

Date: December 4, 2023

To: CSCC Board (old and new)



From: Monte and Victoria Saager, Chair  
Cascade Geargrinders Road Rally Program

Subject: Geargrinders 2023 Report to the Board and 2024 Budget Approval Request

## 2023 Report

In 2023, the Geargrinders Road Rally Program put on ten road rallies and averaged **19 entries per rally**, slightly exceeding the goal of 18.

The attached Geargrinders Budget 2023 yearend actual report shows that the season ended with a **profit of \$199**, a bit into positive territory compared to the budget expectation of a \$133 loss. It was a “better than last year” rally season in both attendance and profit.

### Looking back

Procedures implemented in 2020 continued through the 2023 rally season.

Online registration using MotorsportsReg is required. Check-in is virtual using SpeedWaiver to sign required waivers and email to distribute rally information.

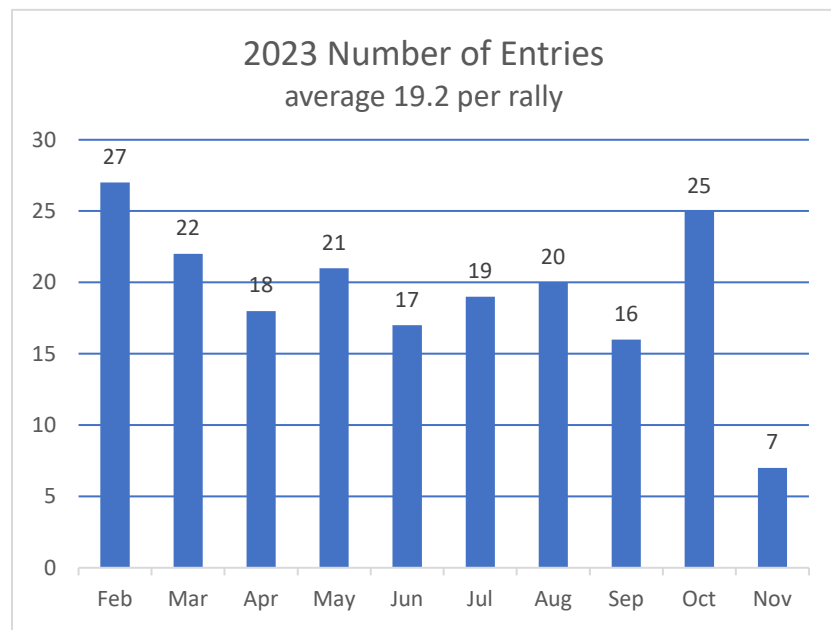
The Richta GPS Checkpoints app provides timing and scoring.

Season Tickets continued to be very popular in 2023. A Season

Ticket included entry in nine of the ten rallies (excluded Oregon Trailblazer). Nine teams purchased Season Tickets. In addition, four teams purchased a Series Pass, which included entry in all six Saturday Series rallies plus the Rally School. The savings and other incentives (same car number and start time at each event) made the Season Ticket and Series Pass very popular. These prepaid entries provided a guaranteed number of entries. and they promoted club membership since you must be a member to purchase one

The two events with the most entries were the first and the next to last of the season. The Rally School in February had 27 entries. The Ghouls Gambol Rally had 25 entries. The six events in the Saturday Rally Series averaged 19.5 entries per rally.

The Mountains to the Sea Rally was held in September the Saturday after Labor Day. Only 16 teams entered the rally. Without the attraction of an after-rally BBQ party around a beach fire, interest in this event has fallen since the pandemic. Expect some exciting changes with this event in 2024.



The Oregon Trailblazer Rally, once a Cascade tradition, last held in 2006, was offered in November. We expected no more than 10 cars, and we were close. Eleven teams entered, four cancelled before the rally started, so seven teams ran the event. Hopefully future Geargrinders rally organizers will offer this challenging trick-and-trap rally every few years.

