

ALFA BITS



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ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

MARCH 2013



ALFA BITS



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... 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 non-commercial 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 [Bill Haines](#) 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 largest-circulation publication in history. And then just think what we could charge for advertising...

ABOUT THE CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Nothing quite like a Tipo 33 (Type 33) to make the heart beat faster. Speaking of making hearts beat faster, check out the details in this issue of the upcoming track day, March 23. You, too, can have some "Tipo 33 Moments" at PIR.

CONTENTS

Editor's Column, "Con Brio"	III
President's Column, "Driver's Seat"	IV
Past Events	
<i>Valentines Tour Fires Up Touring Season</i>	V
<i>AROO Rally Season is Underway!</i>	VI-VII
Future Events	XIII
<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	IX
<i>Spring Track Day</i>	X
<i>Old Spider Tour</i>	XI
<i>Summer Tour</i>	XII
Some Other Stuff	XIII-XV
YouTube-issimo	XVI
Steve Says	XVII
Rally Sponsors	XVIII
Our Advertisers	XIX-XXI
Buy-Sell-Trade	XXII-XXVI
Rear View Mirror	XXVII

Yes, as Julius Caesar said of his first trip to France, "I came, I saw, I drove fast." Or something like that. High school history class is fading a bit, I admit.

But the good news is that, unlike in Caesar's time, you don't have to wear a toga to our track day on Saturday, March 23. The details are, as they say, elsewhere in this issue, but the themes are more important than the details: the sheer energy of visiting an active track; the sights and sounds of cars going fast; the smell of burning Castrol in the morning... it smells like... *victory!* If you've never been to one of our track days, you owe it to yourself to experience it. You can drive, lend a hand or just spectate, but either way, it's an experience that you just might find to be exhilarating or at least interesting. Try it, you'll like it!

AROO Board Member and membership officer Erik Roe received the following email recently. We love fan mail:

I am really impressed by the mailing for new membership and the changes over the past several months in AROO! No kidding, the improvements in the online newsletter, the central location for meetings, the number of events are all good to see, and prompt me to renew. Your web presence far exceeds that of AROC. It's gratifying that locals can do so much better than the national group. Thanks folks, and well done!

*Richard Hiatt
Scappoose*

Thanks very much Richard. We have some free beer and snacks waiting for you at the next monthly meeting, now just a few days away. Speaking of which, did I mention the free beer, free snacks and free entertainment at our monthly meeting? The details are, as they say, elsewhere in this issue, and attending might make you as happy as my friend Tony here.

As Caesar used to say, "Cheers!"

[Reid Trummel, Editor](#)

My friend Tony. Happy guy.



"All the veloce
that's fit to print"

No theme to this month's column, but several cool things to mention, so here goes:

AROO Calling

Sometime during the last month, AROO members in the general Portland area should have gotten a personal phone call from an AROO Board member. We really wanted to reach out and let folks know that we care about their involvement: what kinds of events they have participated in, what they'd like to see more of, and just in general make contact. We promoted upcoming events and let them know they were welcome. Although with some missed assignments and voicemails, we didn't get to talk to everyone, I think we got a good idea about club involvement.

I enjoyed the calls I made, getting to chat with new and longtime members, some going way back to the beginning of AROO. There were a few concrete suggestions, like more short tours, and changing the meeting location, but on the whole people seemed satisfied, even though they might not be attending events. Many folks have just found other interests, but are still committed members. If you didn't get called and would still like to add your voice, feel free to contact me or any Board member and bend our ears a bit.

Fun with cars

The "car hobby" gives us lots of different ways to have fun, from researching obscure models to driving in competition; restoring to touring; and event organizing to writing. I got into sports cars in high school, working on a Triumph TR3 and I've always enjoyed the satisfaction of turning a wrench. With the Berlina back in the garage and a good "to do list" to cover before it's road ready, I have plenty of opportunity to do just that.

The next item on the list was "check and adjust valves." Checking is the easy part, but adjustment takes a micrometer and a set of shims, typically possessed only by Alfa mechanics. So I was resigned to sending the car out for valve adjustment after I measured the intake side as out of spec. But then Erik Roe let me know that he has a set of shims and would be glad to be the technical advisor. So last weekend we met in my too small garage and got to it. Erik is an engineer and long-time Alfa owner, so is at home under the hood. He led me through it all, shared some tips from having done this many times and taught me how to do it. It took only a couple of hours and that included plenty of chatting. I buttoned it up with the freshly polished cam cover, new gasket, half-moon seals, and washers and it looks great. Felt great too.

