



Alfa Bits

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

May 2024 Volume 56 Issue 5



Time to Register for the Annual SummerFun Tour/Picnic!



Last Chance to RSVP for the Old Spider Tour!



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...

- Last Chance - Old Spider Tour
- SummerFun Tour/Picnic
- Overnight Tours
- Concorso Italiano - Alive?!?!?

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	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

Milano Musings...

So, the covers are off the new Milano, Alfa Romeo's small SUV. I follow a number of sites that covered the unveiling. The sites also include comments from people... and yikes. It seems that the internet gives people the privilege to make any kind of comments they want... and claws came out!

But what was worse was this: the claws also came out for anyone that expressed positive comments about the car... and I was one of those. I commented in the official Alfa Romeo site that Alfa has to move forward, and that, as much as we look back with joy on the Alfas of the past, Alfa Romeo needs to provide cars that are in line with today's customers. That means electric or hybrid or internal combustion, on a multi-power platform. I also said that the body and styling was controversial, but that has always been Alfa... remember the 75/Milano, and it's hit-in-the-rear styling?

While my post garnered it's share of clapping emojis and "right on" comments, the negative ones were awful. "You should remove Alfa from your Instagram name (it's AlfaSteve91).", "Clearly you don't have enough experience with Alfas to realize that this car is crap." As well as a number of replies with emoji's that I'm too old to understand their 'hidden meaning', but I can infer them. Wow, get personal, dude.

I've owned and been around Alfas for more than 45 years... I've seen, sat in and driven some of the most beautiful Alfas ever made, and I've also seen, sat in and driven some that I would pass on, based on looks alone. So I get it when someone doesn't like a design. And I also get that the design of the Milano is unusual. But to say that you "*wish the company would die rather than produce this piece of s**t*" makes me really wonder... what does it mean to be an "Alfista"? Can you be a "passionate supporter" of Alfa Romeo, yet wish it would go out of business because you don't like one design? And finally, is it part of your "Alfa-ness" to turn on others just because they don't agree with you? Crazy world, these days...

...or is it Junior Jabber?

Here's something funny... the city of Milan (Milano) took Alfa Romeo to court (and won) because they said that only products built in Milano can be called "Milano". So the car is now called "Junior". No word yet from Pepperidge Farm on the cookies...

Best Laid Plans - Still Laid-Up In The Shop

Many of you know that I had full plans to get my '76 Alfetta GT resto-mod running and out on the lawn by the June 1 picnic at my house. Well, that's looking less and less likely. The little niggling things keep coming up. And I've also taken a short consulting gig that's going to take me away from the car/home/wife/family for a lot of the next four weeks. So, look for it in the shop, in its 97.5% level of completion (which is really about 85%...!)

New Addition(s) to the Family - both Electric!

You will, however, get a chance to see the underside of the car this year... I bought a four-post lift and will have it under the car by the time of the picnic! I'll raise it up so you can see all the pre-dirty undersides and suspension pieces, and lower it down to see the complete interior and engine bay. Being a four-post, I can also store both the Alfetta and the Spider in one bay during the winter, leaving room in the shop for other projects and leaving the main garage a bit more clear.

Which is important because this is taking up residence in the garage! With all the 30-40 mile in-town runabouts we do, we decided to get a little 500e to see what "going electric" means. It's certainly fun to run around in!



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!!

Thanks to those that have responded already - please keep those suggestions coming!

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!

2024 Northwest Classic Car Challenge



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 at paul.eklund@alfaclub.org or Yulia at yulia.smolyansky@alfaclub.org or call/text Paul at 503-886-9229

BREAKING NEWS - CONCORSO ITALIANO 2024!

Filed under the “better late than never” category, it appears that Concorso Italiano is finally ON for 2024. New owners have purchased the event from long-time “friend of AROC” Tom McDowell. The official announcement came out just a few weeks ago, and only to previous participants and sign-ups on email lists.

At this time, there will be no official participation by AROC, as there has been in past years. Our friends in ARA have been in contact with the organizers, and we do expect that there will be a place on the grounds for Alfas. The new owners are billing this as (ahem) “The Preeminent Italian Lifestyle Event”, so we aren’t really sure what that all means, other than there will be cars and other Italian stuff.

