



# Alfa Bits

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS OF OREGON

January 2025 Volume 57 Issue 1



**Dave Beach - A great Alfisti and a wonderful man**



**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.



**2025 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...**

- Pictures and remembrances of our friend Dave Beach
- Upcoming Event - Brothers Collection Tour

**2025 AROO Calendar of Events!**

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

Event Name	2025	Date
Brothers Collection Tour	<a href="#">&lt;RSVP&gt;</a>	Feb 23
<b>MORE EVENTS COMING SOON WATCH HERE AND ON <a href="#">AlfaClub.org</a></b>		



## Make 2025 a Great Year!

I want to personally wish everyone a happy new year. My wish would be for each of you to make the absolute best of every day. Drive your car, hug your loved ones, celebrate your friends, and do something good for our planet. And have fun!!

Your AROO Board is meeting in mid-January for an extended meeting. Our goal is to plan the full event calendar for 2025 and to discuss some of the opportunities and challenges we face as a car club in the USA. You have an incredibly talented Board of Directors, with broad backgrounds, diverse skills and a common vision - to make enjoying our Alfa Romeo cars in Oregon the best experience possible. Watch this space and this issue next month for the results of our meeting! One thing I can tell you is that we are planning an exciting and road-worthy set of events for 2025, and we want to see you all at every one of those events!

A large part of this issue is devoted to our dear friend and consummate gentleman, Dave Beach. We lost Dave last month, and it was a shock to those who knew and loved him. Many of you sent me photos and stories about your dealings and adventures with Dave. I've included as much as I have. Should anyone else read this column or the rest of AlfaBits this issue, and wish to send in a story or remembrance of Dave, we will try to get them all included on our website.

One more time, friends - make 2025 your year!

## Upcoming Event Alert!!!

**The Brother's Collection Tour**  
**Sunday, February 23rd, 1pm – 4:30pm**  
**RSVP no later than February 20th!!**



*The Porsche Club of Oregon has invited AROO to join them at this amazing collection! If you have never been, it's truly one of the most amazing collections you may ever see. Here's the info from the flyer that I was sent from Porsche (and AROO) member Jeff Gretz.*

We'll be visiting one of the largest private automobile museums in the world. It's located about an hour south of Portland, in **Salem**. We'll be viewing 350 cars on display from a private collection of over 600 cars. We've arranged exclusive access for Porsche and Alfa Club members only.

Start your visit with Lamborghini, Mercedes, Jaguar, Maserati, Porsche including a 959, Ford GT, Bizzarini and a large section of Ferraris, including supercars and one-off's. Then step into the transitional section which includes Bugatti Veyron, Saleen S7, Maserati MC-12, Ferrari FXX, Porsche 918 and Carrera GT, Jaguar XJ220 and an incredible Ford/Cobra/Shelby section including the original Ford GT prototype and the one-and-only 1965 Shelby Cobra Daytona 427 Super Coupe.

Then make your way down the ramp to the unforgettable and truly amazing muscle car collection of over 250 cars. It's the largest and rarest muscle car collection in the world.

A truly world-class collection and an unforgettable experience. The cost for the Museum visit is \$30 per person, cash or check (made out to ORPCA).

Details: you MUST RSVP for this event by clicking [HERE](#) or the button above. The collection is private, and the address will be sent to those that RSVP prior to February 20.

That guy - that guy in the picture below. That's how I will always remember Dave Beach. Big laugh, bigger heart. Spider or Super. Seeing Dave at an AROO event was always one of the highlights for me. While I'd known him for a while before, we became friends at the 2013 National Convention in Sonoma. We talked about his beautiful Sprint GT (in the hands of his daughter/son-in-law then). When I moved up to Oregon, Dave was one of the first people to welcome me here. He came to almost all of the Solstice picnics, and loved my Alfetta project. Positive... knowledgeable... big fun... bigger heart. I'll miss you, my friend.

*Steve Davis*



I met Dave probably 10 plus years ago at one of the Alfa meetings. Being a friend of Doug Zaitz, I was always interested in the then called Monte Shelton rally and Dave had participated in many of those I believe. He later volunteered to be a check point worker at that and the Mini Rallies.

We became good acquaintances. I

remember one time asking Dave to be my navigator on a 356 Porsche tour that I had organized. He had a great time and was amazed that I could muster up 17 cars.

He seemed to always be active in the club. He was there recently when we had a get to know each other meeting at the OSF. He welcomed new members with a passion.

About a year ago, I invited him to come over to the shop and change the oil on his new Guilia. He brought Kathy's PT Cruiser over to work on a couple of issues as well.

We went together to the Haugland Tour in his Guilia. He seemed to attend several of the tours and really seemed to enjoy himself by being in the club.

A strong Oregon State supporter, as a Civil Engineer, he worked for the Army Corps and had served in the U.S. Navy.

