

# The Trail of the Gnu TSD Rally

Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2018



*Hosted by the Calgary Sports Car Club*

<http://www.trailofthegnu.ca>

The Trail of the Gnu is a challenging winter navigational rally hosted by the Calgary Sports Car Club, and is a part of the BC TSD Rally Championship and the Rallywest TSD Rally Championship. The event will be run under Rallywest rules, which can be found somewhere on [www.rallywest.com](http://www.rallywest.com). Competing teams will be given straight-forward instructions in a standard routebook, as well as some area maps. The approximate length of the rally is 600km, of which no more than 20% will be on pavement, with the remaining 80% or more on snow, ice, mud, gravel, or some interesting combination thereof. There will be a maximum distance of 250km between refueling stops.

Accommodation in Rocky Mountain House, at least for the night after the rally, is highly recommended for all participants. A long drive home after a hard day of navigating through the back roads can be potentially hazardous, and why would you want to miss the party? The banquet and celebration is a great alternative - the Boston Pizza (banquet and awards facility) is located across the street from the official rally hotel.

Dinner and non-alcoholic drinks for drivers and navigators are included with the entry fee, so please join us for a meal, some prizes, stories and celebration at the conclusion of this year's event!

## **Introduction**

Inspired by the challenging nature and long history of events such as The Thunderbird Rally in BC and the Loop Rally in AB, the current generation of The Trail of the Gnu is now in its tenth year since being resurrected into the current and popular format. The Trail of the Gnu first ran in 1968, and has at times been a winter pro-rally, a summer trick and gimmick TSD, or an icy and desolate struggle to keep between ditches and maintain CAS. Once again, the back country in the Rocky Mountain House area of Alberta has given us a beautiful setting to host this test of rally teamwork.

“Trail of the Gnu 2010 was a treat for Marvin and me. We felt warm hospitality from the organizers and local club members; As rallyists, we enjoyed the tidy route, smooth organization, and quick scoring.” *Marinus Damm, Winner of the 2010 Trail of the Gnu.*

“This was a very good rally.” *Taisto Heinonen, Winner of the 2012 Trail of the Gnu.*

### **Format:**

The Trail of the Gnu is a TSD (time speed distance) rally, meaning that teams will be scored on their ability to match, as closely as possible, the given route, schedule and speeds. Regularity stages will have various average speeds for competitors to match, and hidden checkpoints along the route will record the specific times that teams pass by. Penalty points will be assessed for every second early or late. Teams will be given a generous time allowance on transit sections to get to the start of the next regularity or fuel stop.

### **Equipment:**

**Required:** minimum of 1 reflective warning triangle (min size 30cm), basic first aid kit (competitors are urged to include emergency blankets), fire extinguisher (2.5lb/5BC). Open top cars require a roll bar. If auxiliary lights are mounted, they must be wired such that they are only operable with the high-beams on.

**Note:** If you are having any difficulty obtaining any of the required equipment, please contact the organizers as soon as possible - we might be able to help.

**Recommended:** winter tires, tow strap, snow shovel, ice scraper, octane boost for premium fueled cars (fuel stops in the bush don't always have high octane available), warm clothing, driving lights, map light (or headlamp). For tires, studded with an open tread pattern are typically a good choice for Gnu, such as Kumho KW series or Nokian Hakka series, but the basic idea is that all season tires are probably a bad idea.

### **The Fuel and Food situation:**

If you have special dietary needs, it would be best to take some snack foods with you. There will be some food available to purchase at the designated refuel stops, but choice can be limited. The rally will end with an awards presentation and dinner at the Boston Pizza in Rocky Mountain House, across the street from the official rally hotel. Dinner will be a buffet style with salads, pizza, and such. Non-alcoholic drinks are provided, but teams will have to pay extra for beer or wine.

### **Scoring:**

Timing controls will be in regularity stages only, at various unannounced and hidden locations. Scoring is one point per second early or late, with a grace allowance of 1 second in either way.

The maximum penalty that will be assigned at a single control is 300 points (5 minutes) and the maximum penalty for a regularity stage is 600 points (10 minutes).

The team with the fewest points wins, and ties will be broken by the most zero scores, then the most 1 second penalties, etc.

