



# Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

BY GARY FELDMANN PHOTOS BY BRAD HEDSTROM

*(Above) 2024 Board of Directors: Heinz Holtzapfel, Peg Ryan, Anh Le, Larry Hannan, and Tosh Kanno, Missing are Carol Hedstrom and Daniel Morris.*

**A**fter a one-week weather delay due to the epic snow, ice, and wind event that hammered the Portland area, an enthusiastic group of ORPCA members gathered for the first social event of 2024: The Annual Meeting and Volunteer Awards Banquet at the south waterfront Spaghetti Factory.

We started with cocktails and then a delicious meal that ended with the Spaghetti Factory signature spumoni. As the deserts were being consumed, Peg Ryan gave a review of the 2023 year. She introduced the new Board of Directors, welcoming incoming President Heinz Holtzapfel; new Secretary Tosh Kanno, as well as current board members: Anh Le, Director at Large/Membership, and Larry Hannan, Director at Large. The board's new Vice President, Carol Hedstrom, as well as the Treasurer, Daniel Morris were unable to attend. Heinz then presented a gift to Peg for

her years of service as is customary at this event. Check out Peg in her new ORPCA vest in the photo below. Next Peg announced the Volunteer Awards.

## Enthusiast of the Year: Ron Gotcher

This is awarded to the member who is most active in Club events throughout the year. If you look at a list of people signed up to do a drive, most likely Ron is on that list! Ron loves to drive and



**Ron Gotcher, Enthusiast of the Year.**

he attends probably 90% of our Arrive and Drives, Midweek drives, and SUV Drives. He attends many of our monthly dinners. Ron recently got a new 911 and he asked that we submit his picture with his new car for the Panorama Region Section. Ron is 87 years old!

and most active in Club activities throughout the year. Julie took over getting all the social events on the web as well as updating it as things filed and pulling reports of the attendees for the event. She provides the information from the web for the email blasts the

**Family of the Year: Jim Goetsch and Valerie Menely**

This is awarded to the family who is most active in Club activities throughout the year. Jim and Valerie are an engaged couple! They do SUV drives, Arrive and Drives, and Midweek drives. They did the June NW Passage and often attend our social events. Jim and Valerie are always smiling and energetic.



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**Gear of the Year: Julie Madrid**

This is awarded to the individual who is the hardest working, most supportive,

day after the monthly dinner gathering is posted to the web. Julie, you are amazing and we appreciate all you do for us.

**Mark Donohue Award: Bryce Bederka**

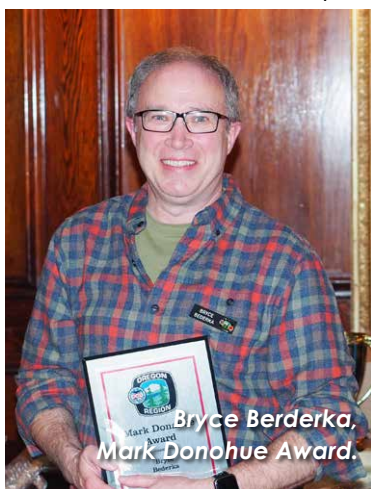
This is awarded to the individual who demonstrates outstanding motorsports enthusiasm and achievement throughout the year. Mark Donohue was an American race car driver and engineer known for his ability to set up his race car as well as drive it to victory. He raced from 1959 until 1975. He is best known as the driver of a Porsche 917 and as the winner of the Indianapolis 500 in 1972 plus many





(Above) Cathy and Larry Hannan, Heinz Holzapfel, Bob Ellis, Wendy Kanno, Steve Spahr and Tosh Kanno.

other racing series. He even went on to race in Formula 1 in 1975. This year's Mark Donohue Award goes to Bryce Bederka. Bryce was selected for this



Bryce Bederka, Mark Donohue Award.

award because of his dedication to our autocross program. Bryce is always there early to help set up and stays late to help take everything down and pack up the trailer. He also works in the trailer helping with all the timing and tracking of the events and he goes

on to win his class year after year in his 1999 Boxster! Thank you, Bryce!

**New Member of the Year: Monte Allen**

This is awarded to the new ORPCA member who upon joining our club, demonstrates a "can-do" attitude toward Oregon Region events, both in participation and assuming a notable level of responsibility towards assuring their success. Monte joined the club

in April of this year with his 2004 911 Carrera. He immediately made an impression on all of us. He began doing drives and going to dinners, always with a smile and often with his lovely wife Kym on his arm. He loves photography and he began taking pictures on every drive he was on and every event he was at. When he was asked about our Autocross photography he jumped in and came to every Autocross he could. Thank you, Monte, for your energy and enthusiasm and all your fabulous photos.



Monte Allen, New Member of the Year.



### **Tourmeister of the Year: Kurt Fuerstenau**

This is awarded to the individual who is most active in organizing and leading the various tours that the Club schedules each year. Kurt is not only our tour director who gets folks to sign up to organize drives, but also gets insurance for all our drives (41). He also spearheaded some new drives. He organized and led two new Introduction to Arrive and Drives, an Air-cooled-only drive and the Boxster-only drive. Thank you, Kurt, for all your work! Kurt was unable to attend the banquet.



### **President's Award: The Northwest Passage Committee**

This award is given at the discretion of the President to the member or members deserving special recognition for service to the Club. This award is unusual this year. We don't usually include board members in our volunteer awards since the board is the one picking who gets the awards. But with the President's award, it is only selected by the President so Peg could bend the rules a bit.



*(Above) Photos of the banquet attendees. (Below) Peg in her new ORPCA President's vest.*

A week before the Fall Northwest Passage we were notified that there was gas in the basement of the hotel in Walla Walla that we were going to use for three nights of the Tour. The gas station across the street was leaking gas and the hotel had to close. There were 70 people headed for the hotel in less than a week. This team figured out how to move the event to Richland, Washington, found hotels, new restaurants, updated routes for the planned drives, and produced a new tour book. Everything was ready for the start of the event and everything went off without a hitch. Peg thanked everyone for their dedication to making the Fall Northwest Passage a success. The team comprised Heinz Holzapfel, Larry and Cathy Hannan, Tosh and Wendy Kanno, Bob Ellis, Jeff Gretz, Steve and Melanie Spahr, Steve and Winnie Miller, and Alan and Muriel Meyer. Melanie Spahr, Steve and Winner Miller, and Alan and Muriel Meyer were unable to attend the banquet.

Many thanks to Peg for a job well done as well as all of the volunteers and board members who made 2023 such a great Porsche experience! Enjoy the photos. ■