New Board member

Neil d'Autremont resigned from the AROO Board to spend more time developing his business, *Sidedraught City*, so just a few months after the last election we were already searching for a replacement. AROO Secretary Cindy Banzer enthusiastically nominated her friend Lee Anne Barham. By Cindy's report, Lee Anne is smart, enthusiastic, a great organizer and a lot of fun. She is also retired and looking for volunteer opportunities, having just closed out a stint on OPB's "Our Town" series. Not wanting to let a live one get away, the Board voted her on to fill the remainder of Neil's term. She'll be at this month's meeting at the Lucky Lab, so come join us and meet Lee Anne.

Driving

The driving season is picking up steam with the AROO Cup Rally Series underway, Spring Track Day on Saturday, and the roster for the Old Spider Tour open for signups. Something for everybody, so get the Alfa going and join us. *If you're not having fun, it's not our fault!*

[Roger Dilts, Club President](#)

Valentine Tour Fires Up Touring Season

by Roger Dilts

PAST EVENTS

A great turnout for the 2013 edition of the Valentine Tour signaled the start of the AROO driving season. We had a couple of Alfa spiders, but more FIATs than anything, including two Cinquecenti, Vern Kleinman's 124 Spider, and Mike Mittelstead's sweet little 128 sedan. We started off with the traditional roses and chocolates at the start, then began a casually-paced tour through Clackamas County, with a break at the lovely Metzler County Park.

We wound around some more and eventually turned up as planned at the beautiful Stone Cliff Inn for brunch. Most of us anyway. Steve Meunier's Spider evidently broke a shock and limped in early. Cindy Banzer took the award for the most creative breakdown with a spontaneously discharging fire extinguisher, which filled the interior with dry powder. Hard to top that one.

We gathered at our own large table upstairs and shared a fine meal and good company. A prize drawing kept things lively with a couple of boxes of chocolates, a CD of Italian love songs, and a bottle of *Prosecco* continuing the romantic theme. All in all it was a great day with old and new friends, nice roads and a pleasant meal.

AB



Alfa Romeo Spider, pre-extinguisher.



Mike Mittelstead's Fiat sedan and Vern Kleinman's Fiat Spider adding diversity to the tour.



Cindy Banzer celebrating a traditional Valentines Day with a rose and a car full of monobromotrifluoromethane.

The 2013 AROO rally season got off to a fine start on March 2 with the annual Rally School, held this year at the Lucky Lab on Hawthorne.

Students ranged from many newcomers with no rally experience to several veterans who were there to sharpen their skills. After a brief welcoming and belated awarding of last year's first place AROO Cup to Yulia, Reid Trummel took the class through the General Instructions.

The "GIs" set out the definitions, timing and distance standards, equipment limitations and every other aspect of the TSD rallies we do – they are the rules, and need to be understood in detail. Reid did a

great job walking the class through their intricacies. Next up, the class went on a "rally by PowerPoint" with photographic examples of many of the applications of the rules that rallyists need to make during a rally. They are a lot easier to grasp the first time in a classroom than on the road! Russ Kraushaar next gave his version of "Driving to Win." Since Russ has won many rallies, this was a particularly anticipated section of the class and Russ did not disappoint. Yulia Smolyansky (the current AROO Cup holder for navigation) covered "Navigating to Win," this year focusing on tips and tricks, rather than the details of rally math. *continued*



Gary Eddings enjoys a last minute of mild stimulant in preparation for the rally. That's his blue MG Midget at left, with the Lancia Fulvia Zagato of Ed Godshalk and the De Tomaso Pantera of Rick Martin, all poised and ready for action.

Fred and Lisa McNabb wrapped things up with “Rallying for Fun,” for those who were not yet thinking about winning, but just making it back to lunch and being on speaking terms with their teammate. In fact, many of the class sections included advice on teamwork and maintaining in-car peace.

The next day, the AROO Cup Rally Series started, giving everyone a chance to test their driving, navigating, and personal relationship skills. Being titled “Baby Steps,” it was designed to be an easy intro for newcomers and a re-entry for more practiced hands. Thirteen teams gathered at the Sylvan Zoo House on Sunday morning. Weather was decent and the field was diverse with a De Tomaso Pantera, a Lancia Fulvia Sport, an MG Midget, a TR6 and couple of Porsches, among others. The lone Alfa was driven by timing control volunteer Bill Haines and his able assistant, Pam.

