



# ALFA BITS

*Published by the Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon*

Alfa Bits

NOVEMBER 2015



October Track Day, P.I.R.  
Photo George Kraus

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**T**his November issue of the Bit's is my sixth and the last publication for 2015. Also, this is my last newsletter as an AROO board member. It has been an honor serving on the board and I am hopeful the board will continue to keep the clubs business greased and running smoothly. I would like to personally thank Roger Dilts for the great job he has done over the past 5 years as president. It's not an easy job directing and holding a club together. The phrase "herding cats" comes to mind. Thank you Roger.

For the near future, I am willing to continue as AROO's Alfa Bit's newsletter editor. The job is always open to any member who would like to take over this responsibility. I welcome anyone interested to please contact me. In addition, at the end of December I will also no longer be the Alfa Bit's Advertising Manager or responsible for the AROO activity announcements. Those jobs will be passed on to a new or current board member.

“...this is my last newsletter as a board member.”

### Auction

For this November meeting it's auction time and we will be presenting wondrous wares for your discerning eye. Bring your checkbooks because you won't want to miss out on the opportunities presented. See [page 9](#) for details. Please show your support for AROO by attending the monthly meetings. **Also this month is our annual election. Please come and cast your ballot for the 5 open AROO Board positions. See [page 8](#) for more information.**

## I NEED CONTENT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

When I started this months newsletter I was going to say it's a little skimpier on topical material than usual because I am short on articles, photos, ads, etc., but at the last minute I got some new material. I encourage any and all submissions of either articles or photos for future issues. It's your newsletter, and it will greatly improve with your participation. **Submissions are due by the first Wednesday of each month.** I will try to publish the *Alfa Bits* one week before the general meeting which is the third Wednesday of each month. There is no meeting in December. See you all at the November meeting and then in January.

Cheers, *George Kraus* Editor.

**ALFA BITS** is the official newsletter 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 submissions 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 also welcome paid advertising. Contact Advertising Manager [George Kraus](#) for details.



**About the Club.**



**The Board of Directors**

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## From the Driver's seat

*By Roger Dilts, President*

### Arrivederci!

At the close of the October meeting, I was packing up the laptop and projector for the last time and I looked around the meeting room at Ernesto's and I liked what I saw. George Kraus had just given a long-awaited presentation on restoring his incomparable Giulietta spider veloce, drawing a pretty good crowd. The meeting was over, but most of the folks were still hanging around, talking in small groups, likely about George's car or their own Alfa restoration experiences that his presentation had brought to mind. Some were lively and animated, laughing, while others leaned forward seriously to share opinions. These are good friends who have known each other for decades -- club members, restorers, mechanics, racers, buyers and sellers that together form one of the strongest concentrations of Alfa knowledge and experience you could find anywhere. And here they are, gathering again as they have, month after month for going on 50 years, for an AROO meeting. Just to hang with their friends, check in on projects and see what's going on, maybe do a little bench racing. I stepped back and just watched, feeling good that AROO is still around to provide a place where good friends can get together and share the cars they love.

I went back to winding up the computer cables and extension cords, when a young man came up to talk. Todd told me he has just finished a master's degree in engineering, his daily driver (and only car!) is an Alfa Spider, and he is interested in AROO. I welcomed him (I hope warmly enough) and we chatted as I closed up. Meeting Todd felt as good as seeing the long-time members enjoying themselves. Here was a young guy with a gearhead's profession and an Alfisti's passion, same as those other guys started with years ago. He was not just going on the internet to learn more; here he was at an AROO meeting wanting to connect, to learn, to participate, and to share.

I was reminded again that night how important AROO is for so many people. It's easy to get caught up in the mechanics and process of running an organization and forget what it's all about. It's clear to me that AROO needs to be here for the long-timers with their knowledge and history and to be here for the new arrivals with their energy and enthusiasm. The passion they all share for Alfas and the friendships they will form will be there to keep AROO around for years to come. But, for all its strengths, AROO is fragile, its existence depending on the on-going efforts of a few of its members, and subject to our all-too-human shortcomings. We shine when we work together to put on great events, but we endanger the club when we work against each other for short-sighted goals, or when our talents fall short of the demands placed on them.

In looking back on the five years that I've been president I see a lot of great accomplishments on the part of many and shake my head at some things I wish we could have done better. During my first term, the Board adopted a fiscal policy clarifying what events were to be self-supporting, subsidized, or fundraisers. We ensured that organizers would be reimbursed for their expenses.