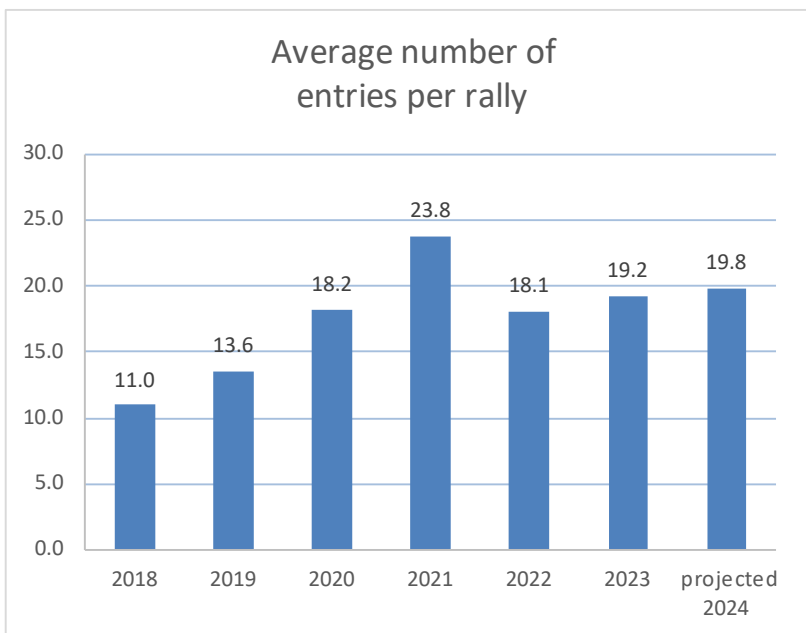
Overall, 2023 was a successful season for the Geargrinders Road Rally Program. Slightly higher attendance producing slightly more revenue helped to bring our net for the year into positive territory. Our returning attendance has held steady.

## 2024 Request

Attached is the proposed 2024 Geargrinders budget and the 2024 TSD Road Rally Schedule. This budget projects the season will end with a small profit. However, everything depends on attendance. More on that soon.

Nine road rallies are planned for the 2024 season, one less than last year (no Oregon Trailblazer). The season starts with Rally School in February. The Saturday Road Rally Series includes six events, March through August. Then the Mountains to the Sea Rally in September and Ghoul's Gambol in October.

The goal for 2024 continues to be to make sure Cascade rallies are affordable, easy to enter, and fun to run. Events will be well constructed, consistent in style, free from errors and ambiguities, and designed to provide a positive experience.



The 2024 budget assumes a season average of 19.8 entries per rally. For 2023 we projected an average of 18.1 and ended the season with an average of 19.2 teams per rally.

Attendance started to decrease late in the 2021 season and continued to decline in 2022. Rally competed with many more activities as COVID restrictions decreased. High fuel prices as well as continued public health concerns also may have affected participation.

We believe these attendance expectations for 2024 are achievable. But much will depend on outreach, as well as fuel costs, competition from other activities, and public health.

Essential to encouraging attendance is making sure our events continue to comply with public health recommendations. Although public health restrictions have ended, concerns continue. Opportunities for gatherings at the beginning and ending locations as well as breaks during the rally are provided, but these gatherings are optional and not required to participate in the rally. Some folks miss this social aspect, so award of prizes on site at the rally end will be the norm rather than the exception in 2024.

Online registration through MSR remains mandatory. Check-in is virtual (via email). And GPS apps will continue to provide event scoring. These systems offer value to both participants and organizers.

Keeping entry fees low also promotes attendance. That said, entries fees have been unchanged for the last six years and probably longer than that. It is time to increase the entry fees to provide a bit more financial resource especially for event prizes. For the 2023 season, Saturday rally prices will increase by \$5 per entry. Member entry will be \$25 per entry for members and \$35 per entry for non-members. Mountains to the Sea entry will increase by \$10. Member entry will be \$60 per entry and non-member entry will be \$85. We believe Cascade's road rallies will remain accessible and affordable with these price increases.

For Cascade members, there are two other ways to make rally more affordable. The \$150 Series Pass includes entry in the Rally School and all six of the Saturday Series rallies - seven rallies for the price of six. The \$210 Season Ticket includes entry in all rallies in the Series Pass plus entry in the Mountains to the Sea Rally and Ghouls Gambol.

The Series Pass and Season Ticket packages not only make rally more affordable, they also offer benefits attractive to contestants. Register just once to be automatically entered in the rallies. Receive event notices and rally materials before other contestants. Run the same car number with the same start time at each rally.

When asked about Saturday Series rally prizes, our rally teams have told us that candy, specifically chocolate, is an appropriate rally prize. Gift cards for coffee shops were also suggested.

In 2023 we awarded rally winners a car wash coupon and a Dutch Bros coffee card. In lieu of the coffee card, big chocolate bars were awarded to winners at Ghouls Gambol and at the Oregon Trailblazer Rally.

