

# ALFA BITS



PUBLISHED CON BRIO BY THE  
ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON  
MARCH 2015



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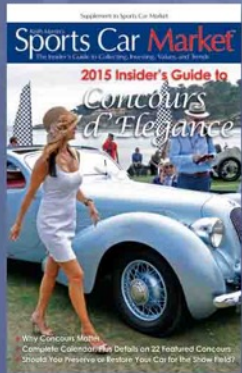
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Keith first joined the Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon club in 1969

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## 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](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 [George Kraus](#) 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



Automotive journalist Rob Sass assesses Alfa Romeo's return to the US market, beginning on [page 20](#), courtesy of Hagerty Classic Car Insurance.

## MAY CONTAIN NUTS

EDITOR'S COLUMN, "Con Brio"	5
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, "Driver's Seat"	6
CLUB BUSINESS	
<i>February Board Meeting Minutes</i>	7
PAST EVENTS	
<i>AROO Rally School &amp; Cup Rally #1</i>	8-9
<u>FUTURE EVENTS</u>	11
<i>AROO Monthly Meeting</i>	12
<i>AROO Swap Meet</i>	13
<i>AROO Track Day</i>	14
<i>AROO Board of Directors Meeting</i>	15
<i>Joint AROO-NWARC Tour</i>	16
<i>AROO Summer Tour</i>	17
SOME OTHER STUFF	20-27
RALLY SPONSORS	28
<u>ANOTHER REAL, LIVE CAR-FOR-SALE AD!</u>	29
REAR VIEW MIRROR	31

## ADVERTISER INDEX

<a href="#">Sports Car Shop Restorations</a>	2
<a href="#">Sports Car Market</a>	3
<a href="#">Arrow Mechanical Company</a>	10
<a href="#">Cascade Investment Advisors</a>	10
<a href="#">Columbia Roofing &amp; Sheet Metal</a>	19
<a href="#">Hagerty Collector Car Insurance</a>	19
<a href="#">Nasko's Imports</a>	30
<a href="#">Sidedraught City</a>	30
<a href="#">PMX Custom Alternators &amp; Starters</a>	30
<a href="#">Guy's Interior Restorations</a>	30

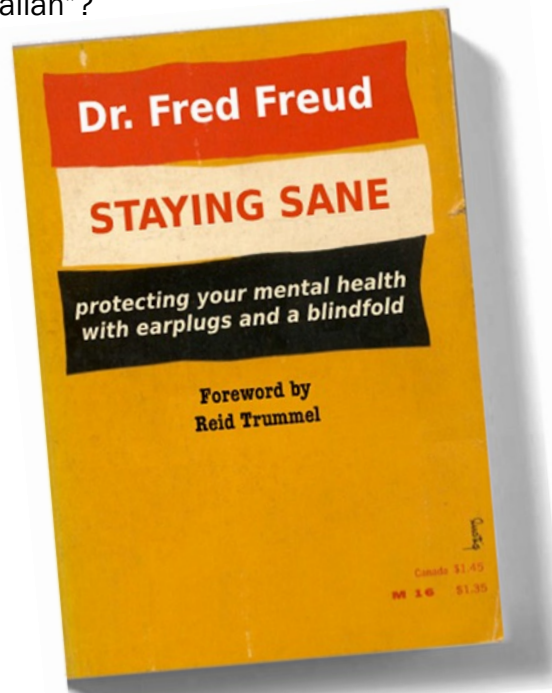


Ever notice how many coffee names are Italian? “Cappuccino” (actually spelled with three letter c’s, unlike the chart at right), “latte,” that sort of thing. So you need to be a little bit bilingual to Know Your Coffee. Therefore I thought I’d present this chart with all the Italian you’ll ever need.

What’s this have to do with Alfa Romeos? Not a darn thing. Why do you ask?

However, lots of Alfa Romeo stuff is happening, or about to. We’ve got the details. We hope you can mocha it to lots of them. There’s no cappuccino on the number of events you can attend. Don’t be latte! They’ll call you a doppio. I plan to macchiato it to most of them. Sorry, but I just felt the need to espresso myself.

Is that what they call speaking “fluid Italian”?



