

# Iniezione

The newsletter of the Northwest Alfa Romeo Club

## Its Lappin' Time! Annual Half Lap 2015

Words by Fred Russell

Traction matters and the forecast was for rain. The Sunday finals on the Riverdale Dragstrip were cancelled leaving a few Alfa Romeos lined up without crowds, lights, or flags. There was also no support from the spouses as we watched one of the Alfas drive away loaded with all of the females heading towards sanity.

Yes, Riverdale is just one of the stops over a weekend filled with twisty roads, rain, sun, mountains, fun, food, socializing, and Alfa Romeos. Yes, the third weekend in September was the annual NWARC Half Fast Lap of Washington.

Though drag racing isn't normal for most Alfisti, perhaps we just wanted to be like our Alfa / SPICA guru Wes Ingram and his legendary drag racing history. No matter the motivation, we were all talk and soon followed the women to the Silver Lake Resort for dinner. This was the end of a day visiting the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Sunday had started in the rain with a short driver's meeting at a gas station in Toutle where it looked like it might be nothing but a view of clouds all day. As the leader, I sent the group of 10 cars up Hwy 504 heading for Coldwater Ridge Observatory. I stayed behind as Cindy Akana took a quick side trip to provide social services for a local lady having a tough day. I caught back up with the club just after they made an impromptu stop at Coldwater Lake. (In the words of the late, great Yogi Berra, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it.") We entered the Coldwater Observatory for a movie about the 1980 eruption plus displays on the 35 years of natural recovery to the blast and flood zones.



Ranger talk at Mt St Helens



Touring Johnstone Ridge

We continued another 9 miles up the road to Johnston Ridge, which sits 5 miles from the north side of Mt St Helens and was from where the volcanologist, David Johnston watched the May 18, 1980 eruption. On that day, the front of the mountain gave way creating the largest landslide in recorded history, followed by the horizontal blast of hot gas and ash which came straight at David. He had enough time to grab the radio to base and yell, "Vancouver, Vancouver, This is it."

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## Lappin' Time Cont'd...

Johstone Ridge Photo by Clyde Rutherford



Our "private" cafeteria at Coldwater

Gordy at Johnstone Ridge



Mt. St. Helens when the clouds parted



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Photo by: Dave Emerson



The movie, just before the curtains open...

To our amazement, the rain quit, clouds parted and we enjoyed a ranger talk about the mountain and eruption. Inside, we watched the movie Message From The Mountain which ended with the theater curtains opening to a view out the windows to the gaping crater created by the 1980 eruption. A few of us took to the short trails that provided different vantage points of both the blast zone and the Toutle River valley.

We returned to Coldwater Ridge to take advantage of their empty cafeteria for our Sunday lunch, which was provided by Merrill & Heidi Gordon and Cindy Akana. Wonderful wraps, sandwiches, veggies, fruit and more. It was only after all this, that we headed towards the drag race track, then to the Resort for our Potluck of leftovers. Fantastic dinner number 2.



Silver Lake Resort

## Half Lap Cont'd...



*Black Diamond Bakery*

Yes, this was our 2nd dinner because our Saturday Potluck dinner was the 1st of this weekend. Drive starting on Saturday morning with a hearty breakfast at the Black Diamond Bakery & Café, we drove up a cloudy Hwy 410, then turned right at White River entrance into the park driving up to Sunrise. At 6400', this road is the highest in the Mt Rainier National Park and ends at a scenic ridge with a Visitor Center and a viewpoint onto



