

# ALFANATIC



## Next Event

### **Das Kurze Klausenrennen Hill Climb and Tour**

**May 5-6**

**New Glarus, Wisconsin**

**Chalet Landhaus  
(Headquarters Hotel)**

AROC-WI and VSC members in good standing should have received an emailed invitation. If you missed yours, call or email Kevin Caulfield: [kevincaulfield@crc-mn.com](mailto:kevincaulfield@crc-mn.com) or (612) 702-8520. Others are welcome to request an invitation.

The hill climb is open to four-cylinder Alfas (pre-1994) and pre-WWII vintage cars of any make. Other cars can be registered at the organizer's discretion.

Don't want to enter a car? Come anyway. Spectating at the Saturday morning event is open to all, and volunteer workers are always welcome. 🍀



#### **In This Issue**

- Club Banquet
- Tours and Events
- Tonale News
- Convention News
- F1 Report
- What is eFuel?

## ALFA CLUB MEMBERS ENJOY ITALIAN BANQUET

By Bob Ludwigson

On Saturday, March 25, the AROC Wisconsin chapter held its annual banquet at the Bravo! Italian Kitchen in Brookfield. It almost didn't happen. That Saturday morning we awoke to see near-blizzard conditions with heavy wet snow and blowing wind. However, as the day progressed, the snow stopped, the sun came out and due to temperatures above freezing, the roads cleared of snow.

As a result, all 23 people who registered showed up for the banquet! The guests dined on chicken Parmesan, grilled salmon, chicken Marsala and fillet mignon. A quick check with the guests indicated they liked the meal with the exception of the fillet which some people thought was too small.

After the meal, a short business meeting was held. At the meeting all of the existing club officers indicated that they will continue serving in those capacities. Then it was time for door prizes, and most everyone went home with some type of Alfa goody. As the year progresses, we will be planning for next year's banquet. 🍀



### Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar, 2023

Something 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)

April 22	CAROC Spring Drive to the <a href="#">Edith Farnsworth House</a> , Geneva to Plano IL
<b>May 5-6</b>	<b>Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, WI</b>
May 19-21	SVRA Vintage Weekend, Road America
June 2-4	MotoAmerica Superbikes, Road America
<b>June 5-15</b>	<b>AROC Goes to Italy, 6th Annual Tour</b> <a href="http://www.aroc-use.org">www.aroc-use.org</a>
June 10-11	24 Hours of Le Mans Centenary Race
June 15-18	NTT IndyCar Series, Road America
<b>June 17-20</b>	<b>AROC-USA Pre-Convention Tour, Asheville, NC</b>
<b>June 21-25</b>	<b>Alfa del Piemonte, AROC National Convention, Concord, NC</b>
June 23-25	SCCA Chicago Region June Sprints, Road America
June 24	<a href="#">CAROC/Lotus Corps Annual Lapping Day</a> , Blackhawk Farms Raceway
<b>June 28</b>	<b>Tom Heinrich's Howl at the Moon Summer Solstice Party</b>
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
<b>July 23</b>	<b>AROC-WI Italian Car and Motorcycle Show, Sussex Village Park</b>
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	<a href="#">Geneva Concours d'Elegance</a> , Geneva, Illinois
Sept 10	<a href="#">2023 Des Moines Concours d'Elegance</a>
Sept 15-17	Ariens Art on Wheels (VSCDA), Road America
Sept 22-23	<a href="#">Detroit Concours d'Elegance</a> , Detroit Institute of Arts
<b>Oct 19-23</b>	<b>AROC Goes to the USGP 2023, Austin TX</b> (sold out, wait listed)

## Attention Madison Area Alfisti!

Where do you have your “new” Alfas serviced? Inquiring minds want to know. Are you still driving to Milwaukee to get your out-of-warranty Giulias, 4Cs, and Stelvios serviced or have you found a reliable local garage?

