

Iniezione

The newsletter of the Northwest Alfa Romeo Club

Festa di Amici

Words by Fred Russell

'Tis the holiday season and a perfect time for parties and festivities. With a new location and food choices providing a new feel, we brought lots of familiar faces and a ton of Alfa enthusiasm all together on Saturday, December 11 at Marianna's Ristorante in downtown Renton. Just over 50 people attended the club's Fest di Amici event with a couple first timers joining in as well.

Marianna's was open just for us and our Christmas gathering. Gordy and Anni cheerfully greeted attendees at the door and issued name tags and bidder numbers. The space was generous with one portion dedicated to the numerous auction items, with the rest of the space working well for talking, dining, and the bar area.

A slightly raised stage was in one corner where we setup the screen and projector providing a continuous backdrop of images of cars, not just Alfas, from events and locations around the world including races, the Alfa Museum, and even the newly opened Petersen Museum.

As guests arrived, so did some of the last few auction items. In all around \$2000 worth was donated making a great variety of fun items enabling a number of us to do our Christmas shopping for ourselves and others. As the bidding closed, we'd raised \$1500 with the entire amount going to the clubs chosen 2015 charity, Seattle Milk Fund. This wonderful local charity has been helping people for over 100 years. Started to provide food and friendship to those in need, it partnered with a couple local dairies to also provide milk and then medical support, and now focuses primarily on education, childcare, and family support.

As the evening went along many of us feasted a little too well on the wonderful appetizers that Marianna's had set out so that when dinner time came around, though very good, we were already rather full. I found room anyway as the Pollo Renton was delicious. The staff, meals, wine, and atmosphere were all excellent.

We did our presentation about the club, thanked volunteers, those who donated items, and all people whose efforts support the club chores and events. Gordy gave us an update on the

(Cont'd on page 5)



Photo by Fred Russell



Photo by Fred Russell

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Next club events...

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Happy New Year to All! Especially to our newest officer and board member, Cindy Akana. Cindy graciously agreed to run for club vice-president this year and, after the election, has taken on the duties of planning meeting agendas and filling in for the president when necessary. Ken Case has to be thanked for the exemplary job he has done the last two years and we hope he will be ready for another leadership position soon. Thanks, Ken!

I think our winter club celebration, Festa di Amici, was a great success. It was agreed that the food, especially the appetizers, was good and the location was convenient, with lots of room for dinner as well as the auction, and that the atmosphere of the restaurant was especially "Italian-appropriate." We missed a lot of you, and hope you will be there next year, but had about fifty attendees and seventy auction items. Read all about it in another section of this Iniezione. Special thanks to Judy Gehring for all of the event planning and auction coordination, Gordy Hyde for doing the auction bid sheets and compiling results accurately and promptly, Ron Calkins for taking and responding to reservations and also compiling auction results accurately and promptly, and Fred Russell for putting together a wonderful set of pictures on the screen before and during dinner and the great compilation of the club's events for the year. He was also responsible for those "party favors," the photos of the new Giulia actually on U.S. soil. As of now, we plan to repeat the event at the same location December 15, 2016, so put it on your calendars.

You still have a chance to purchase something from this year's silent auction, too. As always, the auction was a success, being fun for Festa attendees, as well as covering event expenses and having left over money to give to charity. The contributions from commercial vendors was not as numerous this year, but one who came through again, albeit a bit late, was Bert Levy, writer of very good automotive fiction and our last convention keynote speaker. Bert has written a series of historical fiction books about auto racing, starting with his *Last Open Road*. They have been critically acclaimed, very historically accurate, and full of humor, and personally, I have found them very fun to read. I even proofread a couple of them for him. A day after the Festa, I

received one signed copy of the *Last Open Road* and individual certificates for any of his books, signed and personalized any way you want. Check out his website, Lastopenroad.com for descriptions, and if you want one, let me know. They retail for \$35, but the average at our silent auctions has been \$20, so that is the NWARC price. These are great reading, and even if it's after the holiday season, would make a great birthday, or anyday gift.

I don't have much Alfa news to pass on this month. It will be fun to hear news about the Giulia at the North American International Auto Show this month, hopefully maybe we will even see the normale version. Sergio Marchionne, chairman of Fiat/Chrysler is speaking out again, and stated, "We're thinking about bringing it (Alfa Romeo) back to racing, to Formula One, it's important for Alfa to return," but I think we all know what credence to give that. It is fun to hear such things, though.