Driver's Seat continued next page

## Driver's Seat continued

We created a method for improving club events by responsibly spending the funds that our volunteers had worked for over many years. In August 2012, the financial health of AROO was helped immeasurably by publishing the Alfa Bits in digital rather than “dead tree” form. (Actually, it was not immeasurable, it was about \$10,000 per year!)

AROO had a strong presence in the 2011 Allure of the Automobile show by organizing the Italian day of Cars in the Park. The AROO Cup Rally Series and School kept getting stronger, attracting 50 participants in each of the past few years. Legacy events like the Old Spider Tour and Valentine Tour continued to be well-produced and attended, while the President's Tour started what I hope will be a new tradition.

We had great meetings, with interesting programs from tandem bicycle touring in Tuscany to the cars of the Soviet Union, from Bonneville Salt Flats and Pikes Peak to Beaulieu and Goodwood, from tire technology and speedo correction to Alfa market forecasts. The Summer Evening Tours and AROO Picnics were all fantastic, introducing us to new roads and locales we'd otherwise have missed. Our premier event, the Monte Shelton Northwest Classic Rally got better every year, setting records for participation on the way to attaining “must-do” status as a classic car driving experience. Track Day provided safe and economical track time for local drivers and funds to support our other events. We continued to honor our volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and to celebrate ourselves at the Holiday Banquet. We recognized our most deserving with the McGill Award.

Fundamentally, our club is strong, but there are questions that must be answered and hard lessons that must be learned so that we'll stay around for our members, old and new.

- We need to understand and address why participation is so low. We have 180 members and struggle to get 20 people out for free, fun, well-run events. Where are the rest of you and what can we do to engage you in club activities?
- How will AROO remain vibrant in the future? Our core membership is aging or finding other interests. How will we continue to keep our active members engaged? Are we welcoming and interesting to new members?
- Bad behavior by individuals hurts the whole group. Leaders must address misbehavior immediately or others will justify their own responses, until the situation spins out of control. Club members must be committed to working with their fellow members through established processes, open and above-board. Lack of transparency and civility discourages others from taking on leadership positions and ultimately hurts the entire club.
- Don't overload volunteers. Yes, we love to have so many events, but if too many are run by the same few people, they will burn out. If we can't spread the work around, we should reduce the demand.

That's it for my last column. Overall, it's been a pretty good run. Thanks to everyone who has pitched in to help out over the last five years and for your kind words as my term draws to a close. As always, thanks to Connie, I'm the luckiest guy in the room.

**AROO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING****Minutes - Oct 7, 2015**

Location: Buster's BBQ

Time: 7 pm

Attendees: Roger, George, Bob, LeeAnne, Cindy, Yulia, Mark, David, Russ, Neil, Jim

**Upcoming events and Liaison reports**

1. Minutes review – Russ Paine - Approved
2. Treasurer's Report - Cindy Banzer – reviewed, no changes.
3. Past events reports:
  - a. AROO Fall Tour – great tour, fine weather, Thanks Tom!
  - b. Fifth Annual President's Tour – 18 cars, very nice route, weather and food, Thanks Roger!
4. Upcoming events
  - a. Oct 18: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – 19 signed up so far.
  - b. Oct 21: Membership meeting, hosted by George – restoration photo review.
  - c. Oct 24: Fall Track Day - Neil – 22 drivers, 5 instructors, no drivers added after drivers meeting, Neil to approve any class changes. Thanks for strong efforts Neil!
  - d. Nov 18: Auction and election
5. MSNCR 2016 report – Jim/Mark – no RM yet otherwise very good registration nrs and progress.
6. Calendar Review – Bob – no changes.
7. Membership Report – Yulia - no new members.
8. Merchandise/Apparel - Lee Anne – no changes.
9. Competition and track – Mark – no updates.
10. Advertising/Promotion/ Bits – George – no updates
11. AROC report – Cindy – new AROC website and database expected Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. Oct Alfa Owner to feature the MSNWCR.

**New and Continuing Business 8:00 – 9:00**

1. Switch to Doug Zaitz as web dude? Did it work? More to do? – Going well, almost fully transitioned.
2. Board election: ballots, process, etc. – Will mail ballots, promote with email blast; Cindy is coordinator and agreed to receive ballots at her address. Final voting and tally at November meeting.
3. Holiday Card – Cindy will coordinate creation and distribution.
4. No printed AROO Calendar for 2016, website digital version only.

