

2024 AROC Touring Convention – Alfas by the Lake

Registration Contacts:

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Dave Hammond, Chief Disorganizer: 248-798-4805 (c) motorcityalfa@aol.com

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Tour setup: Three rotating groups of approximately 20 cars/35 people each, running concurrently Wednesday through Friday (I.e., Wednesday the Red Group heads to Sleeping Bear Dunes while the White Group goes to Mackinac Island, Green Group to the Old Mission Peninsula).

If you wish to arrive early or stay beyond the convention, there is much to do beyond our introductory sampler. Ask us.

Convention Contacts:

David Hammond 248-798-4805 (text messages are not reliably received). motorcityalfa@aol.com

Andrea (Andy) Hammond 248-978-5528 (text works just fine on her phone). stjohnnurse1@aol.com

Arrival:

Tuesday afternoon through evening, May 28

Arrival prior to the AROC Touring Convention. Relax, canoe or kayak, enjoy the river or bay. Unpack and be ready for the adventure to begin.

We will furnish a manual including a list of dinner places from close and simple to fine dining. All tours will have detailed paper maps with instructions (including landmarks) or a Rallista phone/notebook app.

Choose your preferred method.

Group Tours: Wednesday, May 29 – Thursday, May 30 – Friday, May 31

Sleeping Bear Dunes Tour

This is the longest day and drive. Breakfast then depart at 8:30 AM to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Shoreline near Glen Arbor. We will tour Pierce Stocking Drive (requires a National Park Pass or a daily pass).

Our first stop will be the Dune Climb, about 5 miles north of Empire on M-109. The Dune Center, located at the base of the Dune Climb, offers real restrooms and a bookstore. Plus an overlook. We will not attempt to descend then climb the dune, It is 320 feet down and about 55 miles on sand back up.

Lunch at Boonedocks in Glen Arbor.

Sailing Grand Traverse Bay aboard the 114-foot schooner Manitou in Traverse City at 3:30 PM (arrive at 3:10 PM).

Drive past homes on Sixth St in Traverse City (Victorian lumber baron mansions).

Head to a fine Italian dinner at Trattoria Stella in the Old State Psychiatric Hospital in Traverse City.

There is an option to leave for the hotel after sailing if you do not want to drive at after dark after dinner.

Directions from the dock are basic: follow US-31 to your hotel. Done.

Mackinac Island Tour

Depart for Harbor Springs at about 10:30 AM and drive up the shoreline Tunnel of Trees (M-119) scenic drive to Cross Village and lunch at Legs Inn at approximately noon.

Cross the Mackinac Bridge (\$4.75 toll) to one of the ferry docks and take the 3:00 PM Star Line ferry to Mackinac Island.

Return to the mainland at 6 PM.

Dinner at the Pier or New York restaurant in Harbor Springs around 7:30 PM. Harbor Springs is a short distance from either hotel.

Charlevoix and Old Mission Peninsula Tour

Drive south into Charlevoix for lunch at the Weathervane Restaurant.

Next we will swing past some "Mushroom Houses" in Charlevoix.

After Charlevoix head south to Traverse City then up through orchards and vineyards of the Old Mission Peninsula. We will visit at Mari and Chateau Chantal vineyards. There is a charge for tastings.

Dinner at Harrington's by the Bay in Traverse City at 7:15 PM. Then back to the hotel.

There is an option to leave stay in Charlevoix (much to explore) to avoid driving at night.

Saturday, June 1

Board of Directors Meeting runs 9-11 AM.

Set everyone loose in Petoskey's Gaslight District around 11 AM. The town looks much as it did in 1910.

If you have limited mobility, talk to us, there are a few parking spots close to our lunch place without having to march through town.

Lunch at City Park Grill at noon.

Circle through a couple of streets of Victorian Bay View.

Annual Banquet Dinner at Bay View Inn in Bay View.

Sunday, June 2

Alfa car show at the Rusty Saw, a couple of miles north of Crooked River Lodge.

Hotels

For reservations at either Stafford's Crooked River Lodge or Stafford's Bay View Inn, call 231-548-5000 and mention that you are with the Alfa Romeo Owners Club. Do not reserve your room online, call and talk with a real person who knows that AROC is coming to town. Minimum two-night stay (hotel requirement). The two hotels can be viewed at www.staffords.com

Our main hotel is **Stafford's Crooked River Lodge**, a ski lodge located at 6845 US 31 N, Alanson, Michigan 49706, nine miles northeast of Petoskey. It is a modern log cabin with all the amenities and every room having chairs and table on a balcony overlooking the Crooked River.

Our alternate hotel, **Stafford's Bay View Inn**, located off of US-31 at 2011 Woodland Avenue, Petoskey, Michigan 49770, is almost the opposite of Crooked River Lodge. It's an 1880s Victorian resort on Little Traverse Bay. The village is named Bay View, where every home is on the National Historic Register, all late Victorian summer cottages. Rooms at the Inn have no TV, refrigerator or microwave, but there is a library with overstuffed chairs and coffee service. Breakfast served in a dining room overlooking the bay is included.

Track Day

Not entirely by accident, the Detroit chapter hosts its annual Grattan Raceway Memorial Day (Monday, May 27) event just prior to the convention. Grattan is just northeast of Grand Rapids, 185 miles south of Petoskey. After a day at the track, simply head north on US 31. It is not part of Alfas by the Lake, but a fun option on the way the convention. For info contact Scott Whitford at scott.whitford6@gmail.com or 586-665-1154.