

# ALFA BITS



PUBLISHED CON BRIO BY THE  
ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON  
NOVEMBER 2014



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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](http://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



Once again this month we can't decide on a cover, so you get two.

The first is Bob Ames's Bugatti, as seen by members who attended the Garage Tour on October 18.

The second is of AROO President Roger Dilts at the Fall Track Day on October 5.

*Photos by Editor*

## MAY CONTAIN NUTS

EDITOR'S COLUMN, "Con Brio"	4-5
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, "Driver's Seat"	6
CLUB BUSINESS	
<i>October Board Meeting Minutes</i>	7
PAST EVENTS	
<i>Shelton / Ames Garage Tour</i>	8-11
<i>Fall Track Day in Photos</i>	12-17
FUTURE EVENTS	18
<i>AROO Monthly Meeting</i>	19
<i>Board of Directors Meeting</i>	20
SOME OTHER STUFF	21-23
RALLY SPONSORS	24
OUR ADVERTISERS	25-27
REAR VIEW MIRROR	28



"All the veloce  
that's fit to print"

This month we have a guest editorial by the chairman of the Northwest Classic Rally, who coincidentally is also your editor, so allow me to introduce myself and the subject of the editorial: **How AROO Benefits from the Northwest Classic Rally**. I think that this is a subject that is widely under-appreciated and even misunderstood by some, and I also believe that it is important for every AROO member to better understand this special event and the many important benefits that it brings to the club.

**First**, the most important benefit is *fun*. The rally constitutes an event that is *the epitome of what car clubs are established to accomplish*, and that is to provide opportunities for enjoying our cars in association with other like-minded owners. The rally is an opportunity for sporting use of our cars like no other event we conduct. "Fun" is what sports cars and car clubs are all about, and it is the main purpose of the rally.

**Second**, the rally provides unique social opportunities – another very important function of a car club – and as I stated on the evening in 2007 when I was appointed event chairman, "The rally is fundamentally a social event built around a rally." My approach has been that the rally is a mobile party - a "serial social event" that is spread over four days. But even more than that, it also provides social opportunities to those members not involved in the rally, and at no cost to the club. Of course the rally is open to all members, and many participate as entrants or volunteers, but even those members who are not entrants or volunteers may still enjoy several social functions provided by the rally:

- The pre-rally party on the day before the Thursday registration is being restarted in 2015 and is open to all AROO members. The AROO general account does not contribute to – i.e., pay "a share" of – funding this event. It is a benefit to the entire club by virtue of our hosting the rally, at no cost to the club.
- Likewise, all AROO members, even if they are not a rally entrant or volunteer, are invited to the rally's Thursday evening registration/block party/car show in downtown Portland at Monte Shelton's Alder Street showroom. The AROO general account does not contribute to funding this event either.
- Ditto for the Friday morning rally departure where AROO members who are not involved in the event as an entrant or volunteer typically appear, again at no cost to the club.

**Third**, the rally increases the prestige of the club like no other event. We have received interest and acclaim from literally across the continent due to several factors, the most important of which is undoubtedly the association that I initiated several years ago with Bring-A-Trailer ([www.bringatrailer.com](http://www.bringatrailer.com)) and the publicity we have received there has been seen by thousands and thousands of their readers. *Today the event is so popular that the 2015 rally sold out within hours of the conclusion of the last rally*. Yes, the last rally concluded at about noon on Sunday, July 27, and at 8 a.m. the next day we filled next year's rally with 100 registrations. What's more, we currently have 38 on the wait list for next year's rally, and it is still over eight months in the future. To say that the rally is "popular" is a gross understatement - it is now a phenomenon without equal.



**Fourth**, management of the AROO website is conducted by a non-AROO member, at no charge to AROO, as part of a trade of reduced rally registration fee for this service. This offsets potential expense to AROO by virtue of hosting the rally – a spin-off benefit to AROO that the rally is not reimbursed for.

**It is no exaggeration to say that there are hundreds of car clubs across the globe that would be absolutely delighted to host this event, and even to pay for the privilege of bringing these important benefits to their members.**

And yet, even on top of all of the benefits that I have listed, there is yet a **fifth** benefit to the club. In addition to all that the rally does for the club, not only does the rally not cost AROO anything, but instead *it is actually a source of club income. In fact, it is the club's only source of guaranteed income.*

The \$2,000 transferred annually from rally funds to the club's general account is budgeted and paid before other event expenses. Therefore it is guaranteed and the remaining rally funds are used for the rally. (This \$2,000 that AROO keeps is not merely a "possible profit" remaining after expenses. The funds provided to the club by the rally come "off the top" and so they are guaranteed.)

