

ALFA BITS



PUBLISHED CON BRIO BY THE
ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

OCTOBER 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.

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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](#)



An Alfa 4C joined the President's Tour on September 28. Read all about it in this issue.

Photo by Joe Cantrell.

MAY CONTAIN NUTS

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Summer is usually a hectic time in the car world, with tours, rallies, shows, concours, races and auctions all vying for time on the calendar, particularly here in the Northwest, where our weather-dependent events have a limited window. There are always time conflicts and you can't do it all, let alone have time for a wash and wax or oil change between events. So we all get a chance to exhale a bit when the calendar turns and fall comes around. Do some maintenance, maybe even some yard work, or just relax. Not that there is nothing to do, but it seems like the pressure to do everything is off. Oregon fall weather can be chancy, but when it's good, it's outstanding, so driving events still mix with "indoor" events. The AROO calendar has many events to get you through to winter.

We got off to a great start on the 4th Annual AROO President's Tour on October 5. With record turnout (nearly 40 cars and more than 60 participants), perfect weather, lovely roads and an Alfa 4C as special guest, this was one of the best AROO events in memory. See the full article and photos elsewhere in this issue.

The very next weekend, we had one of our most successful track days ever. Again, perfect (if even too warm) weather brought us record turnout to help fund AROO events through the year. Volunteers like Lee Anne Barham working the tower all day, Neil d'Autremont on point, Patrick Iaboni on tech, and Dennis Torgeson at pre-grid made it all go smoothly.

Next on the calendar is our regular monthly meeting. After reviewing past events and previewing upcoming ones, we'll have a special remembrance of long-time member Bill Haines. Board member George Kraus has assembled a slide show of Bill enjoying various AROO events. Bill was a great guy and a fine friend, so bring a memory to share. Since Bill enjoyed AROO tours so much, we'll finish up the evening with a show of Joe Cantrell photos from the President's tour. So come have a beer and honor Bill.

On Sunday, October 19, we'll have our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. As a volunteer organization, we depend on our members to step up and do the work that makes us one of the most active car clubs around. All those rallies, tours and track days require lots of work so every year we honor those who do it with a dinner on the club. Last year's was a great success and Lee Anne has put together another great evening at Ernesto's in Beaverton. If you volunteered at any AROO event this year and have not signed up yet, please RSVP to leeanne.barham@gmail.com.

The November monthly meeting is our traditional AROO auction, bringing back Patrick Iaboni as our auctioneer. Last year we made enough to pay the room rent for the year, so let's do it again. Dig out your Alfa parts, vintage car magazines, fine art, jewelry, wine or other donations and bring them along with your checkbook and a generous attitude.

Before the auction, we'll hold our Board election. AROO's business is conducted by our 10-member Board, half of whom come up for election every year. This year, long-time members Dennis Torgeson and Mark Carpenter are stepping down, leaving a couple of openings for you to serve your club in this important function. The Board meets monthly, sets a budget, manages the calendar of events and makes policy decisions that keep our club going, year after year. Please consider running for a seat on the Board. If you have any questions about the duties, just ask me or any Board member.

As always, AROO will wind up our year with our Holiday Party on December 7. This year Cindy Banzer has set it up at the Multnomah Athletic Club, which should be a lovely venue. We award the AROO Cup Rally Series trophies and recognize the McGill Award recipient, have prize drawings and enjoy a great meal and socializing. You should definitely plan to attend.

[Roger Dilts, Club President](#)



Location: Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard.

In Attendance: Board members Lee Anne, Bob, Dennis, Cindy, Reid, Roger, Russ, and member Neil d'Autremont.

Time: 7 p.m.

