



My First Drive with ORPCA: Boxsters-Only

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(Above) Spyders at lunch!
(Inset) The Boxster-Only
Drive group. (Below) Ron
Gotcher's racing yellow
GTS 4.0 at the start.

July 21 presented us with a beautiful summer morning. Nice and cool in the low 70s. Would it be perfect for a novice like me who was going to join my first drive with the other ORPCA- seasoned members? Absolutely! Here I came with my most significant other for this event – Ramona. She's the gorgeous 2014 white Boxster with a red top recently added to my Porsche family.

I met with tour organizers Kurt Fuerstenau and Eric Lewis as soon as I got to the starting point in Oregon City. I was very excited although I did not know what to expect. Everyone was genuine, warm, and welcoming. That made a real difference for a solo female driver like me. I was grateful to Peg Ryan and Kurt Fuerstenau who kindly included me in this drive and provided me with the needed information.

There were 17 Boxsters in total for the drive. As we were mingling, more drivers were arriving and lining up their cars. That was a stunning view and certainly photo-





Spyders at the start.

worthy. I knew it was going to be a fun and perfect Sunday.

Kurt did a briefing about the well-planned route, safety rules, and etiquette. After that, we posed for a group photo and then the journey began.

The route consisted of two rest stops: Meinig Memorial Park and Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site. Our destination today was near the Bridge of the Gods in Cascade Locks.

As I mentioned, this was my first drive. Moreover, I am relatively new to Oregon. That was double trouble, don't you think I needed a strategy. And it was simple - never lose the car ahead of me. I also made sure I was among the cars at the front of the group. The last thing I wanted was that the Sweep would need to go searching for me only to find me looking lost and hopeless.

I was the sixth car out as we took off from the parking lot. Everyone was fresh and happy. Did I tell you I was originally from Bangkok, Thailand? Now you certainly have a better idea

of my driving experience and style.

The route was scenic. That was a big boost for me. We followed the beautiful and historic Oregon Trail. It always reminded me of the perseverance and the hardship of the settlers. I was very grateful that today my "wagon" ran with 265 horsepower.

After a short drive, I noticed that I had lost the cars behind me. I assumed

Enjoy the photos.

There are more on our SmugMug site here:

<https://orpca-pix.smugmug.com/2024-ORPCS-EVENTS/Boxster-Only-Drive-7212024>



Interesting wheel collage!



Author Fern Kulpreecha and Ramona.



New member David Bailey with his new to him Boxster.

I felt the real joy of driving... I was enjoying the journey itself. I was driving for my own pleasure. It was ecstatic.

they got cut off by traffic lights or bikers. Hence, it was my mission to never let the cars in the front out of my sight. And I did everything to keep up with them. The route sheet that Kurt carefully made for us was very informative and helpful in assuring me that I was on the right track.

Our first rest stop at Meinig Memorial

Recreation Site. I was the fourth car in the group. The route was pleasant, and I enjoyed every moment of it. I personally always loved the sharp turns as we were climbing up the mountains. But this time I did not worry that I might be the reason my dogs hurl in the back seats.

I was impressed by the performance



Front and back of Donovan Harris's new Boxster Spyder RS at the start.

Park was a nice short break. We also had a chance to admire other Boxsters while mingling a bit more and had more photos taken.

Then, we were off to the next leg, heading toward Lewis and Clark State

of my Ramona. She was easy to handle, responsive, predictable, and cornered very well. As we are in a new relationship, I am very satisfied with her.

Shamelessly, I had a confession to make. I felt freed. I felt the real joy of



driving. I was not driving to a business meeting or an appointment. I was not focusing on the destination. I was enjoying the journey itself. I was driving for my own pleasure. It was ecstatic.

The sun had gotten higher but still, we lucked out that it was a delightful summer morning. This is why I love Oregon. Along the route, we passed a few cyclists and some onlookers who were friendly and waving at us.

After our second stop, we were ready to continue to our destination. We drove past waterfall trails and the



viewpoints. More people were on the road at this hour. Our group became part of the attractions as I saw children happily shout out to their parents when they spotted us approaching. Some of them quickly took photos and videos. As we drove past Multnomah Falls, a little girl screamed "Porsche" out loud. Seeing how the onlookers interacted with us put a big smile on my face.

We all gracefully arrived at the

(Above) Road on the Historic Columbia River Highway. Twisties coming!
(Inset) Circling Vista House at Crown Point on the Historic Columbia River Highway. (Below) First stop at Meinig Memorial Park.





(Above) Bridge of the Gods from our lunch stop.

Bridgeview Restaurant, right by the Bridge of the Gods. Everyone looked content. We sat down for lunch together, enjoying the beautiful view of the Columbia River and the company of like-minded people. It was truly a memorable experience for me. I was thankful for all of us who made my first drive with ORPCA wonderful. I mean it because I have already signed up for the next drive with the Club, and I am looking forward to meeting you there. ■



Our lunch stop Bridgeside Restaurant. Andrew and Lily FauntLeRoy with Julie and Derrick Teal.