*Sunrise viewpoint at Mt Rainier*



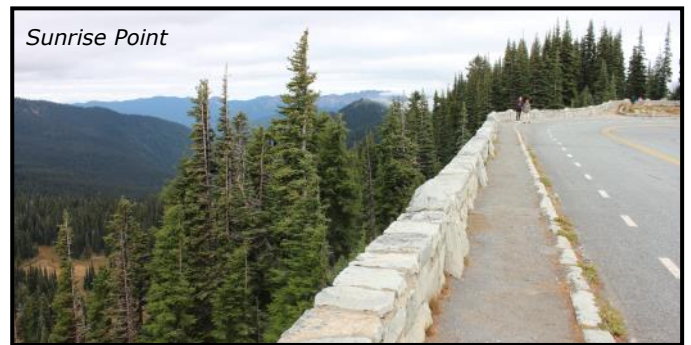
*Entering Mt Rainier Nat'l Park*

*Photo by Cindy Akana*



*Visitor Center at Mt Rainier*

*Fall colors near Paradise. Photo by Clyde Rutherford*



*Sunrise Point*

both 14,412 ft Mt. Rainier and Little Tahoma; the second peak on the east flanks of Mt Rainier. The only problem was those damn clouds that stuck with us obscuring the views. We continued our drive, heading further south and west to our lunch stop at Paradise. Shockingly, the place was packed with cars and people, made even more odd by the fact that the clouds had turned into rain. The roads through the park were very nice but we were robbed of any views due to rain clouds.

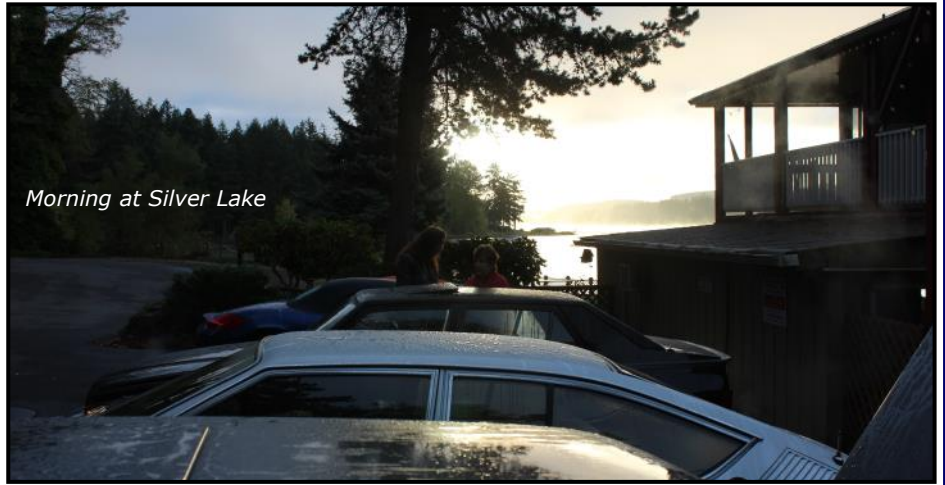
Our Saturday had finished with a long drive south to Packwood, past elk walking through yards in the town, then southwest through Toledo and on to our hotel and cabins at Silver Lake. With BBQ steaks, chicken salads, and so much more, it was a



*Looking south in Mt Rainier Nat'l Park*

## Half Lap Cont'd...

Patty's Place Photo by Cindy Akana



Morning at Silver Lake



Patty's Place

wonderful dinner with plenty of food and conversation right on the lakeside. The rain had dampened our roads but not our dinner or spirits on this first day.

So after staying at the Silver Lake Resort for both Saturday and Sunday nights, we got up early on Monday to glorious sunshine with soft mist sitting quietly on the lake. We headed to Patty's Place at 19 Mile House for a wonderful breakfast before heading to Chehalis for a stop at the Washington Hotel and the vintage motorcycle collection of Frank & Barbara Mason. This collection is open by appointment only and houses many outstanding old bicycles and motorcycles, many of which are over one hundred years old.

After the collection visit we had to say goodbye to Dick & Jessica Camp and their freshly restored yellow Alfa Spider as they had a long drive heading home to Yakima.

The rest of us headed up back roads past the odd Mima Mounds to Mud Bay, then followed Hwy 101 to Shelton, arriving in time for a few spirited laps of The Ridge Motorsports Track.

Hosted by the track manager and Alfa Romeo owner; Fred Wright, he shared info about the changes the facility has made and still plans to make. We used their classroom space for lunch then Merrill & Heidi Gordon, Cindy Akana, and I headed to the go karts for a little healthy competition on the best karting track ever. What a great setup. Merrill set the fastest time (55.009) of our multiple sessions but now he's hooked and will return someday to set an even faster time.