Let us know at [rabhalter@att.net](mailto:rabhalter@att.net) and we'll pass your findings on to other area Alfa owners. 🍀

## John Ehle's “Mother, May I?” Spring Tour

AROC-Wisconsin club member John Ehle has announced the tenth anniversary of his popular “Mother, May I?” tour of southeastern Wisconsin. The one day event, to be held Saturday, May 13, is a fundraiser for *Drive Toward a Cure*, to raise funds and awareness to support the challenges of Parkinson's Disease. Previous drives have been enjoyable, low-key events covering the “roads less travelled” of our area. This year's event revisits the route of the first tour. All types of cars are welcome, with a bias toward vintage sportscars.

An email recently went out to previous attendees. If you haven't attended before and would like to join the group this year, drop John an email at [johnehle@comcast.net](mailto:johnehle@comcast.net) for the details. Your donation of \$125 or more per car will go 100% to Drive Toward a Cure. 🍀

## Car Guy Tour of Italy

Already been on the AROC Goes To Italy tour? Ready for another visit? Consider the Car Guy Tour Italia, running September 3-14, 2023. The 11-day tour visits historic factories, design houses, museums, and restoration shops in the Milan, Turin, and Modena areas..

The tour organizer is Frank Mandarano, a veteran promoter and originator of the long-running Car Guy tours. This year's guide will be the noted authority Luca dal Monte, author of a Ferrari biography, and former VP of communications for Ferrari and Maserati. The tour starts in Como and ends in Modena, with lots of stops in between. Further information can be found at [CarGuyTour.com](http://CarGuyTour.com). 🍀

## CAROC Edith Farnsworth House Tour

Fans of architecture may be interested in taking a drive with the Chicago chapter on a visit to the Edith Farnsworth house in Plano, Illinois. The tour will be

Saturday, April 22, starting in Geneva, Illinois, at 9 a.m., and progressing “the long way” to Plano, Illinois, site of the house, designed and constructed by the legendary Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe from 1945-51. “The house is recognized as an iconic masterpiece of the International Style of architecture and has National Historic Landmark status,” according to CAROC's blurb. A private tour is planned. Lunch will follow the visit.

If you're interested, show up at the Buttermilk Restaurant, 7 W. State Street, Geneva, at 9 a.m. for a driver's meeting q&a. Details are on the CAROC activities calendar at [caroc.com](http://caroc.com). 🍀

## Blackhawk Farms Track Day, June 24

CAROC and Lotus Corps will once again sponsor a joint track day at Blackhawk Farms, Saturday, June 24. Even though you should be in Concord, North Carolina enjoying *Alfa del Piemonte*, if you can't make that trip consider driving down to Rockton to blow the accumulated carbon from your cylinders. Registration is open now and can be found here: [LotusCorps.org](http://LotusCorps.org). 🍀

## U.S. Version Tonale Production Begins

March 31, 2023 , Auburn Hills, Mich. - Alfa Romeo today announced the official start of retail production for the all-new 2024 Tonale. Alfa Romeo's first plug-in hybrid is built at the Giambattista Vico Stellantis plant in Pomigliano d'Arco, Naples, Italy – one of the company's most advanced production sites. The Tonale will begin arriving at dealers in June.

The Tonale enters the premium compact CUV segment with standard all-wheel drive, more than 30 miles of electric range (48 kilometers), and a starting U.S. manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$42,995.

Customers can now build and price their Alfa Romeo Tonale through [alfaromeousa.com](http://alfaromeousa.com) and align with their preferred dealer to finalize the purchase.

“The Alfa Romeo Tonale offers more than 30 miles of electric range, best-in-class 285 horsepower and a list of technology features,” said Larry Dominique, senior vice president and head of Alfa Romeo North America. “Entering the competitive premium compact sport-utility segment with such a compelling product and our brand's first electrified offering shows a clear direction for Alfa Romeo's future.” 🍀



## Alfa Romeo U.S. Sales Down in First Quarter but Italian Sales Surge *Tonale to the Rescue*

U.S. Sales of new Alfa Romeos were down 27% in Q1 2023, compared to the first quarter of 2022. Stelvios led with 1,424 units, while the Giulia line sold 966, for a combined total of 2,390 units. With the Tonale not expected to land until June, prospects for the second quarter don't look much better, despite the heavy discounting seen on dealer websites. Deliveries of the facelifted 2024 models lie some undefined time in the future.



