



Alfa Bits

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

April 2024 Volume 56 Issue 4

Important Update on the 2024 Northwest Classic Car Challenge - Page 3



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

AROC website: 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...

- SummerFun Tour/Picnic
- Tech Sessions!
- Update on the Northwest Classic Rally
- Old Spider Tour - last chance!

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	Sat, 3/9
Rally Cup #1	Sun, 3/10
General Meeting	Wed, 3/20
Rally Cup #2	Sun, 4/7
General Meeting - Alfas in LeMons	<RSVP> Wed, 4/17
Rally Cup #3	<Web Site/Registration> Sun, 5/5
45th Old Spider Tour/Giulietta 70th Anniv	<RSVP> Sat, 5/18
AROC NATIONAL CONV - MICHIGAN	5/28-6/2
4th Annual SummerFun Tour/Picnic	<RSVP> Sat, 6/1
Rally Cup #4 NEW DATE!!	<Registration> Sun, 6/30
Summer Tour - Salem-Gearhart-Kalama	<INFO> Fri-Sun, 6/14-16
Northwest Classic Challenge	CANCELED CANCELED
Alfa Wannabe Tour - Historic Lodges	<INFO> July 4-15
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

2024 NW Classic Rally POSTPONED to 2025

From Rally Chairpersons: Paul Eklund and Yulia Smolyansky



POSTPONED TO 2025
35th Annual
NW Classic
to central Oregon
June 27-30, 2024

www.northwestclassicroally.org



It is with heavy hearts that we announce that the Rally and Tour have been postponed to 2025. Due to low registrations, missing key people on the committee, and scheduling conflicts, we have decided to take a year off and re-evaluate. The world is changing and our signature event needs to change as well.

Paid entrants will be offered refunds.

If you had your heart set on a RALLY or TOUR that weekend, we are moving AROO CUP Rally #4 to Sunday June 30th, and will make it a longer rally and include TOUR instructions. The plan is to start at “regular” 10am, but from Cook Park in Tigard, then have a catered box lunch at a park (Coast Range? Mt Hood?) and then rally back to the Portland area and have a no-host dinner at someplace like Cornelius Pass Roadhouse or Helvetia Tavern. Details to follow in upcoming AlfaBits.

For Info, contact RallyMasters Paul or Yulia

[paul.eklund@alfaclub.org](mailto:paul eklund@alfaclub.org) or
yulia.smolyansky@alfaclub.org

or call/text Paul at 503-886-9229

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

All of us on the Board are pretty "guttled" (and the Brits say) about the 2024 Northwest Rally being postponed. It was a very difficult decision, but in the end, it was the right decision. For whatever reason, the momentum started in 2023 just didn't carry over, and registrations were down. There is so much work that goes into putting this on, and we were right at the point where we needed to start spending money for food, awards, etc. The financial health of the club has to be our #1 priority, and the possibility of not breaking even forced our hand to postpone it.

I want to personally commend Paul and Yulia for the effort they put into it to this point, as well as for the courage and wisdom to recommend we take this action.

So... will there be a NWCCC 2025? Honestly, that's up to all of us in AROO. Putting on the rally needs a dedicated team of people, which was also in short supply this year. In the past, there was a team of people that ran the rally semi-independently of the AROO Board. We need to get close to this again... at the least, we need key people in key roles. As we start thinking about NWCCC 2025, my ask to you is for you to consider being a part of this wonderful event - call or email Paul if you want to be "in". We need you!

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)	<INFO>	4/4-6
Function 4 Junction (Junction City)		5/31
Formula-E Grand Prix (PIR)	<INFO>	6/29-30
SVRA PIR Speedtour & Corral	<INFO>	7/26-28
Coburg Classic Car Show, Coburg		Sat, 8/3
Portland Yacht Club Boat and Car Show	<INFO>	Sat, 8/24
Oswego Heritage Car and Boat Show	<INFO>	Sun, 8/25
Shelby American Track Day at PIR		August TBD

If you have a car-related event that you want added to our non-AROO calendar, send me an email [HERE](#). Include the name of the event, the date and a contact or RSVP name that we can link to... thanks!

AROO Member and Board Member Tom Gammons is displaying his stunning auto-inspired artwork next month, and invites all AROO-ers to see his and his fellow artists works! Many of you may remember the beautiful Tipo 33/4C piece that Tom showed at the Holiday party last December. He's now featuring many of his pieces at a local gallery, and all are invited!

Here are the details

The [Brassworks Gallery](#)

[3022 NE Glisan St, Portland](#)

Opening Reception is May 11th.



Where do you get your AROO Event Info?

The AROO Board is trying to figure out the best way to ensure that all our members are informed of AROO events in a timely and effective manner. We currently use the following media tools to share event info:

Alfa Bits

E-mail Blasts

Facebook

AROO Calendar on Web Page

AROC Calendar on AROC site

Which do you use when you decide to attend an event?

If you can, [please click HERE](#) to send an email to Steve Davis. In the body of the email, please write in which of the above you use, and (optionally) any suggestions you have about the delivery or timeliness of any of the above. If all you do it input just your method above, that would be great!

Thanks Very Much!!

