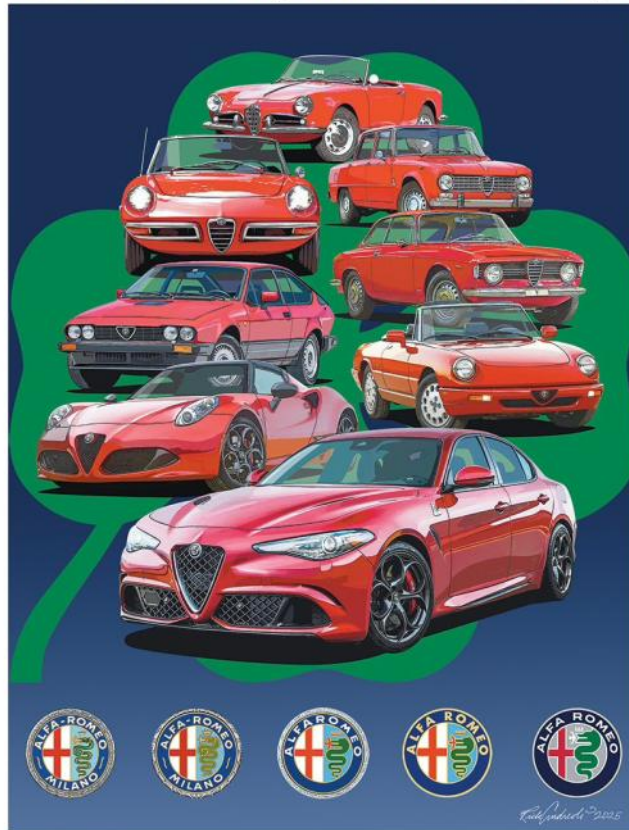


# ALFANATIC



**CHICAGO  
ALFA ROMEO  
2025 CONVENTION**  
SEPTEMBER 17 - 21, 2025 / CRYSTAL LAKE, IL



Go [here](#) for the details.



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## AROC-WI Fall Color Tour Scheduled

By Bob Ludwigson

I am happy to announce that our annual fall color tour is scheduled for **Saturday, October 25**. We will gather at the **Holy Hill** lower parking lot, 1525 Carmel Rd., Hubertus WI, and finish with lunch at a West Bend restaurant.

We will follow a route through the beautiful Southern Kettle Moraine Forest. Plan on a relaxing drive, with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

After lunch, visit the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend to view its permanent collection or the scheduled Frank Lloyd Wright Modern Chair Design exhibition.

Plan to arrive at 9:00 a.m. for Alfa talk. We'll have a drivers meeting at 9:40 a.m. and the first car will leave shortly after.

If you plan to attend, please **contact Gary Schommer** at [Alfaman@wi.rr.com](mailto:Alfaman@wi.rr.com) or text him at (414) 418-0879 so we can plan for sufficient route instructions and restaurant space. 🍀

### Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar, 2025 - 2026

Something missing? Send the dates for your events and we'll include them in the next calendar. email: [rabhalter@att.net](mailto:rabhalter@att.net)

#### **2025**

September 7	Wheels of Italy, Robbinsdale, MN, 9:00 a.m.- 2 p.m.
September 12-14	Ariens Art on Wheels Vintage Weekend with VSCDA, Road America
<b>Sept 15-21</b>	<b><a href="#">AROC National Convention</a>, Crystal Lake, Illinois</b>
Sept 19	CAROC Blackhawk Farms <a href="#">Driver's Ed. and Lapping Day</a>
October 3-5	SCCA National Championship Runoffs, Road America
October 3-5	<a href="#">American Speed Festival</a> , M1 Concourse, Pontiac, MI
October 23-26	<a href="#">Auto e Moto d'Epoca</a> , Bologna, Italy
<b>October 25</b>	<b>AROC-WI Fall Color Tour</b> , Holy Hill, Lower Parking Lot
October 31—Nov 2	<a href="#">Las Vegas Concours</a> , Wynn Golf Club, Nevada

#### **2026**

Jan 28 - Feb 1	<a href="#">RetroMobile</a> Exhibition, Paris, France
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Moda Miami. Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida
Mar 5-8	<a href="#">The Amelia</a> , Amelia Island, Florida
<b>May 1-2</b>	<b>AROC-WI Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, Wisconsin</b>
June 10-20	AROC Goes to Italy, Steve Austin's Tours
Nov 19-22	<a href="#">RetroMobile US</a> , Javits Convention Center, NYC

## AROC Convention Autocross and Track Day Open to All

Alfisti and others looking for an autocross or track day to round out the season may be interested in the events connected with the National Convention. One need not be driving an Alfa or even be an AROC member to take advantage of these events.

