

# ALFANATIC

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Reminder: Next Club Event

**Saturday, April 7**

The Annual AROC - Wisconsin  
Annual Banquet and  
Business Meeting

Fox and Hounds Restaurant & Tavern  
Hubertus, Wisconsin

Cocktails 5:30, Dinner 6:00

It's too late to mail your registration, but last minute arrangements can be made with Gary Schommer at [alfaman@wi.rr.com](mailto:alfaman@wi.rr.com)  
or 262-252-3750



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## Hillclimb Invitations in the Mail

Invitations for the Thirtieth Annual *Das Kurze Klauserenennen* New Glarus Hillclimb and Tour hit local mailboxes within the last week or two. Members of AROC-WI and the VSC and previous hillclimb entrants should have received them by now.

The hillclimb is a great low-key early May outing that you should consider, especially if you have an eligible car, i.e., any four, eight, or straight-six Alfa, or pre-WWII car of any make. The organizers may also extend invitations to other interesting cars. Spectators are also welcome.



*Kevin Caulfield's Ferrari 212 Export Berlinetta at last year's event*

If you are interested but haven't received an invitation, contact Jim Fuchs. ([jimfuchs447@ymail.com](mailto:jimfuchs447@ymail.com), or 414-333-8808) 🍀

## 2018 Local, Regional, and International Events Calendar

Anything 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 7	<b>AROC-WI Annual Banquet</b> , Fox and Hounds, Hubertus, WI
April 22	2-Seater Sports Car Group driving event, <a href="mailto:choonlu29@gmail.com">choonlu29@gmail.com</a>
May 5	<b>AROC-WI Das Kurze Klauserenennen</b> , New Glarus, Wisconsin
May 12	<a href="#">John Ehle's</a> 2018 "Mother, May I?" Spring Car Tour, SE Wisconsin
May 18-20	SVRA Spring Vintage Festival Weekend, <a href="#">Road America</a>
June 9	CAROC at Blackhawk Farms, Lapping and Touring, <a href="#">CAROC.com</a>
June 13-17	SVRA <a href="#">Brickyard Vintage Racing Invitational</a> , Indianapolis, Indiana
June 14-17	WeatherTech® Chicago Region SCCA June Sprints, <a href="#">Road America</a>
June 20	Tom Heinrich's Summer Solstice Sports Car Party, Lift, Inc.
June 21-24	Verizon Indycar Series Kohler Grand Prix and Pirelli World Challenge, <a href="#">Road America</a>
July 13	<a href="#">2018 Millers at Milwaukee</a> Vintage Indy Car Event, The Milwaukee Mile
July 19-22	The WeatherTech® International Challenge with Brian Redman, presented by Hawk, <a href="#">Road America</a>
July 24	<a href="#">Brew City Cruise Night</a> featuring Italian cars. nines American Bistro, Mequon
July 27-29	<a href="#">Concours D'Elegance of America</a> , Plymouth, Michigan
Aug 2-5	IMSA / Continental Road Race Showcase, <a href="#">Road America</a>
Aug 5	<a href="#">Show &amp; Glow Paddock at the Milwaukee Concours</a> , Veterans Park
Aug 5	<a href="#">Milwaukee Concours d'Elegance</a> , Veterans Park, Milwaukee
Aug 8-12	<b>AROC Sempreverde 2018</b> ( <a href="#">National Convention</a> ), Olympia, Washington
Aug 12	<b>ICAMS AROC-WI Italian Car and Motorcycle Show</b> , Reina International Autos, Inc.
Aug 23-25	NASCAR Trucks and Infinity Series, SCCA Pro Trans Am, <a href="#">Road America</a>
Aug 26	<a href="#">Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance</a> , Carmel, California
Aug 26	<a href="#">Geneva Concours D'Elegance</a> , Geneva, Illinois
Sept 14-16	Ariens Art on Wheels Weekend, Featuring the VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival®, <a href="#">Road America</a>
February 9-18, 2019	Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place, Chicago

## Alfa News Briefs

### Alfa Dealers Were Discounting in March

In an apparent effort to generate positive sales numbers for the quarter, some dealers have been aggressively discounting new Giulias and Stelvios. Alfa Romeo of Evanston was discounting in-stock units by \$10,000 or more below MSRP while dealers in our area were not quite as generous but still offering significant incentives. At this writing it's unknown whether these deals will continue but it's likely that more buying opportunities are out there.

### Australian GP—Vettel Wins, ESPN Loses

The Australian F1 Grand Prix went off March 25. Vettel and Ferrari won, Leclerc and Sauber-Alfa placed 13th, and ESPN stumbled badly in its efforts to provide U.S. coverage of the race.

