

# ALFA BITS

... is the official e-zine (and the only one we know of) of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon. It is published 11 or 12 times per year in PDF format and downloadable from the club's website, www.alfaclub.org.

We welcome submission of topical editorial material, and noncommercial buy-sell-trade Alfa-related ads are free for members. Contact the editor for details, or better yet, just send your ad and we'll let you know if there's a problem. We're really flexible.

We also welcome paid advertising when you actually pay (and you know who you are...). Contact Advertising Manager <u>Bill Haines</u> for details and/or to repent and pay up.

If every AROO member receiving this e-zine forwarded it to just five friends, and if that pattern could continue through just eight such iterations, by the end of the week this could be the largestcirculation publication in history. And then just think what we could charge for advertising...

# ABOUT THE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dennis and Pat Pillar celebrate a race victory at Seattle, um, "several" years ago (note new Duetto in background). Dennis celebrates by wearing the trophy on his head, and Pat has wrapped herself in the checkered flag given to the race winner.

Now that's racing!



## FEBRUARY 2013



VOLUME 45 number 2

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#### FREE BEER!

Well, there may not be a lot of great driving days here in Puddletown yet, but beer is an elixir that knows no season. And as you have probably read at least twice by now, your first beer is on the club at this month's meeting. See page X for details.











We have a great venue for the meetings (Lucky Labrador Pub on SE Hawthorne) and what promises to be an interesting presentation this month when Denny Torgeson reviews some bucket-list events — it should inspire you to get serious about plans to attend some of these events yourself.

Speaking of events, there's not much to report on from the recent past. There's one more photo from the Maryhill Hillclimb, but that's it for the moment. However, we have lots of activities coming up very soon, so we'll try to get you some good coverage of those in the next couple of issues. Or better yet, come out and participate in those activities yourself.

Elsewhere in this issue we have a hot-off-the-Internet report on the new Alfa destined to lead the marque's return to the USA. Personally I think I'll hold out for the new Duetto that's to be made in cooperation with Mazda and is due to begin production in 2015, but hopefully the new 4C will get a good reception that encourages Alfa to continue plans to come back with many new models.

Meanwhile, AROO is in full-activity mode for those of us who own the models that may soon become known as the Retro-Alfas. You read it here first.



## CON BRIO



that's fit to print"

#### **AROO Calling**

Ten, twenty, thirty years ago people joined car clubs like AROO because that was how you learned about the marque, found cars and parts for sale, and got tips on maintenance and repair, and maybe learned some gofast secrets. And you got to meet friends with common interests, go cool places and have fun together. Since the internet now lets anyone sit at their desk and shop literally all over the world and get expert advice, those club functions are pretty much gone, or at least they aren't the draw they once were. But AROO still offers the chance to meet new people, hang out with old friends and explore back roads, test your car on the track, or enjoy a fun, competitive road rally. You can't do that on the web.

With all that to offer, though, many of us are wondering why participation seems to have declined in AROO events recently. Maybe it's just the time of year, or the time of life, but we'd like to make sure that AROO is offering our members what they want. That's why an AROO Board member is going to be giving you a call soon. Each Board member has been assigned a group of members to call. Besides saying hi, we'd like to know what events you'd like AROO to offer and how we can make AROO events something you want to do. Please give this some thought and take the time to talk with your AROO Board member when they give you a call soon.

This month's membership meeting will be hosted by Denny Torgeson and will feature Alfas at Pebble Beach and other premier locations. As usual, we'll also be reviewing past and future events, having a prize drawing and doing some serious socializing. **As an added bonus, your first beverage is on us.** WHAT?! Yes, AROO will be covering one drink per person, so come enjoy the company of your AROO friends at the Lucky Lab, starting at 7:30, Wednesday, February 20th. If you know someone who hasn't been to an AROO meeting for a while, give them a call and invite them to join you.

As long as we're talking about events, the calendar is finally starting to look more exciting. The first AROO driving event on the calendar is the annual Valentine's Tour, to be run this year on February 17. We'll be meeting at the Starbucks in the Central Village shopping center on Highway 43 in West Linn at 9:30 and head out promptly at 10:00. This will be a nice, leisurely drive covering some Clackamas County back roads, with a midway break, and ending with a Sunday Brunch at the Stone Cliff Inn overlooking the Clackamas River. As is traditional, expect Valentine-appropriate gifts for all at the start and some seriously nice prizes for lucky winners of a drawing at brunch. The Inn requires a single check to pay for food, so please bring cash or check to cover your meal. The weather is looking promising, but if the Alfa is not ready to poke its nose out of the garage quite yet, that's fine – bring what you want, all are welcome. And please drop me an RSVP at AROO.President@alfaclub.org so we can be sure to have enough goodies for everyone.