The Friday, September 19, track day at Blackhawk Farms Raceway is a driver education and lapping day open to all makes. The day promises 2 hours of track time for a very reasonable \$390, which includes a one-day AROC membership (\$15).

The Wednesday, September 17, autocross will be held at Boomers Wintrust Field. Start time is 8:00 a.m. The Windy City Miata Club is providing event management. Cost is \$75, which includes the one day membership, so subtract that amount if you're already a member.

For more information and sign ups, visit:

[Track Events | 2025 Aroc Convention](#)



## ICAMS Donation Presented to Alzheimer's Association

By Bob Ludwigson

On August 19, AROC-Wisconsin donated \$650, the proceeds from the Italian Car and Motorcycle Show, to the Alzheimer's Association at its headquarters in West Allis. The amount would have been larger if there had been more cars participating in the car show. Well, there is always next year! 🍀



AROC-WI president Randy Swanson presents the \$650 check to Walk to End Alzheimer's Manager Rachel Bachhuber Palbrach.

## Alfa Romeo Sales Surge *Just not in U.S.*



Alfa Junior vs Jeep Avenger

For the first half of 2025, year-over-year global sales of Alfa Romeo have increased by 20% overall, fueled primarily by the availability of the new Junior sub-compact

SUV. Registrations in Europe are up 33%. Increases of 34% in the Middle East and Africa and 63% in South America were also recorded, according to [Motori.it](https://www.motori.it).

Orders for the Junior have hit 45,000 for the first half of the year and 17% of them are for the full battery electric version. Unless plans change, we won't be seeing the Junior or its Jeep stablemate, the Avenger, in the U.S., as it is deemed too small for our market. In major European markets, the Junior is outselling its competitors from Audi (Q2), Mini (Aceman), Lexus (LBX), and Citroen (DS3), but the Jeep Avenger outsells the Alfa Junior across the board, primarily because it is offered at a lower price point. The base gas powered avenger is about \$6,000 lower in price than the base hybrid Junior. 🍀

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## Jim Thiel



James (Jim) Bradley Thiel, age 83, of Random Lake, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at home on August 15, 2025, surrounded by family.

Jim was born on October 6, 1941, in Milwaukee to Elmer Claus Thiel and Hilda (Knaack) Thiel. He grew up with Mid-

western roots, strong and steady, and lived a life guided by faith, kindness, and quiet generosity.

A graduate of Shorewood High School, Class of 1960, Jim went on to earn a degree in Business and Marketing from Drake University in 1964. He proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves.

On November 9, 1968, he married the love of his life, Marjorie Williams, in Grandview, Iowa. Their love was the kind that lasts — built on laughter, faith, and years of shared adventures. Together they raised two children, Brad and Robyn, and built a home filled with unconditional love.

Jim found his calling not just in work, but in service. After gaining experience elsewhere, he joined Badger Tag and Label Corporation — the company his grandfather founded — where he built lifelong relationships and rose to become Vice President of Sales. He brought the same dedication to his community, volunteering with the Random Lake Fire Department as both fireman and EMT, serving on the board of the United Fund and the Historical Society, and volunteering with the Booster Club. He was also a devoted member of Open Door Bible Church, where his faith guided his hand and heart.

He had a spirit for adventure. With Marjorie, Jim traveled the world. He loved the wind in his face while sailing, the warmth of tropical beaches, snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, the grandeur of European cities, and the still beauty of Alaskan waters.

Whether driving his Alfa Romeo with the top down or cheering for the Brewers or the Packers, Jim lived with quiet joy.

Above all, he loved being with those he held dear. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend — Jim was patient, wise, kind, and endlessly giving. He never needed to say much; his presence said it all. To know him was to feel safe, seen, and deeply loved.

