



# The **FIAT**-isti

## Messaggio dal Vice-Presidente

September 2015

Volume 24, Issue 9

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FEN is a fun-loving group of Italian car (FIAT, Lancia, and Alfa Romeo) enthusiasts who meet regularly throughout the year. In general, our club is geared towards social rather than the technical. The club is incorporated as a non-profit club in Washington State and is an IRS 501(c)7 tax-exempt social club. Club meetings are held monthly, except for July and December. A picnic in July and a holiday party in December take the place of regular meetings. The regular meeting location alternates monthly between Shoreline and Renton. We also hold a South Sound Social meeting (every other month) for those who live in Pierce and Thurston Counties. FEN also hosts rallies and other events throughout the year.

I hope you're all enjoying this amazing Northwest summer with some good road trips—it looks like fall is around the corner, and if we get some rain, maybe even the forest fires will be controlled! Of course that's no reason to stop enjoying this beautiful part of the world.

Following up on an excellent suggestion by member Alex Sargeant at our last meeting, earlier this month I dropped by **Group 2 Motorsports** near Salmon Bay to speak with the new owner (and Alfisti/Italian auto enthusiast) John Van Rensburg. Alex had mentioned that John is expanding the already well regarded services that Group 2 offers and would be interested in coming to a FEN meeting to share what they're up to. John suggested that we have one of our meetings at their shop.

After seeing their immaculate facility, the wide variety of classic and exotic cars that they work on, and finding out from John a bit of the history and experience of their crew, I was sold. And when we compared calendars, the September 2 date of the regular north end FEN meeting worked well for John, so that's where we'll meet this Wednesday. After conferring with fellow board members, it was agreed that the club will buy the pizza, so do come check out this shop and come hungry. We'll have some beverages too! *I've asked everyone to PLEASE email me directly by Monday the 31st to let me know how many of you will be able to attend so that we know how many pizzas to order.*

If this event/meeting doesn't work out for your schedule, Alex also mentioned that Group 2 also has a new, informal Gearhead Gathering at their shop the last Thursday of each month. Owner John described this to me when I visited—and it sounds like a hoot, kind of like *Cars and Coffee* with alternative beverages. Check out their website with more descriptions, some good photos, and a detailed calendar of events:

[www.g2motorsports.com](http://www.g2motorsports.com)

Speaking of activities, please check out our own calendar so that you don't miss out. And it's not too early to consider organizing an activity for 2016. It's more fun for everyone if you get involved and lead an activity that you enjoy; there are plenty of members willing to advise or help with the details! 

— David Moise, Vice-President

# Allure of the Automobile

Article by Bert Cripe

About Autos is a sub-page of the About.com group of websites. About Autos contains a huge collection of articles covering not just contemporary autos but classic cars, motorcycles, and trucks. You can also subscribe to weekly email newsletters that focus on several of the topics covered on the site. These email offerings contain links to several articles on the website.

And while the site is not a replacement for your local, certified mechanic, it will give you some background knowledge so that you can discuss issues you may have with your car in a more informed manner, perhaps helping you to make the right decision.

Additionally, you will find articles about cars from bygone eras that are both interesting and informative, especially if you lived during those bygone eras and own one of those classic cars!

Product categories include interior and exterior upgrades, wheels and tires, suspension and brakes, maintenance and service, audio, apparel, and items just for the ladies. And if you are into it, they are on all of the popular social media services. 🚗

The screenshot shows the About Autos website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for "Buying & Driving", "Fixing & Maintaining", and "Collecting". Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: "About.com > About Autos". On the left side, there is a "Sign Up for our Free Newsletters" section with checkboxes for "About Today", "Living Healthy", and "About Autos", an email input field, and a "SIGN UP" button. Below this is a section titled "EXPLORE MORE IN AUTOS" with links for "Buying/Driving", "Fixing/Maintaining", and "Collecting". The main content area features a large article titled "5 Reasons Why a Check Engine Light Comes On" by Keith Griffin, a "Used Cars Expert". The article image shows a woman in a white shirt and sunglasses leaning over the hood of a red car. Below the main article are two smaller images: one showing the dashboard of a classic car with three round gauges, and another showing a classic car with a red and white striped cover.

