



Saturday Drive to Astoria

STORY BY ROBERT MCDONALD, PHOTOS AS CREDITED

(photo by Rosanne Woody)

We began our September 14th Saturday Drive by convening at the Hillsboro Fred Meyer. Fortunately the weather was nice that morning, despite the mixed forecast calling for rain. Our group included several new members who introduced themselves, newcomers both to the club and Saturday Drives.

I was in Group 2, so we headed out

after a short delay. Traffic lights quickly separated us, so I became the head of a three-car chain as we followed the route on the new-to-me Ride with GPS app. Fortunately, once we got out of town, the route was straightforward and easy to navigate; the app performed well as far as verbal directions went. (The default settings for the app curiously have north fixed as “up” and don't keep the screen on — something I found can

be overridden by enabling “handlebar mode” at our first stop. I suppose those defaults make sense if you consider that this app is supposed to be used for cycling not for driving!)

I confess that I had a moment of confusion when I saw a stream of Porsches driving past me in the wrong direction. But I should have known better - it was just Group 1 leaving the first stop and slightly doubling back before getting back on the route.

Parking was somewhat

Nice décor for the Red Building. (photo by Anh Le)



Going over the drive route led by Jim Goetsch (photo by Anh Le)



limited at that first stop, but the scenery was quite pretty. We weren't there long before Group 3 arrived.

With the limited parking, I ended up slightly boxed in. Not so much that I wouldn't be able to get out, but enough that it might not have been obvious to our group that I was still there. As a result, when we went to leave, everyone was gone before I could get out of the parking lot!

Thankfully, the newly adjusted settings on the app made following the planned route easy enough. I must have been setting a much slower pace, however, because I never saw my group for the rest of the drive. When I missed a turn and pulled off to make a U-turn, however, Group 3 came up behind me and I slipped into that group's line instead!

We encountered rain off and on after the first hour, but it wasn't ever a problem. Given the forecast, it was about as good as could be reasonably expected.

We arrived at our final destination in Astoria right around 11:30 AM, a bit early for lunch, but not too bad. Speaking of which, lunch was at the Red Building and if the fish and chips that I got were any indication, their food is quite good!

After lunch, the rain *really* decided to come down! It was quite fortuitous that the weather gods decided to withhold that downpour until our drive was finished. ■



Robert McDonald's Red 1999 911 Carrera. (photo by Robert McDonald)



(photo by Valerie Menely)



Group 3 gathering for a photo op (photo by Anh Le)



New member Janine Esdanel in her Red 2011 Panamera 4. (photo by Valerie Menely)

Happy lunchtime diners! (photo by Valerie Menely)

Under the Astoria Bridge. (photo by Yuzheng Wang)

