

## WAYNE TOBERMAN

Though I am new to the CAROC, my involvement with Alfa Romeos spans over 4 decades!

But, firstly, we begin with the following personal information you requested: I'm 62, a retired US Army Active Duty Officer (with a number of sub-specialties including years as a Public Affairs Officer); a Mason in good standing for over 35 years; the 2018 President of the International Press Club of Chicago; the former Commander of the Chicago Sail and Power Squadron; Life Member of the Victory Service Club, London; Owner of a Commercial Photography studio in the West Chinatown District of Chicago (located in what's been historically described as a turn of the last-century Ford Model T truck assembly loft building at the corner of FORD STREET and Cermak Road).

Alfa Romeo involvement: My lifelong love/hate relationship began decades ago when I was 14. We lived near Suburban Auto Imports, a small Alfa, Fiat, and Lancia dealer in Oak Park, Illinois. As a kid, I hung out at the dealer looking at the cars in the lot...then the "showroom" (it held 3 cars) and later in the repair area with the mechanics! They knew I was hooked and humored me until I hit 16 when I got my first Fiat...an 850 spider! That was followed by a 124 sport Coupe...then a number of other cars until 1975. At that time, the Burgundy with Tan Interior 1971 Alfa Romeo GTV (which they knew I was nuts about since it saw it, NEW, in their lot) became available! I got it immediately, and was the only known Private First Class in the Army with an Alfa! I was hooked! That led over the next 5 years to acquiring 2-1969 Berlina's, 1-1967 GT1300 Jr., and finally, a 1976 Alfetta Sedan (which my wife and I took to Germany when we were posted there...but ended up leaving behind...it was a DOG!!)

Then in 1980, a mortgage broker brought everything to an abrupt close when my wife and myself were given an ultimatum to choose between getting rid of the Alfas and one other car (the house we were being qualified for had MINIMAL parking and we had 7 vehicles! So he said we looked "irresponsible" to the bank) loans were non-existent at the time, so we reluctantly complied! (not 3 weeks later after the GTV sale did I find out it had been in an accident at a traffic light...a driver ploughed into the rear at 40 mph+ and drove the front into the car in front pushing the engine up to the windshield....the new owner had to get cut out, was in a coma for days, but called me the first thing when he came to...to apologize for totaling "our baby"!).

After all that, it was an Alfa dry spell for a number of years as we fought the parking issue and 8+ follow-on Army assignments, leading up to a 7 year period of European postings and a NEW fully equipped 2000 BMW 323CI to enjoy the German, Italian, and French Alps at a cost of \$26,500 at the Canadian PX....which ultimately tallied up over \$36,000 in REPAIRS until I

**happily dumped it with 66,000 miles on it here in Chicago!!! BMW: A MISTAKE NEVER TO BE REPEATED...AND SUBSTANTIATED BY EVERY OTHER FIRST TIME OWNER I'VE EVER KNOWN)!**

**The Present: After knowing that I had just lost out on a minty 56k Quad BY MINUTES from an out of town dealership (who sold me a "minty" 06 Solstice instead with 22k for an incredible price which turned out to be even better than described...flawless body, no rust or corrosion and NO LEAKS...then certified and warrantied by a local GM dealer for an additional 5 years/60k & \$0 deductible upon its delivery inspection...but STILL NOT MY ALFA!)...then to my surprise...my wife found an ad for what turned out to be a "steel storage shed" instead of a "Barn" Find almost in Iowa! We went. We saw. We made an offer. They accepted and delivered!!! A 1986 Stellar Blue Spider Veloce w/48k was ours! After delivery, I found just the beginning of a myriad of hack repairs over the years, took it to an Italian car restoration shop, where (...it looked like Michael J. Fox's / Doc Hollywoods' 356C on the repair shop's floor when I dropped in to check the progress!) THE VERY SAME MECHANIC who kept my cars going from SUBURBAN AUTO IMPORTS from when I was 20 or so, worked on my new Alfa, and allowed me to hang out in the repair area...again... while he was working his magic almost 4 decades later after our first meeting! Right now, it runs great (Phase 1)! Phase 2 begins in late March with replacement of the original Shocks, and all the bushings/rubber underneath....and the installation of my new former Michelin XAS tread pattern tires to really put it right!**

**What can I bring to the Table(??):**

**Loads of Mistakes and Successes with Alfas spanning 4 decades; a pretty good relationship with a restoration firm who has Agreed-in-Principle to a club tour when their facility is ready (remodeling right now) in the Spring or Summer; a desire to do things right/correctly and not cut corners no matter the task or mission; years of beneficial contacts developed thru extensive travel and affiliations with other organizations which span the US, Europe, and parts of the Middle East; the time to partake in events as needed; and above all, A Love of the Marque!**

**Other than the above, not much else!**

**Thank you for reviewing my credentials, and for possibly forwarding them for consideration to hold office in the CAROC!**

**Sincerely,**

**Wayne**