*When you find yourself on a quiet road, or standing in the wind by the lake, or laughing with those you love — think of Jim and smile. He is there, still — in the breeze, in the sunlight, in every kind and generous moment.*

Jim is survived by his beloved wife Marjorie of 56 years; his children Bradley (Jean) Thiel of West Bend and Robyn (Ryan) Wilson of Fraser, Colorado; his grandchildren Morgan and Michael Thiel from West Bend; his siblings Bonnie (Jim) Andrews, and Don (Linda) Thiel of Fort Myers, Florida, and Paul (Leslie) Toepfer of Grafton; his mother-in-law Verlee Williams of Muscatine, Iowa, and brother and sister-in-laws Virginia and Steve Frye and David Williams of Muscatine, Iowa, Dr. Gary and Sylvia Cavanaugh of Stockton, California, John Williams (Gina Anderson) of Terrebonne, Oregon, along with many other cherished relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Hilda Thiel; his stepmother Betty (Klug) McKittrick; his father-in-law Harold Williams; his grandparents Emil and Lena Thiel, and Adolph and Lena Knaack of Wauertown.

*Jim was a long term active member of AROC-Wisconsin. He joined the AROC in 1989. We were saddened to hear of his untimely passing. The club extends its sincerest sympathy to his wife Marjie and their family. May he rest in peace.* 🍀

*Photo and obituary courtesy Eernisse Funeral Home.*



Dear Alfa Romeo Owners  
Club,

Thank you to those who  
were able to come to  
Jim's service & visitation.  
It was a lovely gesture  
of your friendship and  
thoughtfulness. Jim al-  
ways enjoyed getting to-  
gether with all of you.

The flowers that the  
Alfa Club sent is striking.  
It was white roses & carn-  
ations with greens. Thank  
you all so much.

Fondly,  
Marjie  
Brad &  
Robyn

During a time like this  
we realize how much  
our friends and relatives  
really mean to us.

Your expression  
of sympathy will always  
be remembered.

The Family of  
James B. Thiel



### Links to Like

This video of a police chase in  
Los Angeles involving a stolen  
Giulia made the pages of the  
Italian website [Autoblog.it](https://youtu.be/yusTUD5RC1s).  
<https://youtu.be/yusTUD5RC1s>  
The drive finally abandoned the  
car in an underground lot and  
disappeared. Police are still  
searching for the perp.

Almost everything you wanted  
to know about Alfa Spiders can  
be found in this [Hagerty.com](#)  
[article](#).

## Next-gen Alfa Romeo Stelvio PHEV May Offer 380 Horsepower

By Francesco Armenio, from [ClubAlfa.it](https://clubalfa.it)

*Next-gen Alfa Romeo Stelvio delayed, but plug-in hybrid version with 380 hp engine expected to lead the range.*



*Artist's concept of the new Stelvio*

The next generation of the Alfa Romeo Stelvio is expected to arrive later than originally planned, with the initial launch target of 2025 now delayed. For the moment, no exact date has been set for the debut of the D-segment SUV, though movement could come in the next few months as Stellantis prepares to unveil its new industrial plan under recently appointed CEO Antonio Filosa. In the meantime, speculation is mounting around the powertrain lineup, with the plug-in hybrid version now considered all but confirmed.

According to fresh reports from French media, the new Alfa Romeo Stelvio PHEV may adopt the same 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine currently used in the Jeep Wrangler. In its plug-in hybrid configuration, this engine produces up to 380 horsepower with all-wheel drive. Such a setup would allow the Stelvio to compete directly with rivals like the Audi Q7 55 TFSI, which also delivers 381 hp.

This choice would provide an effective balance of performance and efficiency, with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reportedly around 79 g/km according to Stellantis data, an attractive figure for customers seeking a sporty SUV with lower environmental impact.

Another possibility being floated is the new 1.6-liter hybrid producing 210 hp, already announced for the 2026 Jeep Cherokee. However, this seems unlikely for the Stelvio, since the unit is designed for compact models with a transverse layout and front-wheel drive. Such a configuration is far from Alfa Romeo's

traditional approach, as the brand plans to maintain rear-wheel drive and longitudinal engines for both the new Stelvio and Giulia. For that reason, this option appears improbable.

## Alfa Romeo Milano: When American Dreams Took the Alfa 75 Across the Ocean

By Francesco Armenio, from [ClubAlfa.it](https://clubalfa.it)

*In 1987 the Alfa Romeo Milano (Alfa 75) debuted in the U.S., aiming to rival BMW but struggling with sales despite its strong character.*

When the Alfa Romeo Milano, known in Europe as the Alfa 75, made its official debut in the United States in 1987, expectations were running high. For the Italian automaker, it marked a return to the American market with a model designed to embody the brand's sporting DNA.

The Milano stood out with its sharp lines, spirited engines, and rear-wheel-drive layout, distinguishing itself in a landscape dominated by German and Japanese sedans. Analysts at the time noted that Alfa Romeo was targeting a very specific niche: drivers seeking genuine thrills behind the wheel, far removed from the standardization of the big brands.