Mark Carpenter has revived an old AROO event by organizing an AROO Ski Trip to Sunriver February 21-24. Sounds like fun and a great deal on lodging. Contact him for more information at AROO.Secretary@alfaclub.org.



#### **AROO Calling**

One week later, the AROO rally season kicks off with the Rally School on March 2nd. This year the school will be at the Lucky Lab (same place as membership meetings), starting at 11 o'clock. As always, we'll feature a faculty of experienced rallyists and rally writers to help you enjoy this exciting motorsport, run at legal speeds on public roads. We'll go over the General Instructions, illustrate their application with a slideshow, and provide tips and tricks from the experts on navigating to win, driving to win, and rallying for fun. You'll receive a set of General Instructions, a Table Top Rally for practice, and a Rally Quiz so you can review your knowledge before you head out on the road. All this for only \$10 per person.

And you can apply your new knowledge the very next day as the AROO Cup Rally Series kicks off the 2013 season. This will be a "baby steps" rally to get you used to following basic rally instructions. Nothing tricky. I promise. Really. Meet at the Sylvan Zoo House (formerly Sylvan Steakhouse, formerly Big Red's) off the Sylvan exit on US 26. Registration starts at 9:00, first car out at 10:01. Back for lunch, stories and dash plaques by 12:30. Cost is \$20 per car, or \$15 if preregistered by emailing me at AROO.Cup.Rallies@alfaclub.org. So put new batteries in the calculator, see if you can find that other driving glove, and join us for what promises to be a great rally season. All cars are welcome.

Later in March we'll have the membership meeting, hosted by Mark Carpenter on the 20th and Spring Track Day on the 23rd, a Saturday – lots of great events coming. If you aren't having enough fun, maybe it's time to come on out and enjoy an AROO event on road, track, pub or ski slope. And bring a friend.

Roger Dilts, Club President

AROO events
mean seeing
friends, driving
great roads, and
always good
times. Snappy
Pirelli driving
suits optional.







#### The next 30 days or so... part 1

#### February 17, Valentines Tour, 9:30 a.m.

Meet at the Starbucks in the West Linn Central Village shopping center, on Highway 43, at 9:30 a.m.

More details on page IX.

#### February 20, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Lucky Lab Pub 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd Portland 97214 (503) 236-3555

Presentation: Denny Torgeson will make a slide presentation of several bucket-list events that he has attended – this is a great way to get you ready for the upcoming driving season. And don't forget the FREE BEER – your first one is on the club this month!

#### February 21-24, AROO Ski Weekend

Open to all members Destination: Sunriver

Mark Carpenter has organized a bargain ski-getaway. See details on page XI.

#### March 2, AROO Rally School, 11 a.m.

Lucky Lab Pub 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd Portland 97214 (503) 236-3555 Details on page XII.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**



## The next 30 days or so... part 2

#### March 3, AROO Cup Rally 1

The first of the four-rally series. Begins at the Sylvan Zoo House (formerly the Sylvan Steak House, and prior to that, Big Red's). Arrive at 9 a.m. for registration.

#### March 6, Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Open to all members
Buster's Texas Style Barbecue – in the Meeting Room in the back
11419 SW Pacific Highway
Tigard OR 97223

#### March 23, Spring Track Day

Yes, this one is on a Saturday. Registration is now open, and at a discount for AROO members. Volunteering is also a fun way to participate. Links to registration and more information are on page XIV, and you can always contact Ken Hart via email or phone 360.574.7402.



## **FUTURE EVENTS**



## Valentine Tour, February 17

## **FUTURE EVENTS**



Meet at the Starbucks in the West Linn Central Village shopping center, on Highway 43, at 9:30 a.m., leave promptly at 10.

Two-hour tour of Clackamas County back roads, with a mid-course break.

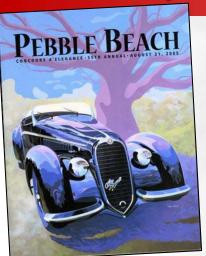
Sunday Brunch at the beautiful Stone Cliff Inn.

Valentine treats and gifts for all - prize drawing at lunch.

For lunch, please bring cash or check since the Inn requires one check for the meal.

Please RSVP via email to Roger Dilts or phone 503. 330.4715

## **FUTURE EVENTS**



# FREEBER

Got your attention?