## EVERYTHING ABOUT AUTOS

### Buying & Driving

Cars

Used Cars

Motorcycles

SUVs

Trucks

### Fixing & Maintaining

Auto Repair

Tires & Wheels

Car Tech

### Collecting

Classic Cars

Classic Motorcycles

Mustangs

Corvettes

# Specialized Batteries for Classic Cars



By Mark Gittelman  
Classic Cars Expert

Ads [Classic Cars](#) [Antique Cars](#) [Old Car Trader](#) [Car Maintenance](#) [Exotic Car Storage](#) [Old Trucks for Sale](#) [Automobile](#)

  
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Delco Classic Car Battery. Photo by Mark Gittelman

If you own a classic car, chances are you've had problems with the battery. Unfortunately, our vintage automobiles can do a lot of sitting around as we struggle to find time to enjoy them. This downtime isn't great for any automotive system, but a lead acid car battery really hates this.

Here we'll talk about how long we can expect one to last if

about autos

Search



## 5 Tools Not to Buy

If you're in the early stages of getting a tool kit together for your car repairs, don't waste your money on over-hyped tools that you may not really need. Spend your budget wisely and you'll have much more productive garage time.



Share



## Digital Cameras and Other Tools for Car Repair

You think that you know everything you need in the tool box, but here are five tools you didn't even know would come in handy. Check out these tools you didn't know you needed.



Share



# A Chevy Jaunt to the XXX Drive-In

Article by Suzanne and Dan Rian; photos from NWCCC

With nothing to do on a recent nice Sunday (the 16th), Dan decided to take a top-down drive to the XXX in Issaquah. (I kept my shirt on.)

It was the NWCCC 55/56/57 Chevrolet Club Car Show. As we arrived, we were met by Marv, Jose's tireless volunteer who keeps all the car shows orderly. We were totally overwhelmed with the bright and shiny show of chrome! Represented were 1955, '56, and '57 Chevrolets only, mostly Bel-Airs. We believe there were approximately 150 cars shown.

They were all beautiful, with incredible paint jobs, from our favorite turquoise and white, red and white, black, and desert rose and gray to a one-of-a-kind, candy-apple, high-gloss red. We spotted at least three Nomads. Having owned Chevys in the past, we would like to have seen some other years. Sooz particularly likes the more rounded chassis of the '54, but these were spectacular, every one of them, and so were even some of the vehicles that the spectators drove. The weather was perfect, so we stopped to share a root beer float. (I think that was my bribe to get me to the event.)

Of particular interest to me was the oversized, custom, chrome radiators that most of these cars sported. Obviously, keeping these big blocks cooled is a primary concern. There was a raffle, which sparked a lot of spectator interest. The '50s music

