



# Alfa Bits

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

March 2024 Volume 56 Issue 3

Saturday, May 18th

AROO's 46th Annual "Old Spider" Tour - ALL Alfas are Invited!

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Giulietta



## Who We Are

AROO (Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon) is a car club celebrating Alfa Romeo cars and lifestyle. We have more than 200 individual members throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. AROO is affiliated with the national Alfa Romeo Owners Club. Our club mailing address is:

6505 SE Stark St., Portland, OR 97215

AROO website: [www.alfaclub.org](http://www.alfaclub.org)

AROC website: [www.aroc-usa.org](http://www.aroc-usa.org)



We welcome Alfa owners, admirers and lovers of our beautiful Italian machines. To join, go to the AROC web site, click on "Membership" and follow the prompts to join AROC. At the prompt, choose AROO (Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon) as your club.

## Meetings and Events

Our club holds events throughout the year! We often meet the third Wednesday of each month. Our calendar of events is posted at the right, and on our web site [HERE](#) and includes General Meetings, tours, tech sessions, picnics/eateries, and more.

## Join the Conversation!

Go to our Social Media sites for up-to-the-minute information on events and happenings.



## 2024 AROO Board of Directors

The AROO Board meets most months on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm via ZOOM. All members are encouraged to join us. Please reach out to the Club President to receive a ZOOM invite.

Click on the name below to email us!

- Board President: [Steve Davis](#)
- Board Vice-President: [Steve Hunker](#)
- Board Secretary: [Cindy Banzer](#)
- Board Treasurer: [Sue Halton](#)
- Ex-Officio/Ex-President: [Chris Bright](#)
- Board Members: [Lila Dale](#)  
[Paul Eklund](#)  
[Frank Filice](#)  
[Tom Gammons](#)  
[Ian Lomax](#)  
[Doug Zaitz](#)

Minutes for all Board Meetings are posted on the AROO web site [HERE](#)

### In this Issue...

- Board of Director Initiatives
- Old Spider Tour & Giulietta 70th Anniversary
- AROO Overnight Tour Info
- Tech Sessions!

## 2024 AROO Calendar of Events!

Links to register/RSVP or Recaps in [<Green>](#)

Event Name	2024 Date
Annual Valentines Tour/Lunch	Sun, 2/18
General Meeting - Old Spaghetti Factory	Wed, 2/21
Rally School <a href="#">&lt;Web Site/Registration&gt;</a>	Sat, 3/9
Rally Cup #1 <a href="#">&lt;Web Site/Registration&gt;</a>	Sun, 3/10
<b>General Meeting - CANCELED</b>	Wed, 3/20
Rally Cup #2	Sun, 4/7
General Meeting - Alfas in LeMons series <a href="#">&lt;RSVP&gt;</a>	Wed, 4/17
Rally Cup #3 <a href="#">&lt;Web Site/Registration&gt;</a>	Sun, 5/5
45th Old Spider Tour/Giulietta 70th Anniv <a href="#">&lt;RSVP&gt;</a>	Sat, 5/18
Tech Session at 503 Motoring	Wed, 5/15
AROC NATIONAL CONV - MICHIGAN	5/28-6/2
4th Annual SummerFun Tour/Picnic	Sat, 6/1
Rally Cup #4	Sun, 6/9
Northwest Classic Challenge <a href="#">&lt;SIGN-UP!&gt;</a>	6/27-6/30
Annual Wine Tour/Picnic	Sat, 7/20
AROO Concorso/Forest Grove Concours	Sun, 7/21
Monterey Car Week	8/9-8/18
1st Annual "Old vs. New" Tour	Sat, 8/17
New Car Tech Session	Wed, 8/21
General Meeting - Old Spaghetti Factory	Wed, 9/18
Annual Old Super Tour	Sun, 9/22
Alfetta 50th Anniversary Tour	Sat, 10/12
General Mtg	Wed, 11/20
Annual Holiday Dinner & Tour	Sun, 12/8



## From the Driver's Seat Steve Davis, AROO President (and temporary Editor!)

Is it Spring or is it Snow?

