted.

*Alfa Indy Car race poster in great condition but with junk frame, \$25.00*



*Two early SPICA manuals, one early edition Wes Ingram, the other factory(?) \$50 each*



*Alfa Owner, 24 issues, 1991-1993 \$5/copy, \$120/lot*



*Three copies of the Quadrifoglio, Alfa's U.S. house organ, \$30 for the lot*

**Four Used Cromodora Wheels** for 72-74 Alfa Spider. Surface and finish would benefit from some reconditioning but otherwise ready for that rally! If desired, and strictly at my cost—no adder—I would be willing to get them E-Coated ready for paint refinishing. Make me an offer!



Also, **Rear Bumper** for 1972-74 Spider. Make an offer.

James Huff, 514 Simon Drive, Hartford, WI 53027, [jphuff4@gmail.com](mailto:jphuff4@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](mailto: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/>.