The New Year's Drive is coming up, and always popular, and Chris Benny has invited us to his new shop, Prova Motorsports, for our January meeting. I hope you will attend at least one of these events. It would be great to get the NWARC year off to a great start.

Bill Gehring
NWARC President



Club Meeting

Prova Motorsports

Tuesday, Jan 12

Our long time club member, Alfa fanatic, club supporter, local expert, and one of our club's Chief Driving Instructors, Chris Benny, opened his own local specialty car shop late in 2014 and has invited us to come visit.

Many of us knew Chris when he kept our cars in good repair, sorted out brakes, suspensions, steering, wheels, and tires when he was the lead at Group 2 Motorsports. Now, he's taken his talents into his own facility, Prova Motorsports. Services offered are: Street Car, Performance, & Race Car Alignments (Uses a 'Hunter Hawk Eye', state of the art alignment system to fine tuning your setup), Brake Maintenance & Upgrades, Corner Balancing, Race Car Preparation, Scheduled Maintenance, Suspension Installation and Tuning, Wheel Mounting and Balancing.

On January 12, Chris will host our club meeting where you'll get a chance to see the tools, talents, and techniques up close as he gives us the tour of his place. We'll also get fed pizza, drinks, and chat with old friends.

When: Tuesday, January 12 6:30—9:00 PM

What: Club Meeting / Shop Tour

**Where: Prova Motorsports
4022 23rd Ave West Seattle,
WA 98199**

Who: All club members, Alfa Romeo fanatics, people that can spell Alfa Romeo, and even anyone who's never seen Chris in his native habitat.

Food: We'll have pizza and drink for attendees.



Informazioni Generali

The **Iniezione** is the monthly newsletter of the Northwest Alfa Romeo Club, a non-profit organization of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts. NWARC is a regional chapter of the national Alfa Romeo Owners Club (AROC). Chapter meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of most months except December. Membership dues are \$68 per year, which includes subscriptions to either the digital and/or print versions of the Iniezione and the monthly national publication, *Alfa Owner*. For information about joining the club, contact the membership director listed in the right hand column. Opinions expressed in the Iniezione are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the club. (The author may simply be nuts!) Publication of articles describing technical procedures does not constitute an endorsement by the club, its officers, or AROC. It is the responsibility of the person performing any procedure to accept all consequences of his or her actions. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone would take personal responsibility?

Commercial advertisements in the newsletter are a win! During this tight economy, give your business added exposure while supporting the NWARC. Ad rates are: **5"x8" \$85/Qtrly \$200/Annu 4"x5" \$65/Qtrly \$170/Annu 2"x3.5" \$50/Qtrly \$120/Annu** E-mail a color tif, or pdf file (300 DPI) to editor@nwalfaclub.com

To subscribe to the digital newsletter: Send an e-mail to info-subscribe@nwalfaclub.com ...then when the automated tool sends you an e-mail message, simply reply to the msg and you're on the list.

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(Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts)
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(Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon)
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Photo by: Dave Emerson

Volunteer Corner



For those of us who attended the Festa di Amici, we saw a smooth evening where it was easy, relaxed, fun, and comfortable. The space, décor, auction tables, menu, agenda, and everything worked as it should. I bet you can think of a few other events you've attended that didn't feel as nice, or where things didn't flow as they were supposed to.

The key difference is all the planning, restaurant visits, organizational phone calls, e-mails and letters to possible auction item donors, pickup of items, signage and bid sheets, registration confirmations, auction planning and tabulation, and more that goes on behind the scenes. This planning takes place starting as early as weeks preceding the holiday party and involves a number of people. Ron Calkins, Gordy Hyde (and Anni), Fred Russell, Paul & Kristy Affolter, Tony & Debi Schmid, and Bill Gehring all played roles to make this come together.

On top of all this, there was one person who glued all these efforts together, making sure that all the details were done and it all fit together. That one person was Judy Gehring. Her efforts were continual from day one until the event was finished.

Lots of phone calls and logistical efforts seamlessly sewn together to make a simple party seem simple... despite the auction, new location, new menu, and numerous challenges that were faced and overcome.

