

# Eastside Ribbon SUV Drive February 28, 2026

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**T**hey say you shouldn't meet your heroes, but nobody said anything about borrowing your friend's 400-horsepower SUV for the day.

I've often wondered about Oregon Region's SUV drives, and thought they sounded like fun, but as someone who's only Porsche is a Boxster (and who does not own an SUV of any brand), I've never attended one of their drives. I was recently talking about that with my close friend (and fellow club member) Linda Tracewell, and she very generously offered to let me take her 2011 Cayenne S on the drive, so I naturally jumped at the chance! Linda and

her late husband, Larry, were former ORPCA Membership Chairs and joined the Club around the same time I did – in the spring of 2017. We met on our first Club drive, and we've been friends ever since, along with my wife, Tracie Andrews.



On the morning of the drive, the last day of

February, the weather was cool and overcast, but dry. I arrived early to Dub's Tavern (just off 205 on Stafford Road) so I could grab some breakfast with other Club members. I had never been to Dub's before, but it seems like a great spot with an interesting menu and lots of license plates and other memorabilia all over the walls. I had a very tasty order of avocado toast with over-easy eggs while enjoying conversation with Bob Ellis, Bret Muth, and Max Cowles. We got to hear the story of Max's 1984 LS-swapped 944 and its very cool front



“art fender”. You can check it out on his Instagram account: @944lsswap. Seeing him arriving and noting a beautiful red Panamera in the lot made me realize I probably could have brought my Boxster, but the day’s route did include about a mile and a half of gravel road, and I’d rather avoid that, even though my Boxster is no garage queen.

At the Drivers’ Meeting, there were a lot of “new-to-me” faces as well as quite a few people I knew. This was my first drive of the season, so it was good to reconnect with some and meet some of the others. Jeff Gasparitsch was the drive organizer, and he did a great job of going over the route directions and safety guidelines before we hit the road.

Our first leg took us through downtown West Linn and Oregon City before getting out on some more open, curvy roads to Carver, then along Clear Creek through Redland and toward Estacada. Lots of farms and wooded sections. At one point we passed a cute donkey in a field, which seemed to be greeting us, all from the safety of his paddock while we drove past. Around the very next curve there were a couple of shaggy Highland cows, watching us through their fluffy forelocks. But then we looped back through



Mulino and had our first pit stop at TMK Creamery. They make all kinds of dairy products from the milk provided by their “Cowlebrities.” Some of the usual items – milk, of course, and cheese in blocks or curds – but then they also make “Cowcohol” which is a vodka made from whey leftover from their cheesemaking process. Now that’s some upcycling that I can

get behind! I refrained from getting a taste while we were there, but the mental note to return for a tasting was firmly planted. Until then, I



satisfied myself with a delicious vanilla shake, and a small block of aged cheddar to take home.

We even got to have some close encounters with some of their cows while we were there, but pretty soon we were back on the road, heading through Molalla toward the beautiful Molalla River Recreation Area. As we went briskly through a series of curves, it occurred to me just how un-SUV-like the Cayenne S



felt while eating up those curves. The V8 power combined with high-tech suspension set to its lowest height in Sport Mode really makes for some physics-defying fun that I would not have expected from an SUV. Being a lifelong Porsche fan, I probably should have expected it, but it still surprised me.

We stopped twice in the Molalla River Recreation Area to have another



break and admire not only the incredibly gorgeous, blue-green water of the Molalla River, but also a geologic formation called The Eye of Molalla. It's a rosette of basalt – the basalt columns fanning out in a circular pattern on the wall of the canyon just above the water.

Jeff told us it was part of a lava tube flowing all the way from Mt. Hood. Cool stuff!

Next, we backtracked out of the Recreation Area and up a steep, curvy incline through a clear cut as we headed toward Scotts Mills. After passing through that (very) small town we took a turn and encountered that short stretch of gravel road. It was a perfectly smooth gravel road, so I'm sure I had no need to put the Cayenne into the first off-road setting, but that didn't stop me from doing it. What can I say? I like playing with buttons. Even though it was smooth, there were a couple of moments where I couldn't see much except dust and the taillights in front of me.

Back on the asphalt, the growl of the V8 was intoxicating. It was easy to forget you're driving a



vehicle that can haul a dresser when it's busy hauling you through a series of brisk apexes.

We had a short drive through some very green farmland (where we saw several deer very close to the road) before arriving in Silverton for lunch at Silver Falls Brewery. I may have resisted sampling the Cowcohol earlier, but I gave in now and had a nice IPA with my Caesar Wrap. Good conversation was had – about the drive and other car topics – and Jeff even brought something for “Show & Tell”.

It was a 1/10th-scale cast body of a Porsche 356-2, made from Porsche prints, by Jeff's father in 1948, and recognized as probably being the first-ever toy model of a Porsche! Ask Jeff to tell you the great story of its production, loss, and reclamation the next time you see him.

In the end, it was a banner day of camaraderie and driving some great backroads through our amazing Oregon scenery. We're so lucky to live where we do, and to have such a fun, active Club to help us enjoy it.

Are you also a “cars-only” member? Trust me - the SUV crowd knows how to have a good time! Now I just need to figure out how to convince my wife that we really need a Cayenne! ■