Yes, the first one's on the club at next Wednesday's meeting. So come thirsty and leave happy. We've also got a great presentation that we think you'll really enjoy:



Dennis Torgeson will discuss "the magic places" - Pebble Beach Concours - Monterey Laguna Seca Historics -Pebble Beach Tour in Carmel - Concorso Italiano - Mille Miglia! We all want to be there to see the best cars and best scenery in the world. Well, you can if you come to the February meeting. Denny Torgeson, with assistance from Mark Hadley, has put together a slide show showing just these events. You will see Alfas at Pebble Beach, historic racing Alfas and other significant race cars in the paddock at world famous Laguna Seca race track, Pebble Beach Tour entrants on Ocean Avenue in Carmel, Alfas and other Italian margues on the golf fairways participating in the Concorso Italiano, and last but not least, the start of the Mille Miglia in Brescia, Italy. Denny has attended the Monterey Historics week since 1985 and knows the in's and out's of these events. He also attended, along with other Alfa club members, the start of the Mille Miglia in 2009. You won't want to miss this show. If you have never attended any of these events, it will give you a real

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Lucky Lab Pub** 

915 SE Hawthorne Blvd Portland 97214 (503) 236-3555

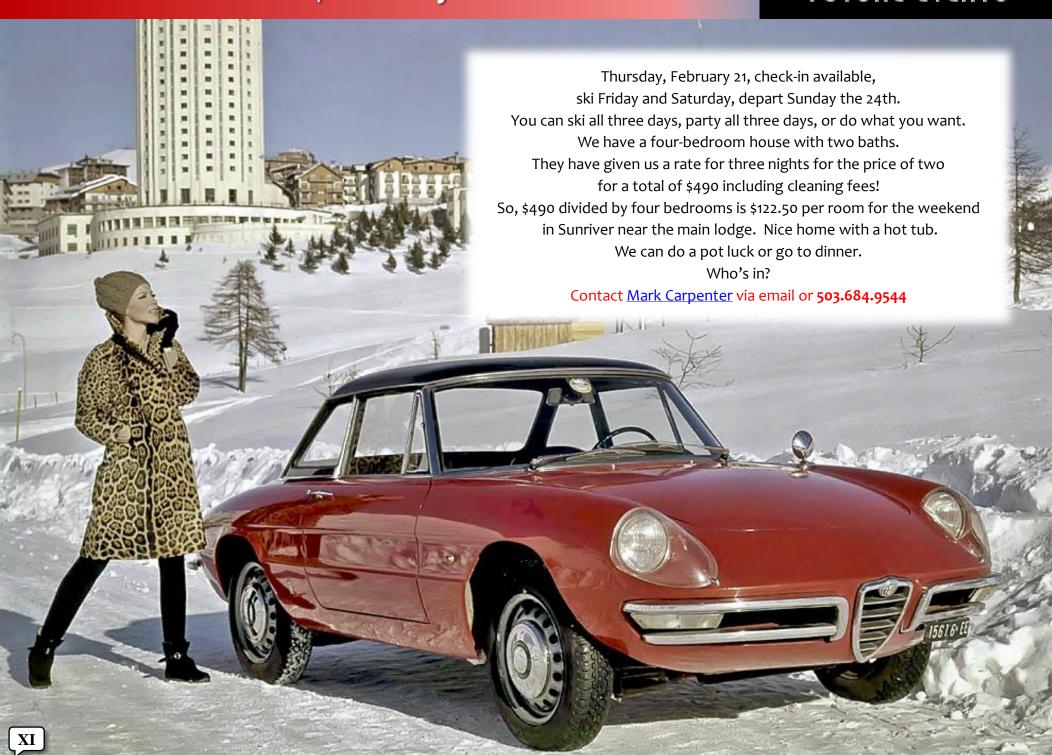
Wednesday, February 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m.





#### AROO Ski Weekend, February 21-24

## **FUTURE EVENTS**



#### AROO Rally School set for Saturday, March 2

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

Have you ever thought about entering the Northwest Classic Rally, but hesitated because you didn't know "how to rally"? Have you been running rallies, but want to be more competitive? We have a solution!

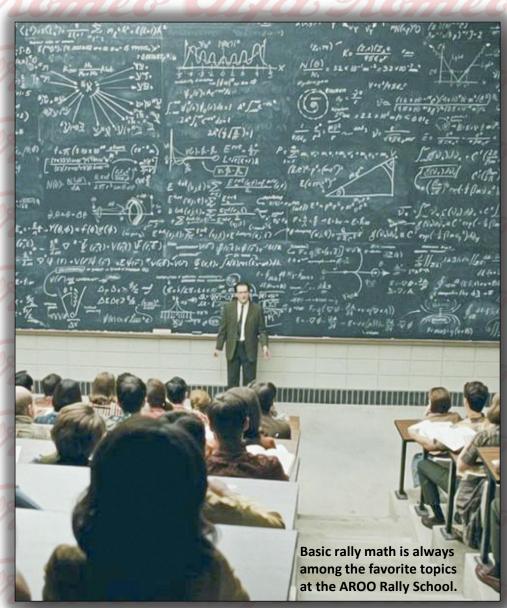
The Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon, hosts of the Northwest Classic Rally, would like to invite you to attend the 7th Annual AROO Rally School, to be conducted on Saturday, March 2nd. This one-day course will include a classroom session, a tabletop exercise in route following, and a quiz with detailed answers so that you can know what the rally master intends at every turn.

