

Meeting Notes from Convention Planning Meeting 15 September 2026

Meeting summary

Quick recap

- The meeting focused on planning and updates for the upcoming AROC convention. Peter Jones led discussions on the status of contracts with IT vendors, budgeting, and securing sponsorships and vendors. The group discussed the high cost of renting Summit Point for track and autocross events and brainstormed ways to make these events more accessible and appealing, including offering different experience levels and possibly a driver's school. Updates were given on the progress of tours, including potential destinations like Gettysburg, Mount Vernon, Luray Caverns, and the Air and Space Museum. The possibility of displaying notable Alfa Romeo cars from collections like Simeone and Judge North was discussed. Publicity efforts, including articles in Alfa Owner, were reported as on track. The need for a local printer for the convention program was raised, and members offered suggestions. The meeting also touched on social events and the challenge of organizing gatherings involving alcohol due to hotel restrictions.

Next steps

Frank

- [Reach out to George Bunting about participating in the convention with his Alfa Romeos.](#)

Harlan

- [Reach out to Kevin Kelly at the Simeone Museum regarding displaying a car at the convention, possibly through the Delaware Valley AROC connection.](#)

Jim

- [Get contact information for the vendors \(1600 Veloce and 1910 Alfa Romeo\) and send it to Frank and Mary.](#)
- [Look up information about White Post Restorations and send it to Peter Jones for consideration as a tour stop.](#)
- [Ask his wife's brother \(who works for a printer\) if they can produce the convention program and report back to Mary.](#)

Mary

- [Continue to solicit recommendations for a local printer to produce the convention program.](#)

Mike

- [Continue to try to contact Helga Polk regarding Jay Leno's availability and cost for the banquet speaker.](#)

Nick

- [Investigate if the Air and Space Museum can host a catered evening event for the convention.](#)

Peter Jones

- [Share the AROC board presentation \(as a PDF\) with attendees after presenting it next Wednesday.](#)
- [Send information about the hotel tour on Thursday to Peter Biche for budget tracking.](#)
- [Lead the hotel facility tour on Thursday at 11:00 AM to assign rooms for convention events.](#)
- [Check with his other group's Washington chapter to get a recommendation for a printer for the convention program.](#)
- [Follow up with Fairfax County Park Authority after the Utah convention regarding the concourse permit application.](#)

Collaboration

- [Peter Jones and Peter Biche: Focus on finalizing the budget after the Utah convention.](#)

Summary

Vendor Opportunity and Sponsorship Costs

- Frank and Peter Jones discussed a new vendor opportunity and sponsorship costs, with Peter noting that once costs are finalized they will be able to secure sponsorships quickly. They reviewed the estimated \$16,000 cost for using two tracks (one for track events and one for autocross) at Summit Point, which Frank found significantly higher than the \$3,500 track cost from 1993. The conversation ended with Mike Hemsley joining the call, though the discussion about his background and collection was cut off at the end of the transcript.

Banquet Speaker Selection Discussion

- The group discussed potential banquet speakers, with Mike reporting challenges in reaching Helga Polk from Jay Leno's Big Dog Productions to confirm availability and banquet details. Frank suggested Paul Wilson as an alternative speaker option, describing him as an experienced presenter and car builder who has spoken internationally. The conversation ended with an announcement about an upcoming European car event organized by Nick on Saturday from 10 to 2 near a golf course.

Utah Convention Planning Updates

- The team discussed preparations for an upcoming convention in Utah in about 10 months. Brewster announced he would be traveling to Utah with Jennifer on Tuesday to attend the convention and spread the word about next year's plans. Peter Jones reported that a contract was successfully concluded with DRL Studios for web development and design work, including the creation of a secure document repository that will allow selected team members to edit and view documents like the master budget and schedule.

Convention Planning Progress Meeting

- The team discussed progress on convention planning, including advertising and sponsorship efforts led by Frank. They scheduled a hotel facility tour for Thursday at 11

AM to finalize room reservations for various events. Peter Jones announced he would present to the AROC board of directors next Wednesday with an extensive PowerPoint presentation, which he agreed to share as a PDF afterward. The team also addressed concerns about low autocross registration numbers, with only 20 people signed up so far.

Utah Track Events Participation Challenges

- The group discussed challenges with track events, particularly low attendance in Utah compared to other regions. Peter Biche and others noted that Utah's market is significantly smaller than the Mid-Atlantic region, and suggested offering different levels of track events including novice-friendly options to reduce intimidation. The team agreed that structured driver's school programs or beginner-focused events could help increase participation, especially among newer drivers with modern cars.

Convention Tour Planning Updates

- Peter Jones discussed ongoing tour planning for the convention, noting that while pre-convention tours for Monday and Tuesday are developing, details like restaurant selections and routes in Gettysburg still need finalization. He announced a new DC at night tour planned for Friday or Thursday night, featuring memorials and attractions lit up after dark with wine and cheese service. The team is also considering additional tours including Blue Ridge Caverns, Luray restaurant options, and a potential day trip to Mount Vernon, with all tour details needing to be finalized by the end of October.

Tour Destinations Planning Meeting

- The team discussed potential tour destinations and activities for an upcoming event, focusing on regional attractions like Mount Vernon, Gettysburg, Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, and local wineries or breweries. Peter Jones emphasized the importance of pricing and scheduling tours, while Peter Biche suggested prioritizing region-specific sites. Jim and Frank provided information about White Post Restorations near Winchester, and Nick shared details about a successful catered event at Gettysburg's Battlefield Park Museum. The group explored the possibility of hosting a similar reception at the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, though pricing and logistics still need to be determined.

Alfa Romeo Convention Planning Meeting

- The meeting focused on planning for an upcoming Alfa Romeo convention, with discussions about tourism events, publicity, and potential car displays. Peter Jones requested help finding a nice older Giulia for display in the hotel lobby, and the group discussed reaching out to the Simeone Museum in Philadelphia through Harlan's contact Kevin Kelly. Mary Brown reported progress on articles for Alpha Ona magazine and sought recommendations for local printers for the convention program. The group also discussed potential vendor contacts including 1600 Veloce and 1910 Alfa Romeo for advertising opportunities.

-
- **Attendees:** Peter Jones (Organizer), 12022135324 (External), Jim G (External), Fred Fravel (External), Drew petty (External), Brewster Thackeray (External), Peter Biche (External), Phil Schleider (External), Drew petty (External), Nick Vadala (External), Harlan Schufeldt (External), Mike Hemsley (External), Frank Salemi (External)