

# ALFANATIC



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## Next Event

### Save the Date!

## **AROC-WI Annual Meeting and Winter Banquet**

**Saturday, March 22**

Plans are underway for our winter banquet and annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, March 22! We will be returning to Maggiano's Little Italy in Wauwatosa. The restaurant is located in Mayfair Mall, conveniently located near U.S. 45/I-41. Those who attended last year commented that the food was plentiful and delicious.

As in the past we will have a private room with its own cash bar.

Following the meal, there will be a short business meeting and election of club officers. There will also be door prizes featuring Alfa-related items.

Menu items are still being selected but will include Italian specialties as well as steak.

The full menu as well as prices and signup sheets will be included in the February *Alfanatic*.

Please reserve the date. This is an opportunity to enjoy good food and share time with fellow Alfa enthusiasts. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

- Bob Ludwigson, VP and Events Coordinator



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## Fueled Swap Meet Saturday, February 8

The Chicago-based enthusiast group Fueled will hold its 12th annual Parts and Petroliana Event Saturday, February 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The location is The Last Detail, 2900 US Route 41 (Skokie Hwy.), North Chicago, IL 60064.

*“We’re excited at the variety and quality of what’s already on offer this year. Our Fueled Swap Meet is open to the public and interested vendors.”*

The admission fee is a modest \$5.00 and the vendors are varied, plus you’ll see a variety of cars in The Last Detail’s care. It’s worth the trip. For more details follow the links in the calendar below. 🍀

## Alfa’s U.S. Sales Down 19% Year Over Year

FCA US reported its 2024 annual sales results January 3. In total, the company sold 1,303,570 units, a 15% decline since 2023. The press release, however, noted that *retail* sales (as opposed to fleet sales) had increased 1% in the 4th quarter, versus the same period last year, and that the company held the highest market share in PHEV vehicles at 41%.

Sales of Alfa Romeo were 8,865 for the year. The Tonale was top seller at 3,383, closely followed by 3,162 Stelvios. Dealerships sold only 2,320 Giulias. The badge-engineered Dodge Hornet, at 20,559 units sold, outsold the Tonale by 6 to 1.

Much was made of FIAT’s 153% annual sales increase (1,528 vs 605), due primarily to deliveries of the new 500e, the “2024 Urban Green Car of the Year.” 🍀

## Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar, 2024 - 2025

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)

### 2025

January 7-19	Mecum Kissimmee Auction, Kissimmee, FL
January 18-26	Arizona Auctions, Scottsdale and Vicinity, AZ
<b>February 1-2</b>	<b>AROC Winter Retreat, Palm Springs, CA</b>
February 8	<a href="#">Fueled Swap Meet, The Last Detail</a> , N. Chicago, IL
February 8-17	Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place, Chicago
February 5-9	Retromobile, Paris, France
Feb 27-March 2	<a href="#">Moda Miami</a> , Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida
March 6-9	<a href="#">The Amelia</a> , Amelia Island Concours d’Elegance
<b>March 22</b>	<b>AROC-WI Annual Meeting and Winter Banquet, Maggiano’s, Wauwatosa</b>
April 24-27	<a href="#">Anantara Concorso Roma</a> , Rome, Italy
<b>May 3</b>	<b>AROC-WI Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, WI</b>
May 16-18	SVRA Spring Vintage Weekend, Road America
June 6-8	WeatherTech Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints
<b>June 11-21</b>	<b>AROC Goes to Italy, <a href="#">Steve Austin’s Great Vacations</a></b>
June 14-15	Le Mans 24-Hour Race
June 17-21	<a href="#">1000 Miglia</a> , Brescia-Rome-Brescia
<b>June 18</b>	<b>Tom Heinrich’s Howl at the Moon Summer Solstice Happening</b>
June 19-22	Indycar XPEL Grand Prix, presented by AMR, Road America
June 27-29	Cheese Capital Cup featuring Trans Am Speed Tour, Road America
July 17-20	WeatherTech Vintage Weekend with Brian Redman, Road America
July 31 - Aug 3	SportsCar Weekend with IMSA, Road America
August 15-17	GT World Challenge America, Road America
August 17	Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance
August 24(t)	Geneva Concours d’Elegance, Geneva, Illinois
August 30	Kenosha Classic Cruise-In, Kenosha, WI
September 12-14	Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend with VSCDA, Road America
<b>Sept 15-21</b>	<b>AROC National Convention, Crystal Lake, Illinois</b>
October 3-5	SCCA National Championship Runoffs, Road America

## Letters to the Editor:

Hi Bob,  
Hope all is well with you and Chrystal!

