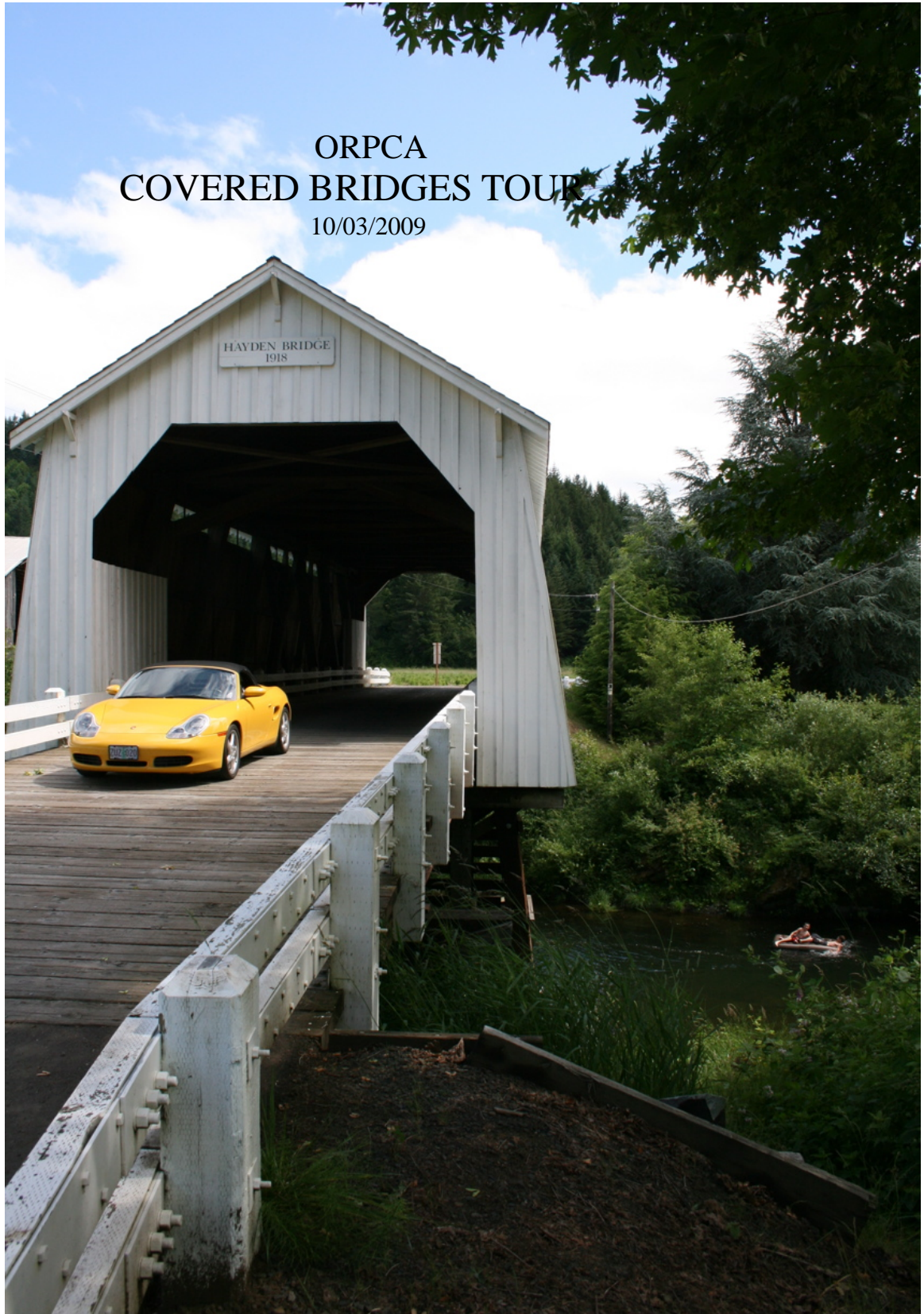


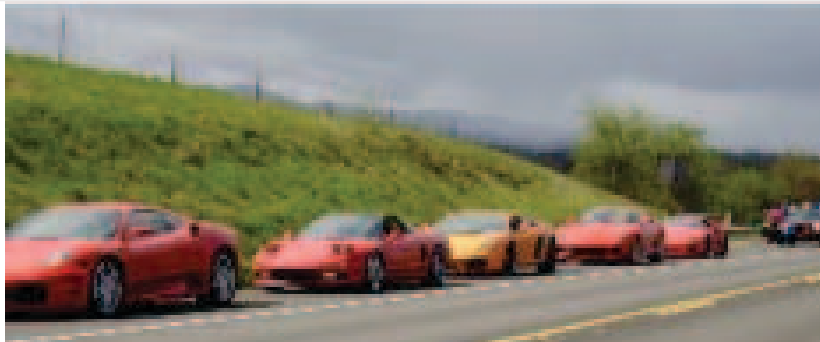
ORPCA  
COVERED BRIDGES TOUR  
10/03/2009



Tourmeister: Bob Ellis  
Driver: Kathleen Ellis

## Speed racing group stopped by police in Oregon Coast Range

Thursday, April 23, 2009 By DAVID KROUGH, kgw.com Staff



HOOD RIVER, Ore. – Oregon State Police gave out a number of speeding tickets to a group of sports car racers in Oregon Thursday.

OSP Troopers said they spotted the cars speeding and passing in no-pass lanes on Highway 18 near Grand Ronde. The responding trooper said five cars buzzed by him, and counted ten in all.

The trooper pulled six vehicles over and cited the drivers for speed racing. The drivers told police there were 20 drivers from Canada and one from Washington State on their annual road trip. OSP said the drivers were all cooperative.

A Lamborghini from the group was later stopped in the Columbia River Gorge for doing 90 in a 65 zone.

### Drift Creek (Bear Creek) Covered Bridge



County: Lincoln

Stream: Bear Creek

Bridge Length (ft): 66

Year Built: 1914 \*2000

Background: The Drift Creek Bridge has a long history. Originally built south of Lincoln City only 1.5 miles from the coast, the bridge was considered the oldest remaining covered bridge in Oregon.

The span once served traffic on a main north-south route along the Oregon coast. New roads and highways were built later, thus diverting most of the traffic from the now remote site. In early 1988, Lincoln County officials had to close the Drift Creek Bridge to pedestrian traffic due to the deteriorating condition of the span.

Excessive rot and insect damage had weakened the bridge to a dangerous level. Steel beams were installed inside the bridge to keep it from falling into the water. The area around the bridge was excavated in an effort to isolate the structure and limit access. This bridge was dismantled in late 1997. The County gave the