

Geargrinders News

July 2020

Saturday Road Rally Series - June 13

Cascade's fourth TSsD (Time Speed social Distance) road rally on June 13 attracted 37 entries, breaking all recent event records. Then two teams canceled before car numbers were assigned, another two teams canceled the day before the rally, and four called in to cancel on rally morning. So 29 teams started the rally. Still a record for Cascade rallies, at least for several years. Notable is that 17 teams ran in the Novice class. And ten teams were new to the Cascade Geargrinders road rally program. It is wonderful to see so many new-to-us ralliers!



Two teams started the rally, but their GPS app wasn't working; they were not getting timed at the checkpoints. They had a nice drive through the rally course; however, they had no scores to display on the scoreboard. Two additional teams dropped out during the rally. Car #5 drove the wrong way over the parking lot exit spikes and popped a tire at the Lucia Falls Park break. Nasty luck.

Car #30 abandoned the effort after PC 9 due to a sick navigator. So 25 cars finished the course.



Car# 2 - Driver Julian Haigh, Navigator Nasim Karami

About that app

Just a couple days before the rally, we were alerted that a crucial software update to the GPS Checkpoints app was imminent. The update corrected an issue we discovered at the last event. Only a single car was impacted that we knew of, but we reported it to the app developer and that prompted this update. Registration for the June rally had already closed and we were checking in cars when we got the news. We notified our participants about the required update. Most were able to update their app with no issues. But a few had problems that the app developer is still working on.

We still love the GPS Checkpoints app even with this admittedly frustrating update, and we'll never go back to the "good 'ol days" of manned checkpoints at difficult to find locations, staffed by hard to find volunteers, using tons of equipment that is lugged around and set up and taken down like checkpoint signs, cones, timing lines, clocks, etc. As organizers, we love that a rally with fifteen to twenty checkpoints can be scored, with no scorecards to fill out and calculate, and results can be published shortly after the last rally team completes the course. And the feedback we continue to hear from participants is that they like the app. A little pain, long-term gain.

Rally route

Rallymasters Marcus Gattman and Kerrie Steffenson put together a nice rally route. It was a fun drive from the end of the odo in Washougal, to the mid-rally break at the Lucia Falls Park, to the ending in Woodland.

The route included driving over the Cedar Creek Covered Bridge and by the historic Cedar Creek Grist Mill. The all-paved route was just under 100 miles and took a bit over 3 hours to complete.



Cedar Creek Covered Bridge

Questions before the start

Question: I have a question at NRI 39. R at STOP PAUSE 30 seconds ITIS (Finn Hill)

Does the ITIS (if there is such) apply to the right, or Finn Hill? I am unable in the resources to find the meaning of a word in parentheses except that it is a suggestion for clarification.

Geargrinders News continued...

Response: Road Rally Rule 4.9 says, "Text within parentheses (()) is to be considered clarifying comments. Any action suggested within parentheses, while probably helpful, is not mandatory." In the case of NRI 39, you might expect that at if you have an opportunity to go right at a STOP you may see a sign identifying a road at that intersection as Finn Hill. The parenthetical road name reference is meant to be helpful.

The ITIS in NRI 39 refers to the action, in this case the R at STOP.

Extra credit: RRR 6.12 says that you execute an ITIS (if there is such) instruction only if you come to its action point before the action point of the next NRI. So while you're looking for NRI 39, you're also looking for NRI 40. If you come to NRI 40 before the ITIS NRI 39, then you do 40 and skip 39. However, if you come to NRI 39 before 40, you go ahead and execute it and then go on to NRI 40. Fun, huh?

Question: There appears to be no NRI 13. NRI 24 - it says R after "25 MPH" but there is no CAST change. Is the sign at the intersection so that the CAST of 38 is not a problem? NRI 37 - CAST 23 at "15MPH"? NRI 66 - CAST 33 at "30MPH"? Just checking because usually the CAST is less than the speed limit.

Response: True, there is no NRI 13. There are no instructions missing.

The MPH references in the NRIs you mention are not speed limit signs; they are advisory speeds posted with curve arrow signs. CAST will never be set higher than the speed limit.

Questions during the rally

If we are held up by traffic and can't safely pass can we use the time adjustment?

Response: Yes, perfect use for a time allowance. [Read the pre-rally emails, guys. We've been over this.]