Since you had an article on electrification, and Alfa Romeo in particular, I wanted to send you a quick note.

In the last couple of weeks, we were “unofficially” informed that Alfa Romeo will no longer build gas engine vehicles after the 2025 model years.

Stellantis advised dealers to inform our customers, and staff alike, that if anyone wants an “ICE” Alfa Romeo vehicle, they should make sure to either order a 2025 model, or be sure to purchase a 2025 model year before the end of their run.

Again, “unofficial” – but worth mentioning!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

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Thanks! Forwarded to all members of the Deep South chapter. By the way, I used to live in Green Bay.

Bill Sims

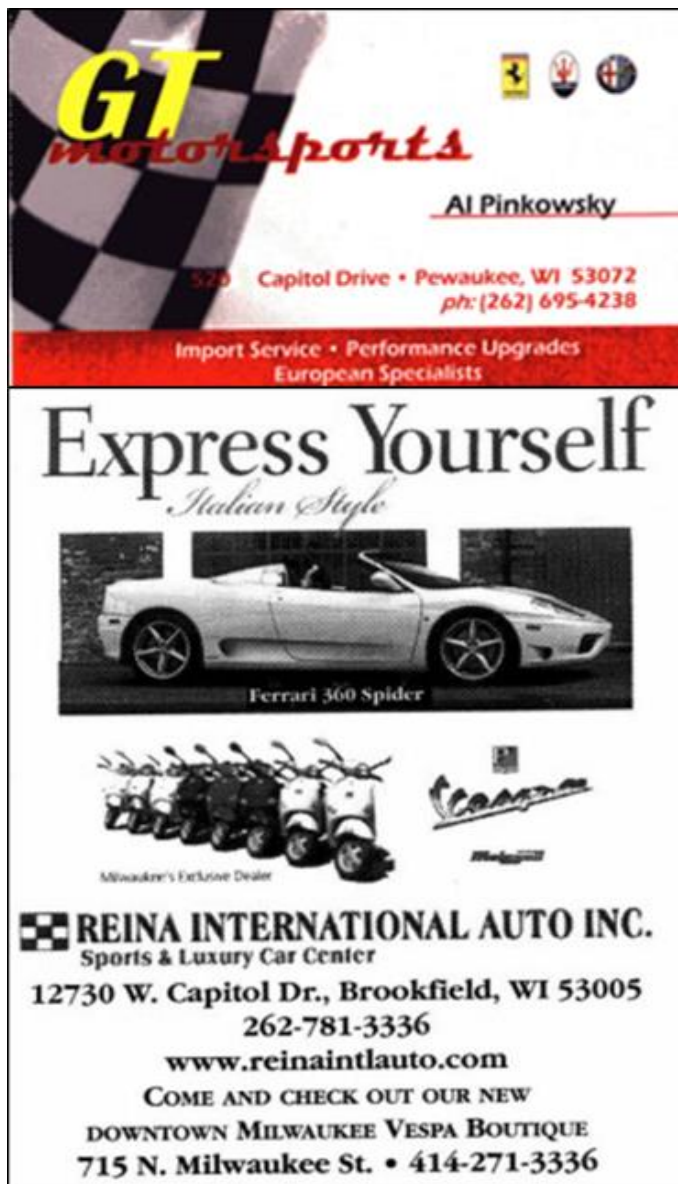
Hello Bob,

Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

I appreciate the continued "For Sale" listings of our three West Michigan Alfas in your newsletter.