In summary, the Northwest Classic fulfills the club purposes like no other event and brings significant benefits, *and yet it also even brings with it guaranteed income.*

For all of these reasons it is little wonder that the Monte Shelton Northwest Classic Rally is our trademark event, and every AROO member should be proud of it and proud to be in the club that hosts this unique and prestigious opportunity to use our cars as intended, to meet other members as well as owners of other marques and enjoy their cars as well as our Alfa Romeos, to enjoy the many social opportunities that it provides, and to know that in addition to all of that, the rally also even funds a very large percentage of the club's annual operating expense – *a much bigger percentage than ever before*, even while the club continues to sit on a huge, unprogrammed cash reserve.

So for all of these many good reasons I hope that you share the pride that the Rally Team feels about this very special event, an event that fulfills the club purposes like no other, that brings great credit and prestige to the club, and that occupies such an important place on the motorsports calendar and in the car culture of the entire region.

It is a **huge** undertaking to plan, coordinate, organize, prepare and present this event, but we do it because we're passionate about it and the people who are in it and who support it - we're passionate about producing the very best event we can for the many people who appreciate it so very much.

"All the veloce  
that's fit to print"

[Reid Trummel, Chairman](#)

BITS



By the time you read this it may feel like winter has hit the great Northwest. The trusty Weather Service says lows below freezing in Portland the next couple of nights and (gasp!) freezing rain expected. The spider has had its last drive of the season and is safely in Mike's garage, with Sta-Bil in the tank and the battery disconnected. I'm looking forward to a winter of finally painting the too-embarrassed-to-tell-you-how-long basement project and maybe getting to work on the Berlina. Right now the only car activity is shopping for new tires for the FIAT.

But do not despair! All is not lost, there are still great AROO events on the calendar to get you through. First is this month's regular membership meeting at the Lucky Lab. The meeting will get underway with the annual election of Board members. AROO's business is conducted by a 10-person Board of Directors. Every year five of the seats come up for election. Four of the folks filling those seats have agreed to run for re-election, specifically Cindy Banzer, Mark Carpenter, Russ Paine, and Bob Stewart. Cindy is the newly-elected president of the Alfa Romeo Owner's Club, so it's great to have her on our Board as well to keep us in touch with goings-on at the national level. Mark Carpenter is a dedicated long-time AROO member who has served our club in many roles over the years, including chair of the Monte Shelton Rally. Russ Paine, also a long-time AROO member, is finishing his first term on the Board acting as our Secretary and organizing the Summer Picnic and Tour. New-comer Bob Stewart has jumped in enthusiastically and organized a Karting Night and kept the calendar up to date. All these folks deserve your vote. Dennis Torgeson has decided to make room for a new-comer after organizing many fine events and otherwise serving with distinction. Dennis' departure gives us one open seat, so if you are interested in serving your club, it's not too late.

Following the election, we'll move on to the AROO Auction, run again this year by veteran auctioneer Patrick Iaboni. Last year we brought in enough money to pay the room rental for the year, which was quite a feat. We can do it again this year if you bring: 1) stuff, 2) money, and 3) a generous attitude. The "stuff" can be Alfa parts, tools, clothing, art, wine, jewelry, magazines, whatever you think someone else will buy. Go wild and donate a weekend at your mountain cabin or a gift certificate for your business. The money can be dollars, euros, krugerrands, Swiss francs (probably no lire, sorry), and checks are good, too. And that generous attitude: this is your club and we need your support, so come ready to spend. Get in a bidding war for a SPICA throttle body or a set of earrings and walk out feeling as stoked as if you'd bought a pre-war Alfa at Russo and Steele. For a lot less.

The AROO year winds up with our annual Holiday Party, organized by Cindy Banzer. This year's event will be at the Multnomah Athletic Club on December 7. Be sure to watch your mailbox for an invitation and email for reminders. We'll be awarding trophies for the AROO Cup Rally Series and recognizing this year's recipient of the McGill Award. Plus prize drawings and great food, drink and friendship. So get your check in to Cindy and join us for what promises to be a great evening. You can paint the basement later.