Thanks, Judy, for putting out the extra efforts and also to Bill for knowing it is best to support a great partner on events like this. Thanks also to everyone who helps volunteer their time to support NWARC and the members.

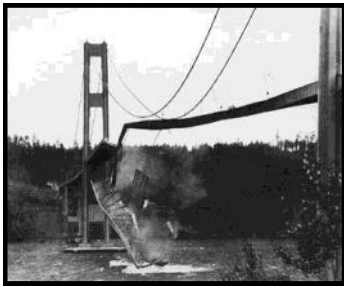


New Year's Anti Football Drive Friday, January 1st

You could set your alarm, and wake in time to watch the Outback, Citrus, or Fiesta Bowls, **or** you could instead roll out of bed and join along on the New Year's Day / Anti-Football Drive. In fact, if you come along, you could even invite that odd cousin with the American hot rod, or European oddity. All are welcome! The weather forecast for New Year's Day looks so nice you'll even be able to bring your best car.

We'll gather just south of Southcenter Mall (Now that the crowds have dwindled) at the **Starbucks Super Center, 17480 Southcenter Pkwy, Tukwila WA 98188**. To find this start point, head south of the Southcenter / Westfield Mall on Southcenter Parkway, and turn left at the traffic light at "17500 Block", and find the Starbucks right next to Old Navy. Most of the area stores will be closed on New Year's morning so gathering for a coffee and driver meeting around 8:30 AM should be easy.

After handing out the route guides, going over a couple details, **we'll head out at 9 AM** heading south. Following smaller roads, we'll pass through Federal Way, Fife, Tacoma, Ruston, and across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Next, we'll stop in Gig Harbor to gather a few more cars, before wandering northbound on backroads up the Kitsap Peninsula on our way north.



With traffic lighter than a normal Friday, or even a normal weekend, we'll drive through Bremerton, across the Manette Bridge, and up through the tiny communities with great names like Illahee, Gilberton, and Brownsville. We'll aim for a lunch stop in a town protected by the 12 foot tall Viking statue; Poulsbo. A few places, like Boehm's Chocolates, will be closed this day, but many other stores, coffee

houses, and restaurants will be open so we can each go to the diner that fits us best... including the famous Poulsbo Bakery.

After lunch, we'll gather at the Poulsbo Historical Museum and with a small donation (\$5 per person holiday rate?) we can tour and learn about the history of the area and its strong Norwegian ties. They've promised that the Maritime Museum in this port town will also be open for us.



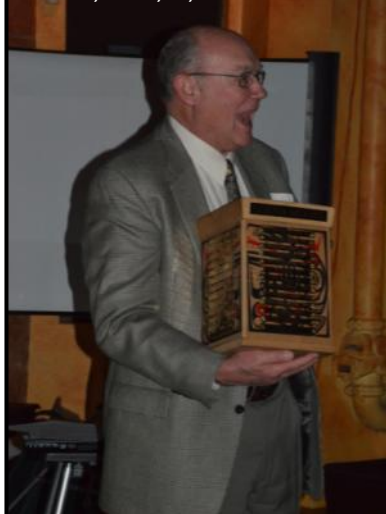
Once we've worn out our welcome, we have two return options: Option 1 includes back roads through Suquamish, past the Chief Seattle (Sealth) burial site, then north and east through Indianola on our way to the Kingston Ferry dock and finally, Edmonds. Option 2 takes us across the Agate Pass bridge onto Bainbridge Island where we can enjoy the wooded, twisty roads as we head towards Eagle Harbor and the Seattle ferry.

Of course, we can't control the weather but our record is fantastic so far and the mix of cars is worth the efforts to tag along. When you head back you'll still have enough time to watch most of the Sugar Bowl. See you on the road!



Festa Cont'd...

Ken Case, 2015 Alfista of the Year.
Photo by Gordy Hyde.



National club, as did Joe Faherty as he reminded us about upcoming elections. The Year-In-Review slide show recapping all the events that the club or our members took part in. Bill also took a moment to thank retiring Vice President, Ken Case for his efforts as well as introducing the new Vice President-elect, Cindy Akana.