The two spiders can now be removed from future listings. Both have been withdrawn from the market. The Larsen car has been withdrawn from all listings, and the owner is out-of-touch. The Cole spider has been withdrawn because the owner has decided to retain ownership.

I, on the other hand, do appreciate the continued listing of my



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1750..... I'll let you know if/when something changes.

Your newsletters are stunning! Well done!!

Gerry (Albers, West Michigan Alfa Romeo Owners)

*BTW, his '69 1750 GTV, as I remember it, is a keeper. Find his contact details in the classifieds.* 🍀

### Worth Reading: What Happens When Cars Sit

Hagerty frequently produces informative articles on issues of interest to car collectors and aficionados. The following article: [What Happens When Cars Sit?](#) is particularly appropriate for the season, when many of our collectible Alfas sit idle for the winter.

## Stellantis Production in Italy Falls 37% in 2024

*Passenger Cars at Lowest Level Since 1956*

*Reuters news, January 3:*

MILAN — Stellantis's production in Italy fell by 37 percent last year, according to union figures, as the automaker tries to recover from a deep sales and profitability slump.

The FIM-CISL union on Dec. 3 said that Stellantis assembled 475,090 vehicles in Italy, down from 751,384 in 2023. Production of passenger cars in particular shrank by 46 percent to the lowest level since 1956, while output of light-commercial vehicles fell 17 percent.

To address overcapacity in Italy, the group has relied heavily on state-funded temporary layoff programs. Stellantis in December presented a plan to boost production, but an increase is only expected from 2026 thanks to the launch of new models. Production at the historic Mirafiori factory in Turin is expected to be paused until the third week of January.

Stellantis was not immediately available for comment.

Like its European peers, the world's fourth-largest car maker is wrestling with weak demand, especially for fully electric vehicles, regulatory uncertainty and tough Chinese competition.


FIM-CISL said it would join a protest planned in Brussels by a labor organization, IndustriALL Europe, on Feb. 5, two weeks before the European Commission presents its "clean industrial deal."

The union's leader, Ferdinando Uliano, said it was important to review EU targets for vehicles' carbon emissions reduction due to kick in from 2025. "This is a battle for Europe," Uliano said, speaking about the crisis facing the European car industry. "Single countries can only lose."

Stellantis operates five car plants in Italy plus a facility for commercial vehicles. Production at the group's Mirafiori plant in Turin fell by 70% last year. Only the Maserati plant in Modena, the heart of Italy's "motor valley," performed worse with a 79% drop.

"We are very worried about Maserati," Uliano said. "We expect quickly a clear and detailed project for Maserati."

Stellantis in December pledged to invest €2 billion (\$2.1 billion) in Italy in 2025 to produce new models at some of its plants in the country.

Under the plan, Stellantis will keep all of its Italian factories open and increase output starting in 2026 thanks to the launch of new models. All Stellantis plants in Italy will have production allocations until 2032 and will not require public funds for planned investments, the automaker said. 

## Hammonds Plan Great Lakes Tour

Detroit AROC members David and Andrea Hamond love northern Michigan. They were responsible for organizing last year's AROC convention—Alfas by the Lake—featuring some of their favorite sites in the Traverse Bay area. AROC-WI president Randy Swanson was a participant and liked what he saw. Randy made the *Alfanatic* aware that the Hammonds are planning another summer excursion.


The pair is proposing a two-week tour for next June. Split into four segments, the adventure begins with a reprise of last year's convention, then continues into the U.P. Participants are invited to join the tourers for any part of the itinerary.

**Part 1** Starting June 1, The Crooked River Lodge, near Petoskey is the hub for a repeat of last year's convention drives on the northeastern shore of Lake Michigan and Traverse Bay.

**Part 2** Tourers will head north for four days, visiting the varied sights of the northeast U.P. along the southern shore of Lake Superior.

**Part 3** The drive will then head west and north along Lake Superior for a three-day exploration of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

**Part 4** The participants will complete the loop, spending 3 days in the southwest U.P. and northern Wisconsin before heading east.