Adjourned 8:18 pm

**Submitted by Russ Paine, Secretary**

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

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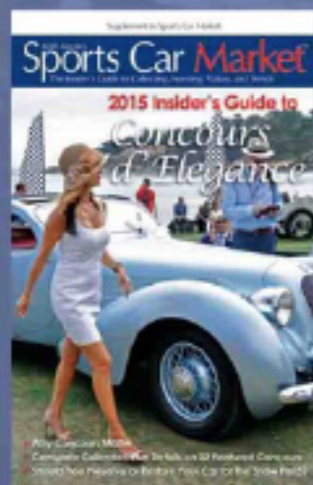
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## AROO Needs You!

Five Positions Open on the AROO Board of Directors

**Don't forget you can write in your candidate of choice.**

### Vote Now!

It's AROO Board Election time! Earlier this month, your ballot was mailed to each AROO member. Return the ballot in the enclosed envelope addressed to AROO, 6505 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97215. Or you may scan and email your ballot to **[cbanzer@eastpdxproperties.com](mailto:cbanzer@eastpdxproperties.com)** or bring it to the AROO General Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at Ernesto's Italian Restaurant, 8544 SW Apple Way, Portland, OR. Ballots must be postmarked no later than November 18, 2015.

To ensure the integrity of the ballot, your AROC Member Number or Your Name as listed with AROC must be included. Any questions, please contact Cindy Banzer, m) 503 709 7277, AROO Vote by Mail Coordinator.

For more information on the process, kindly call or email AROO Treasurer Cindy Banzer [Cindy.Banzer@alfaclub.org](mailto:Cindy.Banzer@alfaclub.org) or 503-709-7277.



Please join us for the  
AROO General Meeting at  
Ernesto's Italian Restaurant,  
8544 SW Apple Way, Portland, OR 97225.

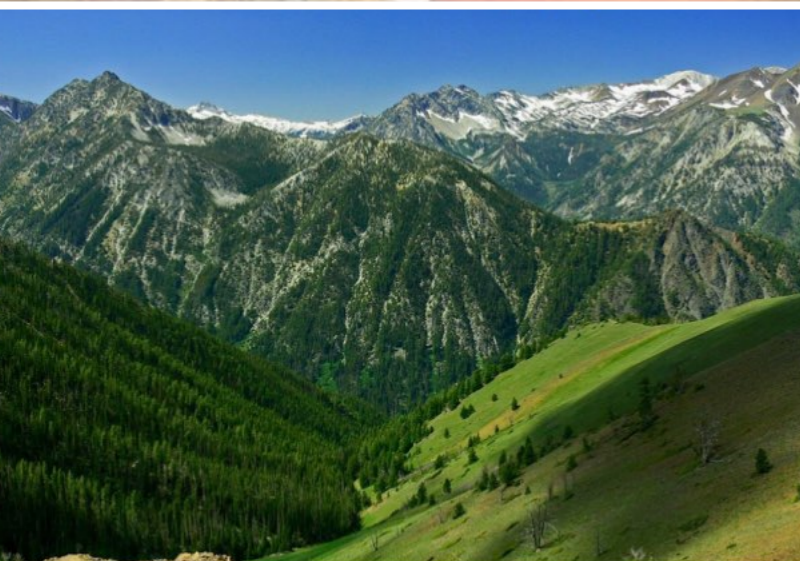
**November 18th at 7:30 pm.**

**AUCTION & VOTING AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November meeting will include our annual auction. We will be presenting wondrous wares for your discerning eye. Bring your checkbooks because you won't want to miss out on the opportunities presented.

Where do these "wondrous wares" come from, you ask? That's where you come in. Please bring Alfa-related or other "wares" you consider "wondrous" to donate for the auction. What to bring? Consider Alfa parts, Alfa memorabilia and accessories, wine, any other fun stuff you can think of, negotiable bonds, bank notes. It's all good and goes for a good cause; in this case, the AROO coffers.

Also this month is our annual election. Please come and cast your ballot for the 5 open AROO Board positions. See [page 8](#) for more information.



## 2016 SUMMER TOUR

August 25-29 (Thursday-Monday)

Hello fellow Alfista!

