

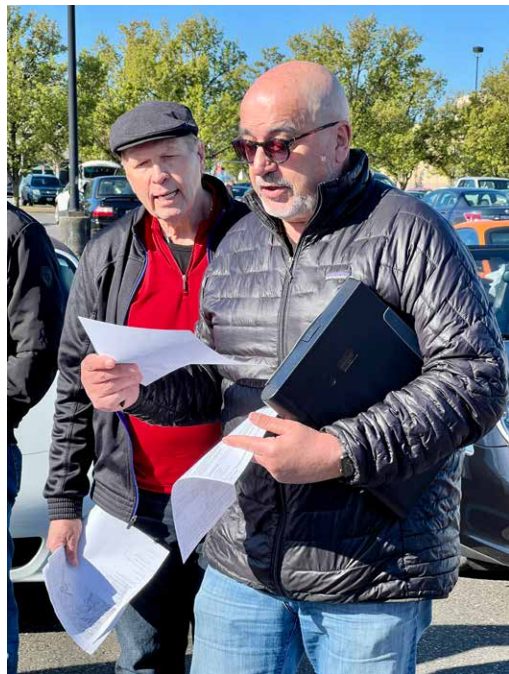


# Midweek-Drive Miles of Curves, Murals and Porsches

Murals on Commercial Street in North Plains.

BY MATT NENNINGER | PHOTOS BY BRAD HEDSTROM,  
JOE SWEENEY, MATT NENNINGER, AND BOB ELLIS

Carlton Geer with tour  
organizer Heinz Holzapfel.



**I**t was just over 40 degrees the morning of April 17 when I stepped out of the house for the Midweek Drive, and there was frost on the cover over my 981 Boxster. But the sun was shining, and I was excited to attend my first Club drive of the season, so I pulled off the cover, slipped behind the wheel, and pressed the button to put the top down. OK - maybe I left the windows up and turned on the heated seats, and maybe I wished I had a heated steering wheel as I left the neighborhood, but I was already having fun.

I arrived at the meeting point – the Fred Meyer in Hillsboro – at 8:45 and there were already several cars there. The drive organizer was

our Club President, Heinz Holzapfel. He was collecting signatures and preparing for the drivers' meeting. After signing in, I wandered around admiring some of the other beautiful cars (including a Rauh-Welt-built 911) and chatting with some of their owners. As more people arrived, there were a few members that I knew and several more with familiar faces. I enjoyed meeting some new members as well. Marie and Siegfried Thoma were attending their first Club event, driving a gorgeous Papaya Metallic Panamera GTS Sport Tourismo. The interior was light-colored with matching orange accents. (Insert chef's kiss.)

During the drivers' meeting, Heinz went through the usual guidelines and safety rules, assigned supporting



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roles, and then went over the route. The review included a warning for large potholes on one section of the drive, which proved to be very well-warranted.

There were 22 cars in total, and we were split into two groups. I was in the second group, led by Heinz, and we all waited as the first group got underway. About 10 or 15 minutes later, we jumped in our cars and headed out. The temp had only climbed to around 50 degrees by then, but several Boxsters and 911 Cabrios did have their tops down – as one should when we're lucky enough to see the sun on an early spring day in western Oregon.

The first leg of the route took us north from Hillsboro, through Helvetia, and onto some great curves as we made our way down the bluff toward OR-30 on twisty Logie Trail Road (but watch those potholes!). After a short jaunt toward Scappoose on 30, we turned and headed back up the bluff on Rocky Point Road. We made our way back toward OR-26 and had our first stop at Jesse Mays Community Park in North Plains. The first group of cars

was just wrapping up its stop and getting back on the road. It was there that I met some more new members, Mike and Amy Walters. They were also attending their first Club event, driving a lovely 997 that I believe Mike said they've owned for a year or so. The elaborate play structure in the park had me wishing I was 10 years old. But then again, would I really want to return to a time when I was without a Porsche?

Back on the road for the second leg

**There are many photos from this drive on our SmugMug site here: <https://orpcapix.smugmug.com/2024-ORPCS-EVENTS/April-MW-Drive-04172024>. Here are a few to enjoy.**

Porsches filled the parking lot.



