

ALFANATIC



Next Event

AROC-Wisconsin

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, March 25

Bravo! Italian Kitchen

Brookfield Square

95 N. Moreland Road, Brookfield WI

The Schedule:

- 5:30-6:00 Cocktails (cash bar)
- 6:00-8:00 Dinner in the Sunshine Room
- 8:00-9:00 Short business meeting, door prizes, and continued socializing

Details and Registration, Page 3



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INITIAL PLANNING FOR TWO 2023 CLUB EVENTS COMPLETED

By Robert Ludwigson

I am happy to announce that we have completed details of two of the upcoming club events.

Italian Car and Motorcycle Show (ICAMS)

The ICAMS car show will be held on Sunday, July 23. The show will again be held at Sussex Village Park. We will be using the same space as in previous years. We also plan to have a food truck available. The Sussex Village Parks Commission was nice enough to allow us to make an early pick of the available dates.



The 2021 ICAMS field

Banquet and Business Meeting

The 2023 banquet will be held March 25th. As was the case last year, it will be held at the Bravo! Italian Kitchen, located in the Brookfield Square Shopping Center in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We will have use of the Sunshine Room, which will be closed off from the rest of the restaurant. Meal choices, prices, and a registration form are available elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope you will attend! 🍀

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

2023

January 4-15	Mecum Kissimmee Auction, Kissimmee, Florida
January 21-29	Arizona Auction Week, Scottsdale/Phoenix, Arizona
February 18	FuelFed Classic European Swap Meet , The Last Detail, N. Chicago I
March 3-5	The Amelia (Concours), Amelia Island, Florida
March 18	12 Hours of Sebring, Sebring, Florida
March 25	AROC-WI Annual Banquet and Business Meeting
March 26	British Car Swap Meet and Autojumble , Wheaton IL
May 5-6	Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, WI
May 19-21	SVRA Vintage Weekend, Road America
June 2-4	MotoAmerica Superbikes, Road America
June 5-15	AROC Goes to Italy, 6th Annual Tour www.aroc-use.org
June 10-11	24 Hours of Le Mans Centenary Race
June 15-18	NTT IndyCar Series, Road America
June 17-20	AROC-USA Pre-Convention Tour, Asheville, NC
June 21-25	Alfa del Piemonte, AROC National Convention, Concord, NC
June 23-25	SCCA Chicago Region June Sprints, Road America
July 7-8	Millers at Milwaukee, State Fair Park, West Allis WI
July 7-9	TransAm Speed Tour, Road America
July 13-16	WeatherTech International Challenge, Road America
July 23	AROC-WI Italian Car and Motorcycle Show, Sussex Village Park
July 27-29	NASCAR Xfinity Series, Road America
Aug 3-6	IMSA Sportscar Weekend, Road America
Aug 18-20	Fanatec GT World Challenge, Road America
Aug 20	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
Aug 27	Geneva Concours d'Elegance , Geneva, Illinois
Sept 15-17	Ariens Art on Wheels (VSCDA), Road America
Oct 19-23	AROC Goes to the USGP 2023, Austin TX (sold out, wait list possible)

Banquet Details

Available Menu Items

Choice of Soup or Salad

- Italian Wedding Soup
- Insalata Della Casa

Entrée Choices

- Chicken Parmesan with Herb Linguini
- Grilled Salmon with seasonal vegetables
- Chicken Marsala with mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- Filet Mignon with mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus (**extra charge applies**)



Pricing

\$43.00 per person (\$50.00 per person for Filet Mignon dinner)

The price includes taxes and a service charge

Drinks and dessert are also available. The club will pay for the cost of dessert. Drinks will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Please submit the registration form (below) with your payment to the club treasurer no later than March 15.

Questions?: Contact Bob Ludwigson 262-527-2396 or Rludwigson@aol.com

Annual Banquet Registration

Yes! Sign me up.

Names: _____

Contact Information: (Phone or email) _____

Menu Choices:

Please indicate quantity

Starters

_____ Italian Wedding soup

_____ Insalata Della Casa

Entrée

Price is \$43.00 per dinner.