Hard to tell this winter! We've had a light dusting of snow here in the Coburg hills for the last four days, and I'm not sure when (if?) the temps are going to get above 45!

Through it all, AROO "marches" on! The Valentines Day Tour and our first General Meeting are behind us, and we look forward to shifting into second gear in March and into third in April, as stuff starts really getting going in May! We are going to try to give you lots of notice as to the big events of the year—enough time that you can block your calendars and get ready. I hope you have all registered for the Rally School, and signed up for the AROO Rally Cup series - it's the right way to start the driving season!

I'm currently still doing double-duty as newsletter editor - anyone else interested in a fun way to stay connected with every single AROO member? I've converted the format of the newsletter over to Microsoft Publisher, which is software custom-designed for newsletters and other publications. If you want to take this on,

we'll provide the software, you just need the PC.

Speaking of the newsletter, we are still slowly growing it. I moved the calendar of events to the first page, as that is the most important. And we are still adding events, both AROO and non-AROO! To the right we are starting to calendarize any non-AROO events, and I'd really appreciate your providing any input, regardless of where you are. I've added events in the Central Willamette Valley, and of course we have some in the PDX area, but I'd love to document events in the Bend, Grants Pass, Florence, and other places as well. Send me a note by clicking [HERE](#) and give me names, places and dates!

We are also finalizing the two "official" AROO overnights and a mammoth 11-dayer that our wonderful Tom McGirr is putting together. We've sent out an email on them, and they are listed to the right - we'll add them to the AROO Calendar next month. If you are interested, be sure to sign up quick - believe it or not, spaces are already filling up fast!

## Non-AROO 2024 Calendar of Events!

Info and Link in [<Green>](#) More info on [AROO Activities Page!](#)

Event Name		2024 Date
Portland Auto Swap Meet (PIR)	<a href="#">&lt;INFO&gt;</a>	4/4-6
Function 4 Junction (Junction City)		5/31
Formula-E Grand Prix (PIR)	<a href="#">&lt;INFO&gt;</a>	6/29-30
SVRA PIR Speedtour & Corral	<a href="#">&lt;INFO&gt;</a>	7/26-28
Coburg Classic Car Show, Coburg		Sat, 8/3
Portland Yacht Club Boat and Car Show	<a href="#">&lt;INFO&gt;</a>	Sat, 8/24
Oswego Heritage Car and Boat Show	<a href="#">&lt;INFO&gt;</a>	Sun, 8/25
Shelby American Track Day at PIR		August TBD

### New!! AROO Overnight Tours

Event Name	2024 Date
Summer Tour - Salem-Gearhart-Kalama See notes and details later in this issue	Fri-Sun, 6/14-16
Alfa Wannabe Tour - Historic Lodges & More See notes and details later in this issue	July 4-15
Fall Tour to Yachats - two days, one night	Dates TBD

## A Unified Experience Across All of Our Communication Channels

The Board is looking at new ways to expand our outreach, and bring all our Media presences (AlfaBits, Website, Facebook, etc.) together to have one common “look and feel”, and to bring them up to the standards that we all expect for AROO.

Board member Ian Lomax (email [HERE](#) or [ian.lomax@alfaclub.org](mailto:ian.lomax@alfaclub.org)) is bringing his marketing and automobile experience to this project.

This will take the better part of the year, and we will roll out different parts over the next 10-12 months. As we do, we will put them into the AlfaBits, and encourage you to visit those sites or look for the changes.

The Board is also trying very hard to balance the nearly unanimously-expressed need to continue the AlfaBits with the “new reality” of the Social Media age. As a result, there will be changes to the AlfaBits this year. What we won't change, however, is the use of the AlfaBits to showcase upcoming events. This will continue to be a place for you to see what is coming up.

At the same time, we will be using our website more comprehensively, to include recaps of events, coverage of Alfa– and non-Alfa related news and events, and more. One thing we've changed already - we used to publish the minutes of the Board Meetings in the AlfaBits; going forward, we've added a new heading to the AROO website called “Business”. This opens up a sub-menu (content coming!) which includes a heading called “Minutes”. Going forward, we will try to post minutes of our Board Meetings in a more timely manner. You can follow the link [HERE](#) to see January and February.