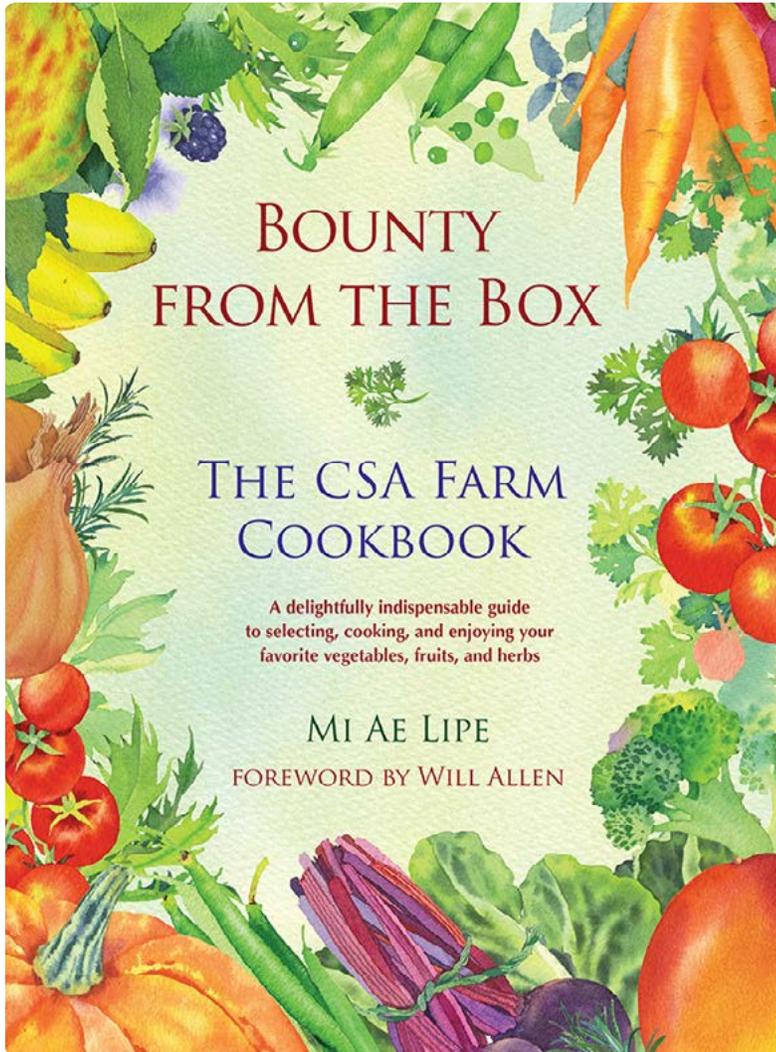
added to the ambiance, so we could sing to the Everly Brothers while we were strolling along. There was a vendor booth with an event photographer. We picked up his business card in the event we may want to use him. I'm thinking we may want to call out to the club for suggestions on vendors, which is a good way to raise more funds for the charity, since we charge \$100 per booth at the show. We spoke briefly with Jose Sr. and he said it was "busy but orderly." A highly successful show, we'd say.

Note: We didn't look too hard, but we didn't see any Chevys with over 300,000 miles like our FIAT! 🚗



# Bounty from the Box Cookbook!

by Mi Ae Lipe



As your newsletter editor, I get to sift through lots of vehicle-related stuff. However, we all know that we can't enjoy—or work on—our cars on empty stomachs, so allow me this opportunity to toot my own horn and introduce my long-awaited cookbook, which is coming out this September!

To give you more background, I've written and self-published this book, titled *Bounty from the Box: The CSA Farm Cookbook*. Its primary purpose is to help subscribers of community-supported agriculture (CSA) farms to make

the most of their weekly boxes of farm produce, but it's really for anyone who shops, cooks, and eats fresh fruits and veggies, or wants to eat healthier. You can find out more, download excerpts, and find recipes and much more on my website:

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

The book contains more than 350 recipes (many vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free) from a variety of professional chefs and home cooks, and covers 92 different fruits, vegetables, and herbs. It is arranged by season and features extensive information on nutrition, selection, storage, cleaning, cooking techniques, and serving suggestions.

*Bounty from the Box* is also a lot more than just a cookbook—it gives readers deep insight into what it actually takes to get food from seed to plate by showcasing exceptional CSA farms across America. Dozens of sidebar essays explore topics ranging from farming and food politics to cooking and nutrition.

The print version of the book will ship in early September, but it can be preordered now at a 15% discount until September 30. It retails for \$35.00, but with the preorder discount, it comes to \$29.75, plus shipping and handling. (Early holiday or New Year's resolution gifts, perhaps?) You can find out more on our ordering page at <https://secure.mybookorders.com/Orderpage/1699> 

# FIAT Ducato 4x4 Expedition Unveiled

Article by Michael Gauthier and photos from WorldCarFans.com



**F**IAT has unveiled the Ducato 4x4 Expedition at the Düsseldorf Caravan Salon in Germany.

Created by FIAT Professional, the one-off model is based on the long-wheelbase Ducato Camper Van and features a two-tone exterior with auxiliary LED lights, an increased ride height, and off-road tires. The van also has a front skid plate, a winch, and a roof rack.

