



Covered Bridges Tour

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RPCA's Covered Bridge Tour is a fan favorite, and I look forward to leading it each year. Earlier this year I led this same tour and had a large group (40 cars) but this ended up being a more intimate group of cars and friends. The weather was sunny and warm, perfect for a fall drive.

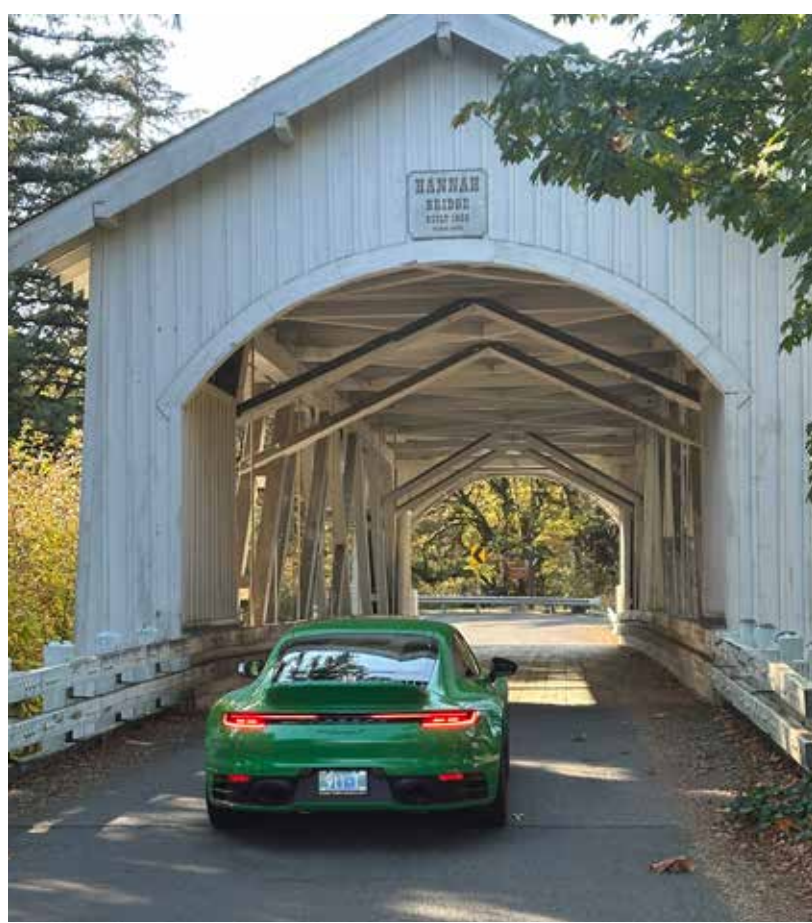
We started from the Wilsonville Fred Meyer parking lot. After our safety meeting, we drove towards Canby and Marquam and wound our way through Silver Falls State Park.

Our first stop would be in Stayton to view the Jordan Covered Bridge, the only walk-through bridge on the tour. We had the entire span to ourselves, which is pretty rare.

Just outside of Stayton, we traveled through a picturesque valley en route to the Hannah Bridge, we encountered our first drive-through bridge of the tour. About two miles away, we drove through the spectacular dark red Shimanek Covered Bridge. Then we did a brisk drive up Rodgers Mountain Loop and back down to our lunch spot at Roaring River County Park.

After lunch we drove through the Larwood Covered Bridge and enjoyed the farm landscape outside of Scio. We were able to stop at the Hoffman Bridge to inspect the build quality and for more photo opportunities. We forged onward to the Gilkey Covered Bridge, and then drove north towards Silverton. The highlight of this tour was that I was able to adjust my route from previous drives to include the famous Gallon House Bridge. It is the oldest functioning covered bridge in Oregon. Then followed a short sprint to the Benedictine Brewery outside of Mt. Angel to visit with friends and enjoy a cold beverage.

It's an honor to lead this tour and enjoy seeing my friends discover these marvelous gems in our own back yard. ■



*(Right) Heinz Holzapfel and Sylvia Nesson;
(Below) Lunch time!*

