



Alfa Bits

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

June 2024 Volume 56 Issue 6



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...

- Recaps of Old Spider Tour and SummerFun Picnic
- SPECIAL EVENT - Rally and Tour to Butteville General Store for Dinner - open to ALL!

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	Sun, 5/5
45th Old Spider Tour/Giulietta 70th Anniv	Sat, 5/18
AROC NATIONAL CONV - MICHIGAN	5/28-6/2
4th Annual SummerFun Tour/Picnic	Sat, 6/1
Tech Session/General Meeting - 503/Sauber	<RSVP> Wed, 6/26
Rally Cup #4 - TOUR & DINNER!	<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
Forest Grove Concours	Sun, 7/21
Monterey Car Week	8/9-8/18
New Car Tech Session	Wed, 8/21
General Meeting - Old Spaghetti Factory	Wed, 9/18
Alfetta 50th Anniv Tour to Haugland Collection	Sat. 9/21
Annual Old Super Tour	Sun, 10/13
General Mtg	Wed, 11/20
Annual Holiday Dinner & Tour	Sun, 12/8



Sound and Fury?

Because I don't seem to have enough going on in my life these days, I took a short consulting gig down in the Irvine SoCal area. The hotel I'm staying at is about a mile from the office, so I'm walking there. The walk takes me along a four-lane parkway, and the cars are moving somewhere between 35 and 65 miles per hour.

As you can imagine, being SoCal suburbia, about 20% of the cars are pure electric. It seems that every-other car is a Tesla (not factual, but observational...). As a matter of fact, one evening, I counted the moving (not parked) Teslas that went by me during my one-mile walk... 72 Teslas... yikes.

Remember when pure electric cars first came out, and there was this apparent freak-out that the cars were so quiet that pedestrians wouldn't hear them? I thought about that as I was walking... so I started listening to the cars as they went by.

You know what? No difference! In fact, the "noisiest" part of the cars as they sped by was the sound of the tires. And it didn't matter if the car was electric or not - the tires made the most noise. Of course, the occasional Mitsu Evo or Supra or bad-boy-BMW went by, custom exhaust piercing the air. And now that we've been driving the Fiat 500e, I can vouch for the fact that electric cars are a lot quieter on the inside. But the exhaust noise, which used to be the tell-tale indicator of an internal-combustion engine, has been eliminated. ICE cars are just as quiet as their electric counterparts on the outside. Perhaps it was always that way?

A Full-Swing Summer!

By the time you read this, the first two "biggie" events of 2024 are in the rearview mirror. The Old Spider Tour and the SummerFun picnic have both just happened, and pictures in this issue are offered as proof. Now we are in top-gear for the next four months! Because we were forced to cancel the

Norhwest Classic Challenge, Paul and Yulia have put together a wonderful all-day rally to close out our Cup series. But this rally is open to everyone, not just those of you running in the Cup series. Please make time to come out and join us on June 30. It's a full day of driving, good food, and friends sharing a love for our cars and our roads. Look at the RSVP on the previous page to register and read more about it in a page or two.

This issue also has info on the next set of summer events. You'll read about the Summer Wine Country Tour. Additionally, the Forest Grove Concours is open for registration, and there are also some nice regional events. Finally, the summer wouldn't be complete without the Overnight tour that Bob McGill organizes, and has been in the 'Bits for a few months. That takes us through August, but we aren't stopping there... more fun is on the way!

Old Spider Tour—Thoughts

Later in this issue you will see read some details and see some picture from the Old Spider Tour. As hard as it is to believe, this is the first AROO "Official Tour" I attended since I moved here! We had lots of great drives through Connecticut and Massachusetts when I was in the AROC-CT chapter. When I was in the Bay Area, the ARA chapter held its annual "One Lap of Marin," which was, up to now, my favorite all-day tour. No longer. The tour route the Marion and Bill Gillham developed for us was without peer, and without a doubt the best one-day drive I've ever had. Its as though the Oregon roads were made for Alfas; twisty enough to be fun, but not too twisty that you can't look around, and not too tight that you can't take them in fourth or third gear. As an extra bonus, the official "end" of the tour took us close to the coast, so I was able to return to Eugene on 101, enjoying top-down driving through the wonderful towns along the coast. Every state says that they have the "best driving roads in the country"... I'm fully team Oregon now, and I can't wait for the next one!