According to press reports, F1 owner Liberty Media brokered the deal that gave ESPN rights to screen U.K.'s SkySports coverage of this year's Formula One races. ESPN elected not to provide any U.S. production content, opting instead to air the "raw" SkySports feed without benefit of Stateside interlocutors.

In mid-March ESPN released a promising program schedule announcing coverage of all practice sessions, qualifying, and races. Although this sounded really good for F1 fans, the devil quickly appeared in the details.

ESPN's first effort was sunk by technical glitches, scheduling errors, and, worst of all, the indiscriminate insertion of five-minute commercial breaks that interrupted the race coverage during some significant action. Pre-race coverage was truncated by loss of the sound feed, and there was no post-race coverage following the podium interviews.

Viewer uproar was so loud that ESPN released an apology. Unfortunately for fans, the apology was limited to the technical glitches, not the overall format.

The main problem is that SkySports broadcasts without commercial breaks, and ESPN has no stateside talent to provide replays and commentary when something important happens while they are away. So even though most of the commercials are delivered in split-screen format, when they come back from break there is no one to explain why that driver walked away from his smoking car on the front straight. By that time the U.K. commentators have moved on.

The commentary itself is a mixed bag. The SkySports on-air personalities are certainly qualified, and there was some good information if you could understand it. Not all British English is intelligible to U.S. ears, former F1 driver and feature contributor Paul Di Resta being a prime example. The Scot's brogue was so thick I wondered if he was speaking English.

Some say that this is all a ploy to get fans to subscribe to the F1 subscription service F1 TV Pro, an offering that has been delayed from its announced March 1 launch for some unidentified reason. If so, it will probably work.

ESPN is doing the minimum required to provide F1 programming. Press releases tout that ABC/ESPN was the first to bring F1 programming to the U.S., however the current effort gives them nothing to be proud of. If changes aren't made I can only guess the reaction when ABC airs the North and South American races later this year.



### Alfa Monthly Sales Results

	March	YTD	vs 2017
Giulia	1284	3085	220%
Stelvio	1270	2653	New
4C	22	54	-62%
Total	2,576	5,792	424%

### Links You'll Like

The operators of Petrolicious are Alfa lovers and frequently present features on our favorite marque. This latest post documents an outing featuring three Tipo 33s from different eras and the drivers who piloted them. Drivers Derek Bell, Nanni Galli, and Arturo Merzario are featured. Enjoy beautiful cars and a challenge to your Italian comprehension, all in one video. <https://petrolicious.com/films/alfa-romeo-tipo-33-the-racers-reunion>

### Pre-Purchase Inspection Needed in Des Moines

Anyone up for a road trip? A March 24 posting in [Alfabb.com](http://Alfabb.com) from Francois, a potential Spider buyer in Belgium, is looking for someone to do a pre-purchase inspection in Iowa. He would prefer dealing with someone who knows Alfas instead of hiring a generalist or muscle car appraiser. If you are up for it, contact him through the bulletin board by following the link above.

### Attention Wisconsin AROC, CAROC Wants You

We are inviting you to make that short trip across the border to beautiful South Beloit, Illinois, for our annual Blackhawk Farms lapping and driver's ed day. Historically, we held it around the Fourth of July holiday but this year we advanced it to **Saturday, June 9**. Because it's a Saturday we have longer access to the track. The track will open at 6:00 a.m. and we will be putting cars on the track starting at 8:30 and running until 6:00 p.m. for those willing to go the distance.

As a further enticement, Richard Fisher of AutoBarn in Evanston has donated a dandy prize for us to raffle off. The lucky raffle entrant will get "An Alfa track day for two at Autobahn Country Club"—hot laps in a 4C and a Giulia Quad with Richard Fisher—lunch-time touring on track, complimentary lunch, and a disc of photos of your day at the track. Richard has even agreed to bring up some Giulias and 4Cs. Last year he brought up two 4Cs and two Giulias, one a Quad.

Registration can be completed online or I would be happy to send a paper registration form. Please check the website, [www.caroc.com](http://www.caroc.com). You will also find some in-car videos to pique your interest. Feel free to call with any questions.

Dennis M. Sbertoli,  
Pres. Chicago ALFA Romeo Owner's Club  
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### Changes to Ethanol Fuel Requirements Proposed

Congressional efforts are afoot to modify the Renewable Fuel Standard which governs the distribution and availability of ethanol-based fuels in the U.S.

