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Northwest Passage 2025: Fall Edition, September 2025

FROM A FIRST TIMER

BY WENDY WELLS

PHOTOS BY TOSH KANNO AND WENDY WELLS

Oregon Region's Northwest Passage tour is a gift that you give yourself: It is one of the best things I have ever done. As a first time participant, my conclusion is that everyone who possibly can should experience it. I was born and raised in Oregon, yet had never made it over to eastern Washington, into Idaho and on to Montana where the tour went this September. The scenery was spectacular, it was delightful developing friendships, driving our incredible cars, learning from each other, laughing often and bonding as a group.

Since our tour was in the fall, we admired the leaves turning. Crops had been harvested, leaving the golden stubble glowing yellow against the blue, or gray, sky - the contrast was stunning. There was a perpetual haze from wildfire smoke. On our way into





Montana, we saw a helicopter trailing a bucket of water to extinguish a nearby fire.

The landscapes were diverse, from high desert to vast grain fields, rocky cliffs in canyons along rivers and streams, lakes (some with dams), tiny towns to medium-sized cities. It's refreshing to get out and recall what a tremendous country we live in.

There were many expired deer along the sides of the road (thank goodness not because of any of us), with live ones in meadows. I noticed a herd of elk, including a bull with a massive rack. Birds of prey soared above the fields, flocks of wild turkeys lurked dangerously close to the road.

As we crawled through small towns the locals often waved from porches, the side of the road or their vehicles. At rest stops, and along the roads, people would take videos of our cars; we must have been a spectacle. The



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highlight was a lunch at a county fairground prepared by locals which was unexpected and delicious.

Fortunately, our tour members experienced no accidents or tickets. Two windshields suffered rock chips (including mine, but I would still do it all over again). I appreciated the way that Northwest Passengers chipped in (pun intended) with their advice and experience with getting windshields replaced. This is another advantage of participating - learning from others about our cars and life in general. Club members are generous with their knowledge and expertise.

It was obvious how much planning, care and thought went into the tour and we are grateful to the committee members for their work and commitment to our enjoyment. It was flawless, as far as I could tell.

There is a place for everyone, whether you want to drive slowly or fast, with a newer or mature Porsche, or even another brand. If you're new to the club, a long-time member, drive solo or as a couple, all are welcomed and included.

Each tour is its own adventure, and is so much fun that some go on the spring and fall versions. I urge you to plan now for the 2026 tour, or tours - you'll be glad you did! ■





September's Tyrolian Adventure

BY MARIA MENOR AND JOHN JOHNSON

There is no better way to wind down the summer than with Northwest Passage in September. And what's so special about September, you may ask? It's taking in all the sights as offered on the June tour, but tinged with the unique golden light of late summer. It's rekindling old friendships and sparking new connections in "chillax" mode with the promise of cozier months ahead. It's dodging raindrops while driving through a brief shower with the top down. Well, okay, so maybe that can happen in June too!

Thirty-one cars took to the road on September 10, starting at Mt. Hood Resort in Welches, the first of many opportunities to enjoy delicious

food, drink, and fellowship. As expected, our fabulously dedicated Northwest Passage Committee pulled out all the stops. Winding roads and sun-blasted hills? Check! Wild turkey sightings at speed? Check! The Bavarian charm of Leavenworth, Washington? Check! Breathtaking views from Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Idaho? Check! All the Lakes? Check and double-check!

If our schedules align, maybe we'll try the June tour some year. In the meantime, do we have next year's September dates already penciled in? Check!

See you on the road! ■