_____ Chicken Parmesan with Herb Linguine

_____ Grilled Salmon with Seasonal Vegetables

_____ Chicken Marsala with Mashed potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Extra Cost Option

_____ Filet Mignon - \$50.00

Payment:

_____ @ \$43.00 = _____

_____ @ \$50.00 = _____

Total _____

Please register before March 15

Make checks payable to: Alfa Romeo Club of Wisconsin

Mail to:

Randy Swanson

N66W6684 Cleveland St.

Cedarburg WI 53012

The Mystery of the Missing Alfa, Continued

By Bob Abhalter

REWARD

\$50,000 Reward for information leading to the recovery of:



2-Door 1938 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900 B Lungo Spider, Black Exterior, Tan Interior

Last seen on July 25, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Express of I-95 at 2513 Cattle Farm Road in Latta, SC, 29565. Items from the vehicle were found in Lumberton, NC.

The vehicle was being transported by:

Truck: 2002 Ford F-350
White Dually
License Plate: IL 344949

Trailer: 2009 Haulmark
White tri-axle enclosed trailer
License Plate: IL 104510TE

CONTACT: Detective Sara Albarri - 843-774-1432

Last month's report on the stolen 8C2900 raised some interesting questions. Tom Heinrich wrote the following:

"...crazy story on the 8C 2900. How does one 'profit' from the theft of such a vehicle? You could never sell it as it would be such a well-known car that no one would touch it. Unless it were sold to Russia or some-such. And 5 months later the owner finally publishes a reward. And it's \$50,000 on a

\$23,000,000.00 vehicle? I mean...throw a couple hundred thousand out there and stir things up. And, no tracker on a \$23,000,000.00 vehicle? Wow, that is pretty dumb. I might get one for my lowly Giulietta."

I responded:

I had many of the same thoughts. There are a couple of different scenarios. One is that the thieves were actually after the truck and trailer as there were other similar thefts from the same hotel in previous months. Locals looking for nice trailers to steal and sell? Inside job? VERY unlucky car transporters?

Another possibility is that the thieves actually knew what they were doing and were hired by someone who really wanted the car. There have been thefts of priceless paintings that were never recovered or recovered only after the death of the larcenous owner. Why not steal a priceless car and hide it in your garage to be privately admired? Weird but possible.

But why no tracker? Good question and hard to explain. If you see a dually pickup with unmarked trailer on the road do you think "ah, a priceless collector car?" I think the transporters were going for the stealth factor. What could possibly go wrong? I understand the reward was being offered by the insurance company—someone's insurance company. I'm

sure the claims process makes another interesting story. I tried hard to find a follow-up story, but so far, crickets.

John Draneas, the *Sports Car Market* "Legal Files" correspondent, wrote on the theft in the February 2023 issue of the magazine. He maintains that the car, best of show winner at the 2000 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, was not the target of the theft. Rather, the thieves were after the truck and trailer, items easily and quickly resold. Local detective Sara Albarri stated that three other similar vehicle and trailer thefts had occurred at or near that *same* Holiday Inn Express in recent months, and there had been a string of other similar thefts in the area, which was near a local racetrack. The thieves were pros. Although they were captured on the hotel's security cameras at about 2 a.m., their faces were obscured and the whole process took mere seconds from the time they unlocked the passenger side door.

The car, showing its age since its past glory, was headed to a Florida restorer for a refresh. The owner's collection manager stated, "Only three people in the world knew what was inside that trailer and the thieves had no time to get inside and look." The perpetrators no doubt had a big surprise when they opened it up. Possibilities for fencing the stolen car or its parts ranged from few to none. With only five long-wheelbase cars in existence, anyone interested in buying the car or its parts would know immediately where it came from. Mr. Draneas suggests that the best option may be for one of the thieves' cronies to miraculously "find" the missing car and claim the reward. The insurance company has already paid the claim and now owns the car, but the former owner retains the right to purchase it back if it is recovered.