*[Roger Dilts, Club President](#)*



Location: Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard.

In Attendance: Board members Lee Anne, Reid, Bob, Roger, Dennis, Russ, Mark, Yulia and member Ken Hart.

Time: 7 p.m.

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

1. Minutes review – Russ Paine. Bob moved to approve, Lee Anne seconded. Approved.
2. Treasurer's Report - Cindy Banzer (absent, see email) – reviewed and no adjustments.
3. Past events reports:
  - a. Aug 22-24 AROO Summer Tour – no discussion.
  - b. Sept 13-14 Fall Tour – 4 cars only.
  - c. Sept 28 Pres. Tour – Roger – 34 cars, excellent on all fronts – weather, 4C, food, tour leader!
4. Upcoming events
  - a. Oct 5 Track Day - (43 entries as of last night, weather to be perfect – Volunteer recruiting underway.
  - b. Oct 15 Meeting, Remembering Bill Haines – George (absent).
  - c. Oct 19 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Lee Anne. At Ernesto's, will be pasta dinner, 37 so far.
  - d. Nov election and auction – Bob – Good progress, Patrick I. is auctioneer.
  - e. December Holiday Party – Cindy at MAC. Confirmed, Dec 7, \$38 per person inclusive. Invite Pam H.
5. Reid's report: MSNCR, Bits and website. Bits deadline Oct 8.
6. Calendar Review – Bob. Drafting a first version for review.
7. Membership Report - Lee Anne – 1 new member – Steve Douglas, has 164.
8. Merchandise/Apparel – Yulia – next general meeting will bring new items.
9. Competition and track – Mark – in good order, found vests.
10. Advertising/Promotion – George (absent).
11. AROC report – Pres. Cindy (absent).

Continuing and New Business 8:00 – 8:30

1. Dennis updates on other events: tour Monte Shelton collection and Bob Ames garage Oct 18, 10 a.m. through lunch.  
Tour with NWARC – considering something similar to Tour Around Washington (smaller scale).
2. Other topics: 4C buyers – different demographic. Need to think about how to welcome/integrate into club.

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

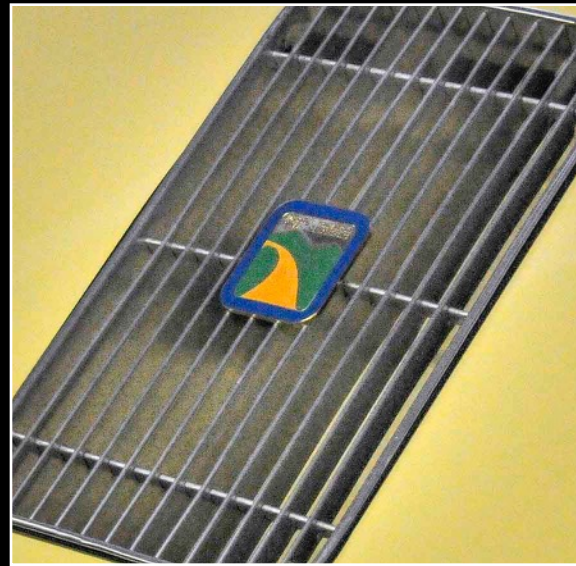
[Submitted by Russ Paine, Secretary](#)



*Above: Monte and Kevin Blount during the visit to Monte's Alder Street showroom.*

*Upper right: A familiar badge.*

*Lower right: Monte presenting his cars.*



Words by Roger Dilts

Images by Editor

Garage tours can be a tricky proposition. Usually somebody has heard of somebody who has some old cars squirreled away and finally convinces them to let the local car club traipse through. Like as not it won't be what you expected: the cars will be ratty, the garage will be dirty and dark and the owner will mumble a bit about some obscure aspect of one of the cars, and everyone will go home disappointed. If that has been your experience and it kept you away from the AROO Garage Tour that Denny Torgeson put together, you really missed out.

First, this was not just "some guys." Monte Shelton and Bob Ames are both highly respected members of the Portland car world – racing, selling, collecting, and driving in prestigious events around the world. Both are long-time members and supporters of AROO. The cars are pristine and well displayed, and their owners shared interesting stories about them and showed us a great time.