There's more to come, so please stay tuned!

## “Right Now” Club Communication

In last month's 'Bits, I mentioned that the Board is working on ways to provide more “right now” information to our members. These might include changes to events and other “official” stuff. However, we also want to have a forum (kind of a hybrid of text and facebook) where people can just post that they want to go for a drive, and want others to join them.

Board Member Lila Dale is working to create an AROO space on “Discord”, which is this type of hybrid messaging platform. Those of you that use “Slack” should be familiar - Slack is actually built on the Discord platform. With Discord, people sign up and, in the case of AROO's version that Lila has set up, register themselves to one or more groups within AROO (geographic groups or Alfa model groups, for example). You can opt in to receive messages if anyone posts on those groups.

For example, I'm registered on the AROO platform and have joined the “Valley” and “Vintage” groups. If anyone posts on those groups (say, for example, Lila - also in 'Valley' wants to drive to Florence), I'll get a message and can post that I'll join her—that's quick and immediate communication!

We are moving to the first phase of testing the AROO presence on Discord. If you would like to be a part of this, please drop Lila an email by clicking [HERE](#) or at [lila.dale@alfaclub.org](mailto:lila.dale@alfaclub.org). You can also sign up yourself! Discord exists as an app for mobile, and as an app for Windows and Mac. On the respective App store, search for Discord. After you download and sign up, search for “AROO”, and ask to join the group. You can also go to [www.discord.com](http://www.discord.com) and sign up there, and then search for AROO.

We'd like to have a few members join and help us evaluate this exciting new tool!

RSVP

## Tech Session and General Meeting Wednesday, April 17th - 6:30-8:00pm

### The LeMons Racing Series and Alfas at LeMons!

Location: [15111 SE Clatsop St. Portland](#)

Bring: \$20 to cover food (pizza and drinks) and your camera!

Many of you have heard of the “Lemons” racing series, and perhaps many of you haven’t! First off, Lemons (officially called the “24 Hours of Lemons”) is a real racing series! The premise is simple, and made for people who love cars and enjoy racing. There are limits you can spend on the car and go-fast bits, and there are stringent safety rules and regulations. So, while you may have a clapped out 74 Impala, you can race it, as long as the car (and you) are safely put together. There are races all over the country, organized into five regions. The “West” region features tracks in Northern California, Oregon and Washington. [Here’s a link to the official Lemons site HERE](#) so you can see more.

One of the best things about Lemons is that it’s not taken TOO seriously... and all you need to do is look at the cars themselves to see that. Part of the fun of Lemons is the “adornments”, and the pictures on the right are just a few of the more fun examples.

As you can imagine, there are a LOT of Alfas participating in Lemons! In fact, there are a few of them in the PDX area!

Want to learn more about LeMons, and especially more about the Alfas and their drivers that campaign in this very fun and exciting series? **AROO Board Member Ian Lomax** has been driving his '87 Milano in LeMons since 2017. Ian will take you through the basics of the series (rules, events, fun, etc!) and then show his car and walk us through the preparation for racing.



*Ian's 1987 Milano... bought for \$700!*

Make your plans to come out to this very fun and informative Tech Session on a subject that many of us have only just heard about! To RSVP, click the red button above or [HERE](#). Please note that space and parking is limited; please carpool if you can, and RSVP early!!

#### A Note from the Board of Directors:

One of the most common requests we get is for more informational tech sessions! Not only for older cars, but for new-generation cars as well.

We’ve listened! You will see more tech sessions this year than in many years. Some are fun and informative (like the one at left). Some will focus on new cars, since many Giulias and Stelvios are now at that age where we gotta care for them ourselves. And, as we add more, some will focus on things like electrics and upholstery. Finally, we have some amazing special cars here in AROO... some sessions will be learning about those cars from their owners

So, if you wanted to learn more about yours and others Alfas, AROO is for YOU!