To wrap up the events, Ron Calkins talked of his appreciation for being selected last year as the Alfista of the Year, then shared his thoughts on his choice for this year's award. Chosen for his numerous efforts to put together fun meetings, speakers, and drives for the last few years, the Alfisti of the Year award went to Ken Case. It was a wonderful choice, catching Ken completely by surprise which only adds to the award.

Thank you to Bill & Judy Gehring, and numerous others who helped put this wonderful event together as well as all the generous donations, bidders, and every guest who attended. It was a great way to celebrate all that is good with the social and charitable side of the greatest Alfa Romeo club in the Northwest, and perhaps the Nation.



The Greatest



On the crowded, narrow Via Giulio Romano, in the small northern Italian town of Mantua, is a one room museum dedicated to a local boy and his racing exploits. A quiet place, on the day I recently visited and I was the first visitor in 3 days. The sole employee greeted me with the appropriate surprise for a rare customer. Her Italian seemed much better than mine, but we worked out the idea that I was there to see the museum.



Born in November 1892, Tazio Nuvolari

became a successful motorcycle racer following the example set by his racer uncle, Giuseppe who had taught him to ride. At age 13, Tazio stole his father's car for a moonlight drive and solidified his passion for driving.

WWI derailed many plans and he became an ambulance driver. After the war, he married and started a family before finally getting back into motorcycle racing at age 27. He was a good, courageous racer.

Once following a crash at Monza, with both legs in casts he had to be strapped to his bike while assistants held his balance at the start and end. He had another bad motorcycle

race crash in Stuttgart and on his way home to Italy, he was shocked to hear he'd been "killed" in that accident. Luckily, the news wrong.

The first time Enzo Ferrari ever met Tazio Nuvolari was on May 25th, 1924 at Circuit del Savio. Ferrari later said, "At the start, I was not too worried about that skinny guy, but over the race I came to realize he was the only one who could challenge my 3 liter Alfa Romeo with his tiny Chiribiri 1.5 liter."

Other than a test drive for Alfa Romeo in 1925 which didn't end well, Tazio didn't race cars until 1927. He started his own company and often raced against his best friend and rival, Achille Varzi who became an amazing driver as well. In late 1929 Tazio was approached by Vittorio Jano, the great Alfa Romeo designer who had tested him back in 1925. Jano offered Tazio a chance to drive for the Alfa Romeo factory team, a partnership that started many fantastic victories.



At the 1930 Mille Miglia, Tazio approached the late night end of the race in second place, turned off his headlights, caught up and passed the leader and his teammate, Achille Varzi, and took the victory.

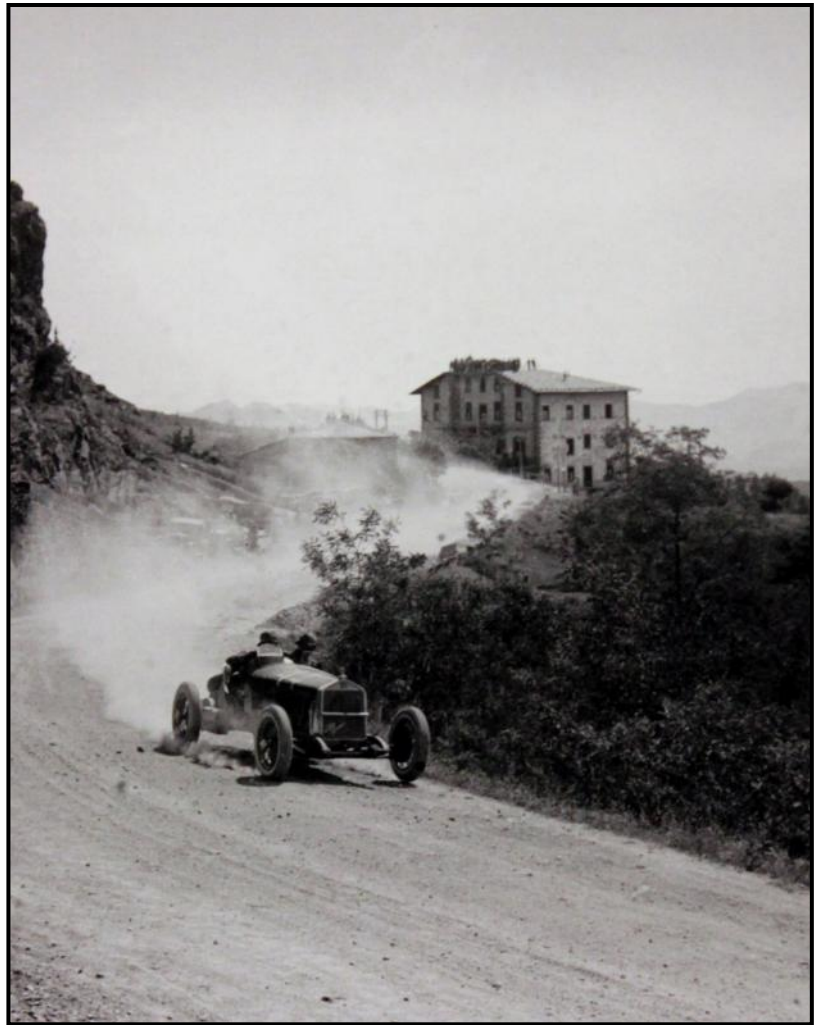
With overall victories in 7 of the 16 Grand Prix races in 1932, Nuvolari's car racing talents were well recognized.