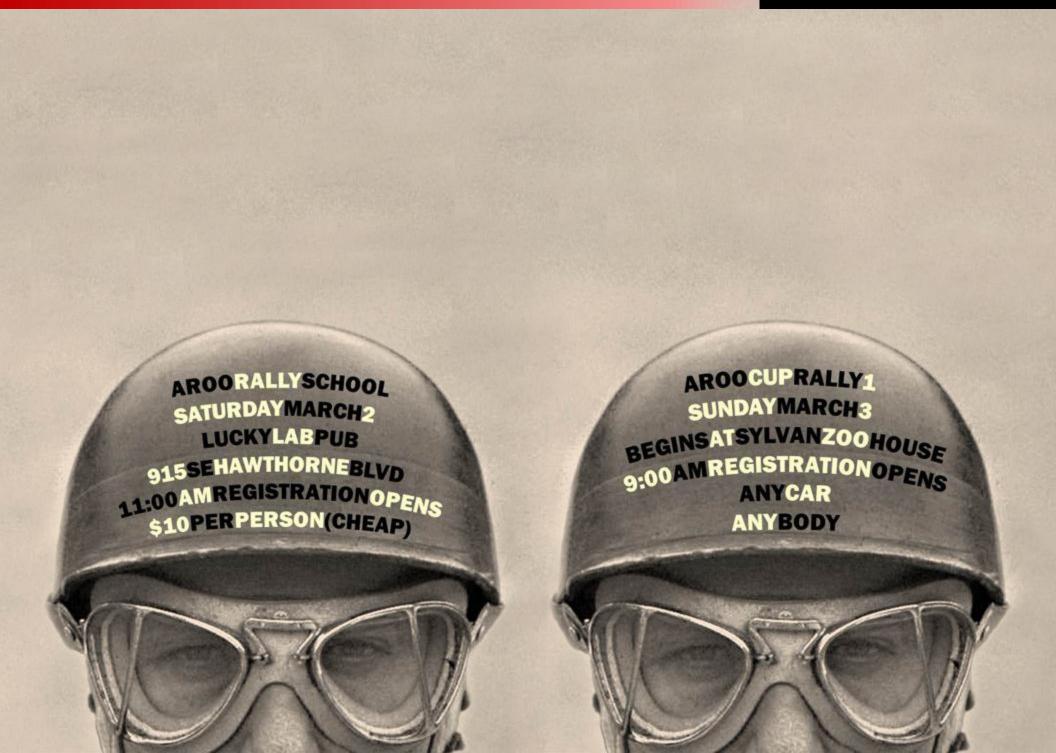
Additionally, the AROO Cup Rally Series will begin the next day, March 3, so you can get right out and practice your new skills. The Series includes four rallies this year, one each month, March to June. These rallies are an excellent way to hone your rally skills to prepare for the Northwest Classic.

The school begins with registration at 11:00 a.m., March 2, at the Lucky Labrador Pub – the same place as the AROO Monthly Meetings – at 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland 97214. Please arrive on time so that we can complete registration and start the class at 11:30. There is a nominal charge of \$10 per person for the school, and pre-registration is encouraged although not required. You do not need to be an Alfa club member to attend, so please also encourage your friends to sign up.

This school is the perfect way for beginners to learn rally basics. No experience is necessary! We will introduce you to the knowledge you need to have a good time on road rallies. The course will review the General Instructions, explain how to read and understand rally route instructions, and cover basic route-finding and basic rally math. Accomplished local rallyists will offer tips for driving and navigating to win, as well as rallying just for fun. The school is designed to give you, in one day, the experience and skills that it would otherwise take several rallies to develop, but without the frustration.

So please join us on March 2nd for an introduction to road rallying. This venerable automotive sport is surging in popularity and we want to help you get in on the fun! Please contact Roger Dilts at <a href="mailto:AROO.Cup.Rallies@alfaclub.org">AROO.Cup.Rallies@alfaclub.org</a> or **503.330.4715** to pre-register. (Pre-registration is NOT required, but is much appreciated.)





## AROO Spring Track Day, Saturday, March 23

## **FUTURE EVENTS**



#### Alfa Romeo 4C Officially Revealed Before Geneva Debut

## ALFAS IN THE NEWS

Power comes from the brand's four-cylinder 1.7-liter turbo engine, said to make 237 hp, mated to Alfa's TCT twin clutch automatic transmission. The Italian brand says that it has achieved its goal of keeping the power to weight ratio below 8 lbs. per horsepower, suggesting that the gross vehicle weight will be less than 2,200 lbs.