In 2024, we plan to continue to provide a car wash coupon along with chocolate bars at Saturday rallies. Prizes will be upscaled and more treats for all will be provided. The taste of victory is sweet, but so is finishing!

Rallymasters are essential to the rally program. We continue to recruit rallymasters. Of the ten rallies in 2023, we (Monte and Victoria) wrote six of them. We invite any rallier who is interested in learning to write a rally to contact us.

Outreach is essential to attracting new and prior participants. Promotion of Cascade's road rally events through email, social media, Auspuff, and the Cascade Geargrinders website will continue. We'll work with CSCC Marketing to identify new opportunities to improve rally event promotion.

Sustaining attendance is the key to sustaining the road rally program. We've told you in past years that a season average of about 20 cars per rally would support full reimbursement of all rally-related expenses. We came close to reaching that target in 2023. We were able to reimburse rallymasters' expenses and the program made a small profit.



An average of 25 cars per rally could fund some upscaling, such as real rally awards for class winners (instead of just carwash coupons and candy bars) and maybe dash plaques. We work toward this goal.

You can help by sharing road rally event announcements. And let us know if you identify new audience opportunities.

You can help even more by personally participating. Find a partner you like to spend time with who would enjoy a drive in the country, decide who drives and who navigates, and start the season with the Rally School Rally on Feb. 17. Then make a date for one Saturday a month to play the game that takes you places.

Cascade board members, directors, conference reps, race officials, and committee chairs are offered half off the entry fee for the Rally School Rally. Contact [rally@cascaadesportscarclub.org](mailto:rally@cascaadesportscarclub.org) to get your discount.



To reiterate, the sustainability of the Cascade Geargrinders Road Rally Program depends on attendance.

Also essential to sustaining the program is consistent leadership and administration. We became Geargrinders Chair early in 2018, at a time when it seemed the program might vanish from lack of volunteers and participants. This coming season will be our seventh year as chair. It is time to start training those who will carry on after us.

Any help at all in 2024 would be most appreciated. How can you help?

- Event promotion: Promote rally events with email and social media.
- Registration: Manage event registration and virtual check-in using MotorsportReg, Excel and email.
- Prizes: Acquire event prizes and season awards, arrange perpetual trophy engraving.
- Rally financials: Report entry fee revenue and submit expense reports to the club treasurer.

We would love to focus more on rally routes and less on administrative tasks such as above. Can you help? Apply within.

And we would love to see even more Cascade members come out and rally. That's why you belong to a car club, right? You enjoy driving your car. Road rally is a fun way to enjoy driving your car in the country. Affordable fun for a carful. Play the game that takes you places.

Please let us know what questions you have about the Geargrinders Road Rally Program.

We request the Board's approval of the 2024 Geargrinders Budget.

Thank you for your support!

Monte and Victoria Saager, Chair  
Cascade Geargrinders Road Rally Program  
[www.cascadegeargrinders.org](http://www.cascadegeargrinders.org)  
[rally@cascaadesportscarclub.org](mailto:rally@cascaadesportscarclub.org)

**Geargrinders 2023 Yearend Report and 2024 Budget Proposal**

	<b>Approved</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>Per event</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>Per event</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>Per event</b>
<b>Summary:</b>		Avg cars/event	18.1	Avg cars/event	19.2		Avg cars/event	19.8
<b>Net revenue from entry fees (less MSR)</b>		<b>\$4,002</b>		<b>\$4,237</b>			<b>\$4,648</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>								
Insurance		\$1,600		\$1,600			\$1,600	
Printing, supplies, misc.		\$150		\$0			\$150	
Tropies, engraving, prizes		\$1,700		\$1,862			\$2,100	
Rallymaster fuel stipend		\$575		\$575			\$525	
Richta app fee		\$90		\$0			\$165	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$4,115</b>		<b>\$4,037</b>			<b>\$4,540</b>	
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>		<b>(\$113)</b>		<b>\$199</b>			<b>\$108</b>	

