

ALFANATIC



Next Event

Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Wisconsin

Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting

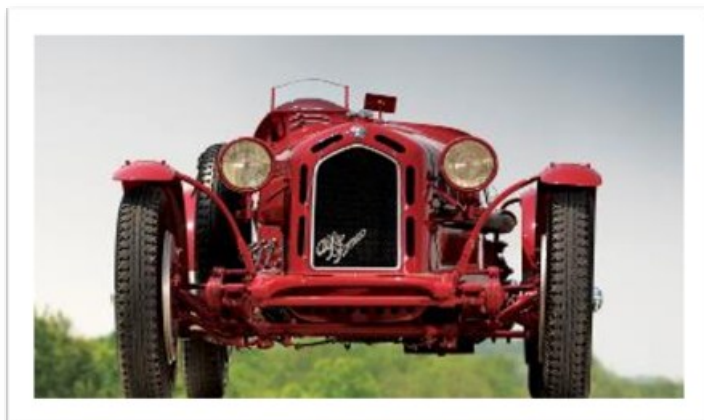
Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Maggiano's Little Italy
Mayfair Mall, Wauwatosa**

Social Hour 5:00 p.m.

Meeting and Door Prizes Following Dinner

See Inside for Menu and Sign-up



In This Issue

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Plans Complete for Winter Banquet

By Bob Ludwigson

Plans are complete for the AROC-WI annual winter banquet and business meeting. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant, located at Mayfair Mall, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

We will have a private room with our own bar ready to supply beverages. Following a delicious meal, with entrees selected from Maggiano’s Steakhouse Menu, we will be selecting club officers for 2026 and will draw for door prizes.

We will begin the evening with a social hour, beginning at 5:00 p.m., with banquet to follow. The cost for the evening is \$90.00 per person. Please fill out the attached form and remit your payment to Randy Swanson.

See you there! 🍀

Mayfair Mall is located adjacent to I41, at the intersection of W. North Ave. and Mayfair Rd. (Hwy 100). Maggiano’s address is 2500 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa.

Menu Selections

Appetizers, *served buffet style*

- Calamari Fritté
- Tomato Bruschetta
- Wagyu Beef Meatballs

Chef’s Signature Caesar Salad

served with freshly baked bread

Choice of individually plated entrée

- Center Cut Filet of Beef
- “The Grand” Chicken Parmesan
- Lasagna
Beef and Italian Sausage
- Beef Tenderloin Medallions
- Simply Grilled Salmon

Accompaniments for the Table

- Baked Truffle Mac and Cheese
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Roasted Garlic Broccoli

Desserts

- New York Style Cheesecake
- Vera’s Lemon Cookies

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

2026

Feb 7-16	Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place, Chicago
Feb 28	Fuelfed Classic European Swap Meet , The Last Detail, North Chicago
Feb 28 - Mar 1	Moda Miami. Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, Florida
Mar 5-8	The Amelia , Amelia Island, Florida
March 21	AROC-WI Annual Banquet, Maggiano’s Little Italy, Wauwatosa
May 1-2	AROC-WI Das Kurze Klausenrennen, New Glarus, Wisconsin
May 14-17	Milwaukee Auto Show , State Fair Park, West Allis
May 15-17	SVRA Spring Vintage Weekend, Road America
June 5-7	SCCA Chicago Region June Sprints, Road America
June 10-20	AROC Goes to Italy, Steve Austin’s Great Vacations
June 18-21	Indycar XPEL Grand Prix, Road America
June 26-28	Cheese Capital Cup, Trans Am Speedtour, Road America
July 16-19	WeatherTech Vintage Weekend with Brian Redman, Road America
July 30-Aug 2	Motul IMSA SportsCar Endurance Grand Prix, Road America
Aug 28-30	GT World Challenge, Road America
Sept 18-20	Art on Wheels VSCDA Vintage Weekend, Road America
Sept 23-27	AROC-USA National Convention, Ogden, Utah
Oct 2-4	SCCA National Runoffs, Road America
Nov 19-22	RetroMobile US , Javits Convention Center, NYC

Banquet Registration
Saturday, March 21
Social Hour 5:00 p.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy
Mayfair Mall
2500 N. Mayfair Rd.
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Yes! Sign me up!