"All the veloce that's fit to print"



Reid Trummel, Editor

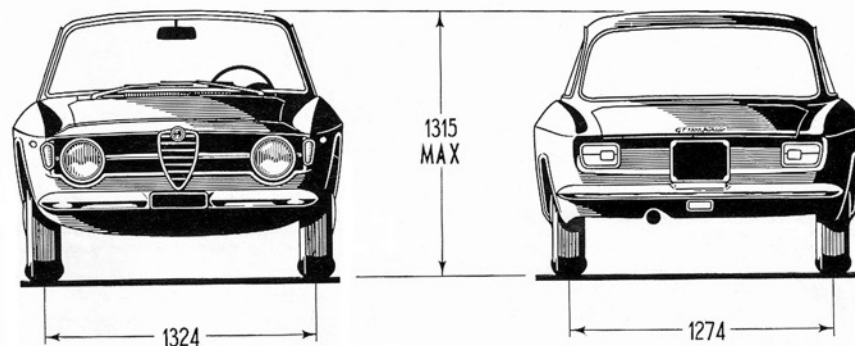
It's way too early in the active driving season to be seeing it, but I'm concerned we may be overtaxing our most active members. If not addressed, burnout can start a death spiral in an organization as those who put on events back out under stress, events fail to go on, participation drops, and the remaining organizers don't see the point in giving the time when only a few people participate. As I said, I haven't seen this yet, but the potential is there. Most of our events are organized by very busy Board members and supported by the same few volunteers. AROO is one of the most active AROC chapters in the country, putting on numerous rallies, tours, track days and social events in a very busy calendar. We are proud of this and members seem to like the variety, but all this work being done by the same people is not sustainable. The solution to this problem is you.

You need to step up when asked. When an organizer asks for volunteers, sign up and show up. It's one of the most rewarding ways to participate in club events. You'll probably have more fun than anyone else and feel better about it. You'll meet new people (who will be really happy to have you helping out), and you'll gain a greater appreciation for the work it takes to run a club like ours. None of the volunteer roles are so hard that you can't learn them. Our Track Day work group has developed "job descriptions" for each volunteer position from registration and tech to the tower and pre-grid, making it much easier to participate in Track Day as a volunteer.

We've also created a second management tier for Track Day so that the Chairman can share the responsibilities for obtaining volunteers. When one of these folks asks for your help in the next week or so, say yes.

Then, don't wait to be asked. All events should not be created and led by Board members. If you've never created a tour or other event and don't want to start from scratch, volunteer to help out the organizer and learn the ropes. Next time the event can be all yours. So call Erik Roe and ask if he needs help on the Old Spider Tour; ask Russ Paine if you can help on the picnic; ask Dave Fish if you can help set up a Summer Evening Tour; yes, and ask me if you can ride along when I scout and measure a rally. I'll say yes and the others probably will, too. You'll get to make a major contribution to your club and a peek backstage to see what makes it work. And you'll see that it's you.

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





February 4, 2015 Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Buster's Barbecue, Tigard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mark, George, Reid, Roger, Bob, Russ, Ken H., Erik R.  
ABSENT: Cindy, Lee Anne, David, Yulia.

### Upcoming events and liaison reports:

1. Minutes review - approved.
2. Treasurer's Report - Cindy - absent.
3. Past events reports:
  - a. Monthly Meeting - well attended ~50; excellent talk by Dale LaFollette.
  - b. Karting Challenge - Full group of 12; fun for all; plan to repeat in 2016.
4. Upcoming Events
  - a. February Meeting - Reid to host - Michele Rand to present AZ Auctions.
  - b. Valentine's Tour - Feb 22 - Roger will lead, 10 am start.
  - c. AROO Rally School - Sat March 7 at Max's, 10 am. \$10 cost.
  - d. AROO Cup Rally #1 - Sun March 8.
5. MSNWCR - Reid - 145 on entry/waiting list, Bill Caswell - BMW Wunderkind pending as speaker.
6. Calendar Review - Bob completed. Swap Meet - March 22 - at Eastman's - who is organizer/host?
7. Membership - Lee Anne/Yulia - absent.
8. Merchandise - Yulia/Lee Anne - absent.
9. Competition and Track - Mark - work sessions planned last two Saturdays of February. A tiered pricing strategy proposed by Reid and approved by all for March Track Day (\$150, \$195, \$240, \$250) to increase attendance and advanced signups, share weather risk. Currently 50% signup in last five days prior to event. Depending on total entries, run groups and session time may need to be modified. Results to be reviewed.
10. Advertising/Promotion - George - ahead of budget based on commits to pay.
11. AROC Report - Cindy - absent.

### New and Continuing Business

1. Tour with NWARC - Dennis - absent.
2. AROC insurance coverage review - Roger provided update and will complete a draft summary.

Adjourned - 8:30 p.m.

