



(Photos by Bob Ellis)



Fall Days: Changing Leaves, Twisty Roads, and Oktoberfest

Jeff dressed for the part for the Oktoberfest drive

BY DANIEL MORRIS

It was a crisp autumn morning in Wilsonville; the sun had just moved over the horizon, illuminating 28 pristine Porsches, all ready to embark on a memorable Oktoberfest drive. It would be more than just a drive; but rather an event combining the joy of navigating scenic rural roads with the camaraderie of our Porsche community, and, of course, the promise of a hearty Oktoberfest lunch at the end.

Gathering in the parking lot, drivers and navigators exchanged greetings, anticipating a route that would cover over 91 miles of winding roads. The Willamette Valley, famed for its vineyards and gentle hills, was our backdrop as we headed northwesterly through this lush landscape. For many, it





was the perfect way to celebrate the season—crisp air, vibrant autumn colors, and the rumble of finely tuned engines.

The first leg carried us through the beginnings of our famed rural wine region, through gentle curves of rural roads, and dew rising off the vineyards. This stretch of road allowed drivers to enjoy the smooth handling of their cars while taking in the breathtaking views that define our countryside.

About 30 miles in, we arrived at our first stop of the day, Bald Peak. This park, perched atop a hill, offers stunning

views of the valley below, with Mount Hood visible in the distance. It was here that we parked our Porsches in a semi-circle, forming a dazzling display of automotive art. Each car had its own personality, from classic 911s to modern, high-performance models, and the owners were more than happy to share the stories behind their prized vehicles.

Drivers and navigators chatted about the drive so far and compared notes on their Porsches on the hilly roads. Smiles and laughter echoed as participants shared stories of past drives and upcoming adventures. Cameras were out in full force, capturing the unique lineup of cars against the stunning backdrop of Bald Peak.

The second leg took our groups towards North Plains, a small hamlet known for its charming rural appeal. As we rolled into town, we were greeted by picturesque murals adorning the sides of buildings, adding a bright touch to the quaint surroundings.

The final leg of the drive took us in a more northerly direction, winding our way along Skyline Road. The road, renowned for its beautiful vistas, occasional potholes, and surprising dips, offered stunning views of the

*Gathering at Heinz and Sylvia's after the drive.
(Photo by Sue Morris)*



surrounding hills and forests, and for those with open roofs, it was a sensory delight. The crisp air, the vibrant colors of the trees, and the deep growl of the engines made for an unforgettable experience.

Eventually, we descended from the hills, finding our way to the home of Heinz and Sylvia. Although Sylvia was unable to attend, Heinz, along with several volunteers, had prepared a home-style Oktoberfest lunch for the participants.

The lunch was everything one could hope for; Heinz had set up tables in his back yard, which was adorned with festive decorations. Heinz had arranged for beer from the world's oldest brewery, a perfect complement to the fresh pretzels and assortment of mustards that accompanied the main course: bratwursts. Two types of potato salad, each with its own unique flavor, rounded out the meal, alongside all the other traditional Oktoberfest fixings.

As the group settled in, the yard was filled with the sound of clinking bottles, laughter, and lively conversation. It was a social event as much as it was a feast, with everyone sharing stories from the drive and their love for Porsches. The open-air setting, the crisp autumn weather, and the rich flavors of the food created a perfect sense of camaraderie.

It was more than just a Porsche drive; it was a celebration of the season, of friendships, and of a shared passion for the open road. The smiles on the faces of everyone in attendance were proof that it had been a day well spent. As the last cars departed from Heinz's home, there was already talk of next year's event, with everyone eager to relive the joy and camaraderie of the day. ■



Bob Ellis, Wendy Wells, and Warren Pease



Tim Ashcroft, Carlos Santayana, and Bill Rasnake



Mike O'Connor and Jim North. (Photos above by Tosh Kanno)