The visit to The Ridge was our final event of the Half Lap. Afterwards, some people headed north towards Port Townsend and Edmonds, while others headed to Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle. Despite the wet start, the rest of the weekend went really well. Thanks to Paul & Kristi Afolter in their yellow Spider, Cindy Akana in the grigio 164, Ken & Louisa Case in the red Giulia Spider, Kim & Paula Buty in the red Spider, Harry & Elsie Reed in their silver Spider Quad, Gordy Hyde & Anni Lanigan in a fun, rare Jr Z., Georges & Arlette Hebrant driving a silver Sprint Veloce, Clyde & Joan Rutherford driving there blue Porsche, David Salmon & Barb McPhee in the blue GTV, plus Merrill & Heidi Gordon in the black Milano Verde. It's the people that make the real differences in NWARC.



The Motorcycle Collection Photo by Clyde Rutherford

Cindy leads Merrill on the Karts. Photo by Heidi Gordon





I have some Alfa news to report, and the next paragraph will tell why it may not be the latest. There was a Fiat Chrysler dealers meeting in Las Vegas where the Barracuda convertible and next Dodge Charger were previewed, interesting to us, as both are based on the new Giulia platform. At the same time, the FCA executives claimed that everything is going as planned for Alfa Romeo. After the production Giulia is introduced next spring, the SUV will follow, then the spider in 2017 and the coupe in 2018. Allegedly, five billion euros have been budgeted for Alfa Romeo, with two billion already spent on the Giulia. Another claim that is still standing is the 2018 sales goal for Alfa Romeo is 400,000 cars. As before, we shall see.

This is sort of an odd column, being written about a month before you are reading it. Judy and I will be gone for nearly all of September, regretfully missing the Half Fast Lap and all of the other car activities we usually attend. I don't remember the last HFL we did not attend. We even participated when we were teaching, even though we always had to leave the group on Sunday. According to our plans, this September 20, when some (many, I hope) of you will be on Highway 504, going to Coldwater Ridge on Mount St. Helens, we will be touring one of the best automobile collections in the world, the Musée National de l'Automobile Collection Schlumpf, in Mulhouse, France. Not only is it a fabulous collection, it has quite a story.

We were there fifteen years ago and were highly impressed with the 400+ vehicles on display as well as the museum itself. Past the memorial to the Schlumpf brothers' mother and the huge pipe organ, we entered a large hall where there were tiled walkways lined by copies of Paris streetlights as far as we could see. On fine gravel pads there were 123 Bugattis, including three Royales, although one is a bitsa.

The eight Alfa Romeos included three 8C2900s and a Disco Volante racer. There were many cars from the 1890s, I think as early as 1893. Along with the magnitude of the collection I was especially impressed with a grid of Grand Prix racers, including Type 35 Bugattis, Maserati 250Fs, Mercedes W125 and W154 among them. It was overwhelming and I may not even be able to take it all in with this visit.

The original collection was an obsession of Hans and Fritz Schlumpf. They began manufacturing textiles in 1935, made a lot of money, and started collecting cars in the 1950s. They believed that every Bugatti that had ever been made should be returned to the Alsace (the Bugatti factory, in Molsheim, was just up the road). They reportedly bought huge collections, sometimes with blank checks, just to get a few cars that they wanted. For instance, in 1962, they bought 50 Bugattis plus sent a form letter to all Bugatti owners offering to buy their cars. In 1963 they got eighteen of Bugatti's personal cars including his Royale. John Shakespeare, in Chicago, sold them thirty Bugattis and they were quite a sight, filling a train of open rail cars. The brothers ended up with 500+ cars and in 1964 started employing forty confidential employees to do restorations.

They were confidential, because the Schlumpf brothers wanted to keep the whole thing a secret. Their obsession, combined with most textile manufacturing moving to Asia, broke the company. In 1976 the workers went on strike and the next year, broke into the factory and discovered the collection. What a surprise! There was controversy as what to do with the cars, but only one was burned in protest, and the textile union finally opened the collection to the public. There were 800,000 visitors in two years, but it was still in danger. After the French government classed it as a "French Historical Monument," it was finally taken over by a consortium, which included the Automobile Club of France and the City of Mulhouse, in 1981. It went through some hard times until 2000, when it was finally reopened in its present state. Many cars, most of them racers, have been added, but sixty two of the originals were returned in 1999 to Fritz Schlumpf's widow and are presently in the Mullin Museum. Hopefully the turmoil is over, as it is now a National Heritage Site. As I said, it's quite a story, and a wonderful museum, certainly worthy of anyone's bucket list.