*Submitted by Russ Paine, Secretary*



*Roger Dilts, AROO Cup Rally Series Director*

Twenty-one enthusiastic students showed up at Max's Fanno Creek Brew Pub on Saturday morning, March 7, for the annual AROO Rally School. Ranging in experience from zero to "too many" years of experience, they were eager to learn or refine the skills needed to participate and move up in this exciting motorsport. As always, the distinguished faculty included top finishing drivers and navigators in the very competitive local rally scene as well as one guy who thinks he can write rallies.

The students were first led through the General Instructions (which constitute "the rules"), learning abbreviations, definitions and the finer points of procedure. We hit the high points and touched on the nuances of definitions that can be used to create traps for the unwary. Once those were introduced and illustrated with examples, we moved on to a "Rally by PowerPoint," which takes the class through a typical time-speed-distance regularity, showing turn by turn what decisions need to be made and how to apply the rules to remain on course. The class wrapped up with Yulia Smolyansky providing tips for navigators, Larry LeFebvre providing tips for drivers, and the always popular Fred and Lisa McNabb bringing everyone back to earth with "Rallying Just for Fun."

The very next morning most all the class plus enough others to bring the starting grid to 18 cars showed up for the first AROO Cup Rally of the season. It was a bright, beautiful, dry morning, perfect for a rally. Cars were a wide assortment including four Alfas, two Jags, an MGB, two Boxsters, a couple of FIAT 500s, a BMW 2002, a TR6, a stunning black 65 Mustang (power can only get you *into* trouble) along with other less classic entries.

This is the first year of having two classes in the AROO Cup: Vintage (which allows no calculation devices) and Open which allows whatever you want. Vintage is the only class where scores are kept; the Open class is non-competitive (yeah, right) for those wanting to practice their calculation skills. All but three of the teams chose the Vintage class.

After the requisite odo calibration and a brief transit, the rallyists did a brief, easy regularity, with only one team getting fooled by a road that zigged when they thought it should have zagged, and lots of good low scores, including Fred and Lisa who were "just having fun" by zeroing the leg. Then things got more interesting. Only half the cars made it to the second timing control, the rest exploring unforeseen alternate routes, some seemingly victims of overthinking, more definitely underthinking, and the rest doing it just right. After the break, another case of "didn't see the sign" (compounded by a sign that wasn't supposed to be there) threw a majority off course. The final regularity again saw only half the teams finishing and all but two beyond the maximum allowed time of five minutes late.







But, everybody made it to lunch which included in impromptu meeting of the Rally Rules Debating Society. However, a rope was not involved and there were more smiles than scowls, and many said they'd be back, so a good day, considering. When a newcomer wants to immediately go re-drive the course after lunch to figure out where she went wrong, I'm stoked. (Her husband thought she was nuts, but I think we just found a rallyist.) Expect next month to be even better. For full results, see the table.

Car #	TEAM (DRIVER/NAVIGATOR)	CLASS	TSD1	TSD2	TSD3	TSD4	TOTAL	PLACE
2	S. COLISCH/B. COLISCH	V	1	6	7	300	314	1
6	S. BLEDSOE/K. BLEDSOE	V	2	34	2	300	338	2
12	CHAMBERS/LEE	V	26	20	5	300	351	3
8	K. ELLIS/B.ELLIS	V	3	64	6	300	373	4
3	F. MCNABB/L. MCNABB	V	0	300	35	68	403	5
10	C. EMRICK/D.EMRICK	V	11	98	33	300	442	6
18	ZORICH/STEARNS	V	14	112	300	71	497	7
1	EKLUND/HAWORTH	V	7	300	13	300	620	8
11	BARHAM/CLARK	V	40	300	87	300	727	9
4	J. EASTBURN/ A. EASTBURN	V	114	22	300	300	736	10
14	E. GODSHALK/J.GODSHALK	V	14	300	300	300	914	11
15	HOWELL/REINHAUS	V	15	300	300	300	915	12
16	D. HONES/S. HONES	V	16	300	300	300	916	13
7	MAY/SEIGFRED	V	23	300	300	300	923	14
17	BRUCE/MEADOWS	V	240	300	300	300	1140	15
13	B. MCNABB/D.MCNABB	O	5	77	19	300	401	---
5	BEST/SMOLYANSKY	O	4	4	300	300	608	---
9	D. SIMONS/J. SIMONS	O	2	238	300	300	840	---



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### March 18, AROO Monthly Meeting

We're short on details at press time, but the basics remain the same: nice place, good food and drink, fellow Alfisti. Anything on top of that is just a bonus.