RSVP

Tech Session and General Meeting
Wednesday June 26 - 6:00-7:30pm

Dry Ice Cleaning - The State of the Art!

Location: 503 Motoring, Sauber NW, Beaverton

NOTE NEW DATE/TIME - June 26!!

503 Motoring, in Beaverton, is on the cutting edge of modern car customization, care and maintenance! Cars of all makes and models are in the shop, getting everything from detailing to new wheels/tires, vinyl wrapping and lots, lots more.

We've arranged for our June General Meeting to be at their shop ([map HERE](#)). The "official" topic is how they are using the newest technologies like dry ice for cleaning and restoring. However, looking at the cars and the services offered, there will probably be many more topics discussed! The meeting is being held at their Sauber Northwest location.

503 has generously decided to provide dinner/drinks for us at no charge, which will be served at the start of the meeting at 6:00. Presentation and demos to start around 7:00.

503 Motoring is a big shop, and they do collector/exotic sales as well, so there will be a lot to see. This could be specially nice for our new-generation Alfa Romeo cars, as there are probably lots of pretty cool things that relate to modern tech autos.

Interested? [RSVP HERE](#) or click the red button to the right to send an email to Tom Gammons, our AROO Board Member who is coordinating this event with 503.

Get your RSVP in NOW and plan to learn about "what's now & what's next" in automotive science!



First Notice...

Annual Alfa Wine Tour and Picnic **Saturday, July 20**

Our traditional tour leaders, Russ and Carol Paine, will be unavailable this year, and Board Member Doug Zaitz has stepped up to run the tour to a few of the lesser-known and better-tasting wineries in the mid-Willamette Valley.

As of this publishing, Doug is finishing up at the National Convention, and is participating in AROC's Tour of Italy. So he's going to complete the tour with some help from Russ, including start/end times, locations to visit, and picnic details, upon his return. In the past, this has been one of the club's more well-attended events, as the combination of mid-summer driving, great roads, great picnic spot, and the occasional sip of wine is hard to beat!

The best thing to do is to mark your calendars now, and watch for details in the July AlfaBits and also in email blasts and our facebook posts.

Do you know AROO is on facebook! If not, you should join! All our events are posted there, and many members post photos of events... some of them mid-event for up-to-the-second information! It's also a place for idea sharing and comments about our cars. You may not be a fan of social media, but this is one site you should join! Click over there -> to visit & join.



AROO Rally Cup - All-Day Finale! Open Rally/Tour Event for ALL!!

Rallyists and members of the 2024 AROO Rally Cup! Mark your calendar for a special event on Sunday, June 30. This event will be the AROO CUP Rally #4 and determines the season champions. However **EVERYONE**, in any kind of car, is encouraged to sign up for this very special rally, even if you have never done one before! The rally will not be difficult to follow, will visit some awesome roads, and have about 25 checkpoints over 7 scored legs. We will also have a TOUR that follows the same roads, but has no rally/TSD instructions, so drive for fun!

The rally will start at Cook Park in Tigard. 8:30am cars on display (unofficial Concours and Coffee) 9:30 driver's meeting. The Tour Cars depart about 9:45, and First Rally Car Out at 10:00. There will be a Morning Break at Bald Peak Park, and a leisurely catered box lunch at a picnic area in Yamhill County from 11:45 - 1pm. The afternoon break is at Champoeg Park (near Butteville).

We have a special dinner planned that you just MUST stay for! The final part of the rally takes us into Butteville, for dinner at the famous [Butteville General Store](#). Arrival time is approx 5:45. Dinner is \$35/person payable at the table.

The Butteville General Store is the oldest operating Retail Establishment in Oregon!

Menu is *Santa Maria Tri-Tip marinated in burgundy and pepper, barbecued over oak wood, oak grilled chicken thighs with mustard vinaigrette, garlic bread, potatoes with cheddar and green onion, mixed green salad with candied pecans, and homemade ice cream for dessert...* Did someone say "YUMMM"? Best of all, the *restaurant is normally closed on Sunday, but is opening just for us "car people"!*

Pricing:

RALLY is \$80/car (driver & navigator). Lunch is included, but dinner is separate

LONG TOUR (with Leader or on your own) is \$80/car (driver + guest). Lunch included; dinner separate

[Click HERE to sign up for the Rally or the Long Tour](#) on the AROC site. Let Paul know if you are NOT staying for dinner.