A great guy, he will be missed.

*John Clemson*



In August of 2006 Dave Beach and I drove my 1967 Giulia Super "Hooligan" to Tulsa to deliver a proposal to the AROC board for a Convention to be held in Portland in 2009. David and I were to be the co-chairs. Dave navigated the first half of my 5000 + mile two-lane-blacktop adventure. Doug Zaitz navigated for me on the road home.

Dave and I had shared some Alfa adventures over the previous 18 years, but we were always driving in our own Alfas. It was Dave's first experience driving a Giulia Super. It must have been transformative, as he came home and bought a red Super from Les Hurlock. It was to become his favorite Alfa.

I learned a lot about Dave in our four days on the road. First and foremost was that any Alfa adventure is better with Ice cream. We ate Ice cream at nearly every opportunity, Including a memorable chocolate sunday in Burns, OR, (a godsend after changing a flat tire in the heat on Stinking Water Pass).

Dave visited the Antique Store next door after Ice cream and negotiated the purchase of a wonderful old tin pedal car, for the Grandchild he hoped his daughter might have someday. We even had Ice cream at a parlor across from the Aspen City Hall, I have a picture to prove it.

Dave loved Road-Side-Diners, old classic Drive-Ins and road food in general. Our stop for Lunch at Dandy's Drive-In in Bend took more than an hour. Dandy's still had roller skating carhops. He was a perfect navigator for a two-lane-blacktop adventure.

Our road took us on Highway 20 to Ontario, OR, then into Idaho where we followed Highway 30 into Utah. We crossed the Logan Pass and dropped down to Bear Lake, stopping in Lake City for Huckleberry Ice cream. We

crossed into Wyoming, taking a rest break at the Fossil Butte National Monument. Dave had me drive by the original Penny's Department Store in Kemmer.

We crossed back into Utah via the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. Dave was driving on the pass outside Vernal, Utah when Hooligan was attacked by a big old Tom Turkey who was shepherding his harem across the road. Tom got the hens safely across, then came back in full display and charged the car. Dave gave him a full symphony from Hooligan's Bosch horns. The Tom retreated, apparently, he thought better about attacking an Alfa on its own turf! Dave laughed so hard he could hardly drive!

Our trip from Vernal Utah took us across Colorado diagonally, with Ice cream stops in Aspen and Pueblo. Ice cream helped to cool us down in the non-air-conditioned Super when it got too hot inside. We topped 10,000 feet 5 different times and 12,000 feet on Independence Pass, before driving into the endless wheat fields of Kansas. The oil fields, lakes, reservoirs, puddles, and rolling stubble fields of Oklahoma finally took us into Tulsa.

Dave Beach and I shared many adventures in our Alfas; including co-chairing the 2009 Convention in Portland. We also took another road trip driving a trailer full of old Alfas home from Detroit. We took turns writing and running AROC's popular "Old Super Tour" for 10 years.

We were friends for more than 40 years. We I will miss his enthusiasm, his knowledge, and his friendship.

I will remember him every time I have Ice cream!

*Bill Gillham*



David Beach was a connoisseur of old cars. Over the years his interest and ownership spanned multiple vehicles. It included Austin Healey's, Jaguars, Ferrarri's, Jeeps, Renaults, Porsches, Model A Hot Rods, PT Cruisers, Fords, Lincoln Town cars, and of course his beloved Alfa Romeos. He Had a soft spot for large American station wagons. He once told me that part of the selection process was being able to lay the rear seats flat, slide in a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood, and close the rear door. They became his substitute for a pickup truck on his and Kathy's blueberry farm. The last one he had was sold to a fellow in France, hopefully it is being used to escort tourists around Le Mans.

He enjoyed his sport cars and sport sedans but one of the appeals of the large cars was, because he had so many friends, he could stuff a bunch of them in and take off on an adventure. Like heading up towards Mt Hood for an alpine dinner in a log cabin. Good memories.

My wife and I met Dave and Kathy on a Bob McGill tour over forty years ago. In car terminology he was a "spark plug" kind of guy who helped move AROO on to new activities.

When the Seattle club held its first national convention in 1984 AROO had a large contingent that attended. Afterwards Dave said "we could do a convention" so a group of people coalesced around the idea and in 1987 with Dave as club president AROO held its first convention. Over the years he was on the Board of Directors multiple times. His proudest moments were when he could talk a new member in the club into taking his place on the board as his term expired.

Dave had multiple interests: sailboats, camping in their motorhome, snow birding in Arizona, geocaching, travel, OSU football, golfing... but *not* fishing, never could get him to go fishing.

On multiple sailboats charters in the San Juans and one to the BVIs Dave would comment on his dislike of motorboats, wind was far superior to diesel - until we both got old and could no longer scramble across the deck setting sails. Our last charter was a motorboat. In a final irony this last summer he bought a racing motorboat that was powered by a flat head Ford motor from the 1940s. He told me that once he saw the motor he couldn't resist buying it.