We began with coffee and pastries at Monte Shelton's Jaguar dealership in the room where registration takes place for the Monte Shelton Northwest Classic Rally. Monte stores quite a few of his cars there, mostly Porsche 356s and Alfa spiders, plus various race cars. Monte shared some great stories about acquiring and racing the cars. Everyone was free to mill around checking out them out and asking Monte questions. After a good two hours, we all headed up to Bob Ames's house in the west hills.





If you asked every car guy in the world what four cars they'd want in their garage, guaranteed you'd get a world of answers, maybe no two the same. But if you said, "OK, how about a Ferrari Lusso, an Alfa Romeo 6C 1750, a Porsche Speedster, and an Austin-Healey 100S, you'd probably get a lot of head nods (maybe not from the Corvette guys, but still...) and that is just what's in Bob Ames's garage.

Along with motorcycles, bicycles, and enough trophies, models, posters, and other automobilia to fill a small museum. Plus model airplanes hanging from the ceiling. And the Bugatti in the next room.

You could have spent hours just looking at the things on part of one wall. After Bob told the story behind each car and we all had time to look them over, we moved up to the house, where Kathleen Ames had prepared a wonderful Italian lunch for everyone. We wound up the tour with fine cheese, meats and drinks in a perfect setting with a most gracious host and hostess.

Thanks to Monte, Bob and Kathleen for their generosity in sharing their time and collections with us, and thanks to Denny Torgeson for making the arrangements.