As many of you know, I usually plan two tours for the Alfa Club (summer and fall) and one for the Alfa Wannabe Car Club. The 2016 Wannabe Tour is going to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park May 29-June 5<sup>th</sup>. I have 18 couples signed up so **there is room for two more couples** if you are interested (and I will maintain an alternate list as well). Think of this as more like a guided vacation including grand lodges, good food, fabulous scenery and some very nice roads. Cutoff for this tour is around March 1. What a way to start the driving season!

### Now on to the **Alfa Romeo Summer Tour!**

This will be a 5 day/4 night trip (think of it as a mini-vacation) to the Wallowa Mountains. I have done several variations of this trip in the past but over 3 or 4 days, which meant some REALLY long drives. While I really love my Alfa, 400+ miles in it is a deal breaker for my lovely spouse and even I have to admit it is a much. Extending the trip an extra day really enhances the tour by shortening the daily mileage, letting us stop and see things along the way, and enjoy our final destinations more. The roads and scenery on this trip are really outstanding! If you have not been out here before, you owe it to yourself to see some of the finest offerings in Oregon and the country.

In order to make a trip like this possible, it is necessary to secure lodging *early* as once these places are full, there are no other options (Example: I tried to book Tu Tu Ton Lodge on the lower Rogue River for a Southern Oregon trip and it was already booked for the summer!). I checked the past August AROO calendar and also checked with a couple of the folks that attend vintage car/concourse events in the efforts to avoid any big conflicting event. I could find nothing. Hence, I have made an 'executive decision' to go ahead.

*It will be necessary for me to **PAY** a lodging deposit for Wallowa Lake lodging in early January for around **\$3,200**.* Hence, I need to ask folks to sign up now and make a

2016 summer tour continued next page

Photos provided by Tom McGirr.

## 2016 Summer Tour continued



deposit of \$250. If you would like to secure a spot, please 1) **Let me know you are coming via e-mail and 2) Send me a check c/o Tom McGirr, 3420 Dogwood Dr S, Salem OR 97302.** Rooms at the Wallowa Lake Lodge will be assigned in order of your RSVP. Later sign-ups will be possible but those that help me with the deposit will get preferential room assignments at the Lodge (ie: balcony /lakeview/cabin/forest view).

**DETAILS:** The tour is going to depart from Government Camp on Mt. Hood on Thursday mid-morning with the destination being Baker City. We will drive towards Maupin, see White River Falls, enjoy the high desert via Bakeoven Rd as well as a spectacular section of Hwy 19 past Cathedral Rocks in the John Day Fossil Beds. Time permitting, we will take a short walk among the fossil beds as well take in the Sumner Dredge Park, an excellent exhibit telling the story of the mining in the area. Lodging will be the Always Welcome Inn (special rate of only \$76 + tax) and dinner will be at Barley Browns Tap House, a great place to enjoy a craft beer and unwind after a day's drive.

Friday, we head towards Wallowa Lake Lodge. Along the way, we will take in the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Hells Canyon Overlook and the Wallowa Mountain Loop road before arriving at the Lodge in the early afternoon. The lodge is located on the lake and is a classic. I still remember the last time we were there, enjoying a glass of wine and appetizers on the deck watching the sun set over the lake. We will be able to actually unpack our suitcases as we are staying here two nights! They have given us a special price of \$100/night for lodge rooms and the cabins will run between \$180-\$225.

After enjoying a late breakfast (those that have been on my previous tours know that anything past 7:30 is unusual), those that are so inclined can join us for the short drive to Joseph to explore the shops and galleries, many of which feature world class bronze works cast in Joseph. I may try to schedule a foundry tour as well.

After lunch, we will drive back to the lake area and take the tram to the top of Mt. Howard where you can enjoy a glass of beer or wine and gaze out at the mountain tops and valleys. If you take the short hike to the mountain top, the views become spectacular! You can even see the Sawtooth Mtns in Idaho. Thereafter, we return to the lodge for an extended happy hour and dinner.

2016 summer tour continued next page

Photos provided by Tom McGirr.

## 2016 Summer Tour continued



After another late morning breakfast, we head over to Condon on some wide open roads through the open prairies. Once we get past LaGrande, I guarantee you will have a smile on your face as you cruise through the corners and through the vast grasslands. Once we arrive at the Condon Hotel, you will be greeted by our hosts with a complimentary glass of beer or wine. Racheal, one of the managers, will provide us with some fabulous appetizers in the Saloon and thereafter, a gourmet dinner in the formal dining room. Condon Hotel has 18 rooms, all quite nice and ranging from around \$150-\$275 list price (I do not know what our discounted rate will be yet). I have also made a room block at the Condon Motel down the street for any overflow. Their rooms will only be \$62 a night if you want to save a few bucks or the hotel is full.