After the odo calibration run out to North Plains, the course looped south with Sue and Bill Colisch in their Nissan, and Bob and Donna McNabb in their Acura each scoring a single penalty point, Fred and Lisa in their BMW and Doug Naef and Christine Merris right behind at 2 seconds off perfection.

The next regularity ran briefly up Pumpkin Ridge and back down the other side. Simon and Karen Levear in their borrowed TR6 got a point, Ed Godshalk and Rick Warner scored 3 in the Lancia, father/daughter team Gary Eddings and Kathryn Sherrell, chilly in their top-down Midget, got 4, while Lynn Gibner and Linda Guthrie rounded out the single digit pack in a Porsche Boxster with 5.

After a brief break, the course headed east. All but two cars hit the timing control at Jackson Quarry in single digits, which was very impressive. The last regularity encountered some Sunday morning congestion, necessitating time declarations by several teams. Besting this section were Rick Martin driving his Pantera with Yulia navigating for a single penalty point, Fred and Lisa and Lynn and Linda at 2 each, Bill and Sue with 3, Ed and Rick at 6, and Simon and Karen with a 9.

With the top five teams in a seven-second spread, it was definitely a competitive day. However, Bill and Sue won it at 18 total points, Fred and Lisa were second with 19 (without using time decs!), and Ed and Rick were third with 21. (Results are different from those announced at the awards lunch.) Complete results are in the table below.

So the AROO Cup Rally Series is off and running. It's not too late to join us, so if you are interested in participating in this fun and challenging motor sport, be sure to show up on April 7 for the second installment.



FINAL RESULTS MARCH 2013 AROO CUP RALLY							
PLACE	DRIVER	NAVIGATOR	TSD1	TSD2	TSD3	TSD4	TOTAL
1	Sue Colisch	Bill Colisch	1	11	3	3	18
2	Fred McNabb	Lisa McNabb	2	13	2	2	19
3	Ed Godshalk	Rick Warner	10	3	2	6	21
4	Simon Levear	Karen Levear	6	1	6	9	22
5	Rick Martin	Yulia Smolyansky	10	7	6	1	24
6	Kathleen Ellis	Bob Ellis	7	13	3	19	42
7	Lynn Gibner	Linda Guthrie	34	5	2	2	43
8	Jim Trofitter	Bonnie Trofitter	37	14	4	10	65
9	Gary Eddings	Kathryn Sherrell	36	4	2	33	75
10	Doug Naef	Christine Merris	2	91	18	14	125
11	Eric Sowle	Paul Gustavson	65	70	50	36	221
12	Bob McNabb	Donna McNabb	1	16	6	245	268
13	Steve Batchelor	Josh Batchelor	144	79	25	49	297

The next 30 days or so...

FUTURE EVENTS

March 20, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

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

Presentation: Mark Carpenter will present some entertaining videos featuring – what else? – Alfa Romeo. They range from a Tipo 33 (see cover of this issue) to “The Women of Alfa Romeo,” and Mark reports that that one “is quite interesting.” It features a group of advertising photos and ads with Alfa Romeos and the women that are featured with them. Of course some of the current ones are a bit on the racy side, but they also go back into the late 1920s and forward. The fashion and the cars are fun to see. Not a lot of fancy culture, just a bit of fun on what Mark has found on the internet. Total about 20 minutes.

And don't forget the FREE BEER and FREE SNACKS!

March 23, Spring Track Day

Yes, this one is on a Saturday. Registration is 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 X, and you can always contact [Ken Hart](#) via email or phone 360.574.7402.

April 3, 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

April 7, AROO Cup Rally 2

The second of the four-rally series. Begins at the Sylvan Zoo House (formerly the Sylvan Steak House, and prior to that, Big Red's). Please arrive by 9:15 a.m. for registration.



View full [Activity Calendar](#) on AROO website

FREE BEER FREE SNACKS

OK, we're upping the ante. Last month we offered free beer at the monthly meeting, and a lot of you responded. We like to see members at the meetings (and activities), and so we're raising the stakes this month by also adding free snacks. If you get the impression that we really, really want you to come out and enjoy your club, then you're catching on.