Challenges

This event had its fair share of planned rally challenges. Most were of the main road variety. (RRR Section 3)

The first was a straight-out-of-the-box main road ONTO. NRI 22 placed you ONTO 283RD. NRI 23 offered an ITIS instruction to go straight at "7TH" where the traffic flow follows a curve to the left. However, this is also where 283rd continues straight. On course teams stayed straight on 283rd and skipped the ITIS. Off course teams used NRI 23 to go straight at the intersection of 283rd and 7th, and they also paused 15 seconds, making them a bit late at PC 5. (RRR 3.1)

The second challenge was a "mileage trap". NRI 37 instructs you to watch for danger next 1.3 miles. On course teams waited for the mileage to elapse before looking for and executing NRI 38's right first opportunity. Off course teams didn't wait, executed NRI 38 early, and used the ITIS NRI 39 to get back on course, having taken a very much shorter route. Off course teams are about a half minute early at PC 9. (RRR 4.1)

There are always unplanned challenges that ralliers create for themselves. We heard about a couple of them. The best we can say is, dead end roads do not exist. (RRR 2.2)

Third, the infamous L at T. NRI 44 is an ITIS to go left at a stop and pause 15 seconds. The stop is at a T. Usually, and specifically in this case, the main road at a T intersection is left. On course teams went left at this stop and skipped the ITIS NRI 44. Off course teams used NRI 44 to go left, and they paused 15 seconds, making them a bit late at PC 10. (RRR 3.6)

Next was a repeat performance of ONTO. NRI 54 put you ONTO LUCIA FALLS. NRI 55 offered an ITIS instruction to go straight at a stop. Since Lucia Falls Road continues straight at this intersection, on course teams continued straight and skipped the ITIS. Off course teams used NRI 55 to go straight, and they paused 15 seconds, making them a bit late at PC 13.

And finally, another infamous L at T. NRI 64 offered an ITIS to go left at a T at Pup Creek Road. You know the routine by now. On course teams went left to follow the main road and skipped the ITIS NRI 64. Off course teams used NRI 64 to go left, and they paused 15 seconds, making them a bit late at PC 17.

Geargrinders News continued...

Questions after the rally

What is the difference in the classes...the SOP, GPS, Novice, Unlimited (may be others?)

Response: Class is based on what equipment you are using. (RRR 7.1)

The Unequipped category, which means no external odometer and no calculating equipment, includes Novice (beginners, usually with less than a couple years experience) and SOP (Seat of Pants) classes.

GPS and Unlimited classes are in the Equipped category. The GPS class allows the use of a GPS odometer with or without calculating equipment. The Unlimited class is just that. Unlimited is the class that folks with rally computers run. They get lots of zeros.

What ralliers said

Great job to all of you on the

administration of the rally. Shout out to Marcus and Kerrie! We liked the challenges and loved the roads and the quicker speeds later that made things interesting just because it was wet in the later half of the rally (for us). Had



Cars at the start

not been in that area in several years and Basket Flat amongst others brought back some memories. I don't know if I've ever been down that road that direction before. The break was great. The restrooms had running water and soap - great. The duration was perfect for that location and we walked down to see the falls.



More cars at the start

Great end odo location with lots of room to pull off, see traffic coming and pull out to

get on CAST. It's funny that right off the bat a car leaves around the half minute when it's not like they've set a clock wrong and then loses a half minute within the first mile so we're behind them and pass them on the straight after "T" street because the first checkpoint is imminent. I had a whole season's worth of inexperienced people doing typical things in this one event. There were a lot of cars on the event.

Some folks probably didn't read the pre event briefing! Or understand it? That was another fine document to serve as a comprehensive driver's meeting and included some nice tips such as using time decs, rally etiquette to deal with a car in front of or behind you and route/NRI specific mentions. I don't mind folks sitting on our bumper from time to time