Monday morning, you will have the option of following me on some more back-roads to Salem, including the very fun Hwy 293 out of Antelope to Hwy 97, the Old McKenzie Pass Hwy and a lunch stop. If you are short on time, you could conceivably follow us to Condon, then split for I-84 and be home Sunday evening. Or, you can stay Sunday night and then split early Monday morning. Condon to I-84 will put you in Portland in about 2.4 hours and Salem in 3.4 hours.

I am giving AROO first crack for signing up for this tour but will be inviting others to join in a couple of weeks. Attendance by AROO members has been extremely light compared to other car clubs I do tours for. Given the amount of work organizing a tour such as this, I would like to ensure a decent attendance and make sure those that enjoy extended tours get the opportunity to enjoy them.

Again, what I need NOW is your RSVP and \$250. Once I get your RSVP, I will send you the lodging contact and room block info from which you will make your own reservations in Baker City and Condon.

Hope to hear from you soon. Questions? Give me a call at 503-983-3656 or e-mail c/o [mcgirt@columbiabank.com](mailto:mcgirt@columbiabank.com)



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## 101 Brakes - Some Thoughts

*By Dave Beach*

When Alfa put disk brakes on the front of the 101 spider, they must have been thinking about braking down miles of the Swiss/Italian Alps...the Girlings are gigantic, considering the weight of the car. But that brings some drawbacks which I think center around the size... volumetric capacity... of master cylinder.

After discussions with a couple old 101 hands, Les Hurlock and Glenn Herz, I thought I'd put it on paper and see if others have similar experiences. Actually, the place to start is alignment of the rear brake shoes...alignment at 90 degrees to the face of the axle and therefore evenly spaced from the drum wearing/steel surface in all directions. This isn't just to get even wear on the linings. What it really accomplishes is allowing you to set the shoes so they are as close as possible with minimal drag, yet full contact with the slightest movement of the slave cylinder piston.



*Photo: Dave Beach*

This gets me to the master cylinder. The diameter of the master cylinder appears to have been chosen so that a 80 pound grandma could actuate the brakes... it is small so that there will be adequate force developed with minimum foot pressure. Unfortunately the drawback is that there is little volume change with this small diameter without a lot of pedal stroke. This same, relatively minimal master cylinder volume has to also move relatively large diameter pistons, six all total, on the front Girling disc brakes. If the back brakes are set loosely, then the result is that you feel as though you may run out of pedal stroke before you displace enough volume to actuate all four wheels' brakes. The lesson is square up the back shoes and then set 'em as tight as you can and still be able to turn the drum by hand without grunting.

One more thing to consider about Girlings master cylinder. Watch that you don't try to over-adjust the pushrod-link between the master cylinder and the actuating lever arm on the pedal shaft. It is possible to get over-zealous with a result that the master cylinder piston can never uncover the 'supply hole' from the reservoir. This means that you can release the pedal, but the piston doesn't travel back far enough to release hydraulic pressure back into the reservoir and presto... locked-up brakes. I won't mention who discovered that the hard way.

I've found that properly set up, these brakes are ferocious for a 32 year old, non-boosted design.

## **EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY:**

Board Meeting at Buster's Barbecue in Tigard at 7 PM.

## **THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

Monthly Meeting at Ernesto's 7:30 PM — September through June. Evening tours — July and August. Check the complete AROO calendar [HERE](#).



**Save The Date!**  
**AROO HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Sunday, December 6, 2015, Multnomah Athletic Club  
Details: Page 22.

## **November**

4 Board Meeting, Buster's Barbecue, 7 PM Tigard.

18 AROO monthly meeting at Ernesto's 7:30 PM.

## **December**

2 Board Meeting, Buster's Barbecue, 7 PM Tigard.

6 AROO Holiday Dinner ([See page 20](#)).

**Here are some videos of AROO  
"Track" days at PIR!**

**[Any Experience Level:](#)**

**[Any Age:](#)**

**[Any Car:](#)**

**[Click HERE to see all AROO activities.](#)**





## THE MONTE SHELTON NORTHWEST CLASSIC RALLY PRESENTED BY THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

**July 28-31, 2016**

### **Greetings AROO members**

It is time to get the 2016 rally organized. In doing so we will be forming a group of volunteers to help guide the event as well as perform the jobs needed to make this rally successful. Mark and I are excited at the positive response received from the entrants and sponsors as well as those club members that have helped in the past.