We have our own private room at the Lucky Lab Pub. It's like our very own clubhouse. And there's free beer, free snacks, good friends, and fun times waiting for you there. We've also scheduled a great presentation that we think you'll really enjoy when Mark Carpenter presents videos with a theme of... wait for it... *Alfa Romeos!* Ciao bella!

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Lucky Lab Pub](#)

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

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



[More info here.](#)

[Register here.](#)

[See you there.](#)

**I ♥ AROO
Track Days**

Old Spider Tour, May 4-5 by Erik Roe and Dennis Torgeson

FUTURE EVENTS

In our annual tradition, AROO will again present the Old Spider Tour. This tour was originated by some of our founding members, Bob and Margaret McGill, to celebrate the purchase of their 1957 Giulietta Spider, "Old Blue." Rumor has it that we may even have that very car join the tour this year!

We will tour out east where the weather will be fine and the roads spectacular. All Alfas are welcomed, but we really encourage those of you with old Spiders (Giulietta and Giulia models) to join us. The tour pace will match your car's 155x15 tires!



We will travel about 250 miles the first day, and less the second with the route bringing you back to Portland. Tour cost is \$10/car to help offset expenses. Day trippers are welcomed, but please consider joining us for the overnight – there is always a good time with this group.

Our overnight stop will be in The Dalles. ***We have a limited number of rooms reserved at a special rate at the Celilo Inn. Please call soon to get your room secured.***

Dates: Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5.

Overnight: The Dalles, Celilo Inn, (541) 769-0001, AROO gets a preferred rate, mention Alfa Club.

Saturday Dinner: Group dinner, details TBA.

Start Location: TBA, depends on spring road conditions!

Start Details: 8:15 a.m. Drivers' Meeting, May 4.

Questions: Erik Roe, erikroe@mac.com or (503) 706-8304

We hope to see you there!



This will be like no other Alfa tour in recent memory (at least in my memory, what's left of it!). While it will have some nice roads that *will* be new to many, it will really be a leisurely journey through Oregon history. Tour mileage will be less than 100 miles per day.

Did you know the first settler in Canby arrived in 1838? Ever been to Butteville? It was named by French trappers in 1821. The oldest operating store in Oregon (established in 1863) is located here and we will stop for a visit! While I have been through Aurora many times, I had no idea of its past. It was established in 1856 as a religious utopian community. Known for their quality products, good food, hospitality and music, it attracted four train loads of visitors *every day!* Ever seen those big concrete buildings out in the country along the railroad tracks? They were booster stations for the Oregon Electric RR which had a network of lines from Portland down to Eugene.

The first day of the tour will start near Canby and pass through Barlow, Aurora, Butteville, Champoeg, Donald, Dayton, Monmouth and Independence. In addition to looking at many historic structures dating back to the 1850s, we will check out a number of local museums that do an excellent job of explaining the history of these communities. In Aurora, the curator of the museum will guide us through time, and volunteers will demonstrate some of the trades practiced at the time.

Day two will begin in Albany which was founded in 1845. After a driving tour through the three historic districts, we explore some long-forgotten communities including Pirtle, Orleans, Oakville, Fayetteville and Boston. In "Boston," we will tour the old grist mill and actually get to see the water-powered equipment in action.

After a short visit to the Shedd Museum, we stop in Harrisburg (originally founded in 1853) at the old ferryboat landing. Looking at the Willamette River today, it is hard to fathom that steamboats made it from Portland all the way down to Harrisburg. The tour will end up in historic Brownsville. Again, many of us have been through this quaint town (several of my tours have stopped at the park) but if you are like me, you have not taken the time to explore it. This time we will drive by some of the oldest homes, check out their museum and the wonderfully preserved Moyer House, all after having a burger and beverage at the Brownsville Saloon.

I hope you can join us for both days, but the tour is designed so you can elect to participate in only one. I have located a good Italian restaurant in Albany for those who would like to join us for the overnight version. The Comfort Suites in Albany has reasonable lodging and is where I will be staying the night. There are lots of other motels in the area as well.

I will need a head count for both days so I can make arrangements at the museums and restaurants. My e-mail is mcgirrt@wcb.com. I would recommend you call the motel to make a reservation if you are going to stay overnight. When calling Albany Comfort Suites (541-917-6144), identify yourself as part of the Alfa Romeo club. We have a special rate of only \$89. Room block will expire June 3.