The cockpit of the car is made of carbon fiber, while two aluminum sub-frames are tacked on to house the engine and suspension, as well as provide a crumple zone.

A new "Race" mode has been added to the 4C to enhance the car's track abilities, accompanying Dynamic, Natural and All Weather mode options. The car is also equipped with paddle shifters.

Alfa will build 2,500 4C's a year, 1,000 of which will come stateside. The car will be on sale here before the end of 2013 and will spearhead the Italian brand's return to the United States. The car is rumored to cost around 60,000 Euros, which translates roughly to \$80,554.

The car will be built by Maserati at its plant in Modena.



Alfa Romeo has released the first official photos and info on the midengine rear-drive 4C, which will make its first public appearance at the upcoming Geneva Motor Show.



#### Alfa Romeo 4C to Have Convertible and Racing Versions

## ALFAS IN THE NEWS

The newest round of information comes from a Swiss dealer for the brand and attended an Alfa Romeo meeting earlier this month. Originally thought to have upwards of 300 hp, the Alfa Romeo 4C will actually be powered by a 1.7-liter, turbo-four engine with 237 hp for the base model. That powerplant will actually be borrowed from the Giulietta QV model.

Though 237 hp isn't as impressive as the 300 hp the 4C was originally believed to have, its sub-2000-pound weight will surely still make it an impressive sports car. In concept form, the 4C weighed in at 1,874 pounds and now it's believed that the production model will be slightly more.

As for pricing, the Switzerland-based dealer stated that Alfa Romeo hopes to have a target price between \$76,400 to \$87,300 (€56,000 and €64,000). It is unlikely that pricing will be that high in America, especially if Alfa Romeo intends to be competitive with the Porsche Cayman, which has an MSRP of \$52,600 in base form.

Also confirmed at the dealer meeting is a convertible variant, with production split 50/50 between that and the coupe. Initial global production will be limited to just 2,000 units, which also includes the high-performance, track-only "Racing" and street-legal Stradale variants. Those 4C models will arrive next year and will have around 266 hp thanks to a more powerful engine.

Though the news may be disappointing to some that looked forward to a lightweight sports coupe with around 300 hp, we'd still take these rumors with a grain of salt until the Alfa Romeo 4C makes its official debut at the 2013 Geneva Motor Show.









January 18, 2013

Mazda Motor Corporation Fiat Group Automobiles S.p.A.

#### Mazda and Fiat Sign Agreement for New Alfa Romeo Roadster

Further to the joint announcement of May 23, 2012, Mazda Motor Corporation (Mazda) and Fiat Group Automobiles S.p.A. (Fiat) announced today the signing of the Final Agreement which will see Mazda produce an open-top two-seater sports car for Fiat's Alfa Romeo brand at its Hiroshima, Japan, plant starting from 2015.

The new Alfa Romeo roadster will be developed for the global market, and will be based on the architecture of the next generation Mazda MX-5. The agreement foresees for both Mazda and Fiat to develop two differentiated, distinctly styled, iconic and brand-specific roadsters featuring rear-wheel drive. The Mazda and Alfa Romeo variants will each be powered by specific proprietary engines unique to each brand.

Through this contractual agreement, Mazda aims to enhance development and production efficiency and revitalize enthusiasm for open-top two-seater sports cars around the world. For Fiat, this collaboration will permit the company to deliver a modern interpretation of the classic Alfa Romeo roadster utilizing the latest technical solutions, helping Alfa Romeo to achieve its stated goals by 2016.

#### Where's my checkbook?

## SOME OTHER STUFF

Pininfarina and Alfa Romeo present the 2uettottanta Concept, a prototype roadster that serves to commemorate their respective anniversaries, 80 years for the designer and 100 for the manufacturer. Their name comes from the combination of ottanta duetto and eighty in Italian, referring primarily to the latter model is inspired by the Alfa Romeo Duetto, following the years then meets Pininfarina.

As usual in Italian vehicles,
distilled beauty is everywhere, especially in profile
with smooth lines that run
throughout the model and
leave traces of the designer
even in the form of both
front and rear lights. The
front is a separate issue,
which highlights the stunning
Alfa Romeo shield.





## Where's my checkbook?

# SOME OTHER STUFF



#### Where's my checkbook?

## SOME OTHER STUFF



It measures 4.21 meters long, 1.80 meters wide and 1.28 meters high. The wheelbase is 2.5 meters, along the lines of its potential rivals in the event that will be forthcoming. The interior, as often happens in prototypes, is very simple, but we see a shift knob and aluminum-capped DNA selector.

