

ALFA BITS



PUBLISHED CON BRIO BY THE
ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2014





ALFA BITS

is the official newsletter (and the only one we know of) of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon. It is published 10 or 11 times per year in PDF format and is 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 [Dennis Torgeson](#) 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



One of those pre-war Alfas with the really long nose and costs a bazillion dollars (8C 2900, I think) won Best of Show at the Forest Grove Concours. My Bugeye Sprite was runner-up. Just kidding. About my Sprite.

MAY CONTAIN NUTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, "Driver's Seat"	3
PAST EVENTS	
<i>AROO Summer Picnic</i>	4
FUTURE EVENTS	5
<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>	6
<i>AROO Fall Tour</i>	7
<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	8
RALLY SPONSORS	9
OUR ADVERTISERS	10-12
REAR VIEW MIRROR	13



Wow, crazy weather, huh? Killer hot with just enough humidity to make your eyelids droop, then nice in the 80s, then thunder/lightning/rain. Must be summer in the great northwest!

But none of it managed to intrude on any AROO events; we must have perfectly aligned our schedule with the heavens this summer. The Summer Evening Tour in place of the June meeting was sweet, just like it was meant to be: great turnout, nice roads, lots of Alfas and good times. Even though we found out what eating establishment we'll never go to again, on the whole everyone had a nice evening.

Attendance at the Portland Historics was pretty light. Our AROO Corral was OK, but other spectators, racers and car clubs were conspicuously absent. People who know say it will be fixed and better next year. Those of us who did attend and did not wilt in the heat got to see Jerry Pillar take old number 27 out and do well before having to pit and then drop the trans overnight for clutch work. Dave Rugh's effort was similarly thwarted by engine problems in his Ralt.

Russ Paine went all out, putting on a great AROO Summer Picnic in mid-July. A good number of cars, drivers and navigators showed up for a casual tour of the Washington County pinot country. We had a break and tour of the Alexana Winery, which was just stunning: all new stainless steel inside, stone, wood and loveliness outside. I could have just sat and watched the vineyard grow all afternoon. But we continued on to a tasting room and very nice catered lunch in Dundee. It was a bit toasty, but we all found shade and good company to share our lunches with. Thanks Russ, for a great event!

This year's Monte Shelton Rally was fabulous! Stunning roads, great cars, the best volunteers anywhere... Seriously, over 200 rallyists and tourers enjoyed four days of Oregon coast range wonderfulness due to the hard work and dedication of a great rally organizational team and over 60 volunteers who made it all appear seamlessly perfect. From directing traffic and registering our guests to running a timing control point or dragging hoses around the Beer Wash, our volunteers put out a huge effort to make it all work. Thanks to everyone, especially our Outstanding Volunteer, Bill Haines, who greeted the finishers with a traditional rose and a heartfelt welcome.

We still have a Tom McGirr fall tour, the President's Tour and Track Day before we move inside for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The ride's not over yet, so please remain seated.

[Roger Dilts, Club President](#)

Our group enjoyed another fine weather morning as we met at Longbottom Coffee House to begin a relaxed tour to our first destination, Alexana Winery. A total of 11 cars made the start and two others met us at Alexana. We traversed Chehalem Mountain and Bald Peak finishing on the newly paved and twisty Worden Hill Road (which connects Highway 240 and Dundee). Only one slight mishap as Dan Stanton's GTV experienced some fuel starvation on Bald Peak Road on a tight right hander!

After an hour or so of driving, Alexana and AROO hosted a wonderful, full wine tasting at their beautiful site in the outdoor kitchen and pavilion. We also enjoyed a brief tour and welcome from the owner and the tasting room manager. After our visit, many found it hard to leave as we departed for our final destination and lunch with a short drive to Tertulia Winery in Dundee with lunch catered by Babica Hen.

We lunched in the Babica Hen garden area and then had another chance to taste some totally different wines at Tertulia. Our tour and picnic was complete by mid-afternoon as people slowly departed from the tasting room and Dundee.

Submitted by picnic organizer Russ Paine



Photos by Lloyd Edwards





September 3, Board of Directors Meeting.

CALLING ALL GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT! Just kidding. The Board meetings really ain't bad at all. Busters Barbecue serves a good dinner, there is a full bar, we meet in a private room, and there's lots of talk about Alfas and driving and stuff. 7 p.m. at Buster Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard, in the back room.

September 13-14, AROO Fall Tour.



See details on a following page.

September 17, Monthly Meeting.

Starts at 7:30 p.m. in our private room at the Lucky Lab Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland 97214. Details were not available at press time, so just show up and be surprised!

September 28, President's Tour.



Details coming later via an EVENT ALERT. For now, just save the date.

October 1, Board of Directors Meeting.

7 p.m. at Buster Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard, in the back room.

October 5, Fall Track Day.



Volunteers are always needed. Contact [Ken Hart](#) or [Erik Roe](#).



You'll never know what they're really like until you attend one yourself! 7 p.m. at Busters Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard.



Fall Leaf Tour, Estacada to Bend

Ten years ago I led the club on this tour through the mountains and over to Bend. Folks really seemed to like the route, especially some of the scenic stops along the way, so I decided to dust it off and run it again.

DEPARTURE: PGE Promontory Park, east of Estacada on Hwy 224. After departing Estacada, you will come to a large lake...near the end, turn right and head down to the marina. Please allow sufficient time to get here.

Driver Meeting at 8:15; leave at 8:30 a.m.

LUNCH: BYO. We will stop at a park along the way.

The route takes us through a very pretty gorge along the Willamette River into the Breitenbush area where typically there are some nice fall colors. We then head east on Hwy 22 then south on Hwy 20/126 toward McKenzie Bridge with a stop at Sahalie Falls. After lunch, we drive along Cougar Reservoir including a photo op on top of the dam.

Proceeding on FS 19, we enjoy some very deserted roads (designated as a scenic byway) though a dense forest coming out at Oakridge and a stop at Salt Creek Falls. The last part of the drive takes us along the Cascades Highway past Davis, Elk, Lava and Sparks Lakes with fabulous views of the Three Sisters and Mt. Bachelor into Bend. Pretty easy drive totaling 265 miles.

LODGING: Doubletree (formerly the Phoenix). Room block was under club name, but may be expired. If full, check out Fairfield or any number of other options.

HAPPY HOUR: In the parking lot. BYOB and a snack to share.

DINNER: We will enjoy authentic Italian cuisine at Trattoria Sbandati. Great Food!

SUNDAY: You have two options:

1) For those who want to drool over Italian cars, you can visit the Oregon Festival of Cars, a premier car show featuring ITALIAN cars among others. We have been invited to join them for a short tour Sunday morning and then have brunch. Cost for the Sunday tour and brunch is \$75/couple, or \$50 for one. *You will need to contact Barbara Grayson, 503-246-8477 or 503-888 0371 to secure a spot at the Oregon Festival of Cars event (the tour and brunch). Tell her you are with the Alfa Car Club.*

2) Join the rest of us and enjoy a leisurely drive along the Old McKenzie Pass Hwy stopping at the observation deck where you can see at least 11 of the Cascade Mountain peaks. We will stop in Springfield for lunch and then head home.

I do need to give a head count to the restaurant so **PLEASE let me know you are coming!** mcgirrt@columbiabank.com or 503-983-3656.

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We look forward to seeing you there!

[Lucky Lab Pub](#)

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**Wednesday, September 17,
beginning at 7:30 p.m.**



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