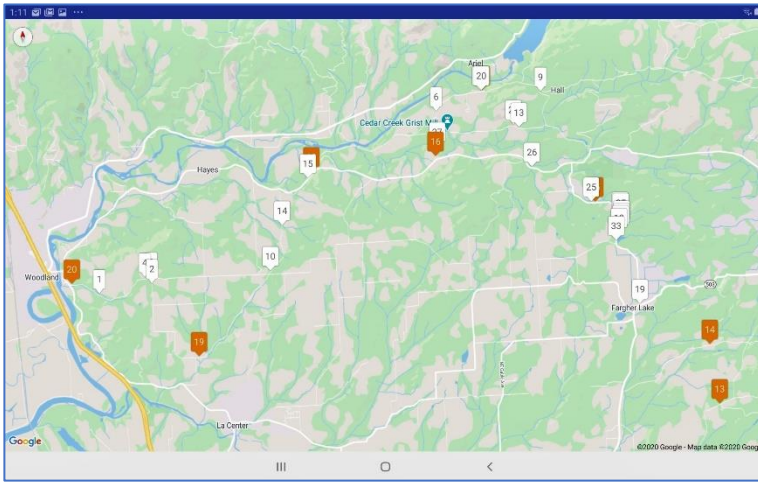


Cars at Lucia Falls Park

but on this event we really had quite a number of various people tailing, who ultimately would pass a control and take a score and then could take a near zero on the next PC by being right on us all the way through the next leg. Well, besides being annoying, you know I don't like giving traps away or continually let someone take advantage of our timekeeping so I pull over a few times and force them around so they can run their own rally and not get an advantage (assuming we are on course and on time, which we were) by doing exactly what we're doing. Obviously people couldn't do this before the current arrangement of one leg's end is the next leg's beginning and they don't have to be at least 30 seconds apart on a TA.

Geargrinders News continued...

Then there's just always someone who catches up gradually and gets right up on you and doesn't pass when I'm on cruise control right at CAST. Flashbacks to years ago. It was fun to have it happen but I miss that I can't go up to them at the end and have the...."so were you guys early? I'm in the blue car #14 and thought you guys would



Car #1 approaching last checkpoint

pass - see how you need to compensate for your speedo being off a couple miles per hour and how much time you can lose coming to a stop?" type of conversations. We've all been there, hopefully the new folks stick with it and learn to get better at averaging speeds like we had to do.

The usage of pauses was excellent. We liked having several of them but in particular the mix of not having them and therefore having to do the SOP catch up game, including at the 4 way stop at crossroad later in the event. I thought the length of the event was just right.

Thanks for organizing this. It is great to be out and about with fellow car enthusiasts.

Loved the roads and scenery! We will be back for the next one :)

Thanks! Had fun. Took one wrong road to a dead end and also went around a loop a couple times trying to find our way back to route.

These roads were the best ever. Loved the covered bridge and the creeks and the mill and the one-laner and the woods and the views More!

Thanks for putting this together. Had a great time today and found this route more challenging than previous few we have done...very good experience.

Frustration with the app compounded with poor instructions made this a poor experience.

Thank you for hosting, had a blast!

We took a wrong turn right out of the Lowe's parking lot so it was going to be one of those days! Haha. This is why it's fun – you never know what's going to happen. Stuff happens!

This was a super fun day!!!

[What the rallymaster said](#)

Marcus is a seasoned rallymaster. The next day, after the dust settled, we asked Marcus what it was like to rallymaster this rally. He said, "There was so much less stress before and during the event. We had fun writing it and can't wait to do it again."

During the rally, Marcus set up his tv to display the GPS Rallymaster map, where he watched the rally teams move through the course in live time. "We are rallymastering in style and comfort today! I'm digging it." About the map Marcus said, "The GPS map is fun, watching the cars turn around and get all twisted up." Marcus took a few phone calls from some of those ralliers who just needed a little encouragement...and directions back to the route.



Geargrinders News continued...



*Car #35 Driver Bob Morseburg
and Navigator Cheri Eddy*

Thank you, volunteers

These events are the result of the efforts of many volunteers. Thank you to the June Rallymasters Marcus Gattman and Kerrie Steffenson. Thank you also to Bill and Kelly Ferber who ran the checkout. Couldn't do it without you. Let us know if you'd like to write a rally or run a checkout. rally@cascadesportscarclub.org

Congratulations to the winners!

First overall and first in the Unlimited class is the team of Bob Morseburg and Cheri Eddy from Seattle with a total score of 13 over seventeen scored legs. Bob and Cheri zeroed eleven legs. Very impressive!

Second overall and first SOP is the home team of Brandon Harer and Steven Smith with a very respectable score of 82, including one zero.

Third overall and first Novice is the team of Robert and Wayne Carlson with 137, including a zero.



*Car #14 Driver Brandon Harer
at Lucia Falls*

Robert Paxman and William Pollard finished first in the GPS class.



Car #4 Driver Robert Paxman and Navigator William Pollard

Saturday Road Rally Series - July 18

Next up in the Saturday Road Rally Series is July 18. This rally starts at Milwaukie Lowe's and ends in Carver. Watch for more details.

Entry requires a street-legal vehicle, a licensed and insured driver, a navigator, and a smart device (e.g., cell phone or tablet) running the Competitor Richta GPS Checkpoints app.

\$20 per car for CSCC members, \$30 per car for non-members.

Online registration is available through July 15: <http://msreg.com/CSCCJulyRally>

Mountains to the Sea - Sept. 19

The 55th anniversary of Cascade's classic Mountains to the Sea Rally is Sept. 19. The Rally to Clark's Tree ends in Long Beach, Washington, at the most northerly point reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. Captain William Clark marked the spot by carving the date and his name into a tree.