The owner was no doubt depending on "stealth" to protect his shipment, however fate intervened. Who knew Latta, South Carolina, was a hot spot for truck/trailer theft? There may be a lesson here. Draneas suggests it would be prudent to employ some readily available and simple tech solutions to protect our collector cars. He suggests concealing an Apple AirTag, discoverable using Apple's "Find My" app (I've used them to track luggage.), but there are some limitations, especially if you're not an iPhone user. Alternately, a device called "LandAirSea Asset Protection," uses the GPS network to locate objects. He says it's a little more expensive than the AirTag and requires a monthly subscription, but may be more effective. This month, *Sports Car Market* carries a two page ad for the device—a coincidence, I'm sure. 🍀

AM Radio Missing in New EVs

According to a recent article in *The New York Times*, cited in *Morning Brew*, AM radios are being squeezed out of electric vehicles. Many EV manufacturers no longer include AM radio in their cars, citing electromagnetic interference that causes noise and static.

Tesla, Volvo, Porsche, Audi, and some Volkswagen EVs already come without AM radio; likewise the 2023 Ford F-150 Lightning pickup. While technological solutions to make EVs and AM radio compatible do exist, car manufacturers might not bother. Only 20% of U.S. radio audiences listen to AM radio and those listeners tend to be an older demographic.

What this means for the future of AM radio is unclear. Many AM stations are reliant on drive-time listeners, and while some already simulcast on FM that option may not be financially viable for many stations. While it's unlikely that AM service would disappear entirely, the business picture for AM broadcasting looks cloudy.

It's possible the government could come to the "rescue." Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) recently requested that automakers avoid depriving drivers of AM radio. Markey claims that AM waves help government officials communicate with the public, particularly during emergencies, according to *Morning Brew*. 🍀

An Andretti-Cadillac Formula One Entry?

Today, January 5, Michael Andretti announced: "Andretti Global has partnered with General Motors to pursue an Expression of Interest to join Formula 1. 'I'm really proud to be able to be a part of this fellow American company in this pursuit of the opportunity to join Formula 1. GM and Andretti both have a strong history in racing, and I believe that together we have a lot to offer.'"

It is unlikely that the team would be allowed to field an entry before 2026 as the registration deadline for 2024 powerplants has already passed. The existing 10 teams are not eager to allow more entrants, but FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem is lending his support for the formula's orderly expansion.

The team plans a thoroughly American effort, including cars and drivers, with an American headquarters (likely in Indiana). 🍀

Something's Coming

Could be...

Who knows?

There's something due any day

I will know right away

Soon as it shows...

A new Alfa supercar, that is. Media sites in Italy, U.K., and the U.S. are abuzz with news of the new Alfa to be revealed in March. However, there is little to no consensus on what, exactly, we will see at the reveal.

Correspondents think they see a teasing tail-light in the closing frames of Alfa's [2023 New year's greeting](#). Is that a "6" and a "C" we are seeing? Will the new car be called the 6C? Maybe, maybe not.



For sure, we are told, it will be the limited edition (maybe 100 copies) "halo" offering Alfa CEO Jean-Philippe Imparato has promised publicly. It will be a CAR and not an SUV. It will be expensive (over \$200K) and suited for both street and track. Beyond that we don't know much for sure.

It could be based on the Maserati MC20 platform—or definitely not, but possibly on the Georgio chassis.

It will be a 500+ hp biturbo V6 from Maserati, or from Alfa, or possibly a high output EV, or maybe a hybrid.

It could resemble the one-off Giulia SWB Zagato coupe or be a completely new design inspired by the 33 Stradale. Or it could be an open car, reviving the Duetto name.

All of these hypotheses have been aired and any combination of outcomes seems possible. Could it be that Alfa itself doesn't know yet? I hope they do! March isn't all that far away. Stay tuned. 🍀

(Extra points if you recognized the lyrics from *West Side Story*.)



