



From Sport+ to Off-Road: Connie the Cayenne Takes a New Turn

STORY BY FRANCESCA RANIERI, PHOTOS BY BOB ELLIS & JEFF GASPARITSCH

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My husband Jeff and I have had our Cayenne for about two years. And outside of taking Skyline's corners a little too quickly or gunning it on onramps in Sport+ mode (I love that), we've mostly kept her in daily driver mode.

Her name's Connie, by the way. Connie the Cayenne.

When my husband suggested we try the ORPCA SUV Drive, I had no idea what we were getting into. We'd never been on any kind of group ride before—let alone one that involved actual off-roading. But we packed up Connie, grabbed our

7-year-old son Enzo, and headed out on May 24.

If you're even thinking about trying your first ORPCA SUV drive, here is why you should go for it:

Don't Think About It—Just Enjoy

Jeff Gasparitsch (not my Jeff—there are a lot of Jeffs around here) and Bob Ellis led a 93-mile loop through the hills around Hillsboro, winding through wine country, backroads, and even some light dirt trails. And man—Oregon showed off.

We hit hidden gems like the Airplane House, Hagg Lake, and Gaston—home of Ralph's

Pretty Good Grocery. (Which, for the record, sells a corn dog that might ruin all other corn dogs for you forever.)

The best part? We didn't have to plan a thing. We just followed Jeff and enjoyed the ride.

Use Parts of Your Car You Didn't Know You Had

Listen, I love the Cayenne. It drives beautifully. It's comfortable. And can smoke most cars on the road (most 911s excluded, obviously). But I didn't fully appreciate what it could do off the pavement—until now. The way it handled hills, dirt, and bumps was eye-opening.

Let's just say I'll be parking up on the curb at Trader Joe's with a lot more swagger now.

Note: Jeff and Bob were incredibly thoughtful about making sure everyone drove at their own comfort level. Want to stay on-road? Cool. Want to dip your tires in the dirt? Even better. Totally flexible.

You're Already Part of a Community

There's something about finding your people. I'm naturally introverted, and at 46, I still feel awkward



Jeff, Francesca, Enzo and Connie the Cayenne

walking into new situations. But three minutes into meeting Jeff and Bob, I felt like I belonged. That sense of instant inclusion stayed with us the whole ride—and it's a big reason I can't wait for the next one.

We didn't know what to expect when we signed up. But what we got was a beautiful day, a few unexpected laughs, a surprising appreciation for our SUV—and a reminder that even when you're riding solo, you're never really alone. ■