### March 22, AROO Swap Meet

Give yourself a reason to clean out your garage this spring: come and buy some stuff that you'll be anxious to get rid of. Just kidding. At the very least there's free food and beverage. But get in the spirit - bring stuff to sell. Buy stuff to sell there the next year. Who knows, the value may go up.

### March 28, Spring Track Day

Drive. Volunteer. Watch. Dine at the Fast Track Cafe. We're got everything you want, and most of what you need. Mostly, please volunteer.

### April 1, AROO Board of Directors Meeting

Join us at Buster's Texas Style Barbecue in Tigard in our own private room in the back. 7 p.m. Good seating always available. Ask about our monthly specials on motions and seconds!

### April 5, AROO Cup Rally #2

Yes, it's on Easter. Who knew? Our research department didn't turn up that nugget when we made the calendar. Expect Easter eggs to be among the prizes.

### April 18-19, Old Spider Tour

We're short on details at press time, but save the dates. More to follow.

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



We have our own private room at our NEW LOCATION: Ernesto's Italian Restaurant.  
It's like our very own clubhouse.

Order from the special "AROO Menu" of light-to-medium fare!

THE MARCH MEETING FEATURES A PRESENTATION ON  
**SOMETHING WE'RE SURE YOU'LL ENJOY**

AROO MEMBERS [INSERT NAME HERE] AND [INSERT NAME HERE] WILL PRESENT  
[INSERT BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT HERE; BE SURE TO INCLUDE ADEQUATE DETAILS TO  
ENTICE MEMBERS TO ATTEND - MAKE THE PRESENTATION IRRESISTIBLE. USE TERMS SUCH AS  
"FASCINATING" AND "UNIQUE" WHILE EMPHASIZING THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE OPPORTUNITY].

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT [INSERT SUBJECT HERE].

DID WE MENTION THE FOOD? IT'S REALLY GOOD!

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Ernesto's Italian Restaurant](#)

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Wednesday, March 18,  
beginning at 7:30 p.m.,  
but feel free to come early and  
have dinner before or during the meeting.



# ONE POINT TWO ONE JIGAWATTS? WHERE AM I GONNA GET ONE POINT TWO ONE JIGAWATTS?

You never can tell. You just might find them at the **AROO Swap Meet** on Sunday, March 22! Bring those Alfa parts that you're looking to sell or trade along with any extra jigawatts you have laying around to Bill Eastman's "Auto Sports" Garage, 5815 SE Foster Road in Portland.

Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m., not 9 a.m., not 9:56 a.m., but at 10:00 a.m.!

For this event to be successful we need your help in bringing Alfa-related items that are in usable condition to help another member. This is a perfect opportunity to clean out your workspace, get rid of things you really aren't going to use and even make a few bucks!

We will provide some covered area with tables in case it rains. Please bring your own table and chairs if you have them.

The club is providing good eats such as dogs, chips and cold drinks, to name just a few of the items that will be on the menu. Free for all club members. And, as our editor is fond of pointing out, free is a good price!

One last thing. You know you are going to bring some parts to sell, but be prepared to take some of your friends' parts home. It is a Swap Meet, after all...



There's the track. There are the cars. And then there's the people that bring them together to produce a concoction of thrills, heavy breathing, steely eyed concentration, and, oh yes, fun. We call these people volunteers.