Note that this is not an official AROC-sanctioned tour, just a itinerary produced by a couple who loves the area and would be happy if you appreciated it too. If you are interested and want to receive updates, let David know. He will send you the details. (David's email is [motorcityalfa@aol.com](mailto:motorcityalfa@aol.com)) 



## Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry and Bond, James Bond



Periodically this iconic Chicago institution, at the north end of Jackson Park near the Lake Michigan shore, offers special, limited run exhibitions. The latest, and still ongoing, offering features the history, technology, gadgetry and, yes, some vehicles, from the 007 movies. It's titled:

### 007 Science: Inventing the World of James Bond

AROC board honcho and CAROC (and AROC-WI) member Cindy Bennett organized an outing this past fall for several CAROC members to see the exhibit. As a MSI member, she bought the tickets in advance for those interested. A carpool for the suburbanites was organized to save money on parking.



*Jaws' metal teeth from "The Spy Who Loved Me" (1977)*

Once we arrived, we walked through several rooms of displays and information about the movie series. Background on the inventions, stunts, villains, and, of course, various femme fatales, is included. Video clips of well known chase (with 007 behind the steering wheel) and action scenes over the decades are shown.

The famous Aston Martin DB5, which had its debut in 1964's Goldfinger, is prominently displayed with explanations of its "vehicle options." Cars from some of the other movies are on display as well. Boats, motorcycles, and jetpacks, shown in action videos, are other transportation modes in the exhibit.



To end the day, we all piled into an SUV and headed for [Ricobene's](#), a long-time eatery well-known for its breaded steak sandwiches. Yum!

Even if you have not seen all of these movies, it's DEFINITELY worth a visit to the MSI for this. The exhibit has been extended through Spring 2025. The extra cost for a ticket is money well spent. Plus, you can see the other transportation exhibits and displays in the museum: model trains, the Pioneer Zephyr, the U-505 Submarine, vintage cars, and aircraft.

Thanks, Cindy, for suggesting and planning this for us Alfisti!

For AROC-WI (and CAROC), I am -  
Clark, Doug Clark



*Cello case sled from "The Living Daylights" (1987)*



*Lotus Esprit SI—"Wet Nellie" from "The Spy Who Loved Me" (1977)*



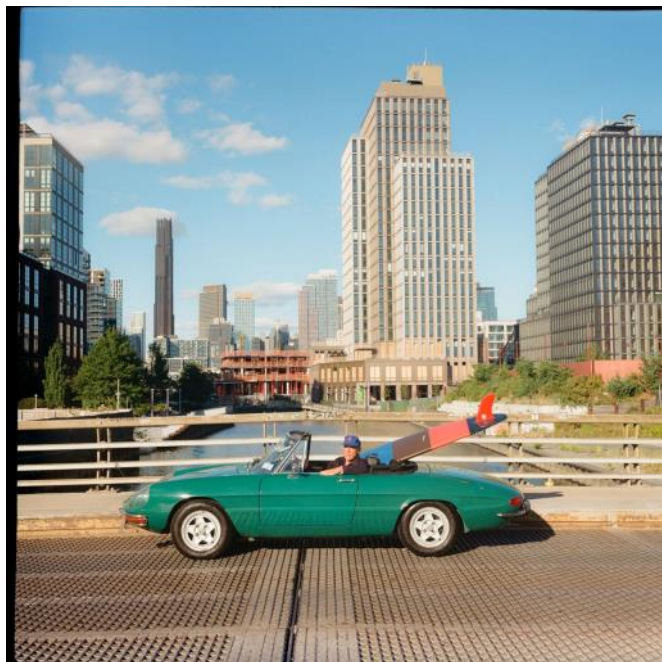
*Jaguar XKR from "Die Another Day" (2002)*

## The Old School Alfa Romeo That Rules the Streets of Brooklyn

*Keith Helmetag has driven his 1969 Alfa Romeo Spider “Duetto” across the borough, and surfing spots nearby, for decades.*

*Wall Street Journal, January 7, 2025*

*By A.J. Baime | Photographs by Edward Pomykaj for WSJ*



I first started driving when I was 15, in 1968, right when there were a number of great sports cars on the road. The Alfa Romeo “Duetto,” as it is nicknamed, comes from that era, and is most known from its appearance in the film “The Graduate.”