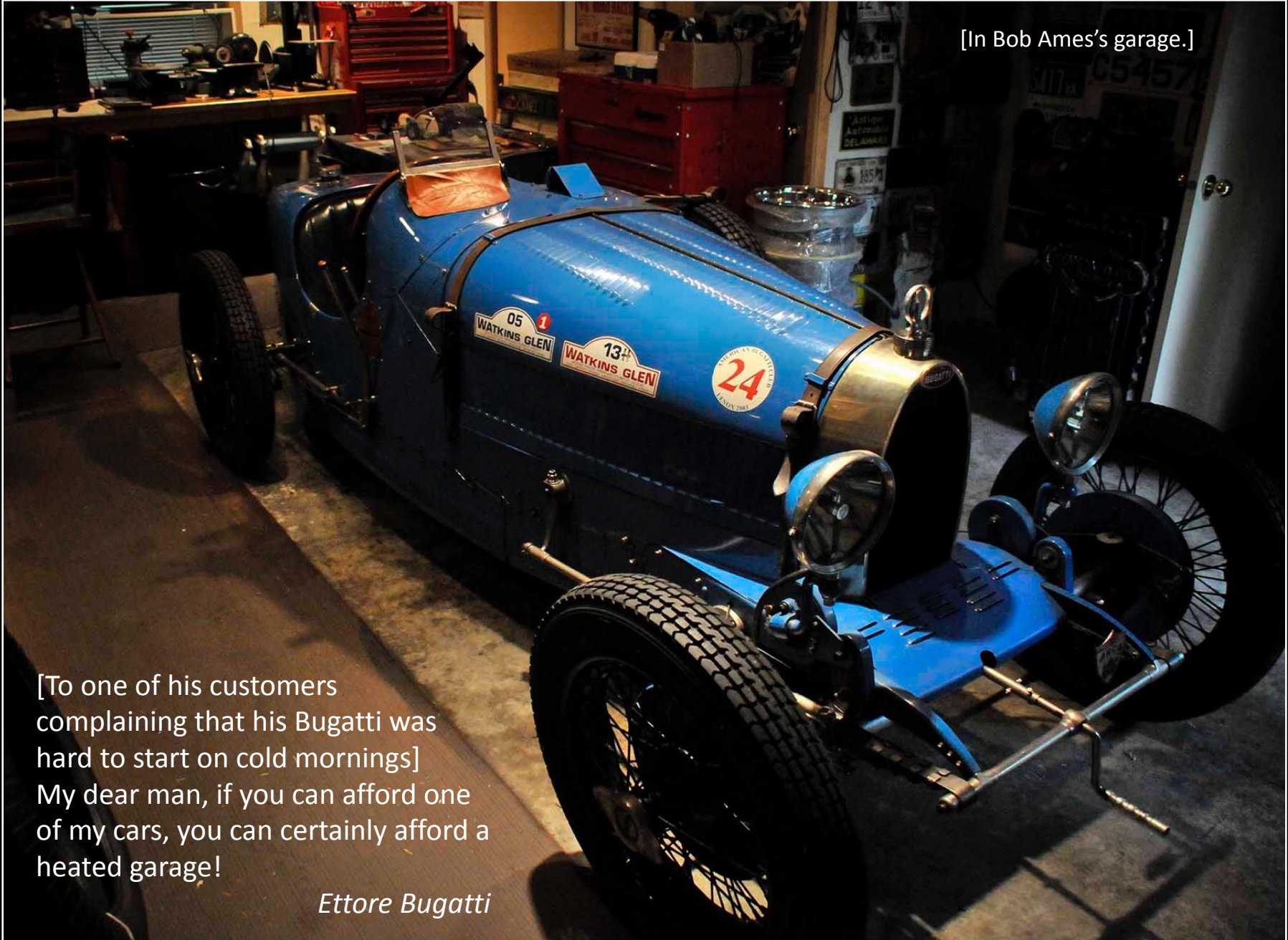


*Monte's collection includes lots of fun cars, but also some vintage bicycles. Number 57 is Monte's trademark racecar number.*



*Below: AROO members file into Bob's "Highland Garage." Inside, in addition to the impressive cars, was a very impressive collection of automobilia as well as model airplanes.*  
*Bottom, center: Bob answers questions about his collection.*





[In Bob Ames's garage.]

[To one of his customers  
complaining that his Bugatti was  
hard to start on cold mornings]  
My dear man, if you can afford one  
of my cars, you can certainly afford a  
heated garage!

*Ettore Bugatti*



[ Jay Gratchner / Alfa Romeo GTV6 Balocco ]





[ Jay Gratchner again, moments later ]





[ Randy Johnson / 1978 Alfetta Coupe ]





[ AROO President Roger Dilts, working in pre-grid, watches cars pass through Turns 11 and 12 ]





[ If this looks like a grainy, underexposed snapshot from a 1960s photo album, that's intentional. Dan Sommers, in a grainy, underexposed Duetto, drives past "the point" (Turn 12 exit) with the PIR billboard in the background ]







[ There were also German and American cars present ]



## 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. Bring something to donate for the auction. Buy something. Twenty-five years from now you'll look back at this evening and laugh, and your bank balance will recover by then.

## December 3, AROO Board of Directors Meeting.

We're so lonely. Just us and dinner alone again at Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard. In our own lonely private room in the back. You could make a difference. Bring us some soup. Maybe a small bouquet. A magazine. Anything. Bring a moment of joy to a Board member's day. It will enrich your life, too. Just seeing the faint glimmer of a smile on an old Board member's face will be a memory you'll cherish for years to come. The holidays are coming and we'll be alone again. It doesn't have to be this way. You can be the ray of joy that we pine for. Will you be there? We will. And we're so lonely. Nothing but motions and seconds to break up the monotony. Make a difference. Reach out and touch a Board member's heart. Change a life, and yours too. I recommend the meat salad with brisket.

## December 7, AROO Holiday Party.

You got the "Save The Date" email (or you should have). You got the Holiday Card with the details (or you will, probably on Monday). Then there's this newsletter to again remind you. We'll send at least one more email too. We don't discourage easily. And we have no pride. How can we have a Holiday Party without you? Listen, I've had it up to here and then some seeing the same old people every time. Oi! We need some fresh blood. We're in a rut so deep we can't see the sunset. Hey, you like good food, right? And you probably don't hate wine. The Multnomah Athletic Club is a private club, so this is your chance to see inside. So even if you've never been to a club event, come and have dinner with strangers. It builds character and we're not that strange. Well, not all of us.



We have our own private room at the Lucky Lab Pub, like our very own clubhouse. And there's free beer, free snacks, good friends, and fun times waiting for you there.

## November Meeting - Election and Auction

The November meeting includes the annual election of board members as well as our annual auction. Auctioneer Extraordinaire Patrick Laboni will be presenting wondrous wares for your discerning eye. Please bring your checkbooks because you won't want to miss out on the opportunities presented.

Where do these "wondrous wares" come from? Glad you asked! That's where you come in. Please bring Alfa-related or other "wares" you consider "wondrous" (wine, automotive collectibles, jewelry, stocks, bonds, etc.) to donate for the auction. It's a fun and effective way to boost the club coffers, whatever a coffer is.

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Lucky Lab Pub](#)

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Wednesday, NOVEMBER 19,  
beginning at 7:30 p.m.



