

ALFANATIC



Next Event The 25th Annual ICAMS

Italian Car and Motorcycle Show

Presented by the Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Wisconsin

Proceeds to benefit The American Cancer Society

**Sunday, July 23, 2023
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sussex Village Park
Sussex, Wisconsin**

**Bring your Italian car or motorcycle to this
low key, casual gathering
People's Choice Awards, Dash Plaques, Door
Prizes**

**Food & Beverage available on-site
Rain or Shine**

**Set you GPS for W244N6260 Weaver Drive,
Sussex, WI 53089 See last page for flyer/entry form**



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Tom and Pam Heinrich's Solstice Party

By Bob Ludwigson

The Heinrich family held its annual Sportscar Solstice Garage Party and Happening June 28 at Lift, Inc. in Glendale. Approximately 20 cars showed up including several Italian vehicles and a nice assortment of British cars.

The main event was the unveiling of Tom's newly restored 1958 Alfa Giulietta Sprint Veloce, recently arrived from Arizona. The car was beautiful! It contrasted nicely with the other unrestored Sprint that Tom was storing at his facility.

As usual, a grill was set up for attendees to cook dinner, and there was a very nice buffet table full of delicacies. I for one am looking for Tom and Pam to show the car at our ICAMS. 🍀



The Alfa contingent



Before and After?



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

July 6-7	Millers at Indianapolis, Indianapolis Raceway Park, Indianapolis, IN
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 1	Brew City Cruise Night Exotic Night , River Club of Mequon
Aug 3-6	IMSA Sportscar Weekend, Road America
Aug 18-20	Fanatec GT World Challenge, Road America
Aug 19	Concorso Italiano, Monterey, California
Aug 20	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
Aug 27	Geneva Concours d'Elegance , Geneva, Illinois
Sept 10	2023 Des Moines Concours d'Elegance
Sept 15-17	Ariens Art on Wheels (VSCDA), Road America
Sept 22-23	Detroit Concours d'Elegance , Detroit Institute of Arts
Oct 19-23	AROC Goes to the USGP 2023, Austin TX (sold out, wait listed)

2024

March 3	The Amelia Concours d'Elegance, Amelia Island, Florida
May 3-5	AROC-WI, Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, WI
May 29-June 2	AROC-USA, Alfas by the Lake 2024, Petoskey, Michigan

Sprint Veloce Returns Home



Tom Heinrich's 1958 Giulietta Sprint Veloce restoration is complete and back from its long stay in Arizona. It arrived days before Tom and Pam's sports car gathering.

Tom said a missing clevis pin, found loose on the floor of the transport trailer, rendered the clutch inoperable, delaying the first drive. Also, Tom's vintage Nardi wheel was damaged by the driver as he was loading the car, posing a dilemma. Tom wants to show the car in Elkhart Lake on the 15th, but he is likely to have to install the original, unrestored, wheel to do it.

We look forward to seeing the Sprint at future events.



Alfa del Piemonte a Pleaser

This year's AROC National Convention was well planned and executed. The weather was the one thing the organizers couldn't control, but even the persistent threat of rain couldn't spoil this memorable event.

Your editors attended the June 18-21 *Giro delle Montagne* pre-convention tour in Asheville, NC, and joined president Randy Swanson and Deb and Gary Schommer in Concord, NC, for the June 22-25 main event.

Pre-Tour

The well-attended pre-tour featured three drives originating in Asheville. The drivers were organized into groups of 15 cars each and drove the routes on a rotating schedule. We visited the Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum, drove the Tail of the Dragon, and visited Hot Springs and Mount Mitchell on successive days. We drove portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway and other local roads that rivaled the infamous Tail of the Dragon for turns-per-mile. The Wheels Through Time museum was amazing, as was the scenery throughout our drives. Many attendees chose to arrive a day early in order to take in the Biltmore Estate, a must-see if visiting the area.



Wheels Through Time museum is a must-see



Tail of the Dragon sculpture in Deals Gap, the south end of the "Tail"

The only sour point of the week was the lingering low pressure weather system that decided to camp out over the region for most of our stay. Fortunately the rain was only intermittent and did

little to interfere with our enjoyment, although our group decided to abort its ascent to the top of Mount Mitchell, at 6,684 feet the tallest peak east of the Mississippi, because of dense pea-soup fog. The daily drives returned us to the hotel between 4:00 and 4:40

every day, allowing plenty of time for socializing and exploring the Asheville area.

Transit

We pre-tourers broke camp and traveled east to the Charlotte area on Wednesday, chased by the some of the heaviest weather of the week. We were offered a scenic route via picturesque Saluda, North Carolina, as an alternative to the more direct highway and Interstate route. The trip instructions included a side trip down Green River Cove Road—a steep, narrow path with what were easily the most extreme curves and grades of any road we traveled during the week. Rain and fog conditions made the trip a nail-biter, especially when meeting oncoming traffic around the blind curves of the barely-two-lane, shoulderless road. After that adventure we decided to find the most direct route to Concord for the balance of the trip.