timbers to the Sweitz family who owned land only eight miles to the north of the original site. Laura and Kerry Sweitz had envisioned the bridge being rebuilt over their concrete bridge that provides access to their property across Bear Creek. In the pioneer spirit that this bridge represents and through hardship and strife, their monumental efforts resulted in the resurrection of the bridge which now stands in a small, beautiful park-like setting.

			clock time
		Next covered bridge in 61.1 miles	
		Next planned rest stop in 55.3 miles	
		<b>Odometer reading</b>	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
<b>0.0</b>		Exit parking lot of J's Restaurant, 2017 Portland Rd. Newberg, Or.	8:00 AM
		turn right at stop onto Hwy. 99W	
<b>1.0</b>	1.0	Right at traffic signal onto N. Main St / OR-240 toward Yamhill.	
<b>6.9</b>	5.9	Left at Y junction onto NE Kuehne Rd.	8:09 AM
<b>8.9</b>	2.0	Continue straight onto Abbey Rd	
<b>13.1</b>	4.2	left at stop sign onto 3rd St. / Or 99W	8:26 AM
<b>13.3</b>	0.2	right at Madison St. heading south	
<b>15.5</b>	2.2	right at SE Dayton Bypass / OR 18 / Salmon River Hwy	
<b>30.5</b>		Dairy Queen with restrooms on left side of 99W	
<b>35.0</b>		Stuart Grenfell County Park on left side of road 2 outhouses	
<b>55.3</b>	39.8	Right into HB Van Duzer State Park	9:12 AM
		Next planned rest stop in 98 miles.	
		zero odometer	
<b>0.0</b>		exit park turning right on OR-18 / Salmon River Hwy.	9:27 AM
<b>4.9</b>	4.9	Left at N Bear Creek Rd.	
<b>5.8</b>	0.9	<b>Drift Creek Covered Bridge</b> will be on the left.	9:37 AM
		Please drive past and find a place up the road to turn around and	
		return to park on the east side of the road. The bridge is on privately	
		owned land but the owners have given an easement for the public to	
		access it. They request that we do NOT drive across the bridge.	
			10:00 AM
		Next covered bridge in 56 miles.	
		Next planned rest stop in 92 miles.	