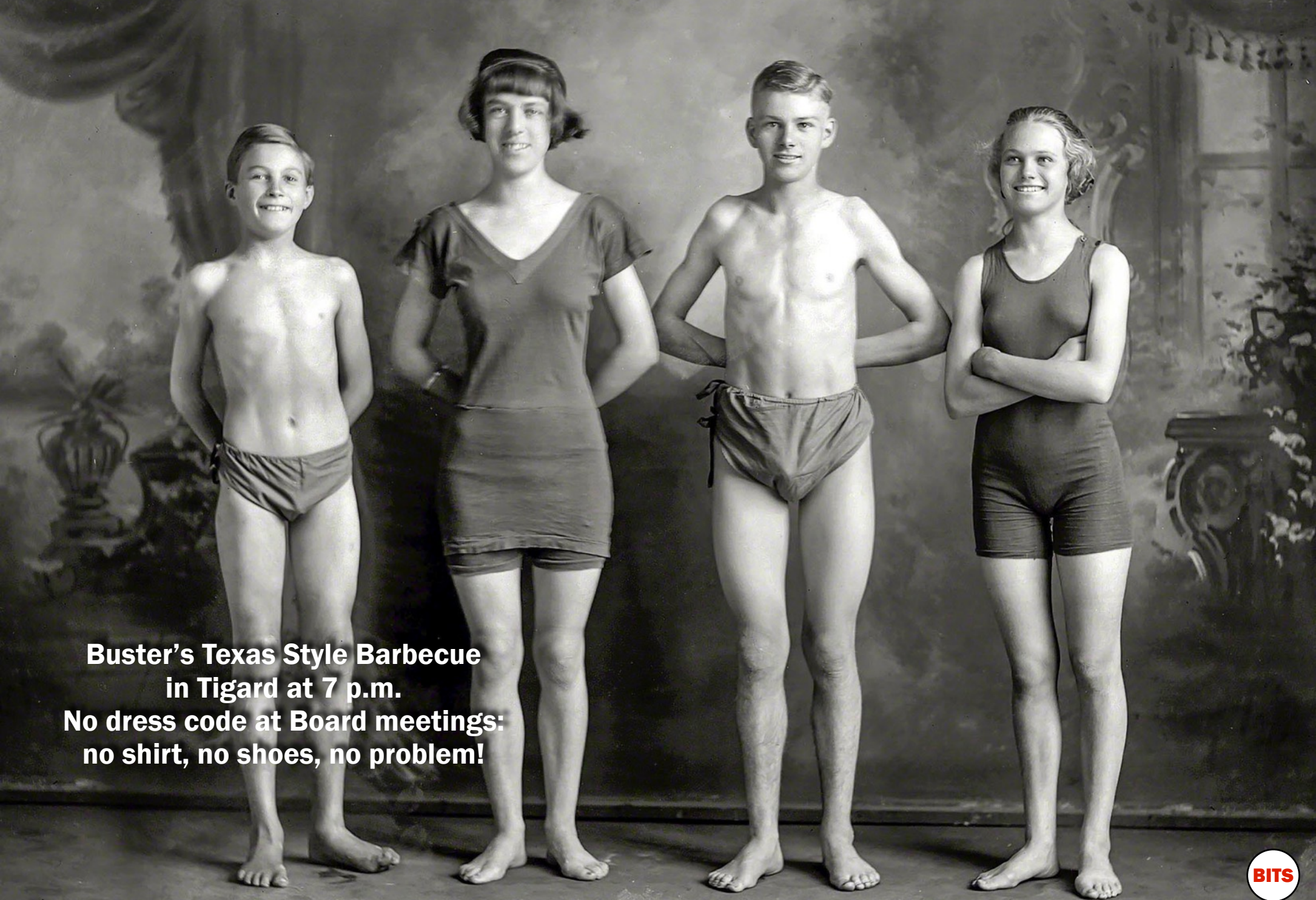
But the term “volunteer” doesn’t do them justice. They are the grease that keeps it all moving and the glue that holds it all together.

Would you be our greasy glue?

Your metaphor-challenged editor is asking for your help.

Call Ken Hart (360.574.7402) or Erik Roe (503.706.8304) and volunteer.

**These blanket appeals for volunteers virtually never work. *Surprise us. Please.***



**Buster's Texas Style Barbecue  
in Tigard at 7 p.m.  
No dress code at Board meetings:  
no shirt, no shoes, no problem!**

Welcome To  
**MOTORE  
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 AVVENTURA  
 NW**

(Alfisti Motor Adventure NW)

Just a heads up for the upcoming tour of Washington with Northwest Alfa Romeo Club and our own AROO. This is the first two-club touring event we will have had. Seattle is excited to join us and of course get to know more about AROO members. Additional information to come in next month's Bits, but for now, here are the basics:

When: May 16-17

Where: Best Western Lincoln Inn & Suites, Ellensburg, Washington, 509.925.4244, mention "Alfa Romeo Club" for discounted rate of \$104.

We will meet NWARC members at I-5 Exit 68, south of Chehalis, and then travel east on Highway 12. This is a one-night-on-the-road stay tour, just Saturday night.

Mark your calendar and reserve your room now as we have a block of only 20 rooms set aside. Oh, by the way, NWARC is hinting they will have more cars there than us!



*Typical scenic western Washington town.*



*Many western Washington towns now have full-time electricity.*



*A view of Grand Coulee Dam that you won't see from your car.*



*In western Washington, radiator water is plentiful and free. The gas, not so much.*



## Wienerschnitzel, sauerkraut, Liebfraumilch und oom-pah music ?

It must be the AROO Summer Tour to Bavaria ...  
Washington

Never been on one of my tours? Then this one will be a good introduction to the world of touring. Figure out a way to pay hooky for a day, get the babysitter lined up, tune up the Alfa and plan on three days of fun in the sun.