According to [Hemmings.com](http://Hemmings.com), bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate that would cap the total amount of Ethanol that can be blended into

gasoline at 9.7% and phase out corn as a source for ethanol, replacing it with cellulosic waste material. Supporters of the bills call the current regulations a "well-intentioned flop."

If passed, the bills would be phased in over a period of time and affect the mandatory amount of ethanol to be blended with gasoline, leaving a small market open for the "E0" gasoline most owners of older cars prefer. Passage of the bills is supported by a range of environmental and industry interests but will meet resistance from representatives from the corn belt, where current policies have provided an economic bump to corn producers.

### Nero Edizione Packages Announced for Alfa Giulias and Stelvios

Alfa Romeo chose the March 30 opening of the New York Auto Show to announce the introduction of an all-black trim package for new Giulias and Stelvios. Most exterior trim will be black-finished, similar to the *dark mirron* wheels available now. This is strictly an appearance package as no mechanical tweaks are included. No timing or price information was released but some think the option will be available beginning with the 2019 models. 🍀



*Grille detail. Note the vee of the scudetto is in black rather than chrome.*

# YOU'RE INVITED TO DRIVE!



## CHICAGO AROC AT BLACKHAWK SATURDAY, JUNE 9 - **TIMED LAPPING** & TRACK TOURING SESSIONS - ALL MAKES WELCOME

**FULL DAY EVENT - BLACKHAWK FARMS RACEWAY**

Join us for a day of automotive exercise - see what you and your car can do! Three run groups based on experience - instructors available and free! Helmet needed for lapping, and rollbars req'd in open cars for lapping (not req'd for Touring). Car must be in good mechanical condition and pass safety inspection. Volunteers needed - free touring and lunch for corner workers. Blackhawk Farms Raceway is just outside Rockton IL - just 90 miles from Chicago!

**\$275** ADVANCE

**\$40** TOURING ONLY

For details and registration, go to [CAROC.com](http://CAROC.com) - Club Info. Questions? Don Brubaker (event chairman) 847-550-8915, or Dennis Sbertoli 708-579-9724

## The Duetto

By David Ziglin

One day in 2007, on the race track at Black Hawk Farms and for no sensible reason that I could imagine, I lost the transmission in the '66 Duetto I was running. My mechanical love failed me.

*An aside: The name Duetto had to be dropped by Alfa Romeo because of a lawsuit from the Duetto Chewing Gum people, so the only Alfa Spider that can be legitimately called a Duetto is the '66. The name Duetto was dropped afterwards. You know—Dustin Hoffman's graduation present. The car he raced for miles and miles to intrude just in time on his true love's wedding. The car that he never shifted—not once. "Elaine !! Elaine !!"*



The dropped transmission broke my spirit and would once again drop my wallet. A set of tires burned up at Road America was \$1,000 and tires do wear. But primarily, the broken transmission was dispiriting. The race track gods had it in for me. I had to yield.

*Another aside: Mike Besic did a quick turn-around rebuild of the transmission. I loaned the car to Dan Wilke, manager of Yard Racing, who had prepared my Duetto. Dan took the Duetto on a grand circuit of race tracks including the exciting Watkins Glen event. Watkins Glen citizens go berserk over the race cars that show off through the town.*

*Dan entered the endurance race at each race track in the circuit and, yup, my Duetto was responsibly gentled at each track and won the SVRA group 3 endurance championship at the season's end.*

Back to the idle Duetto: I had since then tried to sell the car and had come very close to a deal when my emotions took over. I love that car. My wife, Janice, adores the car. She ached and aches to drive it even if it means leaving the dogs at home. And so at the last minute I backed out of the sale. For a longer time than I can believe, the Duetto has been parked in our trailer. Yes, we were

prepared to drive the car on the street as is; racing fuel is available. However, the lack of a legal wind screen and other details consistent with a race car made us uncomfortable. This would have been a guaranteed cop magnet, since cops seem to be much more interested in cars rather than driving behavior. I know from endless experiences. A police officer would be bound to find something illegal. A typical matter of personal pride.

And so for the most part the Duetto sat. A race car is relatively worthless. An "original" Duetto is worth considerably more as you likely know. Recently we spoke with Mike Besic. He was interested in our car, especially the engine which is a real goer—altogether a joy

to race. An idea formed. We would resurrect the car as a clear street car. This would not by any means stop our being pulled over by the curious law—I have submitted to that all my life—but it might be harder to claim a problem.

"How ya' doin' today. Show me your license."

"Why, officer?"

"Show me your license."