RSVP for Rally/Tour

Special Rally-Related Event for ALL AROO Members! Tour & Dinner

The dinner at the [Butteville General Store](#) is so special, we wanted everyone to be invited!

We've created a SHORT TOUR starting approx 4pm from the Dicks Sporting Goods parking lot ([map here](#)) near the Bridgeport Village that will rendezvous with the long tour at Champoeg State Park. The driving tour is about 75 minutes long, covering about 43 miles. From there, everyone will head to the Butteville General Store for their amazing dinner, at \$35/person.

This is a very unique opportunity for all of us in AROO to experience this location, surrounded by fellow Alfisti and Car People! The best part of this tour is that there is no cost for the tour! If you choose to head to the Butteville General Store on your own without the tour, that's OK also! Just be there by about 5:45. **Don't miss this very special opportunity!**

[Click HERE to RSVP for the SHORT TOUR and dinner](#) on the AROC site.

RSVP Short Tour - Dinner

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



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.

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

[Wilson Radiator](#), Vancouver, WA - old-school radiator shop

[Bartosh Import Auto Parts](#), Vancouver, WA - long-standing independent import car parts shop

[Trackside Motorsports](#), Kenton, NE PDX

Acme Welding Body Shop: 503-230-1873 - Great sheet metal straightening. 610 SE Salmon St, Portland, OR 97214

P J Markovich - Brightwork repair (but not polishing):
503-998-2047 (works out of his house)

Ron's Front End & Brakes: (503) 775-8189 Alignments. They understand our old cars. 5912 SE Foster Rd, Portland, OR 97206

[Automotive Outfitters](#)... Tire/Wheel Store. Ship your Tire Rack stuff there. (503) 772-0654 8324 SE Foster Rd, Portland

Guy Recordon Interiors, (503) 224-8657, 2400 NE Holladay, PDX

Tom Black's Garage (Autobody), (503) 239-0227, 2400 NE Holladay, Portland (same as above)

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!