*Can't come soon enough*

Meanwhile in Italy, Alfa delivered 6,535 units, an improvement of 203% vs Q1 2022. The surge was fueled by the Tonale, which shipped 4,524 units in the quarter. The model appears to be doing well all across Europe.

Doing the math reveals that Giulia and Stelvio quarterly sales in Italy totaled 2,011, just 379 fewer than those delivered in the U.S. The facelifted versions of these models first arrived in Italian showrooms in March, boosting month over month deliveries by 35%, according to Clubalfa.com. 🍀

## F1 Team in 8th Place After Three Races

Alfa Romeo has so far amassed 6 points in the constructor standings. Valtteri Bottas is responsible for 4 by virtue of his 8th place finish in the season-opener in Bahrain, while Zho Guanyu's 2 points came in Australia, where he placed 9th.

Bottas's Australian race weekend couldn't have been much worse. He was off the pace from the start. After coming last in qualifying, the team changed his setup overnight and he started from the pit lane. It was apparent from his early race pace that the changes had-



n't fixed the problem. Red flags and safety cars trashed Alfa's race strategy. Anticipated gains from a first lap change to hard tires were negated by the first red flag, and the later change to softs by the second. Bottas came 12th, the last of the survivors.

Zho's race was less eventful. He experienced the same strategy issues but managed to stay out of trouble, avoiding the multiple race incidents to drive to his 9th-place finish.

That said, the team has work to do over the spring break to figure out why the upgrades they installed for Australia didn't give the anticipated results and advance the program for the upcoming races. Both drivers would have finished further down the ranks, had it not been for the raft of accidents and retirements. 🍀

## Marazzato Collection Revealed

I don't think this has ever been a stop on the AROC Goes to Italy Tour. Maybe it should be. Located in Stroppiana, in Piedmont 60km northeast of Turin, the Marazzato collection houses over 250 vintage commercial vehicles.



*Alfa Mille 3 assi Fressia*

The museum is the passion of retired Marzatto Group president Carlo Marazzato. The collection aims to preserve the history of

Italian transport, and includes trucks and busses of Italian manufacture, in addition to a small collection of vintage autos and motorbikes. Alfa produced trucks and busses into the seventies. It might be worth a visit if you're in the area. 🍀

## Convention News – ‘23, ‘24, and ‘25

Many of us are looking forward to June and *Alfa del Piemonte*, the 2023 AROC national convention, headquartered in Concord (Charlotte), North Carolina. The June 21-25 event should be a great one. Although the June 17-20 pre-convention tour is sold out, convention space is still available for late deciders. Go to [2023 Aroc Convention | 2023 Alfa Del Piemonte \(2023aroc-convention.org\)](https://2023aroc-convention.org) for all the details

Looking forward, we can report that the site of the 2024 convention will be western Michigan. A Chicago-based convention, once envisioned for 2024, is now targeted for 2025. This reschedule left the club with a gap in the convention calendar which had to be filled. Enter David and Andrea Hammond, with assistance from the host Detroit Chapter, with an innovative solution: **Alfas by the Lake**, May 29 - June 1, 2024.



The convention, organized much like the popular pre-convention tours of recent years, will headquarter in Petoskey, Michigan, the heart of Michigan's beautiful northern resort area. Daily drives will visit the area's scenic highlights, including Sleeping Bear Dunes, Grand Traverse Bay, and Mackinac Island. Participants will be split into groups and the daily destinations rotated to avoid overloading the featured locations.

A dry run is scheduled for May 30 - June 4, 2023, to work through the details. If you are interested in participating, contact [David Hammond](#) for the details.