It's time to sign up and make your reservations for the Summer AROO tour! Dates are June 26-28.

This tour will include two nights in Leavenworth (think small German town in the Alps: [www.leavenworth.org](http://www.leavenworth.org)), time to wander through the town shops, and a nice drive to Lake Chelan wine tasting and dinner overlooking the lake.

Lodging will be at the Bavarian Lodge, phone: 888.717.7878 ([www.bavarianlodge.com](http://www.bavarianlodge.com).) We have a room block under the name Alfa Romeo Car Club. There is a variety of room styles and prices among the mix so have them tell you what is available. The block will expire 30 days in advance of the trip so best to *call now*.

The tour will begin on the east side of Portland (at Lewis and Clark Park near Troutdale) with a stop at the Blue Bird Tavern in Bickleton for lunch. From then on, we have mostly new (to most) roads to Leavenworth. Dinner will be in town that evening. You will have time on your own Saturday morning to check out the shops and have a light lunch after which we take a scenic drive to Lake Chelan. There we will taste wine, then have dinner at Tsillan Cellars, which is a beautiful facility on the lake. More pictures and info on the winery at [www.tsillancellars.com](http://www.tsillancellars.com)

It is REALLY helpful to let me know EARLY if you intend to come. Both restaurants require early reservations for large groups especially on weekends in the summer. Send me a note via email when you register for a room [mcgirt@columbiabank.com](mailto:mcgirt@columbiabank.com) or give me call at 503.983.3656.

**JA! DAS IST EIN ALFACLUB!**



## What are you doing August 13-17?

As many of you know, I plan tours for both the Alfa Club and the “Alfa Wannabe Car Club.” A number of Alfisti are “official” members of the Wannabe Club (i.e., on my mailing list). In case any other AROO members would like to join me on the next Alfa Wannabe tour, let me know ASAP. Cutoff is April 1 due to necessity to pre-pay lodging bills. If you want to be on the wait list (i.e., step in if there’s a cancellation), let me know that as well.

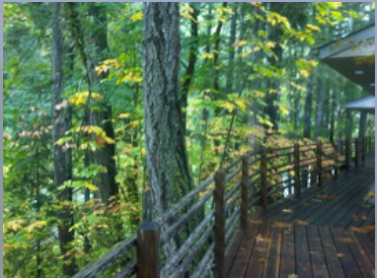
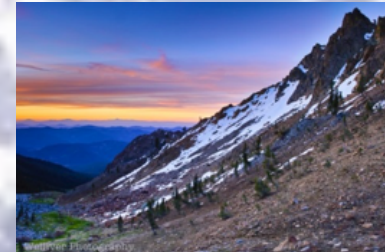
I am getting pretty charged up about this trip which has us heading into Northern California. Day one we head down to Grants Pass and stay at a nice motel on the Rogue River. You will be treated to some nice country roads, a few I know you have not been on, and we will stop at Wolf Creek Tavern and the Applegate Trail Museum. After stopping to pick up our box lunches in Selma, we head into California and the Trinity Alp Wilderness area for the next two days. Besides the raw beauty, the roads are described as some of the finest, in terms of sheer enjoyment, in North America.

Our destination is the Coffee Creek Dude Ranch. We will arrive early enough to saddle up the horses for a trail ride and then dip in the pool and/or enjoy a game or two of horseshoes along with a brewski or two before an all-you-can-eat western dinner.

The next day we take in the car show in Weaverville before enjoying more of the best roads in Northern California on our way to Lake of the Woods and the Running Y Ranch. While plans are still in flux, we are likely to enjoy drinks and perhaps dinner at Brad and Susie’s beautiful lake home at Lake of the Woods.

A stop at Crater Lake for a picnic lunch and rim drive is planned the next day as we head to our final night’s stay at Steamboat Inn. Just imagine yourself sitting along the Umpqua River enjoying a glass of wine! Final day will include a drive over the Calapooya Mountains, a late lunch along the way and home.

Think of this trip as a mini vacation. Nice accommodations, great food, *super* roads, fabulous views and some nice folks. Send me a note at [mcgirt@columbiabank.com](mailto:mcgirt@columbiabank.com) or call 503.983.3656 if you are interested or have questions. Happy Touring!



