

ALFANATIC



This Month!

AROC-WI Annual Banquet and Business Meeting

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Maggiano's Little Italy
at Mayfair Mall
2500 N Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa

5:00 p.m. Cash Bar

6:00 p.m. Dinner
Meeting to Follow

Door Prizes

\$70.00 per person

Details and Sign-up Inside

Registration Deadline, March 16



In This Issue

- Annual Banquet
- Events Calendar
- Club News
- The First Meeting
- Alfa Reveals Product Plans
- Classifieds

Club News

Annual Banquet

Don't forget the annual banquet and business meeting, Saturday, March 23, at Maggiano's Little Italy at the Mayfair Mall. We'll have a private room with our own cash bar for pre-dinner socializing. We'll have a complement of appetizers, a Caesar Salad, and your choice of Filet Mignon, Chicken Francese, Grilled Atlantic Salmon, or Eggplant Parmesan entrees, complete with sides and dessert. See the sign-up sheet on the next page. Email Bob Ludwigson at Rludwigson@aol.com if you have any questions.

ICAMS

Bob, Gary, and Randy are busy ironing out the details for the 2025 Italian Car and Motorcycle Show (ICAMS). Pencil in Sunday, July 28, and set your GPS for Sussex County Park. Details will appear soon.

Festa Italiana

ARPC-WI is interested in supporting this Saturday, May 18, Green Bay event, held at The Automobile Gallery. Now in its second year, organizer Darrel Burnett, Executive Director of The Automobile Gal-

lery, is eager to have participation from the local Alfa Romeo community. We learned that the Ferrari Club is planning a drive. Last year they drove in from Appleton, but this year's rally point is still under discussion. We've been invited to join them. The Board is evaluating our options for participation. Watch this space next month for further developments.

New Glarus

Invitations have been sent for the annual New Glarus Hillclimb - Das Kurze Klausenrennen, May 3-5. AROC-WI hosts this annual event, open to all members in good standing of AROC-WI, the Vintage Sportscar Club, and invited guests. While all are welcome to register and attend the social events at the headquarters Chalet Landhaus, the hill climb itself is limited to vintage Alfas and pre- and immediate post-war classics and sports models. The low key, non-competitive event is the first driving opportunity of the season for most. If you didn't receive an invitation and would like to attend, call Kevin Caulfield at 612-702-8520 or email him at kevincaulfield@crc-mn.com.

National Board of Directors

Alfanatic has no specific recommendations. Just read the bios and get your vote in by March 24.

Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar, 2024

Something missing? Send dates for events we've missed and we'll include them in the next calendar. email: rabhalter@att.net

2024

March 23	AROC-WI Annual Banquet , Maggiano's, Mayfair
May 3-5	AROC-WI, Das Kurze Klausenrennen , New Glarus, WI
May 17-19	SVRA Vintage Festival Weekend, Road America
May 18	Festa Italiana, The Automobile Gallery, Green Bay, Wisconsin
May 29-June 2	AROC-USA, Alfas by the Lake 2024, Petoskey, Michigan Sold Out
June 5-15	AROC Goes to Italy Tour (See AROC-USA Website)
June 6-9	NTT Indycar Series, Road America
June 14	Viva Italia Concorso , Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
June 15-16	Le Mans 24 Hour Race
June 21-23	WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, Road America
June 28-30	Trans Am SpeedTour, Road America
July 11-14	WeatherTech International Challenge with Brian Redman, Road America
July 28	AROC-WI Italian Car and Motorcycle Show (ICAMS) Sussex Cty Park
August 2-4	IMSA SportsCar Weekend, Road America
August 16-18	Fanatec GT World Challenge, Road America
August 18	Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
August 25	Geneva Concours d'Elegance , Geneva IL
Sept 13-15	Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend Featuring VSCDA

Annual Banquet Registration

Yes! Sign me up.