I have lived in Brooklyn for 26 years, longer than I have lived anywhere else, and, for 21 of those years, I have driven

this Alfa Romeo. One of the allures is the connection it gives me to where I live.

New York is a city of immigrants. This car was first imported into America from Italy in the '60s in three colors—the colors of the Italian flag: red, white and green, like my car.



I drive the car wearing a New York Mets hat. The vintage license plate is the same colors as the hat. And as any good New Yorker knows, 1969 was the year the “Miracle Mets” won the World Series.

The car sits at the nexus of people who live and work in Brooklyn, who come from all over the world. I maintain the car at a

shop that was started by Sicilians, but now is run by an Israeli. I park it in a local garage run by a guy from Gambia. I am having it restored at a shop run by a Jamaican proprietor. They all make up the fabric of this community. 🍀





## 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**

#### **1958 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce 750F**



Fully restored both mechanically and cosmetically with attention to details. These include the original livery as documented by the Alfa Romeo Certificato Di Origine. More importantly the Certificato validates the present chassis and engine numbers are those the Giulietta left the factory with in 1958. A touchstone piece incorporating Alfa Romeo World Championship winning technology wrapped in timeless Pininfarina coachwork. Selling price \$135,000. Ring or text Kevin Caulfield 612 702 8520.

#### **1969 Alfa Romeo 1750 GT Veloce**

USA specification. Very original and complete. Most documentation from new. An unrestored gem, that presents, runs, and drives well. \$46,800. Located in West Michigan. Contact: [gerryalbers@yahoo.com](mailto:gerryalbers@yahoo.com)

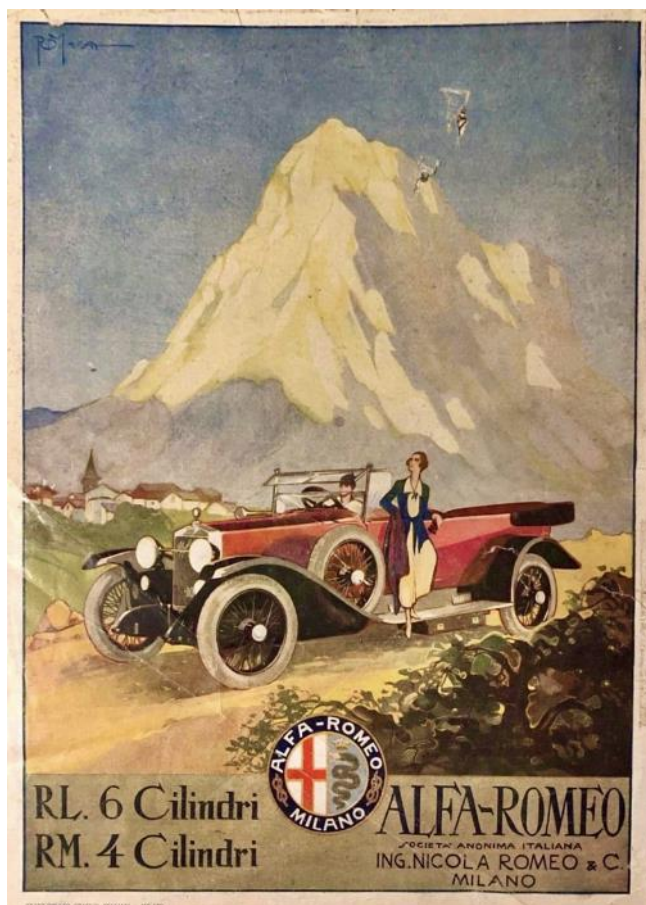
### **Alfetta Engine**

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 sent you.

### **Garage Cleanout**

**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. A Series 2 Windshield, fiberglass bumpers, engine, transmission, door latches, etc. Just ask! Contact Gary at 608-209-2352, or [gjtreehouse@gmail.com](mailto:gjtreehouse@gmail.com)



*Thanks to John Chowaniak*

## CONTACTS

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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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