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By Rob Sass, courtesy of Hagerty Classic Car Insurance

With a legacy of dramatic styling and heroic racing accomplishments, and an Italian heritage steeped in romance, the Alfa Romeo brand has maintained a devoted following in the United States despite its withdrawal from the market two decades ago. The measure of America's affection for Alfa Romeo, whose annual sales here peaked at barely over 8,000 cars, is about to be tested as the marque makes its return to U.S. showrooms.

Founded in 1910 in Milan, Alfa Romeo was among the automakers that rode a wave of imported-car popularity in 1950s America. And while Alfa Romeos were consistently the darlings of the enthusiast press, they never made the jump to major player status here in the way that BMW and Mercedes-Benz did.



Aside from the limited edition 8C supercar, the last car Alfa sold in in this market was the attractive 164 sedan in 1995, and the only car it managed to sell in significant numbers was a line of pretty two-seat convertibles known simply as the Spider. That model, last offered in the U.S. in 1993, was mostly known as an updated version of the car that Dustin Hoffman drove in the 1967 film "The Graduate."

Alfa's comeback plan will have to overcome the hurdle of being a name nearly unknown to the youngest drivers. Yet in many ways, it's better off than it was in the 1960s and '70s. Reliability and rust-proofing will almost certainly be better than ever, and Alfa will have a credible dealer network – more than 80 locations today and a goal of 200 a year from now – rather than the uneven collection of thinly spread showroom it previously made do with. Most will be aligned with existing Fiat dealers. Fox Motors in Traverse City, Mich., recently installed the distinctive serpent-and-cross Alfa Romeo logo; the showroom is located in what is likely to be one of the smallest markets in the U.S. to get a dealership.

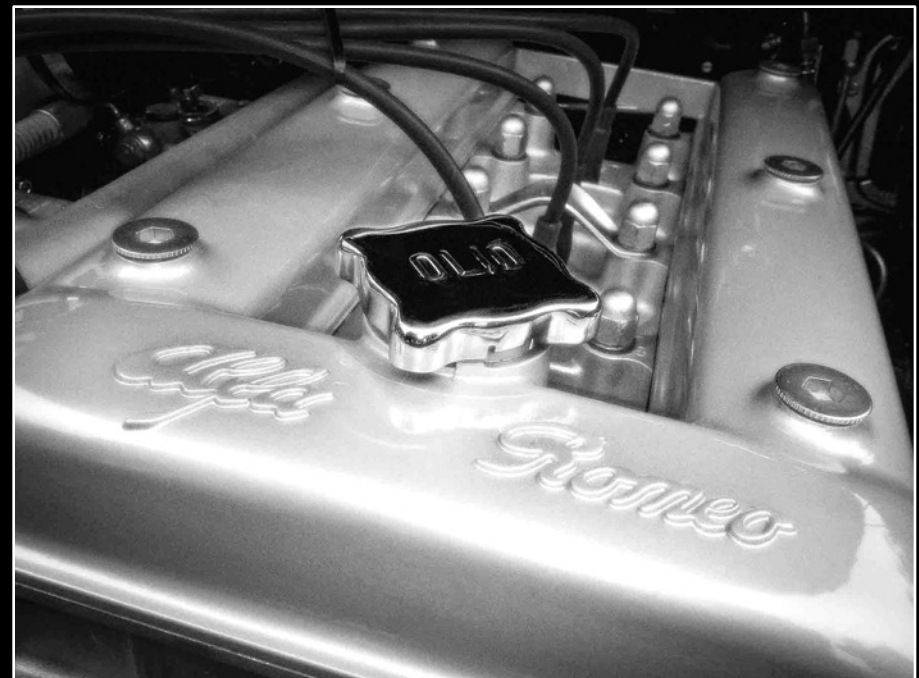


The first model to arrive here is the brilliant 4C sports car – an open-top version was introduced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit last month – but Americans have actually been driving an Alfa of sorts for several years now in the Dodge Dart. Both Alfa Romeo and Chrysler are owned by Fiat, and the Dart shares a platform with the European-market Alfa Romeo Giulietta.

The slick new Chrysler 200 also owes much to Fiat/Alfa small-car know-how.

As a brand, Alfa has the potential to deliver Italian panache and exclusivity at a price and volume that the Fiat group can't achieve with Maserati. That's been the case with the 4C, a sort of mini-Ferrari that undercuts the Porsche Cayman S by about \$7,000. Volkswagen, whose products have grown increasingly conservative, may lose sales to Alfa, which is expected to target a younger and more style-conscious demographic.