**Bill Gehring**  
**NWARC President**



## October Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

The club's **October meeting** will be held at Group 2 Motorsports in Seattle. John van Rensburg, the new owner of the shop, has graciously invited us to see all that is new at Group 2. We will get a tour of the facilities, a look at some interesting cars, and a rundown on the new services. Making things even better, pizza and beverages will be provided. Many of us have been to this venue before, but there is a lot that is new.



**When: Tuesday, October 13 6:30 PM—9 PM**

**Where: 2600 W. Commodore Way Suite #3  
Seattle 98119**

This is our annual club officer nomination meeting (prior to our election meeting) so be sure to come and toss in your name(s) for the position that best fits. If you have political ambitions now is your big chance. If you are a current member, you can drive an ALFA and you have not been convicted of a serious federal crime in the last seven days you are eligible to be an officer.

If you find yourself looking for something fun to do on the last Thursday of each month, Group 2 Motorsports also holds Gear Head Gatherings each month. See the club's calendar for the details.



## Just the Facts...

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](mailto:editor@nwalfaclub.com)

**To subscribe to the digital newsletter:** Send an e-mail to [info-subscribe@nwalfaclub.com](mailto: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.

## Board Members

**President** Bill Gehring  
(425) 822 4231  
[bjgehring2@msn.com](mailto:bjgehring2@msn.com)

**Vice President** Ken Case  
(425) 702 9298  
[casekb@msn.com](mailto:casekb@msn.com)

**Secretary** Gordy Hyde  
(425) 241 9307  
[gohyde@hotmail.com](mailto:gohyde@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer** Ron Calkins  
(206) 403 3445  
[tip1ring1@gmail.com](mailto:tip1ring1@gmail.com)

## Committee Directors

**Activities** Earl Krygier  
[webmaster@nwalfaclub.com](mailto:webmaster@nwalfaclub.com)

**Track Monkeys**  
Mirko Freguia (206) 795 0861  
Chris Benny (206) 283 9065

**Membership**  
Paul & Kristy Affolter  
(206) 523 8534  
[phaffolter@gmail.com](mailto:phaffolter@gmail.com)  
[kristinaffolter@hotmail.com](mailto:kristinaffolter@hotmail.com)

**Iniezione Editor** Fred Russell  
[editor@nwalfaclub.com](mailto:editor@nwalfaclub.com)

**Webmaster** Earl Krygier  
[webmaster@nwalfaclub.com](mailto:webmaster@nwalfaclub.com)

**Technical Editor** Wes Ingram  
15613 "C" Peterson Road  
Burlington, WA 98233  
(360) 707 5701  
[wing@nwlink.com](mailto:wing@nwlink.com)

**Digital Printing by Swifty**  
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<http://nwalfaclub.com>

[www.aroc-usa.org](http://www.aroc-usa.org)

[www.alfabb.com](http://www.alfabb.com)

**Facebook: NWARC**



## Club Liaisons

**SOVREN** (*Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts*)  
TBD

**AROO**  
(*Alfa Romeo Owners of Oregon*)  
Ed Slavin 503 789 3282  
[eslavin@nic-mail.com](mailto:eslavin@nic-mail.com)