If you are interested, [HERE](#) is the link to register and to learn more. As we learn more, we will publish updates in the AlfaBits & email.

Non-AROO 2024 Calendar of Events!

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

Event Name		2024 Date
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!

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!

Last Chance to Register for this Event! Old Spider Tour on 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!~~ the lift in the shop... ugh!

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)

HOTEL UPDATE!!

Hotels for both of these events are nearly full! Try booking yourself, then call/email Tom for other ideas if hotel is booked!

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

DSARC Tour to Crater Lake September 21-22

Our friends at Delta Sierra Alfa Romeo Club, based in Sacramento, are planning a weekend trip up to Crater Lake, and have invited AROO to meet them there! This would be a great trip for our members in the south of Oregon and coming down from Bend/Sisters, but it's a great trip for everyone!

Here's the itinerary, without the drive up from Sacramento

Hotel - Friday/Sat night, 9/22-23 - Ashland. [Stay at Plaza Inn & Suites](#) - Breakfast Included

Saturday: Drive to Crater Lake! Drivers meeting at 8:30, followed by 2+ hour drive to park. Free Admission - National Public Lands Day. Stop at Rim Village Café around 11am, followed by Rim Drive (approx. 2 hours). Bring a picnic lunch - stop at "Cloudcap Overlook" to eat. Then drive to Natural Bridge Trail/Campground for an optional hike to viewpoints. Back to Ashland hotel around 4:30. Dinner at 5:00. Nothing organized - DSARC has a list.

Sunday - depart for home (or Sacramento!)

Make your own reservations at the hotel. Tell them you are part of Alfa Romeo Club. \$179/night

If you are interested, please contact Mary Ann Dickinson, at DSARC. Her email is maryann@dickinsonassociates.com.

What a great opportunity to meet some new Alfa-lovers and take in one of Oregon's most spectacular sites!

Fall Overnight Tour to Yachats

All members and their guests are invited to participate in AROO's Annual Fall Overnighter Tour, which will be held Saturday-Sunday, October 5-6, starting at 9:00 AM departing from Salem. Join us for a day of leisurely mountain and coastal driving from Salem to Yachats.

Last year's tour featured two great restaurants on the way down to Yachats. After hearing universal raves about the food (and no complaints about the beach), we are returning to Yachats via some different roads.

Pelican Brewing in Lincoln City will be our lunch destination. I highly recommend the tri-tip sandwich along with a cup of soup, but last year's group tried a variety of entrees and everyone was very happy. The beer is really good too!

Our dinner in Yachats will again be at ONA. We enjoyed a happy hour with fabulous appetizers (thanks to the AROO board), and then a dinner that was truly outstanding. I have reserved the area next to the bar for our group. The space is limited to 22 folks. However, those that sign-up late can still join us for drinks and appetizers...you will just need to make your own dinner reservation in the main room. I will maintain a list and let you know if you will need your own reservations.

Lodging recommendations include the [Overleaf Lodge](#) and the [Fireside](#). Both are oceanfront, with the Overleaf being more upscale. Both are offering online reservations for Oct. 5. However, as any Native Oregonian knows, weekends on the coast in early fall are extremely popular and oceanfront lodging becomes very scarce. That is a hint!

Leaving around 10, we will enjoy some county back roads to Albany and have lunch at Long Timber Brewing where the tour will end.

Let me know if you are joining us. I will need alert the Pelican, ONA and Long Timber how many to expect.

Once you make your reservations, be sure to send me an RSVP e-mail letting me know you are coming. I'll then send you starting location and time to meet.

Please make your reservations now for lodging!

Contact Tom McGirr at tomsredalfa@gmail.com or 503-362-8597 for details



Here's a few new pictures of the Alfa Romeo Junior, following its introduction. Available in fully electric or plug-in hybrid, it's small-sized, but big on styling... and the interior looks awesome! Apparently, the electric version gets the "serpent & cross" front, and the hybrid gets the "script" front. In a move that sparks "HUH?" from me, Alfa has yet to say whether Junior is coming to America! Again, what was that? Alfa is making a car NOT for the North American Market? Huh? Really? What do you think?