This full-day beginner-level tour-style time-speed-distance road rally offers an all-paved scenic route that is fun to drive, ending with a BBQ dinner and a famous beach party at the Breakers Hotel. We'll have s'mores around the beach fire after trophy ceremonies.



\$85 per car for CSCC members, \$100 per car for non-members. \$10 each for additional diners.

Online registration closes Sept. 16: <http://msreg.com/CSCCM2C>

CSCC Saturday Series Rally Results

flirtin' with disaster

Saturday, June 13, 2020

Rallymasters: Marcus Gattman and Kerrie Steffenson



Car #	Team	Car	Class	Total
35	Bob Morseburg / Cheri Eddy	2007 Honda Civic	Unlimited	13
14	Brandon Harer / Steven Smith	2005 Pontiac GTO	SOP	82
17	Robert Carlson / Wayne Carlson	2008 Porsche Cayman	Novice	137
34	David Gattman / JoAnn Gattman	0 Ford Mustang	SOP	239
27	Ben Overton / Kyle Overton	2018 Subaru BRZ	Novice	277
1	Torm Kelsey-Green / Kasey Klaus	2007 Dodge Caliber	SOP	340
11	Dave Sacry / Kathy Sacry	2010 Ford Mustang	SOP	341
15	Jolynn Franke / Julie Miletta	2018 Chrysler 300S	Novice	379
6	Eric Hobbs / Curt Thompson	2016 Subaru WRX Sti	SOP	381
3	Robert Ries / Jason Ries	2009 Volkswagen EOS	Novice	407
4	Robert Paxman / William Pollard	2011 Nissan 370Z	GPS	454
9	Lisa Buckner / Karla Steffenson	0 Audi TT	Novice	494
32	Doug Heredos / Michael Heredos	2012 Subaru Forester XT	Novice	502
33	Josh Groesz / Christina Groesz	2011 Audi S5	Novice	506
25	Jay Ward / Tina Ward	2018 Tesla 3	GPS	512
8	John Lucas / Susan Lucas	1988 BMW M5	Novice	550
2	Julian Haigh / Nasim Karami	2018 Alfa Romeo Stelvio	Novice	673
20	Mark Heriford / Mike Heriford	2012 Honda Civic	Novice	741
13	Jason Hornsby / Carrie Hornsby	2010 Subaru Impreza	Novice	792
26	Connor Ward / Eric Scheitlin	2014 BMW 328d	GPS	848
23	Heath Harmon / Wesley Wellman	2007 Subaru Impreza	Novice	849
29	Eli Kloft / Luke Thompson	1990 Nissan 300zx 2+0	Novice	933
18	Micheal Warhurst / Anh Vu	1972 Porsche 914	Novice	941
10	Jaxon Halebian / Emma Halebian	2015 Subaru WRX	Novice	999
19	Mark Whitesell / Scott Baum	1972 Porsche 914	SOP	1054
5	Brian Anderson / Jamie Anderson	2020 Mazda CX5	Novice	DNF
30	Timothy Stupey / Tameka Thompson	2011 Subaru WRX Sti	Novice	DNF



CASCADE SPORTS CAR CLUB GEARGRINDERS 2020 TSD Road Rally Schedule*

UPDATE

as of 3/23/20

Read [Cascade Geargrinders Coronavirus Message](#)

Saturday Road Rally Series

March 21	Online registration required:
April 18	MotorsportReg.com
May 16	First car out: 10 am
June 13	\$20 per car for CSCC members
July 18	(\$30 for non-members)



Start location

Northeast corner of Lowe's parking lot, 13631 SE Johnson Rd, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Cascade's Saturday Series rallies are beginner-friendly time-speed-distance road rallies, lasting from 2 to 4 hours, starting and ending in the Portland area.

Special Events

August 22 – Game / Gimmick Rally - Test your trick-and-trap road rally skills in this fun rally. Without average speeds and checkpoint timing, scoring is based on correctly answering questions about things you see along the rally route.

September 19 – Mountains to the Sea – 55th anniversary of Cascade's classic rally. Full-day beginner-level tour-style time-speed-distance road rally, offering an all-paved scenic route that is fun to drive, ending with a BBQ dinner and a famous beach party at the Breakers Hotel in Long Beach, Washington.

October TBD – Ghouls Gambol – A Cascade tradition, this Halloween road rally explores the autumn colors around Portland's foothills and farmland. Caution: May include frights.



* For all 2020 Cascade road rallies, each car must have a cell phone (or other smart device) running the Richta Competitor app in order to participate.

www.cascadegeargrinders.org
rally@cascadesportscarclub.org

#CSCC Road Rally