Names _____

Contact Information (phone or e-mail) _____

Choice of Entrée

Please indicate quantity

- _____ Filet Mignon, served with roasted garlic jus
- _____ Chicken Francese served with lemon butter
- _____ Atlantic grilled Salmon served with butter sauce
- _____ Eggplant Parmesan

Payment

Total Cost of Dinner-\$70.00

_____ @\$70.00= _____

Make checks payable to:
Alfa Romeo Owners club
Mail to:
Randy Swanson
N66W6684 Cleveland St.
Cedarburg WI 53012

The First Meeting

Russ Whitford remembers the first meeting of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Wisconsin

“That’s not a Giulietta!”

John Julien said, “No it isn’t, it’s a 1900C.” John described his sleek coupe as “swimming pool green.” Didn’t matter, what a great car. It was the star of the very first meeting of what would become AROC Wisconsin.

My first Alfisti connection was with Gary Wirth. He introduced me to George Meikrantz, then Jim Huff, John Julien, Joe Mirenda, Paul Newman and on. We decided to meet at Estabrook Park in Shorewood on an early September Sunday, 1978. I think we had eight cars lined up:

George Meikrantz	2600 Spider
Gary Wirth	1600 Giulia Spider
John Julien	1954 1900C Coupe
Jim Huff	Giulietta Spider
Paul Newman	1974 Berlina
Russ Whitford	1977 Alfetta (exact same color as Paul’s)

I think there was a ratty Giulia Super and perhaps another car.

We planned another gathering but I don’t remember where. At one point we decided to go to an event in Madison where AROC Western Wisconsin met. After talking with those guys, they admitted their chapter was folding and they turned it over to us. George became president and I wrote the newsletter.

Early AROC Wisconsin activities included tech sessions dealing with the mysterious SPICA fuel injection that the EPA had foisted on us. Alfa didn’t put out much maintenance information for this system as they abided by the EPA’s intent that the owner shouldn’t mess with an emission control device. We had to figure it out on our own. Jim Hewett, who owned a really hot Berlina, was instrumental in this voyage.

Gary and I drove to the Alfa Convention in Detroit a year later. Jim Hewett and his wife, Elaine, flew their plane there. We shared Gary’s Giulia Spider for the autocross event. All had a great time. Sadly, Jim and Elaine’s plane crashed in Lake Michigan on their return home. I was the last to see them.

We put newsletters on the counter at Tosa Imports and a few sports car repair shops like Coach House

Racing. I carried a stack in my Alfetta and put them on any Alfa windshield I saw. The club grew and we had more events.

I have a confession to make, as newsletter editor, I had a stated policy that anyone, AROC member or not, could put a classified ad for an Alfa in our newsletter. I had the stipulation that a price must accompany the ad. My reason was that a price is useful information to members. Those calling me to place ads confided in me. “I really want \$2,500 but put \$3,000 in the ad.” With that intel, I would perhaps bargain them down to \$2,200 and buy the car. One year I think I bought six Alfas that way. The standout was my 1959 Giulietta TI for \$75. Gary and I slapped it back together and vintage raced it for a few years. It resides in Tom Zat’s museum.

I have vivid memories of the close friends made with our Alfa connection. Bill Hall wrote a nice piece about Tom Schmock and Mark Thompson in the last newsletter. I’ll see if I can add some stories about these early AROC-WI founders. 🍀

U.S., EU Elections Could influence Future Alfa Romeo EVs

Automotive News Europe, 3/8/24, By Luca Ciferri

CEO Jean-Philippe Imparato hopes to launch a large, sporty SUV along the lines of the Ferrari Purosangue that will be aimed at the U.S. and China in 2027, but geopolitical and market trends could favor a small hatchback instead.



The new Milano Small SUV (here seen camouflaged) will be introduced April 10. There are no current plans for U.S. sales.

Arese, Italy - Alfa Romeo executives say the outcome of European elections in June and the U.S. presidential election in November could influence which cars it will launch in 2027.

In the U.S., a return to the White House for Donald

Trump could mean a delay or freeze in plans for states to follow California and effectively ban internal-combustion cars starting in 2035. Trump could also roll back President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act incentives for selling EVs made in the U.S. or with a high level of U.S. content.