Ambitious expansion plans, the result of a \$7 billion investment by Fiat, will bring to market next year a new midsize sedan, slightly larger than a BMW 3 Series. This will be followed by a crossover in the same class as an Audi Q5, part of a push to raise U.S. sales to 150,000 a year, the company has said. Fiat's chief, Sergio Marchionne, promises a full line of Alfas in the U.S. by 2018.





So what is it about posing women on the hoods of Alfas? Maybe the engine was just turned off and it's a nice place to warm up one's backside? I guess they picked white cars so that the cars didn't distract from the models? Yes, that's Claudia Schiffer below. And you've gotta admire the one at left: she's bundled up and ready for a top-down cruise on a chilly day.

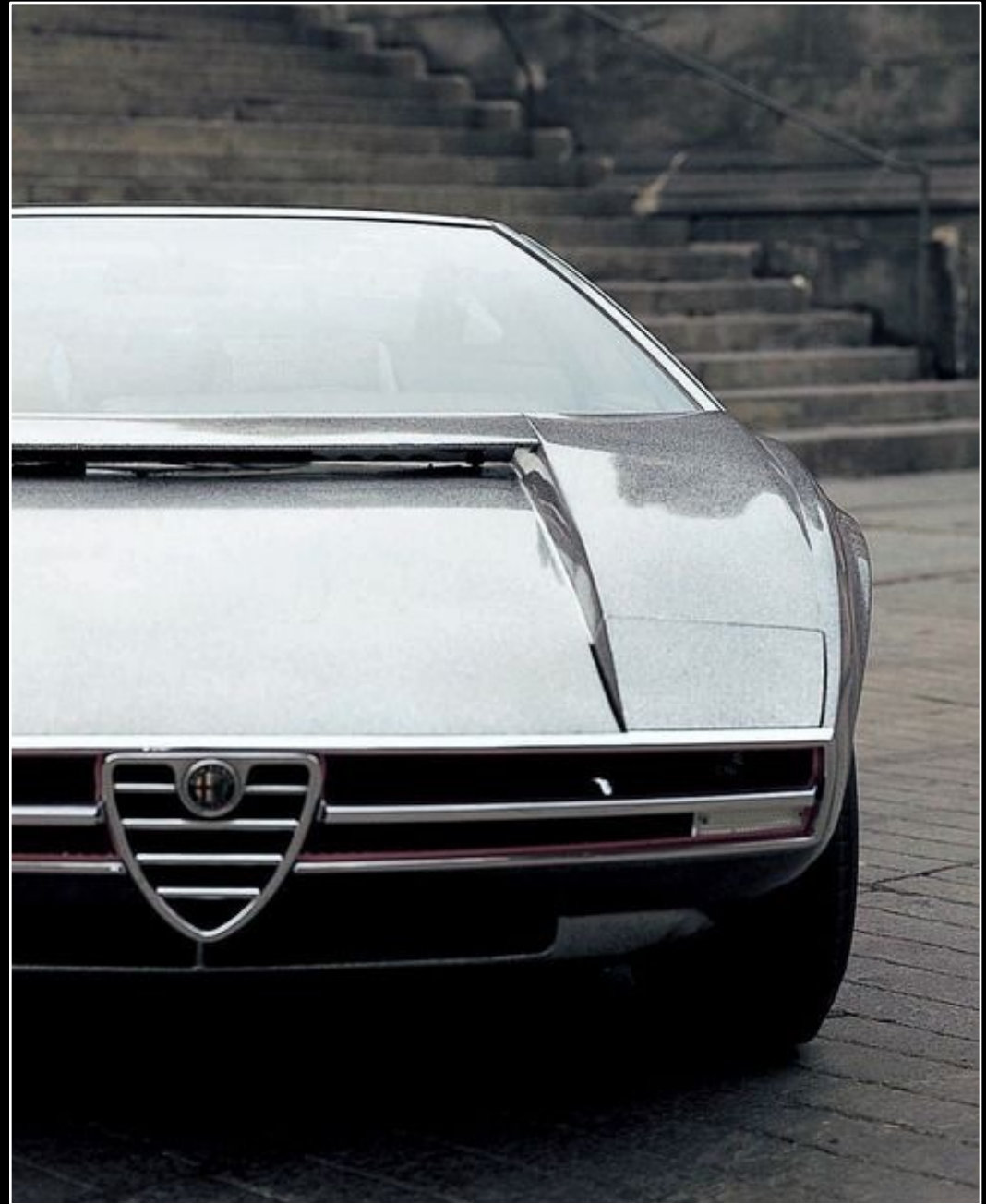
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