The interior goes in a different direction, as it has a “lounge-like atmosphere” with leather seats, a retractable table, and two flat-screen televisions. Other highlights include high-end cabinetry, a cleverly hidden cooktop, and a make-shift bed.

FIAT didn't have much to say about performance specifications but confirmed the van has a 2.3-liter Multijet II engine that develops 150 PS (110 kW). It sends power to the ground via a permanent all-wheel drive system developed by Dangel. 🚗



# For Sale

**1980 FIAT 124 Sport Spider**  
**Puyallup area, Washington**  
**\$7,950**



**What it is:** A 1980 FIAT Pininfarina 124 Sport Spider 2000, 2-door convertible, small roadster. This car is from a private collection of FIATs.

This car is one of the top three most successful sports cars ever made. A perfect first classic car for the collector, and a most charming Italian-designed car. It's great to have the wind blowing in your hair while cruising down your favorite winding roads, but the combination of hearing the engine and the purity of the moment is something all driving enthusiasts understand. First hitting the market in 1966, the 124 Sport Spider was a 2+2 convertible that was designed by Sergio Pininfarina himself. It went on sale in Europe before it arrived in the United States. Nearly 200,000 Spiders were built in its 19-year production run, about 75 percent of which were made specifically for the US market. In spite of its being more than 30 years old, this 124 Sport Spider is in nice shape and its Pininfarina-designed body still looks fabulous today. The 1995cc FIAT twin cam made 86 horsepower in 1980, which beat out the final-year MGB's 62.5 horsepower.

This thing rocks! Fast in the corners, this car is peppy and has some zip, not to mention classic good looks.

Year: 1980  
Make: FIAT  
Model: Spider 2-door  
Body Type: Convertible  
Vehicle Title: Clear  
Exterior Color: Blue  
Interior Color: Beige  
Options: Leather seats  
Fuel Type: Gas  
VIN: 124CS0-00166479  
Number of Cylinders: 4  
Transmission: Automatic



Fuel Injection System: Air and throttle control; Bosch fuel injection system  
Engine: 2.0-liter unit with 102-hp, 1995CC 214 GAS DOHC, naturally aspirated

Mileage: 21,000

Drive Type: RWD

Options and Condition: Runs and drives great; solid condition inside and out. It's been upgraded with a Pioneer AM/FM stereo with six-disc-CD changer, new carpets, new top, and new interior a couple years back. Recently new tires, new battery, new alternator, new starter, and kickdown cable.



Give me a call if you want to see it and drive it. [Steve Kienholz 253-377-1370](tel:253-377-1370)

# FEN Meeting Minutes

## August 5, 2015

**Vice-President David Moise called the meeting to order at Amante's Restaurant in Renton at 7 PM.**

### **Reports and Announcements:**

**Bert Cripe's drive is this coming weekend.**

**Viva Italiana has had to be moved to September 12.**

Details will be in the newsletter when available.

**A facility for the FEN Holiday Party needs to be secured.**

**Alex Sargeant assured us that the recent hacking reported in the news does not affect FIATs.**

**VP Moise asked each of us to share a story** about an interesting trip in our FIATs.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

LeRoy Meitzner, Treasurer, reported that all is well for FEN financially. There are 20 tickets for the Historics, and 9 people are attending. FEN now has 90+ members.

LeRoy commented that the software program being used to produce the financial reports needs to be updated. LeRoy is in the process of cleaning up the membership list.

No other official business was conducted. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. 