In Europe, a new EU Parliament could reconsider a plan requiring zero-emission vehicle sales starting in 2035.

That could put a brake on future Alfa Romeo models that are intended to be mainly full electric, including a planned fastback SUV on the STLA Large platform, brand CEO Jean-Philippe Imparato told reporters Thursday at the Alfa Romeo museum here, near Milan.



The Ferrari Purosangue. Could Alfa get a similar vehicle in 2027?

“My gut would call for giving to Alfa an electric sports car similar to the (Ferrari) Purosangue (large SUV), but

we also have to watch how geopolitics and global markets could evolve, eventually choosing a more Europe-oriented small hatchback,” Imparato said.

Alfa Romeo's product plan is frozen until 2026. Before year-end a decision will be made on whether the new product for 2027 will be the large SUV aimed mainly at North America and China or a small electric hatchback focused on Europe. Imparato has said that the large SUV is crucial to help Alfa Romeo meet its goal of generating 40 percent of sales from outside Europe, up from 18 percent now.

Imparato said he is convinced that developed markets including Europe and the U.S. will eventually go electric-only, but that the path to get there is not yet clear and could include bumps or detours.

Alfa Romeo on April 10 will unveil its first full-electric car, the Milano small crossover. It will go on sale in September in markets where EV demand is strong, including France, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries.

A 48-volt mild hybrid version will be launched by the end of the year, targeting markets where electrification is lagging such as Italy and Spain. The Milano will be sold in Turkey, North Africa, and Latin America starting in 2025.

Stellantis is preparing its plant in Cassino, central Italy, to build cars on the STLA Large platform, including the second-generation Alfa Romeo Stelvio midsize SUV expected in the second half of 2025. It will be followed by the replacement for the Giulia midsize sedan.

Cassino, which already builds the Giulia and the Stelvio, as well as the related Maserati Grecale midsize SUV, will be the only Stellantis plant in Europe to build STLA Large-based vehicles. The platform will feature an 800-volt electric architecture and offer a range of more than 700 km (435 miles) for SUVs and an even longer range for sedans.

The Giulia and Stelvio replacements will also have ICE variants, but no details have been revealed. These models will use different, more sporty suspensions from North America vehicles using the STLA Large platform, such as the freshly unveiled new Dodge Charger, Imparato said.

Imparato also said the new Stelvio will be the first Stellantis model to debut two new technologies: the STLA Brain proprietary operating system and the STLA SmartCockpit human-machine interface.

Some of the SmartCockpit features could be previewed at a Stellantis capital markets day planned for June 14 in Auburn Hills, Michigan, Imparato said.

Alfa Romeo will return to the compact hatchback segment in 2028, according to a product plan shown at the event near Milan. A successor to the Giulietta will be built on the STLA Medium platform, which is being installed at Stellantis' factory in Melfi, Italy, Imparato said. The STLA Medium architecture is debuting this year on the Peugeot 3008 compact SUV, which has up to 700 km of electric range.

He added that a successful future Giulietta could generate, with reasonable investments, other body styles including a coupe, a convertible, and a two-seat roadster to reconnect with the iconic Duetto made famous in the U.S. by Dustin Hoffman in the 1967 movie “The Graduate.” 🍀

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

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



Thanks to John Chowaniak

CONTACTS

PRESIDENT/TREASURER

Randy Swanson (13swanson@gmail.com)
N66 W6684 Cleveland, Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-377-7144, 781-5568 (w)

V.P., EVENT COORDINATOR

Bob Ludwigson (rludwigson@aol.com)
N88W22526 N. Lisbon Rd, Sussex, WI 53089
262-527-2396

EVENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Gary Schommer (alfaman@wi.rr.com)
W141N6672 Memory Rd, Menomonee Falls, WI
53051-5119
414 418 0879

WEBMASTER

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

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Bob and Chrystal Abhalter
(rabhalter@att.net)
5406 2nd Ave, Unit 2B
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-577-5212

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Al Pinkowsky (al@gt-motorsports.net)
520 Capitol Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072
262-695-4238, 414-774-8938

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/.