During the 30's his status rose to amazing heights as he raced throughout Europe, Africa, and America, usually driving the Alfa Romeos, but also driving Maseratis and Auto Unions. As the car racing demanded much of his time, the motorcycle racing career was shelved after 36 overall victories, 2 national championships, and 33 class wins.

The famous Italian poet and writer Gabriele D'Annunzio gave a gift of a small bronze turtle to Tazio with the inscription, "To the fastest man in the world, the slowest animal." Tazio liked it and it became his good luck charm being painted on his cars, embroidered on sweaters, and more.

One car story is from the 1932 Targa Florio where the car must have a mechanic riding along. Still driving for Scuderia Ferrari, the Alfa Romeo race division, he told



the new mechanic that he would warn him when they approached a particularly difficult corner so as not to unduly frighten the young man. As they approached a corner, Nuvolari would shout for the mechanic to take cover under the dashboard. After the race, and another victory for Nuvolari, Ferrari asked the mechanic how he had made out. "Nuvolari started shouting at the first bend and finished at the last one," the boy answered. "I was down at the bottom of the car all the time."





By 1933, his racing had taken him throughout the world and into a variety of cars. On one occasion in Northern Ireland, after winning the Tourist Trophy race in an MG K3 Magnette Tazio was asked what he thought of the brakes on the car, and he replied, "not sure, I didn't really use them."

After a battle for first place with Achili Varzi that lasted the entire race, on the last lap of the 1933 Monaco Grand Prix, Nuvolari's Alfa Romeo broke down. He jumped from the car and pushed it the rest of the way to the finish line. Unfortunately the officials didn't let him score it as a finish.

Just 7 weeks later, Nuvolari would help lead the Scuderia Ferrari team to victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans driving an Alfa Romeo 8C2300MM with Raymond Sommer. In fact, these Alfa Romeos so

outclassed the competition that the 8C2300 took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places with 4th place being a Riley coming in over 35 laps behind.

I'm not alone on this, but my favorite victory by Nuvolari was the 1935 German Grand Prix being held on the 14.17 mile long Nurburgring. The race was supposed to be like the Berlin Olympics; a show of the greatness of Nazi power and talents. Hitler had dumped vast amounts of money into the German car companies to ensure the superiority.

Nuvolari would drive his outdated Alfa Romeo P3 with the number 12 on it with its 8C2900 engine putting out around 280HP. The competition from Germany was the 375 HP Mercedes and Auto Union cars driven by Rosemeyer, Von Brauchitschs, Stuck, Caraciola, and Lang. Though starting in 2nd place, Tazio struggled and by the end of the first lap, he'd slipped to 5th place. He battled throughout the race getting as high as 2nd place before pitting. The pit stop was a disaster with the fuel pump failing to work and it took 6 minutes extra to fuel his car. Though it

seemed an insurmountable challenge, Tazio headed back out into the race of his life. By the last 14 mile lap, he had passed enough cars to make it to 2nd place again. Other than the initial start, he'd made no mistakes to this point and he pressured Von Brauchitschs the whole way towards the finish. The extra power in the Mercedes-Benz and pace Nuvolari had created had been hard on tires and when Von Brauchitschs lost a tire, Tazio cut past into the lead and took the checkered flag, much to the dismay of Adolph Hitler.