With the Milano, Alfa promised sporty handling, well-appointed interiors, and a touch of Italian flair that still carried an air of exclusivity and allure in the U.S. Initial expectations were high: automotive magazines and enthusiasts alike welcomed the arrival of a European sedan that dared to challenge the BMW 3 Series and Audi 80. Dealerships saw strong curiosity and solid foot traffic, proof that the Alfa Romeo name still resonated across the Atlantic. In practice, however, the reality proved less dazzling than the promises.

While the Milano did win over a small circle of en-



thusiasts, it never reached the sales volumes Alfa Romeo had hoped for. Several factors contributed to this outcome, including a limited dealership network, maintenance costs perceived as high, and lingering doubts about the reliability of Italian cars. It was, in many ways, a “perception problem”, driven more by psychology than hard fact, though not entirely unfounded.



Today, many still remember the Milano as a car with real character, capable of delivering raw driving emotion at a time when the American market was becoming increasingly homogenized. Unfortunately, it never became the commercial success Alfa Romeo had envisioned. 🍀

## Alfa Romeo Featured at Goodwood Revival 2025

From: [MagentaMagazine.com](https://www.magentomagazine.com)

By: Nathan Chadwick (edited)



It's soon time for the jewel in the British historic motoring scene's crown – the Goodwood Revival 2025. It's an extravaganza that has become much, much more than simply a historic motor-racing event – it's a window into the entire 1940s-

1960s post-war culture. It all kicks off between September 12-14.

The Goodwood Revival is all about immersion, with dressing up in the style of the era actively encouraged. We're expecting some fascinating outfits this year – previous events have celebrated the Wild West, the 1966 World Cup and the Festival of Britain

among other themes, and there was even an alien invasion in 2022 as a tribute to the Roswell Incident of 1947. For 2025, the Goodwood Motor Circuit's Turning Circle entrance embraces Flower Power, capturing the spirit of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury – the birthplace of the Hippie movement and the 1967 Summer of Love.

## Forza Alfa

This year's Goodwood Revival will showcase Alfa Romeo's rich racing heritage with a line-up of machines marking 100 years since the marque's triumph in the first Manufacturers' World Championship. Across the weekend crowds will see Grand Prix cars, sports racers, touring icons and prototypes that made their name at legendary events such as Le Mans, the Mille Miglia and the Targa Florio.

Highlights include the 158 Alfetta that won the first Formula 1 Championship, the Tipo 308C, the TZ2 and the dramatic Tipo 33 prototypes. Together they chart five decades of engineering innovation from 1925 to 1975, and will also celebrate 50 years since Alfa Romeo's World Sportscar Championship victory in 1975.

Alongside the cars, the Revival will honor the great drivers who made history with the marque, from Antonio Ascari to Juan Manuel Fangio, Giuseppe Farina, and the pre-war hero Tazio Nuvolari. 🍀



## 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

#### 1991 Alfa Romeo Spider Veloce



60K miles, new tires. Needs new top and seat covers. Garaged in Eagle River, WI, Asking \$6,500. I only drive it about 20 miles a year in the summer. It's a good easy resto project for someone. Bill Marshall,

[bmarsh68@gmail.com](mailto:bmarsh68@gmail.com)  
713.252.0423

#### Three 164s For Sale

I have three 1991 164s I'm looking to dispose of.

1. 1991 164L which was a daily driver until the front head gasket blew externally (no coolant in the oil or chambers) just shy of 200k miles.
2. 1991 164 Base parts car missing injectors, HVAC units and hood (it's on the L)
3. 1991 164 Sport with manual transmission It was driven here and left. The owner was murdered. I'm told the rear suspension was rusted out. General condition "rough."

All three have tires. The first two hold air, I'm not sure about the Sport.

No offer will be refused. They're worth very little as scrap and I'd rather see them go to someone who cares. Especially the L

The L and Sport are at my shop at:

501A S Nine Mound Rd, Verona, WI 53593

The Base is at my home at W6008 Pioneer Rd., New Glarus, WI 53574

Pat Slattery [martski43@gmail.com](mailto:martski43@gmail.com) 608 347-5741

#### 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.

#### 1978 Spider

Texas car, with backdated bumpers, Nardi wheel, and engine build by Stuart Sandeman. Asking \$15k. Gerry Perlman, Waco, TX, (562) 972-0700, [gerryperlman@gmail.com](mailto:gerryperlman@gmail.com)



#### 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)



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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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