Dave led an interesting and very productive life, had a lot of good friends, and was always planning new adventures. His sudden passing caught us all by surprise, he will be missed by many.

*Richard Larsen*



## A Generous Gentleman

I have a strong memory of my very first AROO Christmas dinner years ago at a restaurant. New to the group, I didn't know anyone. Roger and I sat at a table with Dave and Kathy. I was dressed fancy, yet not so practical for the season. After a while I was shivering cold. Dave, quite the gentleman, removed his jacket and put it around my shoulders. I was a bit embarrassed, then exceedingly grateful, and kept warm the rest of the evening.

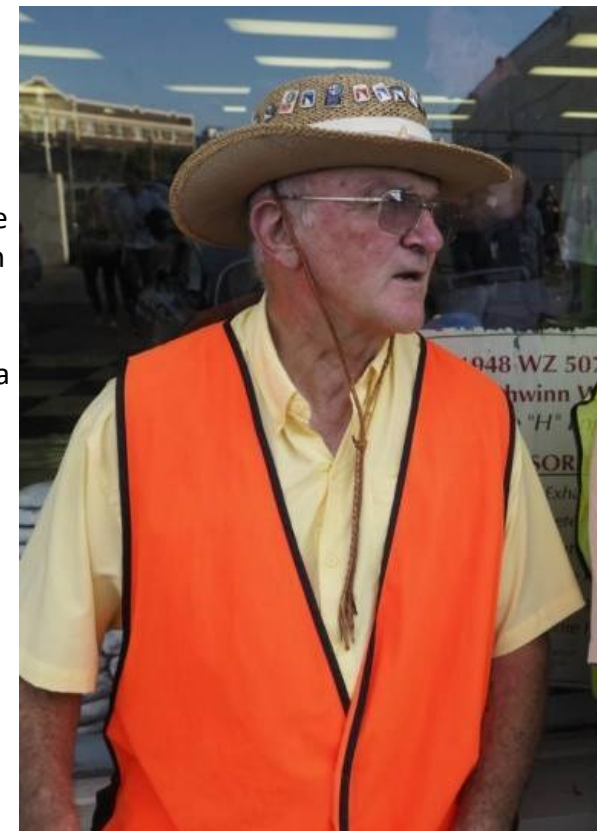
I have never forgotten his chivalry and kindness. Through the years, and most recently on the guinea pig run of the NW Classic, I again, experienced how generous, kind and good hearted Dave was. He seemed just so very happy to be out driving his red car. *Connie V. Dilts*

Dave was the most enthusiastic volunteer. Those folks are hard to find, someone willing to sit in a folding chair by the side of the road, sometimes out in the sun or rain for hours, timing cars as they drive by. But Dave (and Kathy, too) were always up for it. Dave didn't just run timing controls, but did tech inspection at rallies and track days, directed traffic, and helped out however he could. As the volunteer coordinator for the 2009 AROC Convention and the NW Classic Rally, I came to rely on Dave's willingness to pitch in.

One of the last times we worked together was the pre-check ("guinea pig run") of the 2022 NW Classic Rally. Starting in Wilsonville and running to Eugene, Dave was driving his beloved red Giulia Super. It was a beautiful route, covering the forests, farmlands, small towns, and back roads that make Oregon such a wonderful place to rally. Dave and his navigator had a great time, taking notes and enjoying the drive. We all shared a picnic lunch at Fern Ridge Lake, where Dave told me about his experience in the service in Vietnam as an engineer and his early career once he was stateside. Quite a life.

One of the most memorable moments was driving through Lobster Valley. If you've never been there (and unless you've been on the NWCR, you probably haven't been), it's a lovely little valley in the Coast Range. We stopped for a break at the tiny Lobster Valley Church. Dave was quite taken with the beauty of the setting and wanted to leave a donation to the church, but was concerned that the collection plate was out in the open and the money could be stolen. The caretaker assured him that this was not a problem in Lobster Valley, no one would steal from the Church. Dave was moved to tears as he put his offering in the plate. As we walked back to our cars, and many times after, Dave thanked me for the opportunity to experience something so beautiful as Lobster Valley. I'd always known Dave as a hard worker and helpful friend; I was glad I got to know him as a tender soul.

*Roger Dilts*







*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

[Glass Magnum](#) - Eugene - Glass installs for European & exotics - 541-465-1811

## **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.

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.



Here's something you don't see every day... looking over a Porsche Carrera GT and a Porsche 918, past a Jaguar XJ220, and into one of the most complete Cobra collections you may ever see! It's all at the Brothers Collection, and you can experience it all on February 23rd!

Look Inside for Details - Register TODAY!

