



On The Road Again – A Drive to Mt. Angel

BY JESSE HEPBURN

PHOTO BY CAROLE HEDSTROM, TOSH KANNO, VALERIE MENELY, AND CARLOS SANTAYANA

On Saturday, March 8, I joined the first group of Porsches gathering at Clackamette Park in Oregon City for an 80-mile journey through the Willamette Valley. The day started crisp and cool under brilliant sunshine - perfect driving weather that would warm beautifully as the morning progressed.

As a first-timer with my manual 911 Turbo, I felt a familiar excitement as I gripped its leather-wrapped gear shift, having dearly missed the engaging experience of rowing through the cogs these past few years. Event organizers Jim and Valerie had mapped out a spectacular route that would take our group of twelve cars through a mix of rural backroads, forested curves, and open farmland vistas.

The drive was pure joy, with our lead group

maintaining a spirited pace that let me reacquaint myself with the precise clutch work and power delivery of the 911 Turbo. The high-speed sweepers proved to be the highlight, where the car's incredible balance and grip showcased exactly why the 911 platform is so revered. Each curve and straightaway

brought back muscle memory while creating new ones, the car responding exactly as I remembered but somehow even better than my memories suggested. Our journey concluded at Lou's Kitchen in Mt. Angel, where the German-themed exterior gave way to an efficiently-run restaurant that

handled our large group with impressive speed and skill. Over lunch, conversations flowed easily among newfound friends, all of us sharing the collective high of a perfect morning drive through some of Oregon's most beautiful countryside. ■





Bill Greene and Warren Pease



Carole and Brad Hedstrom enjoying the drive in their Targa



Randi Ledbetter and Carlos Santayana

