



Porsches on the Ferry!

## SUV Three Ferries Drive

BY DEBORA OWEN | PHOTOS BY JEANNINE DOWNEY, ANH LE, CARLOS SANTAYANA, JEFF GASPARISCH

**W**e had the pleasure of joining our fellow Porsche SUV members on a five-hour adventure April 27th, but this ORPCA drive had an exciting and different twist. On this outing we got to

The group getting ready to go.

experience what it's like to have your car carried across the Willamette River not just once, but at three different ferry crossings!

The first ferry we encountered was The Canby Ferry-M.J. Lee II and has been in operation for 90 years. According to the information on the Clackamas County website, this ferry has been billed as your good-natured commute since 1914. The Canby Ferry is both a car and walk-on ferry that traverses the Willamette River between Canby and Wilsonville several times a day. The choice is yours: grind out the same old bumper-to-bumper commute or sit back and relax as you float across the Willamette for a few minutes of peaceful nature.

We crossed the river six vehicles at a





*(Left) Oh no! The ferry was closed but only for a minute or 2. It was a few minutes of 9:00am when we got there! Phew.*

*(Above) Waiting patiently for the rest of the cars to exit the ferry.*

time, quickly and efficiently, disembarking on the opposite shore to await our fellow travelers. Once we were all reunited, we continued our pleasant journey through the gorgeous countryside landscape filled with lush spring flowers, cotton candy-colored trees, red barns, lots of sheep and cows, and even a field full of ostrich! Yes, you read that correctly. Some farmers out there decided that apparently, chickens were too ho-hum for their farm!

On to the next ferry, but first a quick rest stop at Champoeg State Park where we encountered a beautiful field full of purple star-shaped flowers. After a quick search on Wikipedia, we all learned that these flowers were none other than the Camassia, which is a genus of plants in the asparagus family native to North America. Common names include camas, quamash, Indian hyacinth, camash, and wild hyacinth. The quamash

was a food source for many indigenous peoples in western North America and also was used for other medicinal purposes.

Our second ferry ride was on the Wheatland Daniel Matheny V. This ferry was started in the 1850s and was originally a wooden raft propelled by men with wooden poles. Each time a replacement Wheatland ferry is launched, it is always named Daniel Matheny, after the person who originally established the ferry. The current ferry, launched in 2002 is the fifth in the series, differing from its predecessors in that it has a capacity of nine cars, rather than the six Daniel Matheny IV carried, and it has a self-contained diesel-electric generator. As its source of electricity is now an onboard generator, the current ferry is no longer reliant on electricity from overhead wires. The overhead cable serves the sole purpose of bracing the ferry against the current.

**Please enjoy some of the photos. There are more on our SmugMug site here: <https://orpcapix.smugmug.com/2024-ORPCS-EVENTS/April-SUV-Drive-04272024>**



(Above) Peg and Emily Ryan, Stephanie Morrison, Marc Frank, and Ah Le. (Below) At the Ankeny Winery!



We continued our adventure through rolling vineyards and past the charming towns of St. Paul, known for its Fourth of July rodeo, and Independence to our third and final ferry crossing over the Willamette on the Buena Vista Ferry, located a few miles south of Independence, near the community of Buena Vista. The river here is approximately 720 feet wide at the crossing and the current was moving quite swiftly today.

In 2011, the Buena Vista Ferry was replaced with a new vessel which allows year-round operation; formerly it only ran from April to October.

After our third and final ferry crossing it was time for a late lunch at Ankeny Winery. As usual with these outings, all the group members had a most enjoyable afternoon tasting various delicious wines and enjoying appetizers,



Fun on the Canby Ferry with Stephanie Morrison, Marc Frank, and Carlos Santayana.



Carlos having fun before we got on the Buena Vista Ferry.



Three different pizzas. They all were great.

charcuterie platters, and gourmet pizzas that were prepared in a wood-fired oven. But best of all we had a relaxing and delightful time meeting new friends, reacquainting with fellow ORPCA members and just having a really fun day spending time together. If you haven't had the chance to join us on an ORPCA outing or if it's been a while, we hope you can make it to an event in the near future. We look forward to seeing you soon! ■

---

*But best of all we had a relaxing and delightful time meeting new friends...and just having a really fun day spending time together.*

---