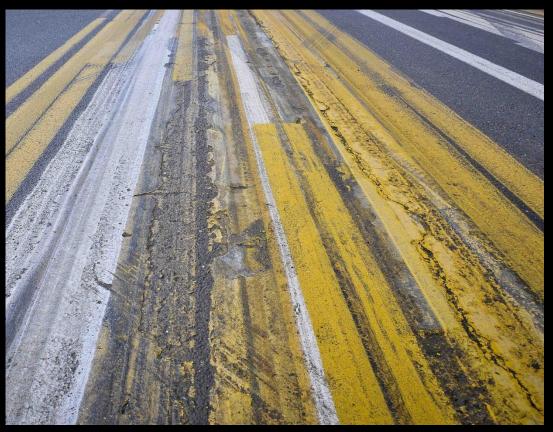


The engine is also a tribute, in this case the "1750 Veloce of 1968". It incorporates a 4-cylinder turbo 1.75 released in longitudinal 159 position. The gear change is automatic, and carried out mass production, it would with a canvas roof and rearwheel drive. At the moment, this stunning Pininfarina creation is nothing more than a prototype. Maybe the right decision as it would produce limited series, with a more powerful engine and exclusive, or replace the current Spider.

## New Exhibit at the Tongue-in-Cheek Art Museum

## SOME OTHER STUFF

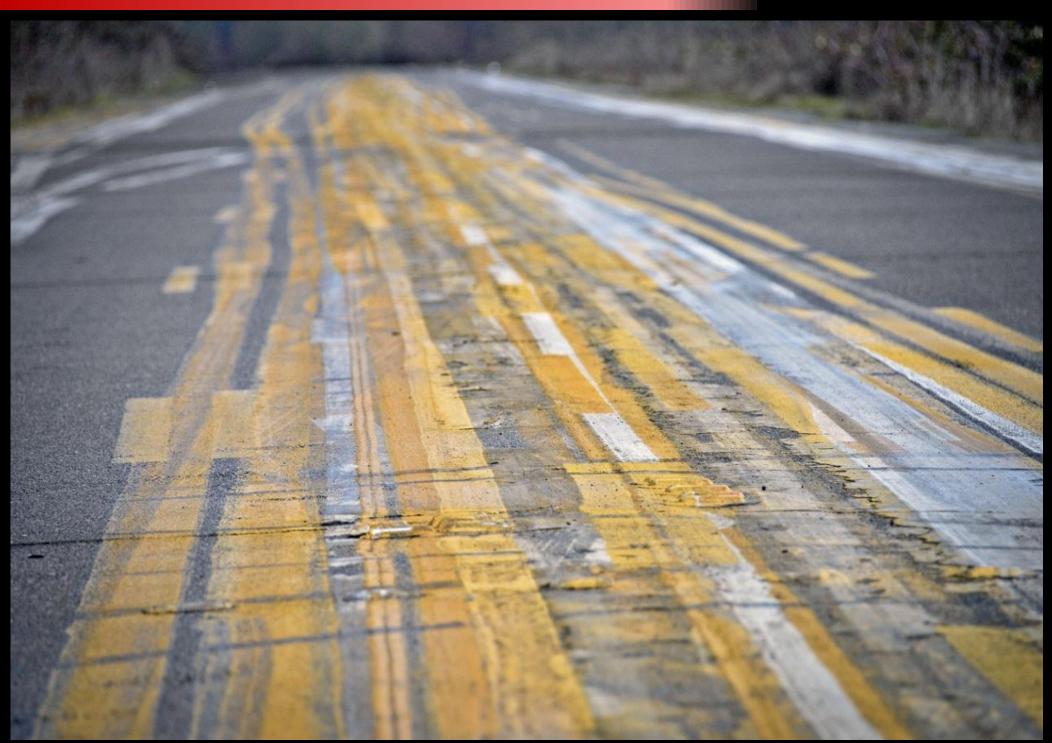




Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Miles B. Heindus is internationally recognized for his powerful photography-based art that investigates issues of race, gender, societal class and driving fast. <u>Miles B. Heindus: Four Decades of Photography and Speeding Tickets</u> presents more than 200 photographs, videos, and "installations" (whatever those are) tracing the evolution of his career.

Featuring some of his most groundbreaking work, including *Honest, Officer, I Was Just Keeping Up With Traffic; I Wish They'd Chase the Real Criminals;* and the recent series, *What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been;* Heindus's work will challenge audiences by highlighting issues of power, race, gender and the need for speed.