By the end of 1935, Tazio had won 3 more Grand Prix races and set two speed records in the Alfa Romeo BiMotori.

His fast pace continued into 1936. While practicing in May for the 1936 Tripoli Grand Prix, Tazio's car went off and crashed hard sending him to the hospital with injuries. Not interested in missing the race, he snuck out, caught a cab to the track, jumped into the back up car and took 8th place overall. As June approached, he took 1st place at both Spain and Hungary and 2nd place in Germany (Nurburgring) and Italy (Milan). Late in the year, he came to America to race and win the Vanderbilt Cup held in Westbury, Long Island driving the Alfa Romeo 12C-35. (Odd detail is that the racetrack used is built on the land

Lucky Lindy took off from on his historic solo flight across the Atlantic to Paris in 1927... but that's another story.) Driving through adversity was part of Tazio's competitive nature and at the 1937 Masaryk Grand Prix, his rear tire came off the rim on the Alfa 12C-36 but he kept racing, losing a place or two and finishing in 5th overall.

With the loss of his eldest son, the coming of WWII, his own ailments like asthma caused by car exhaust, and age... the number of races slowed considerably, not that his speed or style did. He won races all the way up through 1950.

Outliving the vast majority of his racing friends and rivals, he passed away in 1953 at age 60, at home, after suffering a stroke and finally a heart attack.

Enzo drove to the funeral from Modena stopping a local plumber to get directions to the services. The plumber told Enzo, "A man like that won't be born again." When Enzo got to the services, he was not alone. Over 50,000 people attended Tazio's funeral. Ferdinand Porsche remarked that Nuvolari was "the greatest driver of the past, present, and future."



Member Recommendation!

Have a parts or service provider you have found to be highly satisfactory? Share your wisdom at casekb@msn.com. With your help, we can all be better automotive consumers.

Muffler King - Kirkland Custom exhaust services

Dent Solutions, Mobile - Paintless dent removal 206 890 6456

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Classic Interior Restorations, Seattle - Headliners, seat coverings and seat rebuilds

Mark 2 Collision Center, Lynnwood - Collision repair

North Kitsap Auto Rebuilt, Poulsbo - Collision repair

Professional Glass Company, Seattle - Windshield Replacement

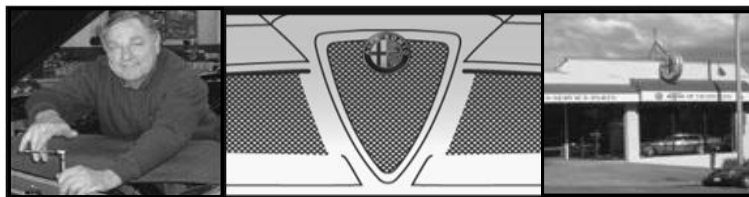
Security Safe & Lock, Inc., Bellevue - Lock rebuilding

Speedometer Service, Portland - Speedometer and tachometer repair and calibration

Tire Rack Internet - Tires, wheels and parts

Vancity Plating, Burnaby BC - Chrome plating and polishing

All the providers listed were recommended by one or more club members as being highly satisfactory but are not specifically endorsed by NWARC.



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Spiders, GTV	Fred Wright	fred.wright@comcast.net
Spiders (101/105)	George Gibbs	alfamale1@gmail.com
80's Spiders	Harry Reed	arspiderq@comcast.net
Almost Anything!	Fred Russell	FKTMRussell@msn.com

NWARC / AROC Membership Application

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

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Home Phone: _____

Alt. Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Do you wish to be affiliated with the local Alfa Club? Yes.... **NWARC**

Please indicate your interests:

