

Let the Sunshine In! Top Down Drive Sunday, August 16, 2026

ARTICLE BY MARK MCGIRR
PHOTOS BY BOB ELLIS
AND JOEY SHIH

Personally, this was a very beautiful 100 mile "Top Down" drive on August 16th that could have also been named the "Most New Roads" drive for several of us. There were about 20 cars, 24 humans and three drive groups. Naturally a few cars slipped into Jim Goetsch's Group 1!

Heinz Holzapfel's route took us from Ava's in South Beaverton up over wonderfully twisty OR210 to Bald Peak Road (ssshhh!) and back down on King's Grade skirting Newberg and through Lafayette, Dayton, Amity, and McMinnville ending at the One Horse Tavern in Gaston where we gathered for good food, beverages and community. This was an appropriate stop after putting 300 to 600 horses to the test along the way.

Unforgettable visuals included 15 or so big horned bulls sitting together giving us the stink eye as we pulled onto Edy Road. En





Jim Goetsch.

route, a deer tried to jump into Randi Ledbetter's Boxster on Bald Peak Road. Sorry, that seat is taken!

Being the weekend of the Oregon Air Show, several jet fighters blasted overhead on their flight path to McMinnville Airport. Also noted were a circle cloud with two dots in the center (verified visual) somewhere along the way, along with multiple valley and vista views with corn, orchards, berry fields (with u-pickers), sweeping and not so sweeping curves a-plenty ahead, and multiple properties with both old and new dwellings caught our eyes.

Well, it wasn't necessarily a "Sunday Cruise" but all enjoyed the pace of choice by the Group leaders. Thanks, Heinz, for a fun and visually pleasing route! ■