**Budget Detail:**

	10 events	Avg cars/event	18.1	2023 Actual	Per event	19.2	9 events	Avg cars/event	19.8	
<b>Season Revenue (prepaid entry fees)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>				<b>Number</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Series Pass (full rate)	3	\$120	\$360		\$480		3	\$150	\$450	
Series Pass (rallymaster rate)	1	\$100	\$100		\$0		1	\$125	\$125	
Less MSR fees			(\$17)		(\$25)				(\$20)	
Season Ticket (full rate)	7	\$180	\$1,260		\$1,080		7	\$210	\$1,470	
Season Ticket (rallymaster rate)	3	\$160	\$480		\$480		3	\$185	\$555	
Less MSR fees			(\$57)		(\$81)				(\$64)	
Entry Discount	10	(\$10)	(\$100)		\$0		10	(\$10)	(\$100)	
<b>Total Season Revenue (prepaid entry fees):</b>			<b>\$2,027</b>	<b>\$203</b>	<b>\$1,934</b>	<b>\$193</b>			<b>\$2,417</b>	<b>\$269</b>
<b>Season Expenses (overhead)</b>										
ICSCC Insurance			\$1,600	\$160	\$1,600	\$160			\$1,600	\$178
<b>Rally Season Overhead</b>										
Publicity and printing (print flyers, cards)			\$50		\$0				\$50	
Championship Trophies			\$350		\$302				\$350	
CSCC Perpetual Trophy engraving			\$50		\$40				\$50	
Miscellaneous supplies - operations			\$100		\$0				\$100	
<b>Rally Season Overhead Expenses (w/out insurance):</b>			<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$342</b>	<b>\$34</b>			<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$61</b>
<b>Total Season Expenses (with insurance):</b>			<b>\$2,150</b>	<b>\$215</b>	<b>\$1,942</b>	<b>\$194</b>			<b>\$2,150</b>	<b>\$239</b>
<b>Rally School Rally</b>			# of cars	20	# of cars	27			# of cars	25
<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>				<b>Number</b>	<b>Each</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Entry fee (non-members)	5	\$30	\$150		\$210		7	\$35	\$245	
Entry fee (members)	1	\$20	\$20		\$120		4	\$25	\$100	
Less MSR fees			(\$12)		(\$20)				(\$23)	
Series Pass	4	\$0	\$0		\$0		4	\$0	\$0	
Season Ticket	10	\$0	\$0		\$0		10	\$0	\$0	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$158</b>		<b>\$310</b>				<b>\$322</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>										
Rallymaster fuel stipend			\$50		\$50				\$50	
Richta app fee (\$3/car for non-member entry)			\$0		\$0		7	\$3	\$21	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$50</b>		<b>\$50</b>				<b>\$71</b>	

**Geargrinders 2023 Yearend Report and 2024 Budget Proposal**

**Approved 2023 Budget** Per event

**2023 Actual** Per event

**Proposed 2024 Budget** Per event

**Saturday Road Rally Series (6 events)**

Avg cars/event 16

Avg cars/event 19.5

Avg cars/event 18

Revenue:	Number	Each	Total	Per event
Entry fee (non-members)	1	\$30	\$180	
Entry fee (members)	1	\$20	\$120	
Less MSR fees			(\$4)	
Series Pass	4	\$0	\$0	
Season Ticket	10	\$0	\$0	
Free entry (discount)			\$0	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$296</b>	<b>\$49</b>
Expenses:				
Rallymaster fuel stipend		\$50	\$300	
Event awards		\$100	\$600	
Richta app fee (\$3/car for non-member entry)			\$0	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$150</b>

Total	Per event
\$750	
\$280	
(\$63)	
\$0	
\$0	
\$0	
<b>\$967</b>	<b>\$161</b>
\$300	
\$714	
\$0	
<b>\$1,014</b>	<b>\$169</b>

Number	Each	Total	Per event
3	\$35	\$630	
1	\$25	\$150	
		(\$8)	
4	\$0	\$0	
10	\$0	\$0	
		<b>\$772</b>	
	\$50	\$300	
	\$150	\$900	
3	\$3	\$54	
		<b>\$1,254</b>	

**Mountains to the Sea (1 day)**

# of cars 25

# of cars 16

# of cars 20

Revenue:	Number	Each	Total
Entry fee (non-members)	6	\$75	\$450
Entry fee (members)	9	\$50	\$450
Less MSR fees			(\$42)
Season Ticket	10	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$858</b>
Expenses:			
Rallymaster fuel stipend			\$125
Awards, perpetual trophy engraving			\$550
Richta app fee (\$3/car)			\$60
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$735</b>