Names: _____

Contact Information _____
Phone or email

Choice of Entrée
Indicate Quantity

- _____ Center Cut Filet of Beef
- _____ Chicken Parmesan
- _____ Lasagna
- _____ Beef Medallions
- _____ Simply Grilled Salmon

Payment _____ x \$90.00 = _____

Make checks payable to:

Alfa Romeo Owners Club - Wisconsin
c/o Randy Swanson
N66W6684 Cleveland Street
Cedarburg WI 53012

Questions or late registration?

Bob Ludwigson 262-527-2396
Randy Swanson 262-377-7144

“Mother May I?” Tour Returns

John Ehle has announced the 14th running of his charity drive, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, Mothers Day eve. The popular drive is open to all types of cars, and classic Alfas are most welcome.

John says: “We’ll stick with the familiar format of point of interest stops morning and afternoon, with lunch in between. As always, we’ll close with an optional dinner at a restaurant that’s a reasonable drive from home.

“Once again we’ll run in support of our charitable partner, Drive Toward a Cure for Parkinson’s Disease (www.drivetowardacure.org). This event has raised over \$15,000 for Parkinson’s Disease research and patient care through our partnership with DTaC, and we look forward to another great year of support!”

John promises an email with further information in about a month. If you’ve indicated an interest in the past, you’re probably already on his mailing list. If you’re just hearing about this for the first time, an email to johnehle@comcast.net will get you on the list. 🍀

Bill Knauz Passes

Henry William “Bill” Knauz passed away on January 29 at the age of 97. The Lake Forest, Illinois, resident was an auto enthusiast and successful businessman who was instrumental in developing Knauz Continental Autos as an extension of his father’s Dodge/Chrysler dealership. The store was an early Alfa Romeo dealership, a magnet for many Chicagoland Alfisti. Bill was responsible for providing employment for Horst Kwech when he emigrated from Australia, and sponsored the driver early in his U.S. racing career, including success in the early SCCA Trans-Am series.

Bill was active in many car clubs, including the Chicago Alfa Romeo Owners Club. He was also an avid private pilot.

To quote the notice from CAROC, “Bill Knauz lived a full and vibrant life, touching the hearts of many and leaving behind a legacy of innovation, service, and community involvement.” 🍀

Retromobile U.S. Takes Shape

The popular French Retromobile collector car exhibition announced that it will stage an event in New York City, November 19-22. But why come to the U.S., and why in New York City? In an interview

with Mark Vaughn, writing for Autoweek.com, Retromobile US CEO Gerard Neveu stated, “Seventy percent of any classic-car transaction anywhere around the world involves a U.S. citizen as the buyer, More than 50% of car collectors are in the area around New York City.” The Retromobile organizers intend to capitalize on what they perceive to be the vibrant collector car culture in the States.

Unlike the events of Monterey Car Week, with their often stratospheric ticket prices, admission to Retromobile US will start at just \$63.00 for a one day ticket. Of course out-of-towners will still pay the big bucks for food and lodging and the traffic will be just as bad.

We can expect plenty of car brokers and exhibits from major collections and car manufacturers at the Javits Center, and at least a couple of adjacent auctions, but no sellers of small auto parts as in Paris. “You have Hershey for that,” stated Neveu. 🍀

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Al Pinkowsky

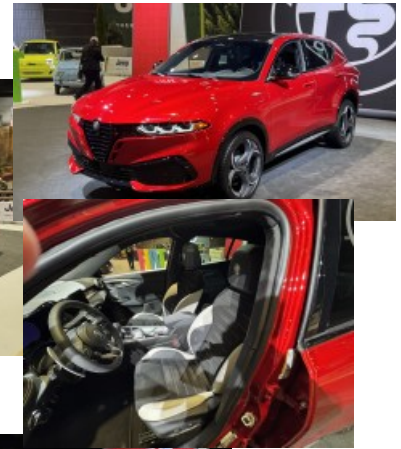
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Alfa and Others at the Chicago Auto Show