*In reaction to the many race cars with "No Fear" stickers on their bumpers, I felt that a more honest and less arrogant and pompous statement would be appropriate for my Duetto. On the roll bar it says: "A Modicum of Trepidation."*

I had earlier stupidly sold the original 1600cc engine to help finance my racing passion. Now we needed an appropriate engine to bring the car back to a close to original state. Mike's son took a trip to Michigan to buy a proper engine that we finally found. It was not cheap, but try to find one. We were on our way.

The windscreen would be welded back. The roll bar is a bolt-on and so that would not be a problem. The rev warning light could stay, the pre-oiler could stay, the push start button could stay. The power battery shut off could stay. The safety fuel tank could stay and the dual fuel pumps in the trunk could stay. The 45 carbs would be changed back to 40s. The interior and top would be new. All the gauges are original. Anyone who wanted to take it to 90 points could do that without a great deal of trouble. We had gone to significant lengths to make the car race prepared without damaging anything integral to a vintage race car. It's all there. In contrast to many race cars I encountered, our Duetto is gorgeous. (ssshhh - the car is painted Porsche Guards Red rather than Alfa Romeo red. )

Mike Besic races a Duetto and so his heart was with us. When I suggested that the new engine might be "enhanced" to a boy racer state, he was right there with me. Our plan is for a 10:1 ratio compression, a slightly greater cc, a lightened fly wheel, tweaked Weber 40 DCOE carbs, forged racing rods and like that. I am much too passionate about politics and social issues but right up there is my love of automobiles. I am very excited about this project. I am no longer thinking about selling the Duetto. How could I? If you are interested, I will keep you informed of our progress. Needless to say, I do want to talk about it. Indeed, I am reminded of my brother who sold a property so expensive that his cut was so great that he bought a 360 Modena. He cannot get over it; it surprised the hell out of him. He can't stop talking about his Ferrari. Can't stop. I understand.

Once again we will be driving our beautiful Duetto on the street. Of course, then there are track days with various car clubs. It's alive! It's alive! 🍀



## Alfas at Auction – Amelia Island

By Bob Abhalter

The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance has earned a justifiable reputation as one of the premier events of its kind. Lately it has also built a reputation as the concours with the most flexible scheduling. In 2017, threatening weather prompted the promoters to move the concours back a day from Sunday to Saturday, prompting other schedule modifications. The event came off without a hitch, despite the shortened lead time. This year, again, a significant storm was projected to hit the area on Sunday. Once more the organizers sprang into action. Will this become the norm? I hope not, but weather patterns can be fickle and weather prediction is still less than dead reliable. The auctioneers were also affected by the weather, but despite the schedule upsets they reported strong results. If you wanted a Porsche, Amelia was the place to be, as all of the auctions featured several lots and a few multi-car collections—all years and all styles. The supply of Alfas was a little spare, however each auction offered one or two.

In addition to cars, The Bonhams March 8 auction featured a selection of automobilia from the collection of Harley Cluxton. Cluxton is a successful automotive entrepreneur who purchased the Mirage racing team from Gulf Oil and successfully campaigned the cars at Le Mans from 1976 to 1982 as a part of his very active Phoenix-based business, Grand Touring Cars, Inc.

Among the assortment of steering wheels and race car body parts was an Alfa Romeo **1979 Tipo 1260 V12 engine**, with transaxle, offered to the Mirage team by Carlo Chiti for evaluation after Renault, its engine supplier at the time, announced it was pulling out of competition. The 3.0 litre tipo 1260 was designed for



*Alfa Tipo 1260 F1 engine*

Alfa's Formula 1 effort and powered its model 179 variants from 1979 to 1982 without particular success. Although it was more powerful, the engine was larger and heavier than the competing Cosworth DFV, in addition to being very thirsty and not too reliable. Mirage ultimately chose to go with the Cosworth. The engine and transaxle sold for a hammer price of \$24,000—\$30,000 after the buyer's premium was added.

Bonhams' automotive Alfa offering was a **1963 2600 Spider**, AR191503. The dark blue car with blue interior was an older restoration once owned by collector Robert Pass. It benefited from a recent \$15,000 freshening and presented in good physical condition. It was definitely intended to be an event car as the added Webers, aftermarket air cleaners, and polished cam covers took it out of the running for concours entry.



This Spider was last seen at auction in 2012, when it sold for \$60,500 at the RM Amelia Island auction and sold again for \$39,600 in July at the RM Concours of America auction in Plymouth Michigan. This time the car was sold for \$110,000 all-in, short of the low auction estimate by \$15,000.

Gooding and Company, along with its passel of Porsches, had the featured "barn finds" of the weekend—a Cobra and a Ferrari offered out of long-term but reasonably careful storage. The 1967 Cobra sold for \$1.045 million. Its garage mate, a 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB Long Nose, sold for \$2,530,000.