Old Business, Upcoming events, and Liaison reports 7:00 – 8:00

1. Minutes review – Russ Paine. Reid moved, George seconded. Approved,
2. Treasurer's Report - Cindy Banzer. Reviewed and all in order.
3. Past events reports:
 - a. June 15 AROO Cup Rally #4.
 - b. June 18 Summer Evening Tour.
 - c. July 11-13 Portland Historics – sparse attendance.
 - d. July 19 Summer picnic – Nice turnout, great roads, food and wine.
 - e. July 24-27 Monte Shelton NCR – April and Marcus Song are 2015 RMs. 2015 sold out in less than 24 hours.
4. Upcoming events:
 - a. Aug 20 Evening Tour - Reid will lead.
 - b. Aug 22-24 AROO Summer Tour, Tom McGirr.
 - c. Sept 13-14 Fall Tour, Tom McGirr.
 - d. Sept 17 Meeting - Lee Anne – In flux, working for a solid program.
 - e. Sept 28 President's Tour – Roger.
 - f. Oct 5 Track Day - Erik Roe.
 1. Activate Fall Track Day registration on motorsportsreg.com. (Regonline, provided by AROC, is an alternative. Cindy will advise Erik of it.)
 2. Raise fee \$10 for non-AROO participants.
 3. No other changes.
 - g. Oct 15 Meeting – George – Tribute to Bill Haines.
 - h. Oct 19 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Lee Anne – Invites to all volunteers, whether in AROO or not.
 - i. Nov election and auction – Bob – Patrick laboni is auctioneer.
 - j. December Holiday Party – Cindy – working on locations.
5. Reid's report: Bits, website and MSNCR – all in order.
6. Calendar Review – Bob – all good.
7. Membership Report - Lee Anne – 168 current members.
8. Merchandise/Apparel – Yulia – no update.
9. Competition and track – Mark – good order.
10. Advertising/Promotion – George – Facebook page done.
11. AROC report – President Cindy – Many congrats and lots of work ahead for Cindy at the helm of AROC.

Continuing and New Business 8:00 – 9:00

1. Bob - Yes, Cindy - Yes, Dennis - No, Mark - No and Russ - Yes: your terms on the Board are expiring in December. Do you intend run for re-election? If not, let's start encouraging folks to run.
2. Dennis proposals for other events: tour Monte Shelton collection, Saturday only and Monte as host. Dennis is liaison, tour with NWARC – Dennis will coordinate.

Adjourned 9:10 p.m.

[Submitted by Russ Paine, Secretary](#)



Location: Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard.

In Attendance: Cindy, Bob, Mark, Dennis, Roger, Yulia, Russ, and Ken Hart.

Time: 7 p.m.

Old Business, Upcoming Events, and Liaison Reports.

1. Minutes review – Russ. Bob moved, Dennis seconded – Approved.
2. Treasurer's Report - Cindy Banzer. One adjustment of expense item to income item (rally item).
3. Past events reports:
 - a. Aug 20 Evening Tour – Reid. 15 cars and a few new folks.
 - b. Aug 22-24 AROO Summer Tour – Good report from attendees.
4. Upcoming events.
 - c. Sept 13-14 Fall Tour, Tom McGirr.
 - d. Sept 17 Meeting, Ken Hart on Track Day - Lee Anne. Slide show and vintage footage planned.
 - e. Sept 28 President's Tour – Roger. Sunday half-day format with lunch along Clackamas River.
 - f. Oct 5 Track Day - Erik Roe. Ken will solicit volunteers at meeting; Reid will send recruitment email.
 - g. Oct 15 Meeting, Remembering Bill Haines – George. Will family attend?
 - h. Oct 19 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Lee Anne. Caro Amico vs. Ernestos, TBD. Discussed cost coverage with Northwest Classic covering part of cost; discussion tabled, need Reid for discussion.
 - i. Nov election and auction – Bob. Patrick laboni will be auctioneer.
 - j. December Holiday Party – Cindy. Checking MAC Club as possible location.
5. Reid's report: Absent, said all is good.
6. Calendar Review – Bob. Starting work on 2015 with known dates.
7. Membership Report - Lee Anne – absent.
8. Merchandise/Apparel –Yulia. New products due by next meeting.
9. Competition and track – Mark. All good.
10. Advertising/Promotion – George. Absent.
11. AROC report – President Cindy. Jolene retires March 31. Search, hire replacement by Jan 1. Dealer outreach program for new Alfa sales with AROC flyer in glovebox. Conventions: July 2015 – CT; 2016 – TN; 2017- Montreal (tentative). Website – complete overhaul in the works.

Continuing and New Business.

1. Dennis updates on other events: Tour Monte Shelton collection – Oct 11 as possible date, Bob Ames also. Mark C to contact Monte. Tour with NWARC – in discussions, nothing firm yet.
2. Suggestions for possible Board candidates for Dennis and Mark's seats being vacated. Please review roster for potential candidates.

Adjourned 8:25 p.m.

[Submitted by Russ Paine, Secretary](#)



Everything Aligns to Produce Perfect President's Tour!

Words by Roger Dilts

Images by Joe Cantrell

Just like an engine, a tour has many parts. And just like an engine, if they all line up, it runs perfectly. This year they did, but like building an engine the night before race day, it got a little hectic. Here's the story of all those parts and their assembly.

The roads

Can't have a tour without a route. After putting on an AROO Cup rally in the area last year, I knew the roads in the area well, and with the help of Google maps, I did not waste any time or gas putting a route together. Running only on low-traffic paved roads, and wanting a good mix of straights, twists and pleasing scenery, limits the choices. But I quickly drew up a loop of around 80 miles sitting at the computer, for an easy half-day tour. A drive-through of the route showed all the road surfaces were in good shape and all the other criteria were met, so I felt pretty good a month out.

