



# OREGON REGION PCA VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## *An Interview With Jeff Gasparitsch*

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## Meet the New Volunteer for ORPCA SUV Drives

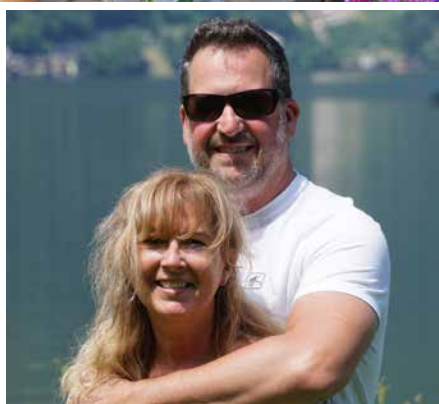
*(Above) Jeff on his Cayenne conducting the safety meeting for one of the SUV drives.*

*(Below) Jeff and his lovely wife Liette.*

**D**o you dream about finding cool routes for your SUV? Do you collect old maps, GPS units and have route-making software installed on your home PC? Well, you need to meet Jeff Gasparitsch. Jeff is this year's volunteer for the ORPCA SUV group. An SUV Drive, as defined by the PCA, is an organized event where there is a defined starting and end point with PCA event insurance, where the route includes off-road driving. This drive is suitable for all factory SUV's, trucks or off-road cars.

Jeff's volunteering has included creating and mapping routes and organizing ORPCA SUV drives since December 2023. Jeff is quite familiar with mapping and navigating. He has been organizing motorcycle trips for over 20 years with friends and family. He is also active in finding routes and organizing bicycle rides as a cycling coach for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). That has given him quite a bit of knowledge, expertise and passion for routing. Since childhood, he has been an explorer by nature and has always loved cartography.

In preparation for SUV drive planning, Jeff participated in a training session with Eric Lewis. Right away he noticed the Google sheets and other cumbersome steps to routing a SUV Drive. Jeff has introduced the club to Ride with GPS, a route





Jeff's Cayenne!

and navigation planning app (a Portland-based company). This process is more efficient than using spreadsheets and easier to teach others, as well as being both Apple iOS and Android compatible for phone navigation. ORPCA now subscribes to Ride with GPS, and route sheets & routing will be transitioned over in the upcoming months

Jeff has taken on the challenge of organizing a more adventurous SUV drive for this year. All the driver routes are considered Category 1 off-road conditions (CAT 1) or less under PCA Tour guidelines. PCA considers CAT 1 roads to be a roadway that is maintained with dirt or packed gravel and is suitable for factory SUV's, trucks or off-road cars. Though occasionally potholed, these are named roads which typically allow two-way traffic. Jeff's goal is to "bring people off the beaten path and bring them some place they would not normally go".

Jeff's first SUV drive was entitled "President's Ribbon Ride". This ride was built on a route he created for cycling and motorcycles. The route took a group of 14 cars over a road named "Heinz" twice in two different towns, in honor of our new ORPCA president, Heinz Holzapfel. This first drive of the season was a sunny day, and he included some sight-seeing and historical markers. Everyone loved the drive and gave wonderful compliments.

On these drives, Jeff tells participants to expect their cars to get dusty and a little dirty. On a recent drive, an elderly lady was a passenger in one of the vehicles. At the end, she was all smiles and giggles and told Jeff

"...that view was incredible, and she was so happy". To Jeff, that is what it is all about, ultimately a positive experience for the participants.

To create a SUV drive route, Jeff takes a few days to plan and then pre-drive the route. The route is submitted weeks in advance to secure PCA insurance. Then we can all sign up. He is motivated by the friendly folks in the ORPCA community and his love of mapping and creating routes.

The benefits to volunteering for Jeff are obvious. The whole time we talked about his volunteering he was smiling. He enjoys routing, mapping and bringing people together. He told me this was not a task to him, but an enjoyable way to share his hobby with others in the club. Jeff and his wife Liette have been active volunteers for many decades in other organizations & charities supporting animal rescue, education and LLS.

If you are interested in volunteering for the ORPCA, Jeff's advice is to take the first step. Find a place where you are comfortable to contribute. Start small and ask for help. If that works, then take the next step. Always be open and communicate with others. Oh, and don't forget to ask for help.

Thanks to Jeff for all the hard work and sharing your hobby with the ORPCA. I am ready to get my SUV dusty and dirty! ■

**For more information about PCA MINIMUM OFF-ROAD DRIVING TOUR STANDARDS, please visit this site:** <https://zone2.pca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MinimumStandards-PCA-OffRoad-DrivingTour-2023Jan.pdf>