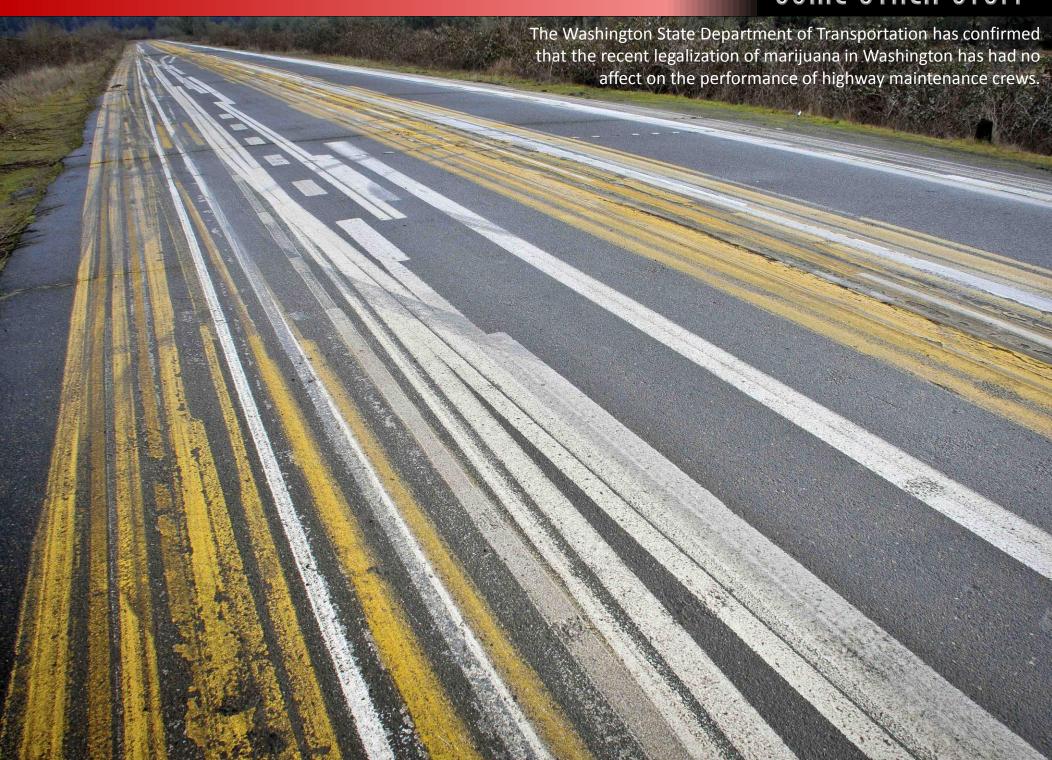
Join internationally noted contemporary artist Miles B. Heindus as he reflects on some of the major themes in his thought-provoking photographic and video work, including an overarching commitment to promote justice as it relates to race, gender, and class issues, not to mention controlled drifts and handbrake turns. Reservations recommended.





#### **Good news from our friends at WSDOT**

# SOME OTHER STUFF



## Instruction time – and yes, there will be a quiz





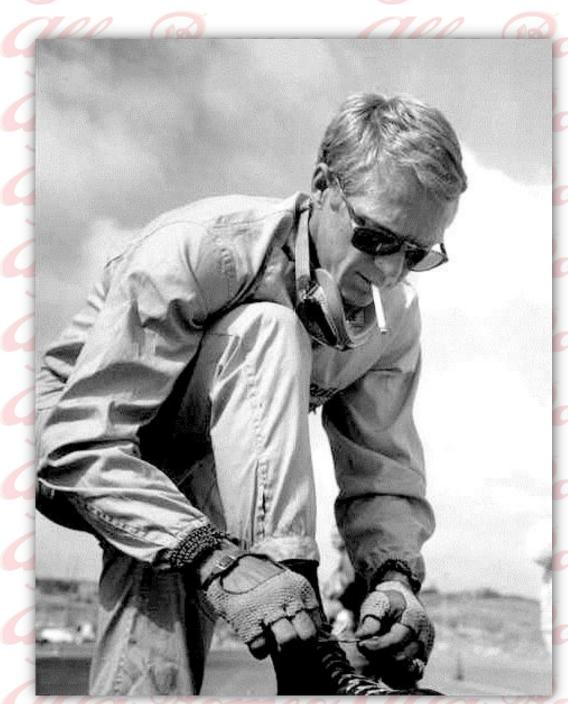


Departing from our usual pattern of linking only videos of no possible educational value, we herewith recommend this brief Buyer's Guide to help you sharpen your skills as spring approaches and an Alfisto's thoughts turn to ACQUISITION.

The quiz happens when you bring your prey to a club meeting.







Steve noticed that even though it's only February, the Activity Calendar has really picked up. There's a tour, a ski trip, the rally school, a rally, Spring Track Day, and fun meetings – it's all there, already.

Steve is suiting up for it. Care to join him?





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Click on the business names to visit their websites (those not underlined do not have websites).