Convention

Organizer David Yager and his team went out of their way to produce a great “full service” convention. All of the elements were in place and convenient. Time trials and parade laps were on the Charlotte Motor Speedway “Roval,” less than 2 miles from the hotel. Saturday’s Concorso was at a park, also just a short drive away.

The Embassy Suites, being connected to the Charlotte Convention Center, was well equipped to handle our gang.



Parade laps at the Speedway (Gary Schommer photo)

Foreign Cars Charlotte, the local Alfa dealer, brought two Tonales for display and ride and drive sessions. Since the dealership had not yet received its cars, Alfa Romeo USA supplied them accompanied by two enthusiastic marketing execs. I might note that it was my impression that this year the balance of cars driven to the convention tipped in favor of “new” Alfas—4Cs, Giulias, and Stelvios—and away from the “classic” pre-’95 cars.

There were plenty of opportunities for dining and socializing. In addition to the traditional banquet, there

were opportunities to mingle every day. Participants in Wednesday’s Southern Distilling bus tour had the chance to sample some top-notch bourbons and ryes, and Friday’s Gimmick

Rally ended with lunch at the Piccione Winery. Who knew that North Carolina produced some top-notch Italian-style wine? Friday ended with the Southern Feast Buffet followed by the midnight car show.



Randy Swanson: “Where are all the Berlinas?”

Saturday’s Concorso d’Eleganza was held at Harrisburg Park, 4.5 miles from the hotel. We weren’t able to use the amphitheater lawn due to the past week’s rains, but the adjacent parking lot was more than adequate to display the many fine judged cars and “show and shine” entrants.



New and old Alfas in the lobby

Our banquet speaker was racer and TV commentator David Hobbs.

He gave an engaging presentation recapping his racing and TV careers. A guest at our table described it as “The complete story of his adult life in 55 minutes. Remarkable!”

Said David: “I was never a ‘car guy,’ I just wanted to go fast and win.” Nonetheless, he was present at the Concorso and chose a beautiful 1900 Touring Coupe for the “David Hobbs Award.”



AROC-WI attendees at the banquet: Deb and Gary Schommer, and Randy Swanson

Speaking of awards, I was honored with the Fred Di-

Matteo award for service to the club in recognition of the monthly auction reports I have written for the *Alfa Owner* over the last eight years. Chrystal and I also took home third place trophies for the Gimmick Rally.



Chrystal and I accept the rally awards at the Sunday brunch

This GTV6 was our pace car for the Speedway parade laps.



There was so much else going on at the convention—vendors, tech sessions, a swap meet, tours, detailing demonstrations, etc.—it would take an entire issue to describe. We'll leave that job to the October issue of the *Alfa Owner*. Kudos to the volunteers from the Mid

-Atlantic Alfa Romeo Club for putting on a top-notch convention.



*A portion of our pre-tour group
The green Stelvio is a Quadrifoglio model purchased just days earlier by a man who drove from Boston to South Carolina to purchase this car.*



The view from Fontana Dam, typical of the scenery on the pre-tour .

For more photos from the Convention, go to this link: 2023aroc-convention.org



We regrouped on the strategically placed medivac helipad for our return trip down the Tail of the Dragon.



This well restored Giulietta Sprint with Conrero-tuned engine had an in-period racing history. It was presented by Hugh Ruthven, II of Barrington IL and was awarded a Certificato d'Oro.



This green over cream 1956 1900 Touring coupe was the Peoples Choice and David Hobbs award winner as well as a Certificato d'Oro honoree.

Alfa's 2nd Quarter U.S. Sales Sag

Dealerships await the Tonale

Stellantis announced its 2nd quarter sales U.S. numbers July 3. While FCA brands overall were up 6% vs last year's 2nd quarter, Alfa Romeo sales declined 25%. Stelvio, with 1,328 units delivered, continued to be the best-selling model, while Giulia sales were 865 units.

It's interesting to note that only 117 Tonales were delivered while a whopping 2,597 Dodge Hornets were reported sold. While it certainly makes sense for Stellantis to focus its efforts where it can produce the most volume, it's hard to suppress the thought that the Alfa Romeo has become collateral damage. I've read other reports saying that FCA will concentrate Tonale deliveries (presumably Hornets, also) into the 14 states that enforce the CARB (California Air Resources Board) regulations for emissions. This means that we are unlikely to be able to stroll into our friendly local Alfa dealer to buy a Tonale off the lot. Sure, we can order one, but they certainly won't be flooding the zone, unless you live in a CARB state.

On the other hand, the same reports say that after next year Stellantis won't be selling ICE vehicles in CARB states. I wonder how that will work out. 🍀

In Other News...