**Buster's Texas Style Barbecue  
in Tigard at 7 p.m.  
We're so lonely.**

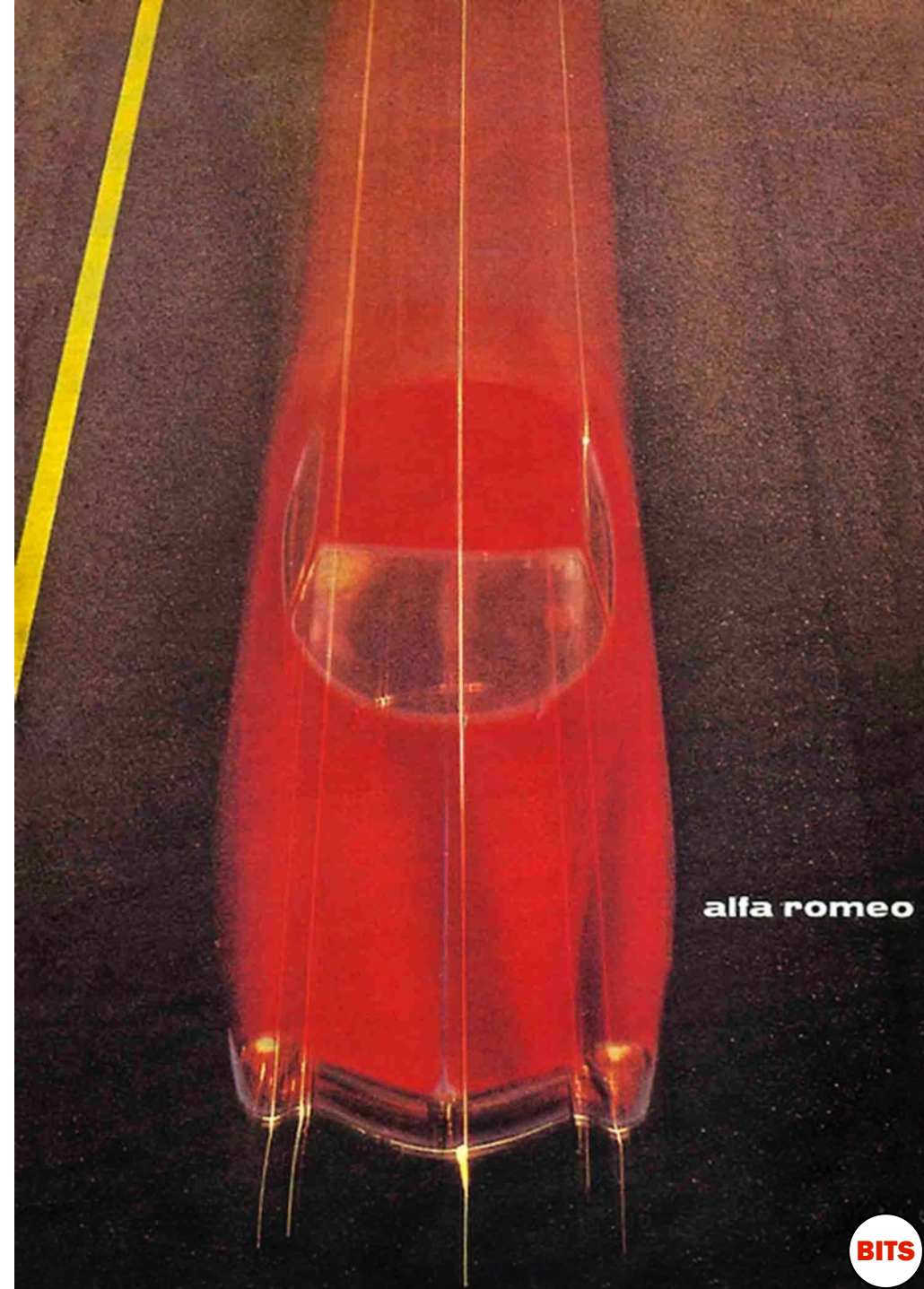


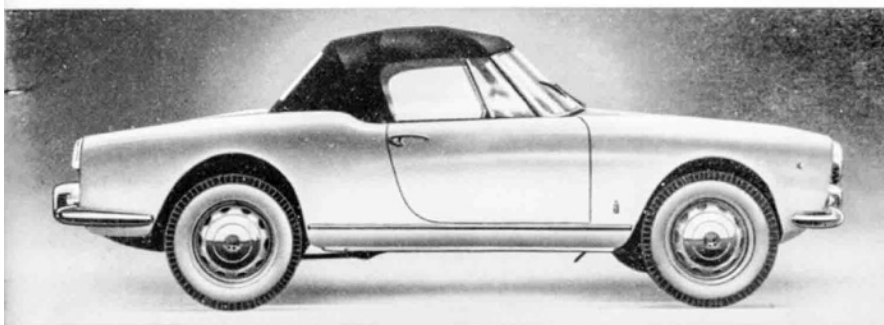
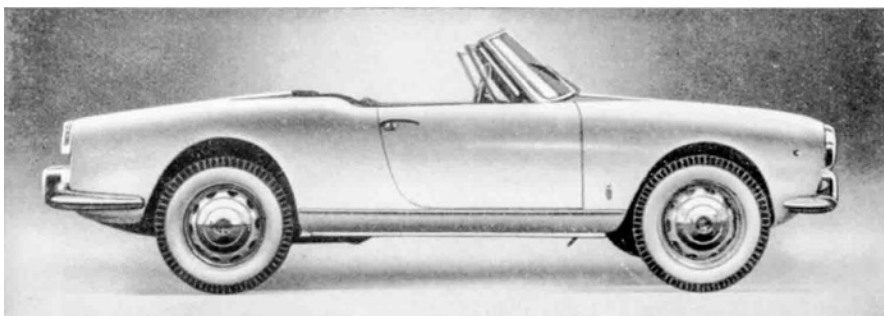


Above: An artist's concept of a Giulia GT brought up to date (LOVE IT).

Right: Just a cool photo from an old ad.

Under: A greeting card with a Spider in relief.





In both versions, the powerful engine, small dimensions and narrow steering radius give the Giulietta remarkable managerial ability on mountain roads. Due to the fully synchronized gear box, it is possible to down gear back into first and push to maximum power on the sharpest curves. The Giulietta Spider adapts itself to 40 % slopes while the Spider Veloce can attain 43 %. On straight roads, whether the surface is wet or dry and on wide curves the managerial ability of the Giulietta is really surprising. At the end of a curve, the wheel comes back rapidly. The precision of direct steering is exceptional; three turns of the steering wheel is enough for going from lock to lock. The soft but strong suspension gives the Giulietta a smooth drive.


The brakes are highly efficient and secure, with world famed instantaneous action which allows the car to come to a stop even at high speed, due to both dimensions and excellent cooling. The braking action does not fade even after the most intensive use.