*At top left, a Milano on a Milano (duh!). At bottom left, NorCal AROCer Brian Shorey's Berlina Polizia. And in the middle...whaaaaa???*

## Old Spiders in Oregon, a 46 Year Celebration

By Doug Klein and Bill Gillham

### OLD SPIDER TOUR HISTORY

In the United States, following WWII, there was great interest in European sports cars and sports car racing. Most European specialty cars were sold through independent import shops as dealership networks were absent. The first Giuliettas to arrive in Portland, OR were two spiders that were probably veloce models. These cars arrived in late 1957 or early 1958 and were quickly prepared and entered the local racing scene. For most regional sports car fans, their first look at these Alfas was at the track where the Giuliettas not only looked beautiful but also thoroughly dominated the races.

One of the trackside spectators was a young man named Bob McGill. He left the races convinced that Alfa ownership would be in his future. The vast majority of Giuliettas imported into the US, most through Max Hoffman, were spiders, and they were very hard to obtain.

As Bob recounted in the mid-1980s, "I bought my first Alfa on April 15, 1958, a Giulietta 750 Series Spider, and I still have it. It's been a road car for almost 30 years with over 150,000 miles. I've had other more modern Alfas," (including a Giulia SS) "but I could never bear parting with this spider."

Most of us probably can't remember the date of an automobile purchase, but for Bob, every April 15th was a day to celebrate the "birthday" of his light blue Giulietta Spider. By 1978, Bob had decided a public celebration for Old Blue was in order – and the best way to celebrate an Alfa is behind the wheel on a high-speed tour through the beautiful and lonely back roads of Eastern Oregon. By this time a



*Bob and Margaret McGill in Old Blue*

Giulietta Spider was an old car, so Bob organized the event as the first "Old Blue's Birthday Tour". All Alfas were encouraged to attend, but the Giuliettas and early Giulia Spiders would be in the lead. "Old Blue's Birthday Tour" number one, featured five 750 and 101 Spiders and a number of other Alfas. "Old Blue" performed perfectly. "A wonderful time was had by all."

In 1982 McGill asked Bill Gillham to draw up an "Old Spiderman" logo for his tour. McGill had the logo printed in red on

white tee shirts. It didn't matter your age: if you were driving an old Spider on the 1982 Tour you were an "Old Spiderman" and McGill gave you one of the shirts. Today having one of the original red "Old Spiderman" shirts is quite rare, as there were only 12 made. Several later editions of the shirt exist, but they were all printed in black.

Late in his life and facing increasing health challenges, Bob eventually transferred ownership of "Old Blue" into Bill Gillham's care. Bob has since passed on, but "Old Blue", now in Bill Eastman's collection, still shows up almost every Spring to celebrate her birthday with other Old Spiders. The "Old Spider Tour" remains an annual opening day celebration for Oregon Alfa Owners and continues to be one of the most well-attended events in our region. Bob is affectionately remembered as the first "Old Spiderman".

## Old Spider Tour #45 2023 - A Rainy Recap:



9:30 AM - Santiam River Rest Area - South of Salem on I-5. The sky is dark as 17 intrepid Alfa Drivers (plus one in Porsche) and their navigators gather in the thickening mist at the beginning of the 45th Annual AROO Old Spider Tour. We were joined at the beginning of the tour by a special guest, Willo Roe from Dublin Ireland. Willo, a fellow Giulietta owner, came by to see the Old

Spiders and to see us off. Brad Baum and his wife Sherry drove their topless '57 Spider up from Brookings. Greg Miller joined us from North of Seattle.

The stars of the day were the eight Old Spiders who led the tour, plus Larry Mark's Sprint Speciale which became an honorary Spider for the day. Except for 1.5 miles of I-5 to escape the Rest Area, the whole tour was 137 miles of some of the finest 2-lane blacktop in Western Oregon. The tour ended at about 2:30 PM in Ona Beach State Park, on the Oregon Coast just south of Newport. There were no serious mechanical complications and only a little complaining about the weather.