Bottom line, the next two national conventions are within easy driving distance of most of our membership. Northern Michigan is beautiful in the spring and Chicago is, well, Chicago. No excuse not to attend, 🍀

## Germany Reaches Deal with EU on Future Use of Combustion Engines

FRANKFURT/BRUSSELS, March 25 (Reuters) - The European Union and Germany have reached a deal on the future use of combustion engines, officials said on Saturday, an issue that has been closely followed by the auto industry.

The agreement will allow some combustion engines beyond 2035 and was quickly condemned by a prominent environmental group.

The bloc and its largest economy had been at odds over the planned 2035 phase-out of CO2-emitting cars, but leaders signaled in recent days that they were close to a resolution.

Germany had wanted assurances that new combustion engine cars can be sold beyond the deadline if they run on e-fuels—a request supported by parts of Germany's powerful car industry.

“We have found an agreement with Germany on the future use of e-fuels in cars,” Frans Timmermans, head of EU climate policy, said on Twitter. German Transport Minister Volker Wissing said “The way is clear” with the agreement reached late Friday.

“Vehicles with internal combustion engines can still be newly registered after 2035 if they fill up exclusively with CO2-neutral fuels,” he said in a post on Twitter.

Sweden, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, said EU diplomats would vote on Monday to formally approve the 2035 phaseout law.

That would mean energy ministers could then give the law the final sign-off needed for it to enter into force on Tuesday, at a scheduled meeting in Brussels. Benjamin Stephan of the Greenpeace campaign group said the deal was a setback for climate protection.

“This stinky compromise undermines climate protection in transport, and it harms Europe,” he said. It dilutes the needed focus of the auto industry on efficient electromobility, he said. 🍀

## What Are e-Fuels? How Are They Made?

*Could synthetic fuels be the electric-alternative answer to future fuels?*

By Cat Dow, from [TopGear.com](https://www.topgear.com), 3/24/23,

If upstanding citizens of early '90s UK culture The Shamen are to be correctly understood, their hit song was referring to e-methane, e-kerosene, and e-methanol, otherwise known as e-fuels. (*Editor's note: If you missed the reference, The Shamen's hit [Ebenezeer Goode](#) notoriously repeated the lyrics "Ezer Goode, Ezer Goode."*)

These fuels, produced from renewable resources, like solar or wind, have come under closer scrutiny recently because Germany might veto new EU "all-electric by 2035" legislation, in favor of keeping e-fuel vehicles exempt from the new measures. The current plan is to switch the whole of Europe on-to electric vehicles ASAP.

That made us want to know more about these e-fuels and the discussion around their use, to better understand the for and against argument.

### What Is Meant by e-Fuel?

E-fuel is a synthetic version of fossil fuel. Brilliant chemists have broken down the chains of elements that make up coal and gas, chiefly hydrogen and carbon. Using organic carbon-heavy matter and burning it to make power isn't sustainable because eventually, albeit not in our lifetimes, the organic matter will run out.

Instead, e-fuels are generated by using decarbonised power sources, such as wind, solar, or wave. They can come in gas or liquid form and by advocates, they are considered better for the environment, because the carbon released during application was captured during production.

### What Is Syngas?

Syngas is at the heart of renewable fuel. It's a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide. In a process called gasification, it can come from biomass, e-fuels, or solar fuels. Syngas is turned into a liquid, which then can replace the fossil fuel we use now.

### Why Don't We All Use Synthetic Fuels, if They're So Good?

Great question. While being carbon-neutral is all well and good, the amount of energy needed to make syn-

gas is not insignificant. The three industrial processes can be referred to as biomass-to-liquid, power-to-liquid, or sun-to-liquid.

The main issues with all three is scale and efficiency. As a globe, we use tons of fuel. Biomass requires us to grow plants that then get turned into biofuel. Critics argue that growing food for industrial fuel when many countries face poverty and hunger is unethical. It's true that the fertile land could arguably be put to better use, but splitting hydrogen from water is really energy-thirsty, too, as is the rest of the power-to-liquid process. Both of these options are seen as indirect processes, i.e., something has to be put in to get the energy out.