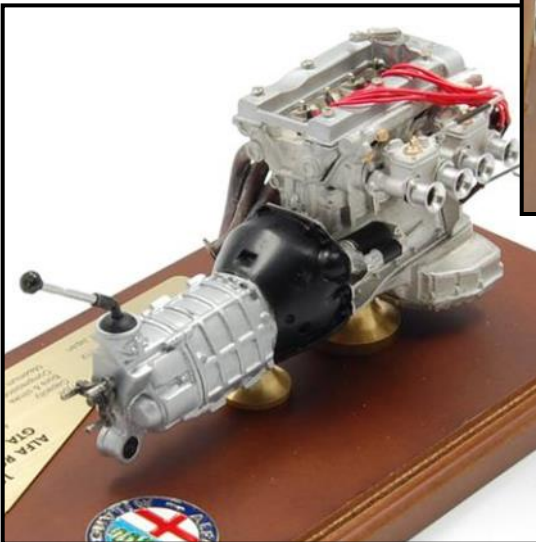
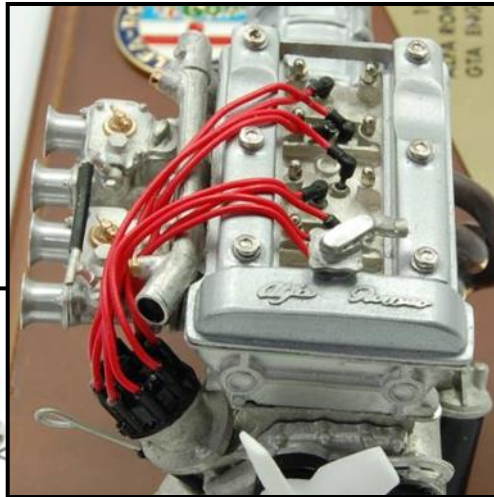
**FEN** (*Fiat Enthusiasts NW*)  
Gordy Hyde 425 241 9307

**MGCCNWC** (*MG*)  
Ken Bottini 425 883 9615

After a stunningly dry summer in the Northwest, and a warm sunny day on September 12th, the **Pacific NW Concours** at LeMay (formerly the Kirkland Concours) was held on the cool September 13th. To make that even better the day started foggy and moved up to light rain. Though crowds were down, there were still plenty of great cars and people on the grass next to America's Car Museum in Tacoma. If you attended, your weather patience was rewarded with drying and sunshine in the afternoon.



Talk about cool... check out this 1/12th scale model of the amazing **Alfa GTA motor**. I would love this on my shelf next to my 1/18th scale 8C2900B motor. Alfa Romeo makes some of the most beautiful engines ever so adding them as shelf décor makes sense to me!



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## Its Your Turn To Make Your Mark!

We have a lot of great talent in our club membership, and now is the time to share yours. Club leadership elections are coming in one month. Elections, held on November 10th, will be for club officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All positions are part of the Leadership Board along with volunteer positions for the Activities, Membership, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor. Between now and then, if you like what the club does, enjoy the events and information, and the social aspects, then step up and do your small part to support the club. Here are outlines of the elected roles so you'll know what to volunteer for.



**President:** The easiest job on the Board. Controls the activities of the overall Board, runs the Board meetings, and presides over the club meetings. Writes a monthly column for the newsletter. Helps to find and fill openings in club committee spots. Typically uses around 4 hours monthly and requires only passion and some leaderships skills!

**Vice President:** Backs up the club President, arranges locations and speakers (if any) for monthly club meetings, and tracks attendance at monthly club meetings. Typically requires 2 to 3 hours per month and some organization and communication skills!

**Secretary:** Note taker for club and board meetings. Forwards the meeting notes to other board and committee members. Requires only organization and communication skills and around an hour per month!

**Treasurer:** This role keeps our club finances in line, tracks the money, pays the club bills, and follows good accounting practices. May need up to 4 or 5 hours monthly.

You can volunteer for Non-Elected positions: Activities, Membership, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor. It's not unheard of for people to sign up as a team with another member. (Wife & husband? Friend & friend?)

**Activities:** Track all events on the calendar and minimize conflicts. The role requires social skills and some organization talent as well as an hour per month.

**Membership:** Welcome new members to the club with an e-mail or phone call, as well as provide info about the club to prospective members. Brag about the cool things we do as part of NWARC. Look for ways to attract new members and keep current ones. Requires a couple hours per month and good social skills.

**Webmaster:** Keeps information up to date on the website with the latest meeting info, and newsletter postings. Needs a couple hours per month and requires understanding basic web applications and programming.

**Newsletter Editor:** You need to gather stories and photos from people attending events, or "report" the event yourself. Pull together info about news, up-coming events, meetings, or any dirt you can find to put into the monthly digital and print newsletters. The requirements are some mild computer skills, reasonable communication, and about 16 hours per month... plus attendance at events. This could be done as a team like almost every other club newsletter.