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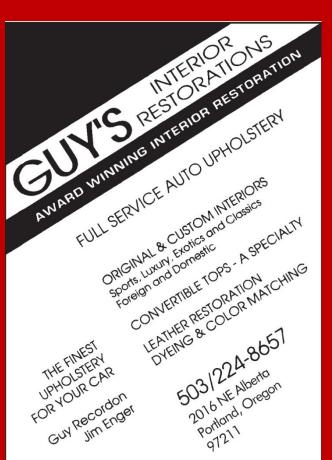
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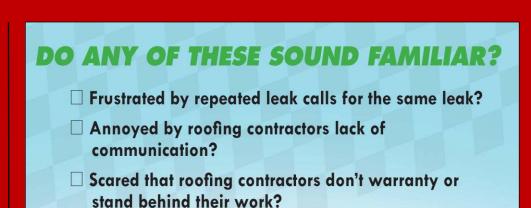
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## BUY-SELL-TRADE

#### For Sale: 1974 GTV 2000

**Great ten-foot car with racing** mods. A street car with some racing mods, my beautiful little Alfa was being prepared for a racing career when the owner suffered an injury. The car can now go either way, track or street. Wes Ingram engine and suspension. Some rust, some things need to be hooked back up (heater, radio, etc.). Interior is good, no dash cracks. Reluctantly being sold by Martin Rudow for \$8500 firm, the car can be seen in Seattle at Group 2 Motorsports. Call Martin for details at 360.678.3146 or email vintagedrift@eschelon.com. I have all service records. To see the car, call Group 2 at





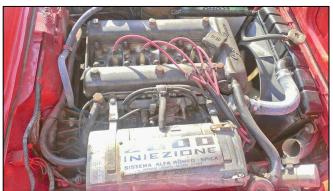


206.378.0900

#### For Sale: 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV

## BUY-SELL-TRADE







Brought up from Southern California to Portland in 2009. No mileage put on since arrival.

\$5,000 spent at Nasko's (all documented) on mechanicals. Interior in decent shape.

Body has some dings and door hinges do not line up.
Windshield removed and needs rust repaired around cowling
before it can be re-installed.

Wheels in good condition and tires with no mileage since new.

Recent re-spray.

Overall nice looking car in need of detail attention. Asking \$9,500.

Contact:
Brian 503.367.3088
brianjsc@gmail.com











## BUY-SELL-TRADE

#### For Sale: 1974 Alfa Romeo Spider



is and still passes 50 foot and 50 mph rule. Mechanical work includes: Rugh sport (not racing) springs, Bilstein shocks, poly bushings, all new ball joints, adjustable upper A arm (every moving joint under car was replaced), rebuilt brake calipers, gas tank ultra-sonic cleaned and epoxy sealed, rebuilt transmission, NWDL driveshaft, 4.10 diff swap, rebuilt engine, 10:1 pistons, Steve Hannifer Stage 1 head with 11mm cams, Wes Ingram HP Spica pump, Crane Cam II ignition, 40KV coil, radiator recore, new stock exhaust with Duetto stinger rear section, Re-Original seat covers, original vinyl floor covers in decent condition, new top, newer Alpine 4 x 65 Watt radio with 4 discreetly mounted speakers. Comes with 2 sets of wheels, one set with Toyo RA1s, track R4 brake pads, over helmet roll bar. It runs great but needs an owner with more time to take it on open roads. Over \$15K invested and lots of labor, asking \$6500.

Total mechanical restoration complete, patina-rich body is drivable as

Contact Greg 206.890.2525 call or text or email gmilleralfa@comcast.net for more information



## BUY-SELL-TRADE

#### For Sale: 1984 Alfa Romeo Spider



1984 Alfa Romeo Spider with 148K miles (car was purchased 2 years ago with 146K miles). The engine is thought to have been rebuilt. Before I purchased it, the car was given a complete mechanic inspection by an Alfa specialist. The reports are available. The compression on the engine was: Cyl. 1: 220; Cyl. 2: 220; Cyl. 3: 217; Cyl. 4: 220. Recent work includes u-joints and drive shaft rebuild kit, and rear brake calipers and pads. The previous owner put in a new water pump, radiator and hoses.

The convertible top has a split in the rear plastic window. It comes with a matching hardtop. There is the typical Alfa 2nd gear crunch every once in awhile if not careful shifting. I have another transmission that will go with the car. The Spider is virtually rust-free. There is a small dent below and back of the driver's side door.

Fun car to drive, but I just don't have the opportunity to enjoy it on the coast. The car is located near Astoria, Oregon. Asking \$3,500 OBO.

Call Gary at 503.325.1477 email <a href="mailto:garish@wwestsky.net">garish@wwestsky.net</a> for more information.