- On a positive note, Stellantis announced that Dodge, Ram, and Alfa Romeo placed 1,2,3 in the J.D. Power survey of initial quality. All three rankings represented significant increases over the previous records. Alfa Romeo, as previously reported, was No. 1 in its segment. This result will perhaps give the social media naysayers pause.
- In other parts of the world, deliveries of the Tonale have had positive results for Alfa's market share. German registrations have doubled over last year's numbers, and Italian deliveries have surged.
- The U.S. and Italian media is full of stories about the anticipated August 30 introduction of the new Alfa supercar. Timed to coincide with the Italian GP at Monza, the sportscar, rumored to be called the 6C, is said to have styling inspired by the T33 Stradale. It may use the V-6 from the Quadrifoglio edition of the Giulia.
- Alfa's marketing machine is also pumping out stories heralding the anticipated EV-only Giulia replacement, expected in 2025 and expected to produce 1,000 hp in top trim. 🍀

Group to Ponder AROC's Future

By Bob Abhalter

Nothing is as sure or inescapable as change. In the close to fifty years I've been a member of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club, few things have remained constant. The club has always been a resource and haven for Alfisti, owners of a storied marque in a country that is barely aware of its existence. But the needs and interests of its membership have changed over the years and will certainly change even more in the next 5 to 10 years. In order for the club to thrive and survive it must anticipate and meet those needs.

The club entered a new era in 2014 with the introduction of the 4C, followed shortly thereafter by the Giulia and Stelvio. Suddenly, after a 20-year hiatus, there were new Alfas to buy and drive. New cars mean new club members and potential members. What can the club do to attract and retain them? At the recent convention we saw evidence that slowly, surely, the demographic of the club is changing. Certainly we more senior members are still visible, but there are some fresh new faces with fewer wrinkles among us. What sort of club will we pass on to them?

If the current direction continues, the next 5 to 10 years will see even greater change in the automotive industry. The upcoming facelifted Giulia and Stelvio series may be the last gasoline powered vehicles Alfa Romeo delivers. We are told the future is electric. What will that mean for the club?

The AROC national board of directors wants to create a vision for the future of the club, and to that end is forming a strategic planning committee. I've been asked to participate. I in turn am asking you for your feedback. What do you want from your Owners Club? What sort of resources, events, social interactions, do you look for from the club? What made you join? What's holding your interest? What's missing? We want to hear. All input gratefully accepted. Email me at rabhalter@att.net, tap me at an event, or give me a call (262-577-5212). 🍀



Thanks to John Chowaniak

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

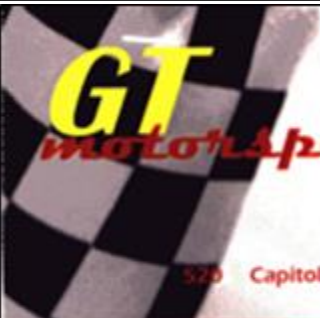
1957 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider. Originally a California car. No Rust, all body panels believed to be original and straight. Detailed engine bay, excellent white paint exterior, red interior with black piping on seats, and new black canvas top. Everything works: lights, gages, heater etc., etc. 1300 Engine starts easily and runs smoothly. Tunnel Case transmission with very early Giulietta bent gear lever that shifts smoothly up or down.

To discuss, receive a concise summary of work done, and receive photo documentation - please Call or E-mail: Rich 773-620-1898 robrien220@yahoo.com


Minnesotan **Tim Parker** is selling an engine and block. The engine is “a pretty clean 2-liter **Alfetta engine/bell housing** with some ancillaries.” The block is a “clean, washed 2-liter **Alfetta GTV block**.” Both are ready for pickup at the Anoka, MN, airport and can be easily lifted into a pickup. Tim will provide photos and serial numbers and can be reached at 651-235-2776. When you call, tell him Tom Heinrich referred you.

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



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WEBMASTER

Position Open - Volunteer Needed
www.aroc-wisconsin.org

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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.

DISTRIBUTION: The *Alfanatic* is distributed exclusively by email. To update your preferred email address reply to rabhalter@att.net. If you know a non-member Alfisti who would benefit from receiving the *Alfanatic*, send their email to me and I'll add it to the distribution list.

DISCLAIMER: Views expressed in the *Alfanatic* are solely those of the authors and are in no way endorsed by this organization or publication.

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/.



Twenty-fifth Annual!

Italian Car & Motorcycle Show

Help celebrate the uniqueness & excitement of Italian design!

LA DOLCE VITA!



Sunday, July 23, 2023

Rain or Shine

Sussex Village Park

W244N6260 Weaver Drive, Sussex, WI 53089

See: <http://www.google.com/maps?f=l&hl=en&q=W244N6260+Weaver+Drive%2c+Sussex%2c+WI+53089>

SHOW VEHICLES—Turn South on Weaver Drive off of Main Street/Silver Spring Drive/County VV. Follow signs to the show grounds on the East side of the park

Spectator Parking: Follow Weaver drive to the public parking area at the South end of the park.

All Italian vehicles welcome: daily drivers to showroom condition

- 10 AM to 3 PM
- dash plaques
- awards (participant judging) & door prizes
- food & beverage available for purchase
- low key & FUN
- spectators - free, but a good will offering to the designated charity is appreciated
- sponsor: Alfa Romeo Owners Club of WI
- info: Bob at rludwigson@aol.com or Gary at alfaman@wi.rr.com
- Proceeds to benefit



Donations welcome. They will have a booth on site.

Pre-registration by July 17th: \$15 per vehicle or \$25 / two

After July 17th: \$20 per vehicle

Make checks out to: AROC - Wisconsin

Randy Swanson – ICAMS

N66 W6684 Cleveland Street

Cedarburg, WI 53012

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

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