By Bob Abhalter

Last week I visited press preview day at the 2026 Chicago Auto Show, open to the public February 7-16, at McCormick Place. This year's show, was the 118th edition. Claiming pride of place on either side of the main aisle of the South Hall were Toyota and Ford, both occupying substantial acreage. Kia, Honda, and Chevrolet were tucked behind that duo, while FCA's brands capped the end of the aisle.



In the FCA camp, RAM and Jeep got the most attention, while Alfa, Fiat, Dodge, and Chrysler got only lip service. Fiat brought examples of the 500E, Chrysler showed a few variants of the Pacifica minivan, and Dodge exhibited a single Durango SUV and examples of the Charger. Alfa Romeo brought three vehicles: a Giulia, a Stelvio, and the newly facelifted Tonale.



While other makers were represented, many were absent. This was mostly a bread-and-butter show, lacking most high end manufacturers, except for the gated "supercar gallery," where examples of Lamborghini, Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin, and Maserati sat behind the ropes. The hosts may have been running credit checks before allowing the punters escorted access to these jewels.



Indoor and outdoor ride-and-drives were a popular show element, with Bronco and Jeep thrill rides. A large portion of the show floor was dedicated to electric car tryouts. A small but notable presence was the Vietnamese manufacturer Vinfast, represented by a local dealer. One could also be transported on the streets of Chicago in a Tesla Robotaxi, to me a truly scary two seat capsule with only a touchscreen in the cabin, lacking any user-operable controls. The autonomous driving system works "perfectly fine, no problems" said the Tesla rep. Uh-huh.



Some most entertaining exhibits could be found in a section set aside for local urban car clubs. The well-executed Lowriders and JDM and European street performance cars were fun to look at. If one was into RVing, there was plenty of inspiration in the Overlanding Chicago section, which offered numerous variations on the theme of van conversions.



In sum, the show was far from the extravaganzas of years past, but still an interesting and harmless way to spend a few hours. 🍀

R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

By Doug Clark

Dual AROC-WI and CAROC member Doug Clark sent us this report. He wrote, “Even though it's not directly AR related, Alfistis still might want to read it (or at least look at the accompanying pictures).” Thanks, Doug, for your submission.

Car Collector Magazine rates the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing, Michigan, among the best automobile museums in the United States. The many exhibits do an outstanding job of showcasing and explaining this city's automotive heritage and also pay homage to Ransom Eli Olds, an American automobile industry icon who was instrumental in developing the automobile assembly line.

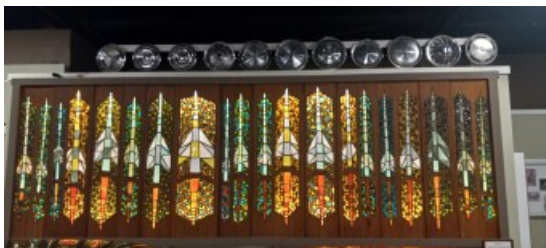
Many cars are displayed - from a 1901 Curved Dash Oldsmobile, to a 1925 REO Speed Wagon, to a 1966 Toronado - each with an information plaque explaining its history and marketability. Exhibits are arranged decade by decade.

In addition to its collection of cars, vintage gas-powered lawnmowers and snowblowers, engines, and archives of drawings, documents, and 20th century advertising and memorabilia can be viewed. Many automobile-related surprises abound.

Perhaps while not as well-known as other auto museums, this one deserves a visit - whether you're on your own, or as a member of a tour group. This museum is definitely an example of the expression “good things come in small packages.” 🍀



'60s and '70s models, including Cutlass and Toronado



Hubcaps and “Rocket” stained glass



A 1897 Olds, the only known surviving example of four vehicles produced, on loan from The Smithsonian Institution - On its left is a 1899 Olds Electric.