Alfa's 2022 U.S. Sales Down 30% vs '21

Stellantis recently reported its 2022 U.S. sales figures, which were down 13% in aggregate from 2021. The Alfa Romeo brand declined 30%. It sold a total of 12,845 units for the year, versus 18,250 in 2021. Stelvios outsold Giulias 7,752 to 5,092. If you're thinking about buying something new, you might surf on over to your local dealer's website. There are deals to be found. 🍀

Zagato Builds a Giulia Coupe

Remember that new Giulia coupe you were hoping would follow the sedan? Alfa never got around to fulfilling your dreams. They were too busy designing SUVs. (They never built the sport wagon I wanted, either.) Well, Zagato stepped up and built one, and only one, as an exercise commemorating their 100 years of collaboration with Alfa Romeo. The project kicked off in 2021, the centenary year, and was shown as a finished project just before Christmas 2022. Although Zagato worked closely with the Alfa Romeo design office, the design and production were entirely theirs.

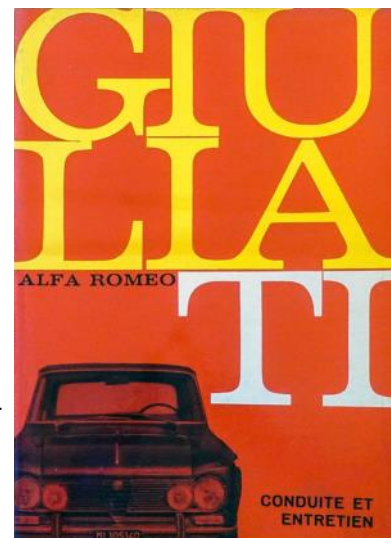


The custom coupe is based on the Giulia Quadrifoglio sedan, but with a shortened wheelbase. The mechanicals were upgraded to GTAm specifications and the transmission is a six-speed manual. The striking carbon fiber body carries many Zagato design cues, a distillation of the house's greatest hits, including a double-bubble roof line, chopped tail, and lines from the TZ and other Alfa/Zagato collaborations from years past. This is not to say it's a "retro" design. Zagato had its sights set firmly on the future.

The lucky customer was a wealthy German collector, an Alfista as well as a Zagato and Aston Martin aficionado, known to the carrozzeria due to his ownership of Zagato-styled Astons. The price was not given, but it's thought to be in excess of \$200,000. 🍀

What Does TI Mean, Anyway?

That question was asked recently on the AlfaBB. The poster was not satisfied with the answer he received, which of course was "Turismo Internazionale." He wanted to see a document from Alfa Romeo that spelled out the name with respect to a series-105 sedan. No one was able to produce such a document because the car was simply named "Giulia TI." It was never identified as a "Giulia Turismo Internazionale."



But where did the "TI" designation come from? From auto racing, and more specifically Italian auto racing. The story goes that in the immediate post-WWII period, racers of Italian sedans in the touring (Turismo) class found themselves at a disadvantage relative to entries from other countries. A little rule juggling was exercised, producing a new racing class dubbed "Turismo Internazionale." Although the name suggested a class with an international reach, the new regulations so favored the Italian marques that hardly any "foreign" manufacturer bothered to enter. Thus, Italian cars and drivers swept the class.

The first Alfa to be dubbed T.I. was the 1953 1900 T.I.: *"Destined mainly for competition use and designed to keep pace with Lancia whose Aurelia saloons were increasingly threatening, Alfa Romeo specially prepared 572 examples of the 1900 berlina, creating very competitive cars for the Turismo Internazionale category, hence the T.I. initials."* (Quoted from d'Amico & Tabucchi)

In 1957, the slightly faster 2nd version of the original Giulietta sedan was dubbed the TI. By 1962 when the Giulia was introduced, TI had become a common model designation and was subsequently applied to the sportier versions of many of Alfa's models, right down to today's Giulia and Stelvio Ti.

Similar stories can be told about the origin of "GT" and "GTI," as both were derived from racing classes. But that's another story. 🍀

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

Jim Thiel is looking for a new home for his red **1982 Spider**. He's had it since 1989 and is the third owner. The car has traveled a little more than 67,000 miles and has always been garaged during Jim's ownership. The paint is original and the top in good condition, with a clear back window. According to Jim, the tires are in good shape. He says the leather seats and the dash have no cracks. If you're interested, you can contact Jim by email at jthiel28@wi.rr.com

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



Thanks to John Chowaniak



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WEBMASTER

Position Open - Volunteer Needed
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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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