County: Lincoln  
Stream: Yaquina River  
Bridge Length (ft): 96  
Year Built: 1926

### **Yaquina River (Chitwood) Covered Bridge**

Background: Not much activity occurs at Chitwood anymore. Several stores, a post office, a telephone office, and several houses once surrounded the Chitwood Bridge. The boarded up remains of the Smith store nearby is a dim reminder of the vitality the community once had. Logging in the area once boomed enough to support not only the stores, but also contributed to rowdy times in the Chitwood Dance Hall. In the early 1900s Chitwood became an important rail stop for the steam locomotives from Yaquina to Corvallis, as the town was

where the engines took on water and fuel, as well as passengers and freight.

The rails near the bridge are still used, but the train no longer stops at Chitwood. In 1982, Lincoln County officials announced that the bridge had been seriously damaged and would either be replaced or repaired. A public hearing concerning the future of the bridge influenced the commissioners to completely rehabilitate the structure.

By December 1983, work had been completed on the roofing, flooring, siding and approaches, costing in excess of \$240,000. Dedication ceremonies in January 1986 included a recitation of history of the area and a parade of vintage cars.



**Gathering Together Farm** is a project in certified organic vegetable and fruit production began in 1987. Our fields are small odd shaped parcels of land, 1 to 5 acres in size, hugging the Mary's River. All totaled, we farm about 65 acres. Diversity is one of the keystones of our farm.

Each year we sell over 40 different types of vegetables of over 100 different varieties

through our Farm Stand and our booths at local farmers' markets. We sell to many of Portland's premier restaurants. Our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) membership program continues to grow and now includes over 300 households in Corvallis, Philomath, Portland, and Newport.

[illegible]



County: Benton  
Stream: Alsea River  
Bridge Length (ft): 91  
Year Built: 1918

### **Alsea River (Hayden) Covered Bridge**

Background: Spanning the Alsea River only two miles west of Alsea, the Hayden Bridge is one of the oldest in the state.

The span was either partially or totally rebuilt in 1945. Its portals, once rounded in design, have been enlarged to a more modern design to facilitate larger loads.

Vertical board and batten siding flares out at the base, similar to Lincoln

County covered spans. A daylighting window strip below the roofline on both sides of the bridge illuminates the interior. Alsea was a river community as early as 1850, known as Alseya Settlement. The name is derived from the name of an Indian tribe living at the mouth of the river, originally pronounced in three syllables.



Stream: Marys River  
Bridge Length (ft): 75  
Year Built: 1936 \*1929

### **Marys River (Harris) Covered Bridge**

Background: The Harris Bridge was built by H. W. Fiedler to replace a covered bridge at the same site. Although Benton County records show 1936 as the construction date, some locals claim the span may have been built in 1929.

The Harris Bridge retains its rounded portal design and other features include narrow windows below the roofline to light the bridge interior and longitudinal deck planks. The siding is board and batten style, and the roof is shingled.

Harris has been a community since 1890, bearing the name of a pioneer landowner. When the post office was established, residents petitioned for the name of Harris, but postal authorities feared confusion might develop with nearby Harrisburg. The town was known as Elam, for Mrs. Gladys Elam, but the name of the community was later changed to Harris.