*Respectfully submitted, Carrie Rice,  
South End Secretary*

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## **FEN August Membership Report**

It's truly been the dog days of summer—no new or renewing members for the month of August! If you haven't paid your dues yet, send a check or money order (payable to "FIAT Enthusiasts Northwest") to:

FIAT Enthusiasts Northwest, Membership  
4211 210th Place NE  
Sammamish, WA 98074

You can also now pay your dues using PayPal by going to the FEN website ([www.fiatnorthwest.org](http://www.fiatnorthwest.org)) and following

## **In Training To Own a FIAT**

*By Rex Rice*

*I used to smoke cigarettes. Driving my Triumph TR-3, I learned to light one with a match at 60 mph with the top down and the side curtains out. I also had skinned fingers from stubbing my cigarette butts on the pavement at 60+ mph. This, along with burn holes in my clothes, a nighttime cough, and the rise in tobacco costs led me to quit for good. I courted my wife in this car, cursing the British designer for the lack of make-out room.*

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*As I stopped at an intersection in my wife's 1969 Seat 600D (a Spanish copy of a FIAT 600), an elderly lady walked over to the car. "Say, is this one of those Crosbys?" Was she talking about Bing? Then the light went on: she thought it was a Crosley. She had to be really old to remember those. Shaking my head, I drove on. Multiple answers came to mind—none of them good.*

the Membership link on the left side of the homepage. Just click on the Membership Renewal PayPal button to have your dues transferred using your own PayPal account, or your debit or credit card. Or you may pay LeRoy Meitzner in person at one of the monthly club meetings. He accepts cash, checks, or debit/credit cards.

# FEN Calendar

**Sept 2** No regular meeting at Spiro's Pizza; instead, tour of Group 2 Motorsports. See pages 1 and 11 for more details.

**Sept 12** Viva Italia, the Alfa Romeo Club's annual informal car show, has been rescheduled for September 12th, and a new venue is being sought. Details will be posted once made known.

**Sept 26-27** Seattle Festa Italiana at Seattle Center. Details at [www.festaseattle.com](http://www.festaseattle.com).

**Oct 3-5** Silver Falls Tour. Fifth in the Fall Classic Tour series. Three-day tour leaving from Washington, taking back roads into Oregon, and returning to Washington.

**Oct 7** Regular club meeting (South) at Amante's Pizza & Pasta, 4201 Sunset Blvd NE, Renton. Meeting begins at 7 PM, but come early for dinner from the regular menu.

**Oct 18** Fall Leaves Tour. More info will be posted once announced by the Rians. Contact the Rians at [dsrian@frontier.com](mailto:dsrian@frontier.com) for more info.

**Nov 4** Regular club meeting (North) at Spiro's Pizza & Pasta, 18411 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, 206-546-2900. Meeting begins at 7 PM, but come early for dinner.

**Nov 10: South Sound Social meeting**, Homestead Restaurant, 7837 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, Washington, 253-476-9000. Plan to arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 PM. This is a short evening event devoted to socializing. An opportunity to get to know other club members you may not have met yet and catch up with those you do know.

**Dec 2** No Regular meeting in December, Holiday Potluck Party instead!

**TBD** FEN Holiday Party.

Check the FEN website for more exciting calendar events!

A picture snapped by our own VP David Moise. For those who do not know British humor, this might be a bit of a mystery. A shag is British slang for a f\_\_.

Know of a funny or puzzling sign or traffic situation? Take a picture for the newsletter and send it to the editor at [miae@whatnowdesign.com](mailto:miae@whatnowdesign.com). All submissions are welcome!



## Group 2 Motorsports Tour September 2, 2015

We have a unique opportunity to tour an amazing shop in Seattle at our next regular north meeting on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 2. Therefore **we won't be meeting at Spiro's Pizza & Pasta**, our regular north end venue.

The new owner of **Group 2 Motorsports**, John Van Rensburg, has offered to host our meeting at his facility west of Fishermen's Terminal between the Ballard Bridge and the southern entrance to the Chittenden Locks. As an avid Alfa enthusiast and racer, he is busy building on the existing Group 2 reputation to provide a full-service shop for modern, vintage, and custom cars. He has kept Group 2's best crew and hired some of the region's other stellar mechanics. Just take a look at their new website.