If there is something you might offer that would continue to make this a special function for automobile enthusiasts we would like to hear from you. From food planners to checkpoint workers as well as registration and greeting personnel we can probably use your skills this year.

If this interests you please e-mail Mark Carpenter at [greyalfa@hotmail.com](mailto:greyalfa@hotmail.com) or Jim Gunter at [nwrally@comcast.net](mailto:nwrally@comcast.net). I can also be reached at 503-701-2980. We appreciate the opportunity to re-join this successful venue and look forward to hearing from others that feel the same. Thanks for your consideration.

*Jim Gunter*

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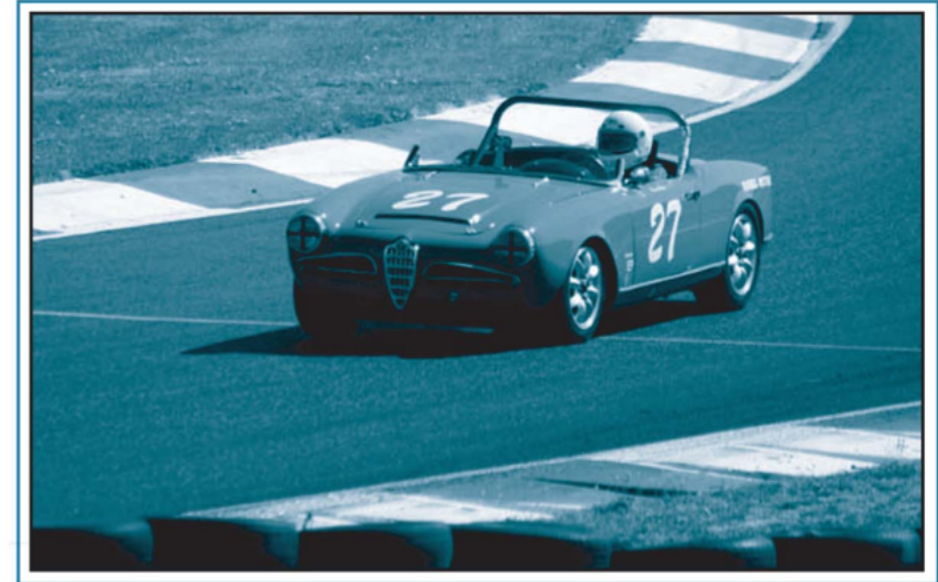
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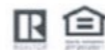
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- A conscientious repair staff with diverse Alfa Romeo know-how.
- Our reputation is built on these things and we thank our local customers whose continued support and referrals have helped us continue doing business this way.

**We Offer:**

- Service - Alfa Romeo as well as other fine European automobiles.
- Parts - Large stock of new and used.
- Sales - Used European automobiles.

**NASKO'S IMPORTS/PORTLAND MINI**

5909 S.E. Francis (54th & Foster)  
Portland, OR 97206 • 503 771-1472

**Please join us to celebrate a great year for AROO at the**

# **Annual Holiday Party,**

**Sunday, December 6 2015, at the Multnomah Athletic Club**

**No-host cocktails 5:30—6:30 p.m., dinner 6:30—9:30 p.m.**

**Dinner is \$38 per person, all inclusive with gratuity and parking\*  
House wine is \$22/bottle, or bring your own—corkage fee is \$15.**

**Please mail checks payable to AROO by November 30th to  
Cindy Banzer, 6505 SE Stark St., Portland OR 97215.**

*(Your check is your reservation.)*

**The Multnomah Athletic Club is located in downtown Portland at  
1849 SW Salmon Street. Click [HERE](#) for map.**

***\*Included parking is available in the MAC parking garage across Salmon Street  
from the main entrance.***

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**For more information contact Cindy Banzer: [Cindy.Banzer@alfaclub.org](mailto:Cindy.Banzer@alfaclub.org) or 503-709-7277.**

## **Free GTV6/Alfetta Sheet Metal**

81 GTV6 shell going to scrap yard around xmas. There are still lots of very useful and usable body panels. Free to anyone who wants to cut them off.

Contact [scottmpope@gmail.com](mailto:scottmpope@gmail.com).

# The Back Seat



Photo George Kraus  
NW Classic Rally