Technical _____ Tours _____ Social _____ Rally _____ Vintage Cars _____

Cost: \$68 annual AROC / NWARC dues

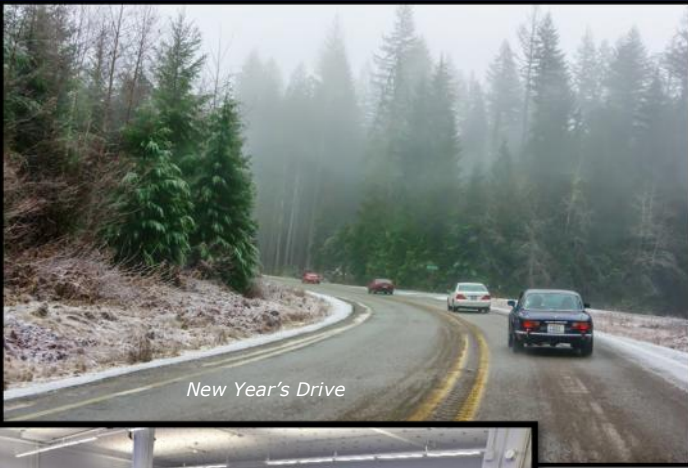
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Thanks For A Wonderful 2015



New Year's Drive



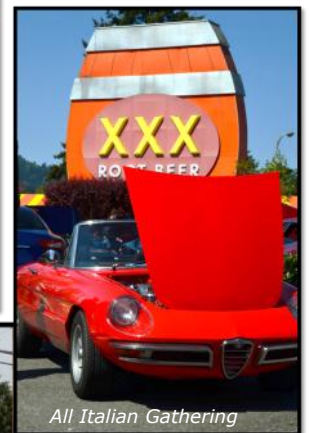
Chili & Cornbread CookOff



Three Garage Tour



Three Garage Tour



All Italian Gathering



Club Meeting



Tulip Rallye



AROO / NWARC Drive



Garden Tour



Lambo Lab



50th Birthday

Wonderful 2015 Cont'd...



PreHistorics BBQ



Summer Drive



Nat'l Convention



Driver Skills School



Festa di Amici



Half Lap Drive

Classified Ads Cars & Parts For Sale!



Car For Sale: 1975 Alfa Romeo Spider Very solid, straight, complete... It has a clear, original title, no rust on body except the bottom of the spare tire well which obviously trapped water and rusted out. Rockers, fenders, floorpans are all solid. Back in 2008, the owner took out the engine and then had the head & valves redone at Westbay in Port Orchard. Owner never put the engine back in, though its reassembled and all reassembly parts are included. Car has been re-painted but it wasn't the best prep and the paint needs redoing. Top looks pretty good but needs a rear window. Let me know your thoughts or questions. \$1000 delivered to you, or best offer. **Call Tom at 360 355 8774**



Parts For Sale: Make an offer on Dellorto carbs with or without key parts, an oil pan from something soon after 101, some starter motors, a generator, a fly wheel presumable from 101 series car and center console. **Call Fred R at 425 308 6621** with your wish list.

Parts For Sale: 3 new '78-79 Alfetta Sedan doors with factory stickers on them. Also for sale- a 3L block for Milano/GTV6 new. Must sell-make offers. **Call Peter in Seattle at 239-292-4838.**

Wheels For Sale: 4 Alloy 5 spoke wheels from a 1985 Spider. These look really nice! **\$300**
Call Jeff at 206 300 6468

2016 Calendar of Club & Local Car Events

- **Jan 1** **NWARC Anti-Football New Year's Drive**
- **Jan 12** **NWARC Club Meeting (See page 3) PROVA Motorsports**
- **Feb 9** **NWARC Club Meeting (Wild About Cars Garage) Kirkland**
- **Feb 21** **NWARC Chili & Cornbread CookOff (Fred & Kathy's) Olympia**
- Mar 12 FEN Shamrock Rallye Everett (spiders@wavecable.com)
- **Mar TBD** **NWARC Driver Skills School**
 Monroe (Evergreen Speedway)
- April 17 FEN Italian Car Show Triple X Drive In Issaquah, WA
- April 23 Tulip Rallye Skagit Valley Mall
- **June 13-20** **AROC Nat'l Convention Nashville TN**
- June 19 French & Italian Car Show Vancouver BC
- **July 1** **NWARC PreHistorics BBQ Patitz home**
- **July 1-3** **SOVREN Pacific NW Historics Vintage Races Pacific Raceways**
- July 17 Ducati / All Things Italian Show Summerian Brewery, Woodinville
- **Sept TBD** **Half-Fast Lap of Washington Northeast wanderings.**
- **Dec 15** **NWARC Holiday Party**

Event ideas? Contact: ???



Just some of the many fun cars at Jay Nuxoll's during the NWARC 50th Birthday celebration.