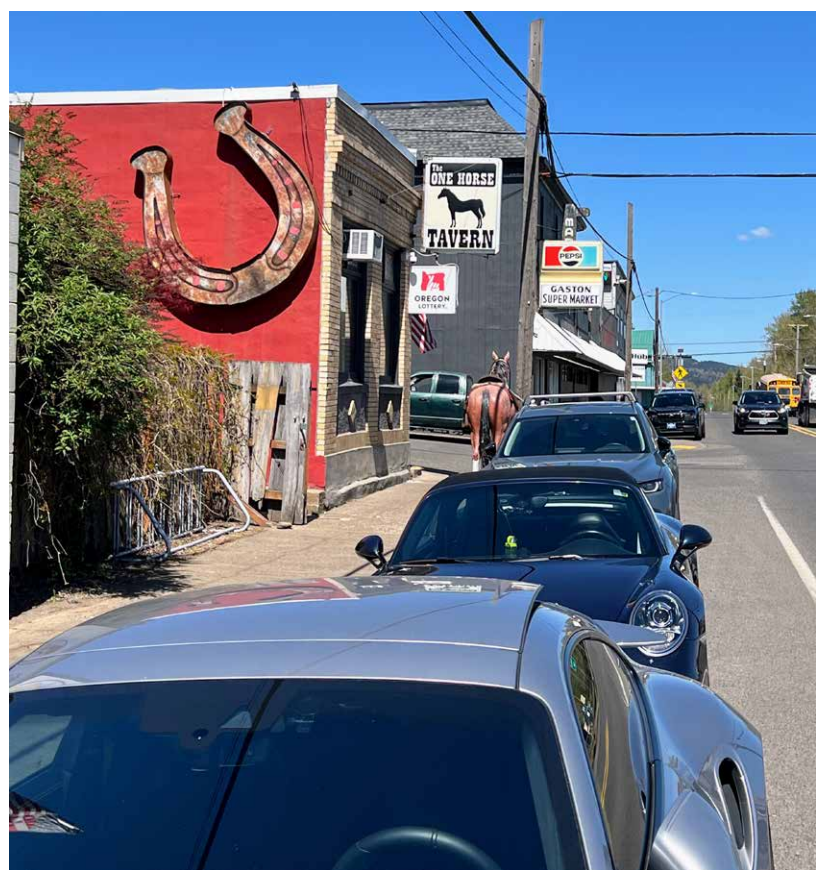


*(Above) Marie and Siegfried Thoma's Papa-ya Metallic Panamera GTS Sport Turismo in front of one of the murals. (Right) Joe Dicarolo's Rauh-Welt-built 911.*



of the route, we immediately stopped for a photo op with a great mural on Commercial Street in North Plains. Heinz had us each stop in front of the mural so he could get our individual photos. (Thanks, Heinz!) Heading south across 26, we passed through Cornelius and the Scholls area before heading up the Chehalem Ridge on OR-219. We got lucky and had a clear road ahead as we entered the tight curves cresting the ridge and heading down the other side. The curves are tight enough that you

can have a lot of fun while still staying within the legal speed limit, and we did! At one point my car really wanted to take a right turn and take me up to Bald Peak, but that Club-favorite stop was not part of this route. Returning to flatter ground northwest of Newberg, we continued through some absolutely beautiful farmland, with blooms and budding greenery everywhere. There's not much better than having the top down on a crisp, spring day, taking in all the spring smells and listening to the



*Parked at the One Horse Tavern in Gaston.*



*Great signs at the One Horse Tavern!*



*Lovely setting for lunch.*

thrilling sound of a flat-six.

The temperature had risen above 60 degrees when we joined the first group at our lunch spot – the One Horse Tavern in Gaston. A cute place with a nice patio just off the sidewalk. They have a statue of a horse out front, and a sign that says “May the Horse be with you” on one side, and “Seize the hay” on the other. Most of the group – if not all – sat outside on the patio. The food was very tasty. I had the fish and chips, but the burgers and sandwiches looked good too. And the staff took great care of us. They even handed out some One Horse Tavern beer koozies as souvenirs. The meal with new and old friends was the perfect cap to a very memorable day. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen! I’m glad that I decided to play hookie from work. Work will always be there, and as the horse says – Seize the hay! ■