1904 Curved Dash models, including a delivery wagon (foreground)



1909 REO Model D Touring



1925 REO Speed Wagon T-6 Dump Truck



1929 Flying Cloud Model C Roadster - with lower compartment on passenger side for golf clubs

R.E.Olds 1864-1950

Ransom Eli Olds is often referred to as the father of the American auto industry.



With the success of his little Curved Dash automobile, he convinced the public that automobiles were the future of transportation and far superior than the horse.

R.E. Olds was born in Geneva, Ohio and came to Lansing as a teenager with his family. His father started a machine shop which R.E. later took over and was very successful in building stationary engines. It was his

experience with engines that inspired him to experiment with the new-fangled horseless carriage.

Olds would go on to found Oldsmobile and the REO Motor Car Company, establishing Lansing as the “car capital”. Olds accomplished several firsts in the automobile industry, including the first exported American car, the first to build a factory for the purpose of manufacturing automobiles, and, most notably, the first to mass-produce cars.

The Curved Dash Olds was the first vehicle to be built on an assembly line.



Curved Dash Olds 1901

After experimenting with several models (steam, gas, and electric), Olds settled on producing the gasoline powered Curved Dash in 1901.

It was simple, lightweight, and relatively affordable. Olds envisioned a car that was more than just a toy for the wealthy. The Curved Dash was the world’s first mass-produced vehicle. While other automobile companies would use a single team of workers to build each individual car from the ground up, Olds used a system where the vehicle was moved on a wheeled cart from station to station where workers only had to perform a specific task.

By the end of 1904, a staggering 10,300 Curved Dashes had been built, making it the most popular car in the world. The enormous success of Oldsmobile’s little car convinced the automobile industry and the American public that the automobile was the future of transportation.



REO 1904

The REO Speedwagon is often called the first true pickup truck.

By 1904, control of Olds Motor Works was now more in the hands of the investors than R.E. Olds himself.

After a disagreement, Olds left the company he founded. He used his initials, R.E.O., to create the REO (pronounced Ree-oh) Motor Car Company in Lansing, Michigan. REO produced cars from 1905 to 1936, however, REO was most famous for its trucks. In 1915, REO came out with the Speedwagon, a top-of-the-line truck that was able to drive twice as fast as its competitors.

REO produced trucks for the military during World War II and the Korean War. In 1957 the White Motor Company acquired REO and later combined REO with the Chicago-born truck company, Diamond T, to form Diamond REO. The company ceased production in 1974.

Oldsmobile

In 1900, R.E. Olds staged a contest for naming his vehicles. The winning suggestion, “Oldsmobile”, was submitted by timekeeper James Brady, who took home a \$5 prize.

1908

Oldsmobile was 1 million in debt and about to go under, when it was bought out by Billy Durant who had just formed a new holding company, General Motors.

1940

Olds and Cadillac worked together to create the first mass-produced fully-automatic transmission, called the Hydra-Matic transmission.

1949

Oldsmobile produces America’s first muscle car, the Rocket 88. The car inspired the 1951 classic “Rocket 88” by Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats, which has been cited as the first rock ‘n’ roll record.

1950

Oldsmobiles dominated NASCAR with their rocket engine, winning 10 of 19 races.

1966

Oldsmobile comes out with the Toronado, the first American production car to have front-wheel drive since the 1929 Cord L-29.

