

## Report to the Board

Last month your Geargrinders Chairs told the CSCC Board that the 2020 road rally season was successful in both attendance and profit.



In 2020, the Geargrinders Road Rally Program put on nine road rallies and averaged 18 cars per rally, an improvement over 2019's average of 14 cars per rally. The season ended with a profit of \$1,085.

## Looking back

It was the rally season that almost wasn't. After an in-person road rally school in February, the coronavirus pandemic hit. Gatherings were prohibited. Social distancing was required. Restaurants were closed to all but take-out service. In-person on-site registration and end-of-rally gatherings were not safe. Road rallies and other autosports events were being canceled all across the country.



*Driver Blake Harer and Navigator Jeremy Greene*

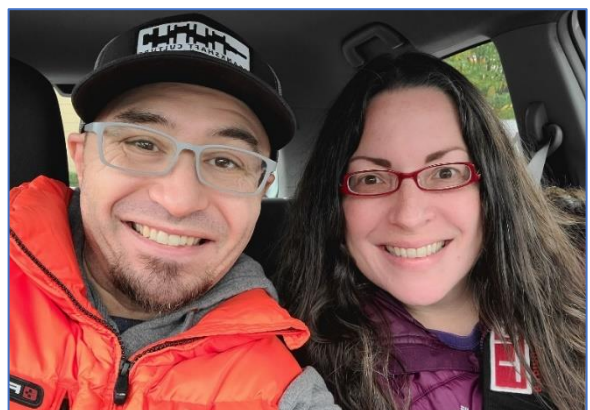
Changes already planned for the 2020 season - online registration using MotorsportsReg and GPS checkpoints using the Richta app - combined with a few other changes allowed us to offer no-human-contact events. We had a plan to safely put on road rallies during the pandemic. We published the Cascade Geargrinders Coronavirus Message, laying out our plan. "We'll stay in our car; you stay in yours."

In early March we announced that the March Saturday Series Rally was not canceled and that, "this road rally will require no human interaction other than within each car." We followed with seven more TSsD (Time Speed social Distance) road rallies. Attendance surprised us. The new TSsD rally format with GPS

timing was popular. The road rally program was attracting a new audience. The highest attendance was the June rally - 27 cars. The five Saturday Series rallies averaged 20 cars per rally and made a profit of almost a thousand dollars.

In August we offered a game / gimmick rally that was partly answering questions along the route and partly TSD rally. We advertised that it would be more navigationally challenging than the Saturday Series rallies. Ten cars accepted the challenge. And they all had a great time, making the small financial loss acceptable.

Due to pandemic restrictions at the coast, the Mountains to the Sea Rally was rescheduled from May to September. However, the pandemic continued and, on top of that, wildfire filled the skies with smoke in the weeks before the rally. Still, Mountains to the Sea drew 23 cars, equal to last year's attendance. The BBQ dinner and famous beach party were canceled, the entry fee was reduced by the cost of the dinner, and optional dinner boxes to go were offered for purchase. This event usually supports the rally program, and this year it made a smaller but still notable contribution.



*Driver Andy and Navigator Mercedes Lilienthal*

Ghouls Gambol wrapped up the season with 17 cars, just breaking even.

Geargrinders News continued...

Overall, 2020 was an outstanding season for the Geargrinders Road Rally Program. Despite pandemic, landslides, and wildfire, all nine scheduled events were successful, attracting a new and growing audience. Most other road rally programs canceled some or all of their planned events. We were fortunate that our stars aligned.

### Looking forward

Your Geargrinders Chairs will propose to the 2021 Board a road rally season of nine events, one each month from February through October. The Game / Gimmick Rally will be replaced with a Saturday Series event, expanding the Saturday Series to six rallies, March through August. Rally School in February, Mountains to the Sea in September, and Ghouls Gambol in October round out the season. A proposed 2021 Road Rally Schedule follows.

We plan to continue to offer TSsD no-human-contact events consistent with the Geargrinders Coronavirus Message. Online registration through MSR will remain mandatory. GPS apps will continue to provide event scoring. All check-in including waivers will be virtual. Instructions for participating and event results will be distributed via email.

Event format will remain consistent with the style set in 2020 - about 3- to 3 1/2-hour run time (under 4 hours) including one mid-event scenic break, mileage instructions (as much as possible) with CZT time-of-day mileage resets at or under odo length, no unintended route ambiguity, lightly trapped and well protected, with a dozen to twenty timed checkpoints.



*Navigator Brandon Harer and Driver Marcus Gattman*



*Driver Robert Paxman and Navigator William Pollard*

One change will be with event awards. Prior to the pandemic, teams that finished in the top three places within their competition class received sweet rewards - candy bars. Since we did not have gatherings at the finish this season, these rewards were not awarded. At the end of the season we offered event winners discounts on future Cascade road rally entries. For the 2021 season, we plan to explore ways to provide virtual and more immediate awards for rally winners.

Another thing we would like to change is the number of people actually writing road rallies. Of the nine rallies in 2020, your

Geargrinders Chairs (Monte and Victoria) wrote seven of them. We have rallymasters (other than us) for four rallies in 2021. We invite any rallier who is interested in learning to write a road rally to contact us.

### Come drive with us!

Sustaining attendance is key to sustaining the road rally program. We continue to work toward increasing attendance by promoting Cascade's road rally events through email, social media, Auspuff, and the Cascade Geargrinders website.

Please help by sharing our event announcements and promotions. Let us know if you identify audience opportunities.

You enjoy driving your car. That's why you belong to a car club. Road rally is a fun way to enjoy driving your car. Play the game that takes you places. Once a month from February through October. Affordable fun for a carful.

[www.cascadegeargrinders.org](http://www.cascadegeargrinders.org)



CASCADE SPORTS CAR CLUB GEARGRINDERS

# 2021 Road Rally Schedule\*

Proposed (not yet approved) as of 11/1/20

## Saturday Road Rally Series

**March 20** Saturday Series rallies are beginner-friendly time-speed-distance road rallies, starting and ending in the Portland area. Rallies take three to four hours to complete.

**April 17**

**May 15**

**First car starts:** 10:01 am

**June  
12 or 26**

**Entry fee:**  
CSCC members **\$20 per car**  
Non-members \$30 per car



**July 17**

**Save with a Series Pass.** \$100 for 6-event Series Pass. Run the same car number each rally. Available to members only. CSCC membership is [available online](#).

**August 21**

## Special Events

**February 20 – Novice or Nervous Rally School** – Start the new season with a virtual classroom review of time-speed-distance road rally rules and procedures. Then run a practice road rally to test your team's navigational knowledge and driving skills. \$20 per car for CSCC members, \$30 per car for non-members.

**September 18 – Mountains to the Sea** – 56th 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, starting in Portland and ending at the Pacific Ocean.

**October 30 – 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 2021 Cascade Geargrinders road rallies:

- 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](#) (app is free).
- For the duration of the coronavirus pandemic, events will be conducted in compliance with the [Cascade Geargrinders Coronavirus Message](#).
- Online registration is required: [MotorsportReg.com](#).

