

# 2024 SUV Kick-off Drive: The President's Ribbon Drive

BY QUEENE MAVOR

PHOTOS BY VALERIE MENELY, JEANNINE DOWNEY,  
JEFF GASPARITSCH AND MARC FRANCK

*... and viewed  
the famous Eye of  
the Molalla, an  
unusual geological  
formation along  
the Molalla River.*

*Eye of The Mollala!*



*The birthplace of  
the world's first  
geo-cache stash!*

**K**icking off the 2024 ORPCA drive season couldn't have been any more enjoyable than with our recent SUV Kickoff Drive. Enjoying a day of glorious sunshine, we had a fantastic turnout with 25 participants split into two groups, cruising in 13 sleek Porsche SUVs, and one Aston-Martin SUV.

Our fearless leader, Jeff Gasparitsch, wowed us with his expert knowledge of the area, crafting a route that was both thrilling and scenic. From the winding roads (some of which followed the Oregon trail) to the pit stops, every twist

and turn was a delight!

And speaking of pit stops, who could resist a scoop of some of the best ice cream around at TMK Creamery in Canby? We passed by the birthplace of the world's first geo-cache stash and viewed the famous Eye of the Molalla, an unusual geological formation along the Molalla River. This distinctive feature is a rosette basalt - an unusual occurrence of concentric basalt columns lying sideways instead of vertically. Along the way, we were treated to breathtaking glimpses of



snow-capped peaks, meandering rivers, and charming tree farms and vineyards. And let's not forget the joy on the face of at least one young car enthusiast as our Porsche convoy passed by!

With plenty of smiles and miles under our belt (including a wee bit of dirt), we capped off the day with a delicious lunch at Silver Falls Brewery in Silverton.

A huge shoutout to our additional driver volunteers Bob Ellis, Bruce Jones, and Lou Mavor, who played the crucial roles of second group leader and sweeps, making it possible for us to accommodate more participants and enjoy the camaraderie that makes these rides truly special.

Until our next adventure, keep those engines revving and those smiles shining! ■

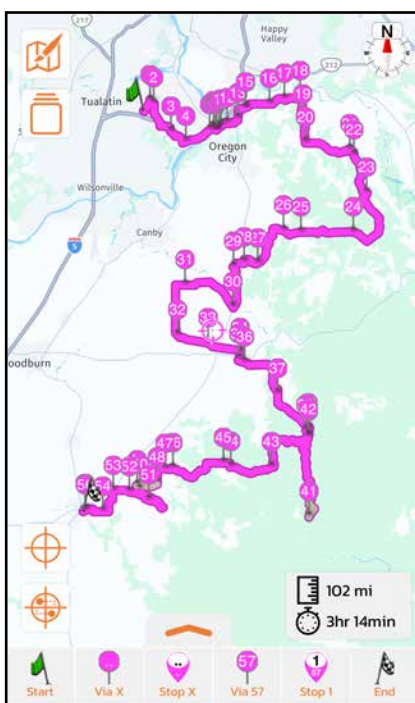
**Note from the editor:** I asked about the title of this drive. Here is what Jeff told me "The Ribbon is straightforward, lots of flowing left-right turns and undulating tarmac. The President portion was meant as a tip of the hat to Heinz who I expected on the drive. On the drive itself, in one town we crossed Heinz Road, and then in another town, we drove down (a different) Heinz Road.



Jeff kicking things off on top of his Cayenne.



TMK Creamery in Canby and Jeff and the friendly cow.



This is the Route!

Enjoy the photos. There are more on our SmugMug here: <https://orpc-pix.smugmug.com/2024-ORPCS-EVENTS/February-SUV-Drive-02242024>