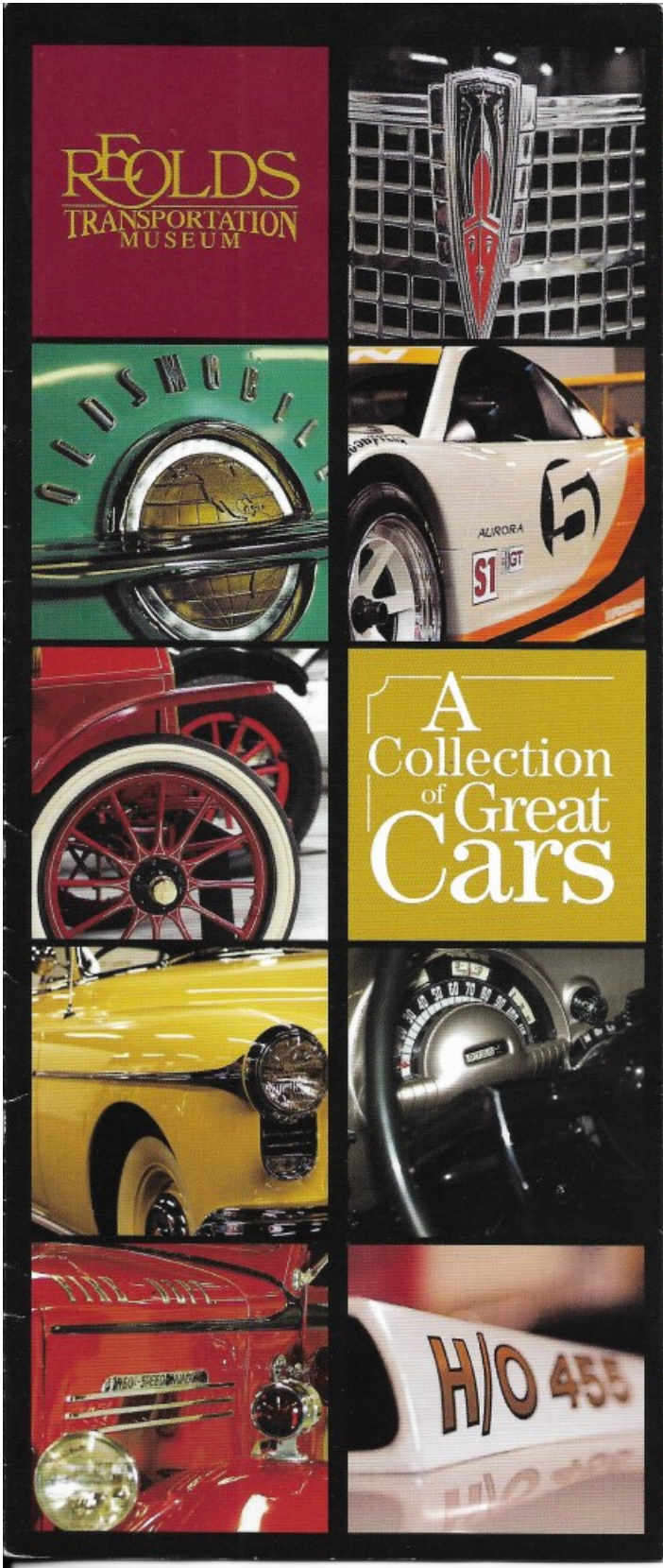
1977

Oldsmobile production exceeds 1 million cars per year.

2004

General Motors retires the Oldsmobile brand. In total, over 35 million Oldsmobiles were built. General Motors continues to build vehicles in the Lansing area to the present day.





Featuring

OLDSMOBILE • REO MOTOR CAR COMPANY • DURANT
- AND MANY MORE -

See a variety of vehicles, from an 1899 Olds Motor Works electric vehicle to a 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass Salon nicknamed "Darth Vader". Take a seat in a 1950s convertible or a 1904 Curved Dash Olds.

Learn about the people who worked in the automotive industry, including laborers, inventors, and entrepreneurs.

Get to know the museum's namesake, R.E. Olds, who became the father of the American auto industry. Olds revolutionized the automotive industry when he decided to build an affordable, mass-produced car using the principle of an assembly line several years before Henry Ford built the Model T.



1970 Toronado

1940 Oldsmobile L-40
Series 90 Phaeton

reoldsmuseum.org

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.

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 608 347-5741

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



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

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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.

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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/.