Gooding also offered two Alfas, the first being a **1964 Giulia Sprint Speciale**, AR381257, in dark blue with red vinyl upholstery. The car resided in Phoenix until 1980 when it was sold to Connecticut, having traveled a documented 51,000 miles. Its new owner gave it a fresh engine and it was otherwise mechanically freshened. The consigning owner pur-

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chased the car for \$126,500 at RM's Monterey auction in August of 2013. The 51,443 miles shown on the odometer, if accurate, indicate that the car hasn't had much use in the last 38 years. The car has been entered in many concours events over the years and presents well. A few minor engine bay details are incorrect, but the overall impression is of a good, solid car. The \$132,000 sales price was no doubt justified.

Later in the day, Gooding offered a **1966 2600 Spider**, AR192297. The recent restoration was finished in a tasteful but sober combination of gray with ox-blood red upholstery. There appeared to be very little to fault about the car, which seems to be complete with the exception of the missing rear license plate mount. Auctioneer Charlie Ross had no trouble getting the initial \$100,000 bid, then two or three bidders sparred in 10, then 5 thousand dollar increments to end at the winning \$145,000 hammer price (\$159,500 after fees). Observers on the ground noted that some of the work appeared hastily done in preparation for the auction and the car was not as good looking up-close as it appeared in the pictures.



*Gooding's 2600 Spider - Better looking at 20 feet*

The schedule of the RM Sotheby's auction was affected by the weather rescheduling and kicked off on Friday, March 9, rather than Saturday. Among the lots offered was a **1959 Giulietta Spider**, 1495 05617, in the typical Alfa red with a cream interior.



*Giulietta interior - Possibly incorrect colors but correct pattern and very pleasing*

The AACA award-winner appeared to be very correct with only a few deviations from original. I'm not an expert on early Spider interiors, but if the well done and authentic-looking red-piped cream upholstery wasn't offered from the factory, it should have been. The original engine was replaced during the 2011 restoration but came with the car. It appears that the transmission was also replaced with a later 5-speed, although the correct shift knob was retained. The otherwise accurate restoration was marred by a non-matching generic choke knob and mismatched instrument needle centers—very small details but hard to ignore. The car sold for \$72,800, a fair price but below the \$90,000–\$120,000 the auction house was hoping for.



*Early Sprint at Hollywood Wheels*

Elsewhere, Hollywood Wheels offered a nice-looking white **1958 Giulietta Sprint**, 1493 06702. A nut-and-bolt restoration was claimed. The brown cloth interior looked well done but was incorrect for the car and the engine was a stated to be a period-correct replacement. The auction estimate was \$85,000 - \$100,000, perhaps a bit optimistic considering the deviations from standard.



*Motostalgia 2000 Spider*

Lastly, Motostalgia offered a **1962 2000 Touring Spider**, AR10204 02879. The red car with red and black leather upholstery looks very good in the low-resolution photos available on the company's website. There was no information provided concerning the restoration, but the car is said to have lived its life in California and to be rust free. Some license was taken with the two-tone upholstery, and in my opinion having red both on the interior (including the dash cowling) and the exterior is a bit much. The work appears to have been nicely done, however.



*Wrong interior held car back*

According to the *Sports Car Market* database this car has been to market a few times in its life, first at a Kruse auction in September 1998, when it sold for \$7,875 in it's mostly original state. The

next outing was August 17, 2001, at the RM Monterey Auction when the now-restored car went for \$26,400. The new owner attempted to flip the car again in January 2002, but the high bid was only \$24,000. This time the sale price was \$106,700, just enough to cover storage and maintenance expenses for the past 17 years, plus a small profit for the owner. 🍀

*sempreverde* 🍀



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## Classifieds

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

### For Sale

#### Four Used Cromodora Wheels



for 72-74 Alfa Spider. Surface and finish would benefit from some reconditioning but otherwise ready for that rally! If desired, and strictly at my cost—no adder—I would be willing to get them E-Coated ready for paint refinishing. Make me an offer!

Also, **Rear Bumper** for 1972-74 Spider. Make an offer.

James Huff, 514 Simon Drive, Hartford, WI 53027,  
[jphuff4@gmail.com](mailto:jphuff4@gmail.com)

### Wanted

Good used windshield for a 1967-1969 Alfa Spider (roundtail). Must be from an early Spider. Later windshields are different. Call Bob at 270-564-2821 or mail: [rabhalter@att.net](mailto:rabhalter@att.net)

**There's Plenty  
of Room for Your Classified  
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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.

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