## Let's Do it Again! - Old Spider Tour #46 - Giulietta #70 - May 18, 2024

2024 is the 46th anniversary of Oregon's "Old Spider Tour," it is also the 70th Anniversary of the Giulietta. We invite all 750 and 101 Alfa Owners to join us on May 18th for a one-day Driving Celebration Tour to the Oregon Coast. ***(All other Alfas of any age will be welcome to tour along to join the celebration).***

Marian and I participated in the first tour 45 years ago in our '63 Spider. We will mark the 46th-anniversary tour by leading it in our '60 Spider Veloce. With luck, we will be joined by a record number of Old Spiders and 750 and 101 Giuliettas on our drive. There are enough 750 and 101 cars in Oregon, Washington, and California to make it happen, if we can get them all to show up!

AROO's Old Spider Tour #46 will start at 9:30 AM, May 18, 2024, in the [West Parking lot of the Santiam River Rest Area](#) off of I-5 South of Salem, Oregon. It will finish Late in the afternoon on the Central Oregon Coast.

**Bill and Marian Gillham - Tour Leaders**

**Doug Klein - AROO History**

To Register for this event, [click HERE](#) to send an email to Bill Gillham.

Regardless of what Alfa you drive, this is one of the 'don't miss' driving events of the Spring. Please make plans to join us!!



To See more information and more pictures from the 2023 Old Spider Tour, [click HERE to go to our website.](#)

**2024 AROO SUMMER TOUR - June 14-16****SALEM-GEARHART-KALAMA**

This 2-night tour will be heading to two McMenamin's Lodges. First up is the Gearhart Hotel on the coast. We will journey thru some nice West Salem country road then over Bald Mountain Road to the coast with a BYOB lunch at Hebo Lake. Thereafter, we stop at Cape Lookout and Cape Meares with an anticipated ETA at the hotel by 3:45 or 4, allowing time for a long walk on the beach, happy hour and dinner at the hotel.

Next destination is the Kalama Harbor Lodge located on the Columbia River. Our route will take us along parts of 101 in Washington, lunch at Olympus Brewing in Aberdeen, then mostly back roads until we near Kalama. Arrival ETA is around 4:30. Pretty easy drives each day.

You can book your rooms via McMenamin's webpage and clicking on the Gearhart Hotel and Kalama Harbor Lodge. I would suggest making reservations early as mid-June is a busy tourist time.

Once you make your reservations, be sure to send me an e-mail letting me know you are coming. I will need to work on lunch and dinner accommodations.

Tom McGirr

[tomsredalfa@gmail.com](mailto:tomsredalfa@gmail.com)

503-362-8597

**2024 ALFA WANNABE July 4-15****HISTORIC LODGES TOUR**

This is an awesome HUGE Tour, covering five old lodges and 2 very old hotels, all on the National Register of Historic Places. The tour will be 12 days in length. There are only a FEW spaces left for this tour.

Here's the itinerary:

Day 1: Timberline Lodge (1937)

Days 2 & 3: Lake Quinault Lodge (1926), Olympic National Park

Day 4: Lake Crescent Lodge (1915), Olympic National Forest

Days 5 & 6: Paradise Inn (1916), Mt. Ranier

Day 7: Balch Hotel (1907), Dufur

Day 8: Grand Deiser Hotel (1923), Baker City

Day 9: McMenamins St. Charles School, Bend

Days 10 & 11: Crater Lake Lodge (1915)

There is a LOT more to know about this tour, and emails will be going out soon. If you want to read Tom's detailed write-up, [click HERE to read the full announcement](#), including pictures and each day's activities.

For more info, email Tom at [tomsredalfa@gmail.com](mailto:tomsredalfa@gmail.com) or call Tom McGirr directly at 503-362-8597



Click the picture in the center for Alfa's video of this event (1:16.00 long) which discusses the Montreal and the prototype process. Great opening video of the cars gathered at the museum!



From the Montreal Gathering at the Alfa Museum. These are the two actual Montreal prototypes displayed at the 1967 Montreal Worlds Fair. This is the only time since then that these two cars have been together.

Interesting to compare these shapes to the final production model... what do you think?