**Group 2 Motorsports**  
**2600 Commodore Way, Seattle, WA 98199**  
**[www.g2motorsports.com](http://www.g2motorsports.com)**

Come any time after 6 PM; we'll have a short business meeting at 7, but we'll spend the majority of time touring and learning about what Group 2 has to offer.

A pizza dinner will be on the FEN club, so come hungry. Beverages will also be available! PLEASE RSVP (only to me) so that we know how much pizza to order. I need to hear from you by Monday 8/31 (and please let me know how many will be in your party).

— David Moise  
[dmoise@comcast.net](mailto:dmoise@comcast.net)



## FIAT Acronym Contest

Aren't we all tired of this routine? A stranger approaches you and your FIAT. "Hey! You know what FIAT stands for?" Before you can respond, he gushes: "Fix it Again Tony!" and laughs very loudly at his own cleverness. I think it's time to reel in this behavior and come up with some alternatives, designed to stop these idiots in their tracks. I propose a contest!

Using the letters FIAT, come up with a phrase that puts "Fix it Again Tony" away for good. Judges should be FEN's officers. I'll donate an autographed bottle of my 2013 Merlot for a prize, which is pretty good. If the winner doesn't drink, it could still be used as a gift or a doorstep. And if we have enough responses, we could add 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Note: "Futile Italian Attempt at Transportation" has already been invented and is also becoming annoying.

Response? Deadline is September 30, drawing in November. Please email Mi Ae at [miae@whatnowdesign.com](mailto:miae@whatnowdesign.com).

Rex Rice

We've gotten some great entries so far. This is the last month to enter, so get your brilliant creations in before the end of September!

## Club Officers

*President:*

Greg Smith

360-239-0429

gfs@gregorysmith.com

*Vice-President:*

David Moise

206-719-3186

dmoise@comcast.net

*Secretary (North):*

Suzanne "Sooz" Rian

425-483-9765

dsrian@frontier.com

*Secretary (South):*

Carrie Rice

360-379-0593

ricecarrie39@gmail.com

*Treasurer/Membership:*

LeRoy Mietzner

425-836-0310

Leroy@mietzners.net

*Newsletter Editor:*

Mi Ae Lipe

206-349-2038

miae@whatnowdesign.com

*Board Member at Large:*

Rex Rice

360-379-0593

ricerex35@gmail.com



## Updates on New 124, 500x, and 500L

*Article by Alex Sargeant*

There are a lot of hot rumors swirling around the FIAT USA lineup for the near future. Everyone knows the new 124 Spider is about to be revealed. I've actually seen pictures of it without the disguises and I think everyone will be pretty happy with the way it looks. You definitely won't be mistaking it for the Miata. The hot rumor around the 124 Spider right now is available engine



choices. It's pretty clear the primary motor will be the 1.4L Turbo rated at 160 hp. It's also very clear that there will be an Abarth version as well. It's been leaked in Europe that the Abarth version over there will probably be rated at 235 hp. As of now, as I write this, the Abarth appearance package has been approved for North America, but the decision on offering an uprated motor has not been made. The most logical choice would be to use the 2.0L I4 under development for the upcoming Alfa Romeo models. The Euro version of that motor is ready to go. The US version is not expected to be certified until later next year.



The new 500X has been well-received. Reviewers and customers alike find it to be a welcome addition to the lineup. You may have seen the pictures of the rumored Abarth 500X on the Internet. It is confirmed there will be an Abarth 500X for Europe. It's very much unconfirmed if that same package will be coming here.

The European package includes suspension upgrades and the 2.4L Tigershark motor with a manual transmission. The 2.4L is the standard AWD engine here, but it is not currently offered with a manual transmission. Europe also has an Abarth edition of the 500L that we have never had available here.

Lastly, the fate of the 500L for the future is uncertain. The product is selling well in other parts of the world but has failed to catch on here. With the coming of the 500X, many dealers feel the 2WD version of the 500X and 500L are competing with each other for the same market share.