\$300
\$150
(\$25)
\$0
<b>\$425</b>
\$125
\$575
\$0
<b>\$700</b>

Number	Each	Total
5	\$85	\$425
5	\$60	\$300
		(\$31)
10	\$0	\$0
		<b>\$694</b>
		\$125
		\$600
20	\$3	\$60
		<b>\$785</b>

**Ghouls Gambol (1 event)**

# of cars 30

# of cars 25

# of cars 25

Revenue:	Number	Each	Total
Entry fee (non-members)	10	\$30	\$300
Entry fee (members)	10	\$20	\$200
Less MSR fees			(\$39)
Season Ticket	10	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$462</b>
Expenses:			
Rallymaster fuel stipend			\$50
Event awards and treats			\$100
Richta app fee (\$3/car for non-member entry)			\$30
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$180</b>

\$360
\$100
(\$28)
\$0
<b>\$432</b>
\$50
\$88
\$0
<b>\$138</b>

Number	Each	Total
10	\$35	\$350
5	\$25	\$125
		(\$31)
10	\$0	\$0
		<b>\$444</b>
		\$50
		\$200
10	\$3	\$30
		<b>\$280</b>

**Oregon Trailblazer (1 event)**

# of cars 10

# of cars 7

Revenue:	Number	Each	Total
Entry fee (non-members)	2	\$30	\$60
Entry fee (members)	8	\$20	\$160
Less MSR fees			(\$19)
<b>Total Revenue:</b>			<b>\$202</b>
Expenses:			
Rallymaster fuel stipend			\$50
Event awards			\$50
Richta app fee (\$3/car for non-member entry)			\$0
<b>Total Expenses:</b>			<b>\$100</b>

\$120
\$60
(\$11)
<b>\$169</b>
\$50
\$143
\$0
<b>\$193</b>



# CASCADE SPORTS CAR CLUB GEARGRINDERS

## 2024 Road Rally Schedule

as of 12/4/23

Register: [MotorsportReg.com](https://MotorsportReg.com)

Cascade Sports Car Club's Road Rally program (aka Cascade Geargrinders) organizes time-speed-distance road rallies in and around Portland, Oregon.

**What is a TSD road rally?** A game that takes you places. A scenic drive on country roads. A fun autosport competition for teams of all levels.

### Saturday Road Rally Series

**February 17 – Rally School** – Start the season with a virtual review of time-speed-distance road rally rules and procedures on Friday evening. Then run a practice road rally on Saturday morning to test your driving skills and navigational knowledge.



**March 23**

Saturday Series rallies are beginner friendly TSD road rallies, starting and ending in the Portland area. Rallies take three to four hours to complete. First car starts at 10:01 a.m.

**April 20**

**May 25**

**June 22**

**July 20**

**August 17**

Entry fee: \$25 per car for CSCC members, \$35 per car for non-members

**Save with a Series Pass.** \$150. Includes entry in Rally School and all 6 Saturday Series rallies. Register just once to enter all 7 events. Run the same car number with the same start time each rally. Available to CSCC members only. CSCC membership is [available online](#).

### Special Events

**September 21 – Mountains to the Sea** – 59th anniversary of Cascade's classic rally. Full-day tour-style time-speed-distance road rally, offering a scenic route that is fun to drive, starting in Portland and ending at the Pacific Ocean (perhaps Gearhart). Entry fee: \$50 per car for CSCC members, \$75 per car for non-members

**October 26 – Ghouls Gambol** – This daytime rally explores autumn colors around Portland's foothills and farmland. Optional decorated car show. Caution: May include tricks and treats. Ends at Spirit of Halloweentown in St. Helens. Entry fee: \$25 per car for CSCC members, \$35 per car for non-members

**Save more with a Season Ticket.** \$210 for 9-event Season Ticket. Includes all benefits and events in the Series Pass, plus entry in Mountains to the Sea and Ghouls Gambol. Available to members only. CSCC membership is [available online](#).

#### For all 2024 Cascade Geargrinders road rallies:

- Online registration is required: [MotorsportReg.com](https://MotorsportReg.com).
- Entry requires a street-legal vehicle, a licensed insured driver, a navigator, and a smart device (e.g., cell phone or tablet) running the [Competitor Richta GPS Checkpoints app](#) (app is free).
- Rallies are conducted in accordance with the current [Road Rally Rules](#).



*Enjoy a fun drive in the country. Play the game that takes you places.*