The break

Eighty miles solid of country roads is torture, so a tour needs a break about every hour for a restroom, a stretch and socializing. The trick is finding the right spot on your tour route. Rally and tour leaders get to know every city and county park, rest stop and country store in their area. Unfortunately, those resources are pretty thin in rural Clackamas County. Worse, the County wants \$5 per car entry fee – “strictly enforced” – for their parks. But I managed to find an obscure county park that had no entry fee. Unfortunately, it also had no rest rooms (just one port-a-pottie) and parking for maybe a dozen cars. But given the turnout in the previous years, it made the cut. Barely.







Then the RSVP list started to grow fast (see Bonus!, *below*); no way would this park work. I tried port-a-pottie rental (\$360 for two, no thanks). But parking and un-parking more than ten cars would have been a nightmare, so I needed another option. Fast.

The week before, I went on another club's tour in the same area and we had a nice break at Feyrer County Park, without having to pay a fortune in entry fees. This was perfect if I could get the same deal for AROO. Park staff explained that there is no "group discount rate," but there is a "courtesy" of 15 minutes without charge. Deal. It took a re-route of 11 miles round trip, but that was minor compared to the alternatives, of which there were none.

Treats

No tour is complete without treats. I won't bore you with the details of getting coffee and cookies for 50. Answer: Peets Coffee and *Baker and Spice*.

Goodies

Everybody likes stuff to take home, so I went with the now-traditional souvenir magnetic dash plaques. Collect all four! The initial order of 15 had to be bumped to 25 and that still was not enough as RSVPs had cracked 30 cars. But I figured out how to make round Avery stickers with an AROO logo as additional goodies for those who RSVP'd later. Keith Martin brought some leftover custom *Sports Car Market*/AROO tour hats, which went fast. For the lunch drawing I got a selection of nice chocolate bars and a couple of bottles of wine, and Neil d'Autremont of Sidedraught City provided a bunch of fine Griot's products.







Bonus!

So, two weeks before the tour, Jeff Zurschmeide emails me, saying that he has an Alfa 4C as a press car for the weekend of the tour, and would AROO members like to meet Saturday night to look at it? Boy, do I have a better idea! It only took a little back and forth for Jeff to decide to drive the 4C on the President's Tour, offering our members the chance to have more than a look across the velvet ropes at one of the most exciting cars to be released in years. Needless to say, RSVPs increased substantially on this news. Somehow, Cindy Banzer wangled the right seat in the 4C, probably playing her AROC President card for all it was worth.

Lunch

A poorly executed lunch after a nice tour sours the whole experience. The food and drink have to be good, service fast and friendly, and yes, could we all please sit together and have separate checks? Based on a previous Valentine's Tour experience, I designed the tour to end at the Stone Cliff Inn on the Clackamas River. Lunch for 50 in a private area would be no problem. We agreed on a custom menu and I decided that AROO would spring for appetizers for all participants.

Weather

Ye gods, the weather is the one thing I can't control and the main factor for a good tour. I can't control it, but I can obsess, checking the National Weather Service website hourly. A week out, it looks like the rain will clear and we'll have a "between storms" day. Then, a few days out, morning fog and clouds threaten. On the pre-run the day before, it is foggy and drippy, the roads slick, but Sunday - tour day - dawns clear, bright and dry. Thank you.







Final assembly

With over 30 cars pre-registered, we needed to break the tour into three groups or there would quickly have been chaos. Fred and Lisa McNabb and Stu Moss agreed to lead those other two groups. I went over my final checklist, and printed out 40 copies of route instructions just as FedEx/Kinkos closed Saturday. Connie and I gathered up all the “stuff,” picked up the treats, gassed up the Spider and headed south to the start. After herding folks to the farthest back parking lot, things went well. Everyone grabbed coffee and cookies then crowded around the 4C.

We could be pretty flexible on start time so I did not have to drag folks away from the 4C, but we did get going 15 minutes late. Connie packed up the coffee service and registration table as I gave final instructions and tour group assignments. Everyone lined up and we headed out.

The day was wonderful. The morning light was golden filtered through the early fall leaves, the farms and fields shedding their morning dampness in wisps of vapor. The cows raised their heads and watched as we passed. There was barely another car on the road as we headed east into the hills with the narrow twists hugging the landscape, then back down along the Molalla River. The break went fine, the 4C again attracting admirers. We pushed our courtesy stop to 40 minutes, then headed toward Beavercreek and more hills and twisties before reaching lunch. The Stone Cliff Inn handled our crowd of 59 well and everyone had a great time.