And for those who might be longing for more of a "road trip," stay tuned for the Fall Tour, September 7-8.









Introduction of the Alfa Romeo 4C

YOUTUBE-ISSIMO



Alfa Romeo CEO Harald J. Wester presents the new Alfa Romeo 4C at the 2013 Geneva International Motor Show. It weighs only 895 kg (a little less than 2,000 lbs.). Its 1750cc turbo-charged engine produces 240 hp. Its price in the USA is yet to be announced, but in Europe the price tag reads €60,000, or about \$78,000. The first units are due for delivery before the end of this year. Click on the upper left image to view the video.



Ah, track day... the hibernation is over...

STEVE SAYS



Steve wouldn't miss it.
You shouldn't either.
Drive, watch, help.
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eyes and listen to the
music of internal
combustion.

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For Sale: Bling for your Montreal!

BUY-SELL-TRADE

I have a brand new pair of custom Alfa Montreal polished stainless steel rocker panels in the original box that I originally received them in, and thought that perhaps one of your Montreal-owner members may be interested in them. While the OEM rockers are black and purists prefer to keep everything original, these rockers impart a great look to the Montreal and could always be painted black later on.

I am in the midst of moving and cleaning out my garage and felt that someone may be interested... I'm asking only \$350 for the set. I owned a Maserati Bora for 27 years that also had OEM black rockers, but I had custom polished SS rockers made and installed and the Bora looked great! I've attached an image of that car as an example of what the rockers look like.

If you would care to make your Montreal members aware, I can be emailed at lensdoc@optonline.net at least for the next 4-5 weeks, after which I'll be moving.

Thank you, Michael



For Sale: 1974 GTV 2000

BUY-SELL-TRADE

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



Alfa Romeo

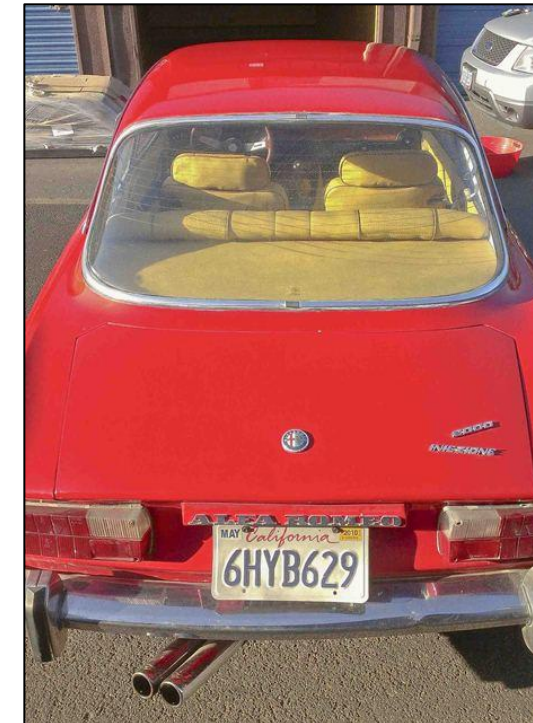
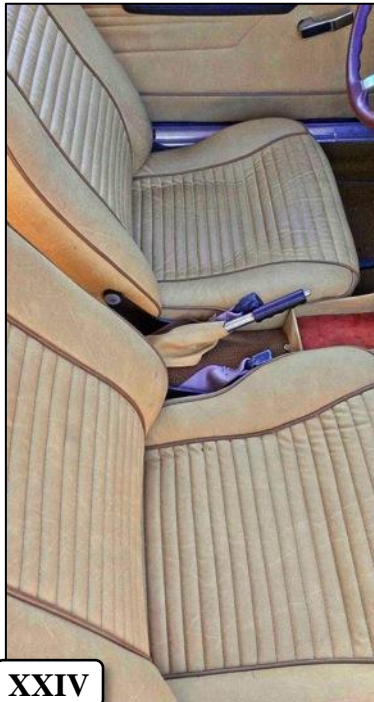
For Sale: 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV

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 cowlings 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



For Sale: 1974 Alfa Romeo Spider

BUY-SELL-TRADE



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

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



Large pile of cash not included in sale. This pic is just to get you in the mood to spend money.



XXV



For Sale: 1984 Alfa Romeo Spider

BUY-SELL-TRADE



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

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