You can get more specifics on each of these roles by contacting the current people using info found on page 3 of this newsletter. Each role is rather easy, fun to do, and there's opportunity for learning on the job, and most importantly, its a chance to take your turn as a leader in the best Alfa Romeo club around.

## Back to School Time... Driver Skills School Nov 15

After a great Summer and a wonderful start to Fall, schools are starting up and learning is all the rage... that includes learning more Driving Skills. Its been a year since our last Skills School at Monroe Speedway which was both informative and fun.

We plan to utilize a similar format as last year with morning or afternoon sessions for students to choose as well as returning to the Evergreen Speedway in Monroe for this event. With coaching and guidance provided by our club skills experts, students will be given a variety of tasks to learn car handling, braking, and decision making. Students will learn while driving their own cars helping them be better drivers immediately and every day. This is a great class for experienced drivers and new drivers alike. It requires a driver's license and a willingness to learn.

**When: Sunday, November 15, 2015 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm session**

**Where: Evergreen Speedway, Monroe**

**How: Registration still to come via e-mail, facebook, Alfa BB, and next month's Newsletter.**



12<sup>TH</sup> CSRG  
**CHARITY CHALLENGE**  
SONOMA RACEWAY OCTOBER 2-4 2015

*Giulia Sprint GTA*

50<sup>o</sup>

1965-2015



TONY SCHMID © 2015



## Autumn Drive Tour Hosted by NW Citroën Owner's Club

NWARC is invited to join along on this fun Fall drive on some scenic NW country roads. Bring your Alfa Romeo and join along with classics, exotics, and other sports cars for some fun driving. A wonderful variety of clubs are invited to participate which means a nice mix of cars and people.

It's free to join along. All that's asked is you RSVP to Paul Melrose so he can provide enough route guides. Yes, route guides will be distributed on the day of the drive. The tour is 50 miles long starting in the Issaquah Highlands for some refreshing coffee. The end will be in Bothell / Canyon Park area for delicious food.



**Gathering: Oct 25th at 9:00 AM Starbucks at 4566 Klahanie Drive SE Issaquah, WA 98029**

**Tour Start: 10 AM Driving until around Noon to enjoy lunch at a choice of two restaurants.**

- **The Bonefish Grill 22616 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell WA 98021**
- **Crystal Creek Café 22620 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell WA 98021**

**Questions? RSVP? Contact Paul Melrose 425 306 8525 or [baul79racer.goracer@bluetie.com](mailto:baul79racer.goracer@bluetie.com)**



## 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 repainted 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.

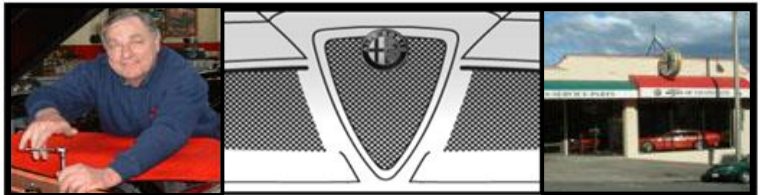
**Parts For Sale:** 3 new '78-79 Alfetta Sedan doors with factory stickers on them. Also for sale- a 3L block for Milano/GTV6 new. Must sell-make offers. **Call Peter in Seattle at 239-292-4838.**

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

## Member Recommendation!

Have a parts or service provider you have found to be highly satisfactory? Share your wisdom at [casekb@msn.com](mailto:casekb@msn.com). With your help, we can all be better automotive consumers. This month, we have a new addition!

- Muffler King** - Kirkland Custom exhaust services
  - Dent Solutions, Mobile** - Paintless dent removal 206 890 6456
  - Burien Upholstery, Burien** - Upholstery, carpets
  - Classic Interior Restorations, Seattle** - Headliners
  - 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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The following members provide Alfa Mentoring!!!

Don't hesitate to contact any of these members for good Alfa info!

Model/Series	Member Name	Contact
164 / GTV-6	Dan Jardine	thosejardines@comcast.net
GTV	Dave Emerson	dj.emerson@comcast.net
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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to: ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB

Or... Online registration <http://www.aroc-usa.org/>

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