		Next covered bridge in 24.2 miles.	
		Next planned rest stop in 43.9 miles.	
		Odometer reading	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
	0.0	left out of farm driveway onto Grange Hall Road	1:30 PM
	0.1	0.1 right at stop sign onto Fern Rd.	
	4.2	4.1 right at stop sign onto Llewellyn Rd.	
	4.7	0.5 left onto Peterson Rd.	
	5.7	1.0 right at stop onto Decker Rd.	
	10.5	4.8 left at stop onto Alsea Hwy / OR-34	1:45 PM
	24.1	13.6 left into rest area before bridge - use as staging area for those that want to drive through the bridge for pictures etc.	
	24.2	0.1 left onto Hayden road, over <b>Hayden Covered Bridge</b> and turn around.	2:15 PM
		Next covered bridge in 27.7 miles.	
		Next planned rest stop in 19.7 miles.	
		Odometer reading	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
	0.0	right from Hayden Rd onto Alsea Hwy OR-34	2:15 PM
	18.7	18.7 right at OR-20 / Corvallis Newport Hwy.	
	19.7	1.0 right at stop onto OR-34/US-20	
	19.7	left at S. 14th St.	2:40PM
	19.7	into Chevron station on right (1414 main St. Philomath, Or.)	2:55PM
		Next covered bridge in 8 miles	
		Odometer reading	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
	0.0	0.0 left out of service station onto Main St. (going west) US-20	
	5.1	5.1 right at Kings Valley Hwy. / OR-223	
		If you do not want to drive the last mile to this bridge over gravel skip to last instruction on route to next bridge. "Drive 10.2 miles to bridge".	
	5.3	0.2 sharp right at Wren Rd.	
	5.5	0.2 right at Harris Rd.	
	8.0	2.5 arrive at <b>Harris Covered Bridge</b> .	3:15 PM



## Ritner Creek Covered Bridge

Background: Ritner Creek bridge was the last covered bridge on an Oregon state highway.

In 1976, the bridge was lifted from its foundation and relocated just downstream of its original site and replaced by a concrete bridge.

County: Polk  
Stream: Ritner Creek  
Bridge Length (ft): 75  
Year Built: 1927

Hamer and Curry Contractors constructed the bridge in 1927 to Oregon State Highway Commission

The original portal design was rounded at the edges but was changed to a square design in the early 1960s to accommodate larger loads to pass.

Bridge information from State of Oregon website [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/covered\\_bridges.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/covered_bridges.shtml) Which credits as a Source: "Roofs Over Rivers" by Bill and Nick Cockrell



		Next covered bridge in 12.8 miles	
		Next planned rest stop in 12.8 miles.	
		Odometer reading	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
	0.0	return south on Harris Rd.	3:40PM
	2.5	2.5 left at Wren Rd.	
	2.6	0.1 right onto Kings Valley Hwy. / OR-223	
	12.8	10.2 right into parking lot at <b>Ritner Covered Bridge</b> .	
		there is only room for 10 cars in the parking lot by the bridge.	4:00PM
		This is the last bridge on our tour for today!	
		Odometer reading	
		Leg length	
		zero odometer	
	0.0	Leave bridge and continue north on Kings Valley Hwy. / OR-223	
	4.2	4.2 right at Maple Grove Rd.	
	7.8	3.6 left at stop onto Airlie Rd.	
	8.9	1.1 right onto Elkins Rd.	
	14.9	6.0 left at stop onto Helmick Rd.	
	16.6	1.7 right onto Stapleton Rd. (sign on left)	
	16.9	0.3 left at stop sign onto OR-99W/S Pacific Hwy. W.	
		drive straight through Monmouth on 99W	
		drive straight through Rickreal on 99W	
	24.1	7.2 take the ramp to the right onto OR-22/Willamina Salem Hwy.	
	28.3	4.2 go straight at Junction with Hwy 51	
	33.8	5.5 street becomes Center Street, crossing bridge-stay in center lanes	
		continue on Center St., after passing Nordstrom get in left two lanes	
	34.5	0.7 left at Capitol St. NE. - stay in center lane until after passing Market St.	
	35.6	1.1 Capitol St. merges into Fairgrounds Rd. NE	
		<b>If continuing on to Oregon Garden Resort</b>	
		after traffic signal @ Sunnyview St. move to right lane,	
		4 blocks to next traffic signal, hard to see sign for right turn	6:00 PM
	35.9	0.3 right at traffic signal onto Silverton Rd. NE	
	46.3	10.4 right at Paradise Ally Rd. NE (yield sign and railroad crossing sign on right)	
	47.3	1.0 left at stop sign onto W. Main St.	
	47.6	0.3 right into Oregon Garden Resort	
		<b>If returning to Portland / Vancouver area</b>	
	35.6	after traffic signal @ Sunnyview St. continue straight at next signal	
	37.5	1.9 merge right onto I-5 N via the ramp to Portland.	