Sun-to-liquid might seem the best route, where all countries could benefit—except maybe the countries stuck in the Arctic circle six months of the year. However, according to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), solar-to-fuel conversion is a maximum 7% efficient. The current realistic objective is to reach 20% efficiency—currently considered optimistic.

### What Is e-Fuel Made of?

Hydrocarbons—hydrogen and carbon. The process can depend on the route, as described above, but one way is to first break down water into hydrogen and oxygen, using renewable electricity (hopefully) and the process of electrolysis, then extract the hydrogen. In the second step, a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide—creating the all-important syngas—is put through, for example, the Fischer-Tropsch process, which turns the syngas—via a series of chemical reactions—into liquid hydrocarbons. That's the Chemistry 101 version, anyway.

### So could we avoid running an electric vehicle by using an e-fuel car?

That's what Germany reckons, at least for some supercars. Porsche has a stake in an e-fuel business. However, other industry bods say it'll be too expensive to run cars on e-fuels and they'd have greater successful application within aviation. Car makers have been banging on about using hydrogen for the best part of four decades, and that still has yet to happen, so if that's anything to go by, those bods might be right. Time will tell. Meanwhile, the EV juggernaut rumbles on.

We hope that helped. 



## Classifieds

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

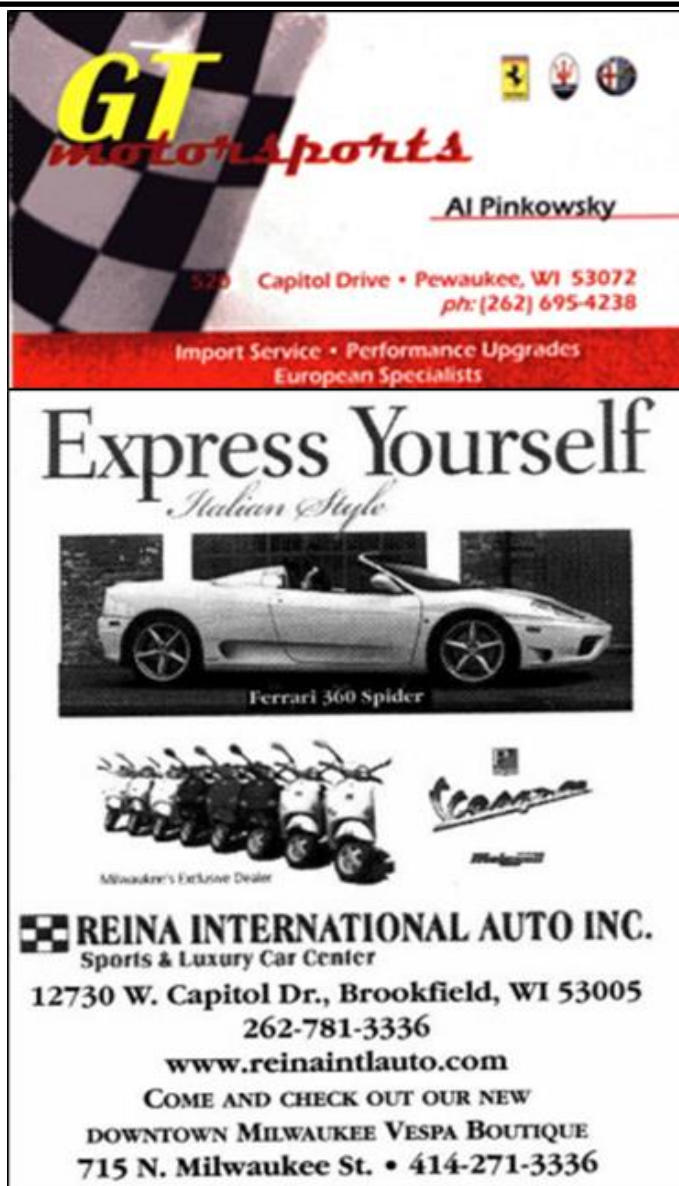
### Wanted

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




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**Alfa del PIEMONTE**

2023 AROC NATIONAL CONVENTION




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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.

## 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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