The organizers may decide to delay sections in order to keep the competitors together. If so, an information control will be set up to inform all competitors.

Exceptions to scoring: A competitor coming upon an accident is required to stop and render aid if necessary (e.g. in case of injury.) In such cases, the competitor should record the mileage in the section, and the time when they stopped as well as the time they restarted, and give a written declaration of this to a rally official. Scoring adjustments will be made in such cases, and the crew should not try to regain the lost time until they reach a sufficiently long break (e.g. gas stop.) Declarations of time lost will also be considered for organizers' errors which make official time unattainable and other discretionary safety concerns.

Note that while scoring allowances might possibly be made for unforeseen circumstances that delay competitors, there is some judgment involved in determining whether a time allowance is appropriate. Scoring and rally officials are the final judges of fact in these cases, once a request for adjustment has been made. Please try to be understanding and gentle with us.

Finally, there will be a light duty 4x4 sweep truck following the rally through every section, able to help competitors recover from mild excursions into the scenery. Please try to avoid needing such assistance. Youtube from Gnu 2008: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qydgURcbb4I>

### **Awards and Classes:**

Trophies will be awarded for overall position (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>) as well as for the following classes:

**Paper:** No calculators, rally tables or accessory odometers.

**Calculator:** Accessory odometers, non-programmable calculating devices that are not driven by a wheel.

**Unlimited:** Unlimited equipment.

**Novice:** Neither team member having entered more than 3 TSD rallies prior to the start of the competition year and navigation equipment to conform to calculator class.

**Historic:** Vehicles manufactured 25 years prior to December 31st of the year preceding the current competition year as per the date stated on the vehicle registration. For this year, that means that any vehicle manufactured before December 31st, 1992 will qualify. Equipment in this class is unlimited.

### **Officials of the Event:**

Rallymaster/Registrar: Pete Chadwick (403) 978-2072 [chadders1990@hotmail.com](mailto:chadders1990@hotmail.com)

Co-organizer: Jason Shaver (403) 771-4132

## **Schedule:**

**Thursday March 15:** Close of early entries. Entries received before midnight on this day are entered in a draw to win a rally themed prize (details to be released, prize will be awarded at the rally banquet). Please email the registrar ([chadders1990@hotmail.com](mailto:chadders1990@hotmail.com)) if you don't think you can make this deadline!

**Wednesday March 16:** Preliminary start order to be determined and released online.

**Thursday March 19 (By Request only):** 19:30 Novice TSD Rally school, to be held at the Calgary Sports Car Club building (4215 – 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Calgary), available free to all competitors. This school will teach you all the basics to get through the Gnu, and is essential for the first time competitor, especially navigators. Be sure to contact the organizer if you are interested in participating!

## **Saturday March 24:**

**8:00am - 10:00am:** Registration and Scrutineering, Best Western Hotel, Rocky Mountain House AB.

**10:30am:** Drivers Meeting and distribution of Route Books, Best Western Hotel, Rocky Mountain House AB.

**11:00am:** Car '0' start time, rally begins.

**8:00pm:** Approximate finish time, awards and banquet, Boston Pizza, Rocky Mountain House.

## **Fees and Costs**

Entry Fee: \$150 for Calgary Sports Car Club members (or members of other CARS affiliated clubs), \$175 for non-members. Fees are per team (car). Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages at the end of rally banquet are included, alcohol is available and extra

Maximum entries accepted: 35. Any entries received above the maximum will be and held on a waiting list. If entering late, please confirm by phone or email with the Registrar. Entry forms are available on the event website.

A scanned copy of the entry form may be emailed to [chadders1990@hotmail.com](mailto:chadders1990@hotmail.com), and entry fees may be paid by Interac E-Transfer to that same email.

## **Accommodation**

Official Rally Hotel:

**Best Western, Rocky Mountain House, AB**

<http://www.bestwesternalberta.com/hotels/best-western-rocky-mountain-house-inn-and-suites/>

phone: **1-866-303-3100**

Special rates and a block of rooms have been reserved for competitors. Please mention the Trail of the Gnu when booking. Book as soon as possible.

*2018 event supplementary regulations version 1.0, released February 11<sup>th</sup> 2018.*