We did lose a few cars as Cindy's spider broke, necessitating a shift in crew so that Jeff ended up with no navigator or instructions and missed lunch. Dave and Penny Rossman had fuel system







problems, but got going again with the help of a local with a tank of compressed air to blow out the clog. Worst was Rick Martin, who backed his Ferrari into an Alfetta at the start and was too bummed to continue. Rick, you missed a good one and we missed having you along.

All in all it was an excellent event. I could not have been more pleased at the turnout, the route or the weather. The 4C was certainly the star of the show, but there were many fine club member cars along, including Stu's "new" 1969 Berlina, Dave Salvador's always beautiful '59 Sprint, George's stunning black 1960 Spider Veloce, Dave Beach's Super, a dozen other spiders, and four GTVs. I was glad to have guests from other clubs come along, so we had a couple of roundish Volvos, a '59 Morgan and a 2014 FIAT 500 Abarth. In total we had 36 cars signed up, which has to be a record. Thanks to everyone who came out. Every once in a while, things just line up.





October 15, AROO Monthly Meeting.

What is it about the third Wednesday of the month? Can't put my finger on it ... no, wait, I know! It's the monthly meeting of the Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon, and thank Giulietta, you're a member! And there's free beer and snacks and interesting presentations and quality social time with fellow owners! Why, you'd have to have a lug nut loose to miss it!

October 18, Monte Shelton & Bob Ames Garage Visits.

It's been a long time since we did a garage visit, so Denny Torgeson has organized one. Two, actually. It starts after breakfast and concludes with lunch. What more could you ask for?

October 19, AROO Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

New location! New menu! Good food! Good drink! I already feel Italian! (Yeah, Luigi, but you're late with the RSVP to [Lee Anne Barham](#). On the other hand, it's worth a shot. Contact her. Make up an interesting story about why you didn't RSVP by October 12 and I'm betting you'll get in anyway. I hate to reinforce bad habits, but just sayin'...)

November 5, AROO Board of Directors Meeting.

All right, so you haven't been to one yet. Surprise us. Show up and burp real loud whenever someone makes a motion. We could use the color commentary. Especially if Mark is absent.

November 19, AROO Monthly Meeting.

Gosh, it seems like we just had one last month. But this one is the annual Board election and auction. We took a lesson from Barrett-Jackson: free beer followed by bidding. Live a little! Be there. Burp real loud. Buy something. Twenty-five years from now you'll look back at this evening and laugh, and you won't remember how much you paid for stuff.

VIEW THE ENTIRE [ACTIVITIES CALENDAR](#) ON OUR WEBSITE

MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.
IN OUR PRIVATE ROOM AT THE LUCKY LAB PUB
915 SE HANTHORNE BLVD., PORTLAND 97214.

THIS MONTH, AROO BOARD MEMBER GEORGE KRAUS PRESENTS A SHORT SLIDE SHOW IN MEMORY OF LONGTIME AROO MEMBER BILL HAINES AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN CLUB ACTIVITIES.

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It has been some time since our club has had a garage tour and now the time has come for a pair of them. We will be viewing Monte Shelton's large collection of classic cars as well as Bob Ames's collection.

Monte's collection includes everything from a 1904 Brighton-to-London car up to a Rolls Royce. Also included are many Alfas, Healeys, Jaguars, and a Morgan just to mention a few. You will be given a narrative of some of the cars by Monte as to why he bought them and their history. You can then end up in the new car showroom and check out the latest models of Jaguar.

Bob Ames is a well-known car guy in the Portland area. Bob has collected some very interesting cars over the years including Alfas, Ferraris and hot rods, and he has a fantastic garage to show them in. Bob and Monte have both shown many cars at the Forest Grove Concours over the years and both have an eclectic variety of cars.

You won't be disappointed!

Meet: Monte's showroom on SW Alder Street, right behind the Jag dealership (same building we use for the Northwest Classic Rally registration).

Date: Saturday, October 18th.

Time: 9:45 a.m. sharp, please. Monte has another appointment at 11:00.

Bob Ames address: 1801 SW Highland Road, Portland, west of the Zoo off Highway 26. I will have a map for all to Bob's place.

After the second garage tour we can go to lunch or you can head home.





If you RSVP ASAP,
you might just get in.
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Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard at 7 p.m.
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but you'll come back for the singalong!





Why is this man smiling?

Because he's driving an Alfa Romeo!

Although it might not last much longer. Dave Beach snapped these pix while on vacation in Hawaii. As you might imagine, the climate there is not friendly to rust-prone cars, but that doesn't seem to discourage this owner.

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