*Roses, Roads and Red Alfas...
An Amazing Old Spider Tour!*



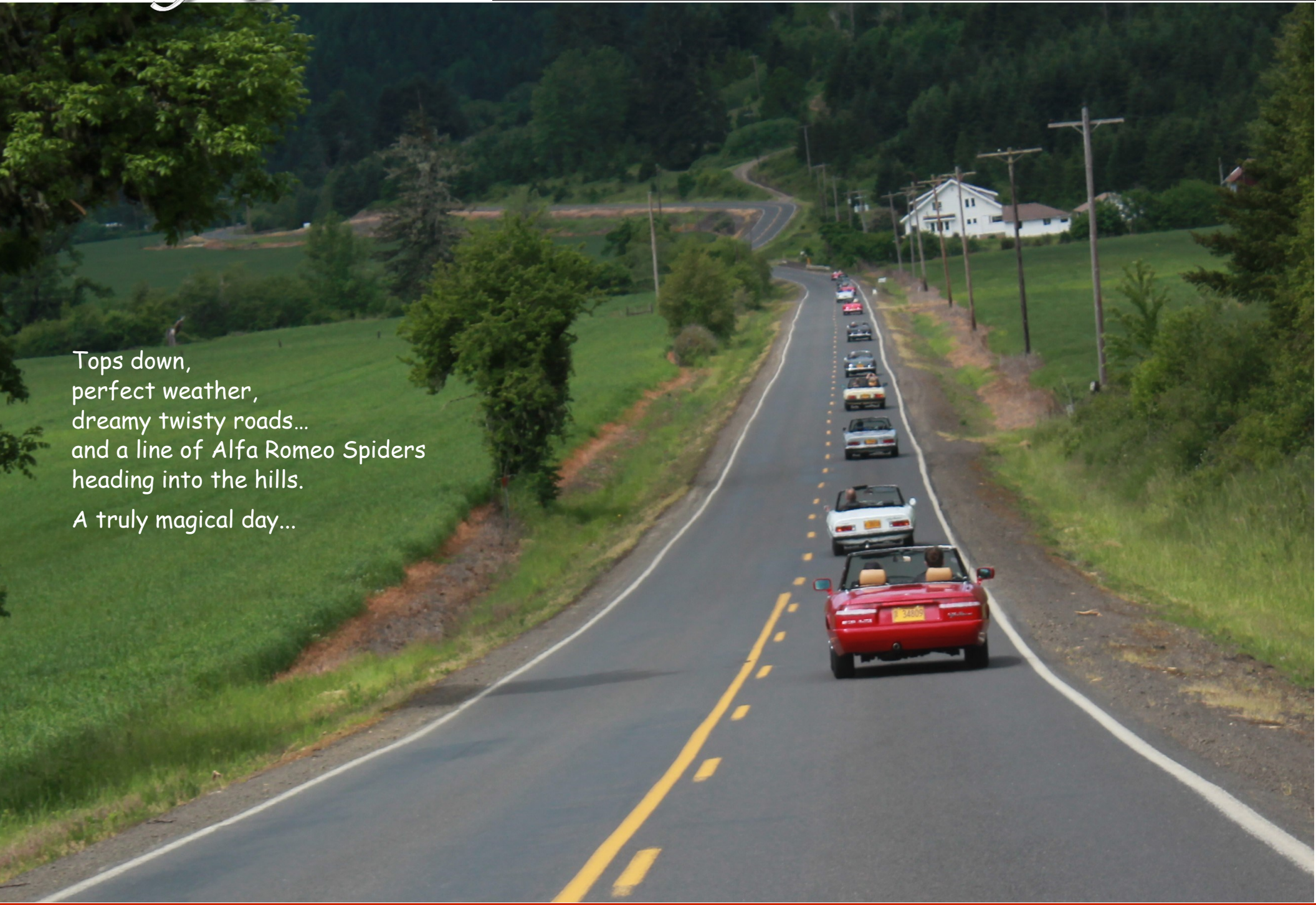




Top - contrary to popular opinion, Bill was not tied up to that pole until everyone signed the waiver! Thanks, Bill and Marion for the most wonderful day of driving and fun!
Bottom: "New" Spiders came out in force too! All generations were represented on this top-down day. The scene at the I-5 rest stop prior to departure... what a great start to the day!



Tops down,
perfect weather,
dreamy twisty roads...
and a line of Alfa Romeo Spiders
heading into the hills.
A truly magical day...





Top - Mr. Brown, the Alfa-dog, greets all the picnickers. The cars lined up on the front lawn.

Bottom - three happy Fiats got their chance on the lawn as well. The picnic area was decorated in festive banners and an Alfa umbrella that had to go back to the late 80's... and it doesn't leak!





Steve's nearly done 76 Alfetta resto-mod was open for inspection, and the lift provided a chance to see a completely clean, non-leaking Alfetta underside and powder coated suspension. At right, the engine all ready to ignite. Below... hey, just a little bling in the c-pillar wing vents... right?



Alfetta 50th Celebration Tour to the Haugland Collection September 21

Calling all Alfas, and especially the transaxle variety! Alfa Romeo is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Alfetta, and by connection, the GTV6 and Milano also. What better way to celebrate than to drive down to Eugene to see the amazing auto collection of Alex and Amy Haugland.

Alex's collection now numbers over 200, and he recently consolidated them into two warehouses. Alex collects cars that reflect his sense of style, and you will see many "one of one's", as well as beautiful cars from England, Italy, Spain and more. At last count, Alex has eight Alfas, including a Montreal, a Sprint Special, a TZ, and more, including an Alfetta GT and a GTV6. Best of all, Alex drives them all on a regular basis, and it's not unusual to see he or Amy on the roads around Eugene.

Touring his collection takes time, so the plan will be to arrive at his first warehouse around 10:30. Therefore, the route may be backroads, but not too time-consuming. We'll then caravan the short distance to the other location. From there, we will plan a late lunch, probably at "Chiefs BBQ" in Coburg, which is right off I-5.

Stay tuned for more info on this. Alex doesn't open his collection to the public, so it's a very special opportunity we have to share his incredible group of cars! Mark those calendars NOW!

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

Roses are Red, Alfas are Red...
Whatever happened to Dave Beach's head???