The heart of the excellent performance of the Giulietta Spider is the engine, rated at 80 HP (SAE 92) at 6300 r.p.m. The double barrel vertical Solex 35 APAL-G carburetor is fitted with an accelerating pump and with a hydraulic amortizer on the automatically controlled regulator. This provides regular carburetion. Most remarkable: this engine is perfectly silent. The engine of Giulietta Veloce has the same general characteristics as that of the Spider but is equipped with two horizontal double barrel carburetors - Weber 40 DCO 3, which gives it a rated power of 90 HP (SAE 104) at 6500 r.p.m.

Fitted with a twin over head camshaft at the head of the cylinders, the Giulietta engine is exceptionally strong and resistant, meeting the hardest requirements and guaranteeing the longest performance. The power output is constant at all engine speeds due to the perfect balance between carburetion and firing. The flexibility of the power supply allows the best use to be made of all ratios, at low or high speed. Also the coupling is extremely supple and does not need any higher than normal effort. Whether you choose a Spider or a Spider Veloce, you will enjoy driving the Giulietta. On the open road, or in town, summer or winter, to work or for pleasure, you will have a marvelous satisfaction, together with the feeling of pride and youth so much appreciated by the sophisticated driver.

**Life will be wonderful for you... with a Giulietta...**

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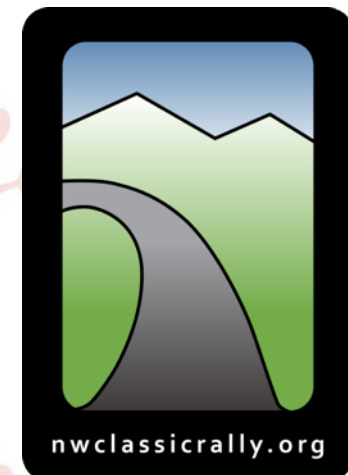
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