FCA has previously considered and rejected the idea of bringing the seven-passenger 500L Living to the US. This idea seems to have resurfaced. If it came here, it would be the smallest seven-passenger vehicle available in America. The 500L Living looks like it is a one-foot-longer version of the regular 500L. The cargo area contains two forward-facing seats that pull up out of the floor space occupied by the subwoofer and tire service tray in the regular 500L. In the FCA family, it would provide a US product that is less expensive than the starting price of the all-new Town & Country minivan coming to Chrysler stores. 🚗

*Alex Sargeant is the Senior FIAT Enthusiast at Rairdon's Maserati-Alfa Romeo-FIAT Kirkland and a member of FEN.*



Photo credits: Opposite page: Spy shots of the new FIAT 124, [www.autoblog.com](http://www.autoblog.com), Brian Williams of Spiedbilde. Above, top to bottom: Interior of 2015 FIAT 500 Living, [www.fiat.com](http://www.fiat.com); two versions of the FIAT Abarth 500X, Julien Jodry for [www.auto-moto.com](http://www.auto-moto.com), and [www.autotoday.it](http://www.autotoday.it); and exterior view of 2015 FIAT 500 Living, [www.fiat.com](http://www.fiat.com).

# FIATs in the News

Compiled by Mi Ae Lipe

The following is a digest of recent or not-so-recent (but nonetheless interesting) FIAT-related news items. Clicking on the blue URL links below will take you right to the corresponding articles on the Internet in your Web browser.

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**Marchionne tells dealers FIAT Chrysler can stand on its own after all** (*Forbes*, August 27, 2015)

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/dalebuss/2015/08/27/marchionne-tells-dealers-fiat-chrysler-can-stand-on-its-own-after-all/>

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**FIAT Ducato 4x4 Expedition unveiled** (*WorldCarFans*, August 28, 2015)

<http://www.worldcarfans.com/115082898270/fiat-ducato-4x4-expedition-unveiled>

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**How soon will FIAT disappear in the US?** (*24/7 Wall Street*, August 28, 2015)

<http://247wallst.com/autos/2015/08/28/how-soon-will-fiat-disappear-in-the-us/>

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**Why FIAT is being treated like a punchline in America** (*MW Market Watch*, August 26, 2015)

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-this-little-car-is-being-treated-like-a-punchline-in-america-2015-08-25>

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**Will another FIAT Chrysler star, or two, bow in Vegas?** (*Automotive News*, August 25, 2015)

<http://www.autonews.com/article/20150825/BLOG06/150829941/will-another-fiat-chrysler-star-or-two-bow-in-vegas?>

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**Rumor: Alfa Romeo Giulia QV runs 7:43 at the Nürburgring** (*Art of Gears*, August 28, 2015)

<http://artofgears.com/2015/08/28/rumor-alfa-romeo-giulia-qv-runs-743-at-the-nurburgring/>

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**Alfa Romeo Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde review: Four-leaf fun** (*Pocket-Lint*, August 26, 2015)

<http://www.pocket-lint.com/review/134950-alfa-romeo-giulietta-quadrifoglio-verde-review-four-leaf-fun>

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**The next Dodge Charger uses an Alfa Romeo platform** (*Jalopnik*, August 28, 2015)

<http://jalopnik.com/the-next-dodge-charger-uses-an-alfa-romeo-platform-and-1726749114>

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**Maserati Levante crossover prototype caught in the wild [spied]** (*TFLCar*, Aug 28, 2015)

<http://www.tflcar.com/2015/08/2016-maserati-levante-crossover-prototype-caught-in-the-wild-spied/>

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**Zegna silk and Maserati steel combine as women take the driver's seat** (*AFR Weekend*, August 23, 2015)

<http://www.afr.com/brand/afr-magazine/zegna-silk-and-maserati-steel-combine-as-women-take-the-drivers-seat-20150721-gih4fc>