Board Member Initiatives

This is an update on some of the projects that the Board is working on:

Discord - Our "Right Now" Social Media Platform

Board Member Lila Dale is working to create an AROO space on "Discord", which is a hybrid messaging platform. With Discord, people register themselves to AROO and one or more groups (geographic groups or Alfa model groups, for example). You can opt in to receive messages if anyone posts on those groups. If you would like to be a part of this, please drop Lila an email by clicking [HERE](#) or at 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 and sign up there, and then search for AROO.

Member-recommended Auto Businesses

Board Member Frank Filice has started putting together a list of car-oriented businesses based on member experiences. These can be just about anything car-related, from repair shops to parts places to detailing & painting. We often hear from both newly located and long-time PNW people that they need someplace to get some work done that they can trust - what better place than a business that comes recommended by a fellow Alfa Owner Of Oregon member!

If you have suggestions that you personally recommend, please drop [Frank an email by clicking HERE](#). Include the name, web site, email and what they do (if it's not obvious). We will continue to add to this list, and also break it geographically. Here's a starting point on the next page!

Local parts and/or services for our vehicles that members have recently used with satisfactory results. If you have had a good experience with a 'local' vendor please share it with the club. All businesses have links to either their website or their Google Maps info.

PDX Metro

[Beaverton Auto Upholstery](#), Beaverton, OR - installed interior package on 74 GTV. 9/23

[Automotive Outfitters](#), SE Portland, tires for 88 Verde. 8/21

[Nasko Imports](#), SE Portland - Long time Alfa support

[Botta Moto Works](#), N Portland, high performance vehicle repair and maintenance. 8/23

[Ereminas Alfa Parts](#), Newberg, OR - Big selection new & used on [eBay](#) or Call Marc - 503.290.4958

Eugene/Central Willamette Valley

[Vintage Underground](#) - Eugene - high-end restorations

[Bill Gillham/Hooligan Racing](#) - Jefferson - Giulietta Specialists

[Springer Machine Shop](#) - Eugene - Engine balancing & Head work on Alfa 2L - 4/23

[Precision Classics](#) - Paint, Bodywork, Custom - 8/22

Southern Oregon - Grants Pass, Ashland, Medford, etc.

Eastern Oregon - Bend, Sisters, Redmond, etc.

Add More To This List!

Let's make this list the authority on places to take your Alfa or other special car for anything - service, paint, engine work, upholstery, etc. If you have had a good experience with a car-related business, please email [Frank Filice](#) [HERE](#), so we can get it onto this list and expand it to a full page! We want recommendations from PDX Metro, Central Willamette, Southern Oregon and the Bend/Sisters areas. Make this list YOUR list!

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.

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!!



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

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!



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.](#)

Annual Summer Solstice Tour - Renamed!



Hosted by Steve and Tina Davis

Saturday, June 1 - 12:30-4:00

With the Northwest Classic Car Challenge originally being scheduled the week of the summer solstice, it seemed like a name change was in order - so, let's have some SummerFun to start the summer!

For four years, Steve and Tina have hosted a picnic at their place outside of Eugene/Coburg, overlooking the South Willamette Valley.



This is the southern-most event on the calendar, so we really want to welcome all Alfisti & AROO-ers to our south, east and west. In the past, we've had great attendance from Grants Pass, Bend, the coast, and more.

For those coming down from Portland, we will have a tour starting at the southbound [Wilsonville Rest Stop \(map HERE\)](#). The route will wind to the east and west of I-5, ending up at the house around 12:30. Everyone not joining the tour is welcome to arrive around that time as well. **Note: you don't have to join the tour!!**

Once here, the Alfas are displayed on the front lawn, while non-Alfas make do at the back of the property. It's an impromptu car show, as we've had as many as 30 Alfas on the lawn, including some pretty special cars (not like ALL our cars aren't special!).

The BBQ will be going full time, as we serve hamburgers and veggie burgers, along with salads, cookies and drinks (beer, wine, soft drinks, tea, etc.)

Steve's shop will be open, and for those used to seeing the resto-mod Alfetta in some state of "all the kings horses...", it will be displayed on the lawn in it's fully operational state!

It's a day of relaxation, conversation and fun! We've had as many as 50 people all enjoying the sunshine on the deck (and yes, we have lots of shade too!). There are a few lawn games for the adventurous.

Mark your calendars NOW and plan to join AROO's "official" summer kick-off event! It's a wonderful opportunity to mingle with many in the club that you may only see here! [RSVP here](#) or by clicking on the button at the top. Join us!

Details:

Date: Saturday, June 1 - 12:30 till about 4:00 or so



Location: [33910 Mount Tom Drive, Harrisburg](#)

Bring: **\$5 to cover lunch per person.**

Bring a salad or dessert, but only if you want to!

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

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 or call Tom McGirr directly at 503-362-8597



Due to be unveiled on April 10, Alfa's next model is the Milano. Available in either full EV or with an internal combustion engine, Milano is classified as a compact SUV, sized similar to Volvo's EX30 or the Mini Countryman. We all hope that this EV "jump starts" Alfa's future in the US—bring it on!

Two pics - one of the car on Balocco test track, and the inset is on the door... I guess the play on words is "red"? But let's face it, only Alfa could make car camouflage look cool!