PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Business Meeting

DATE: Tuesday **October 3, 2023, 6 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790

AGENDA

1) Commission meeting called to order
    a. Pledge of Allegiance
    b. Roll Call
    c. Modifications, Additions and Changes to the Agenda
2) Public Comment (Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes)
3) Presentations
    a. Gorge Waterfalls Run – Jeremy Long, Daybreak Racing – Page 2
    b. Bridge of the Gods Run – Chad Sperry, Breakaway Promotions – Page 7
    c. Columbia Gorge Racing Association – Matthew Berger – Page 11
    d. PCT DAYS – Jason Waicunas, Outdoor Viewfinder
    e. Legislative Update – Mark Johnson
4) Commissioner Comments
5) General Manager Report
6) Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(h) Legal Counsel regarding Litigation or likely Litigation to be Filed
7) Adjournment

GORGE
WATERFALLS

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Gorge Waterfalls Trail Run

The Gorge Waterfalls Trail Run is the largest and most popular trail running events in the Pacific NW and indeed the entire United States. Showcasing many of the premiere waterfalls on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, this three-day event attracts hundreds of participants and their supporters to Marine Park and Cascade Locks. Participants travel from nearly every US State, most of Canada as well as several other countries to experience Gorge Waterfalls each year.

Background

Gorge Waterfalls was held annually in early spring since 2011 until 2017, when it was put on indefinite hiatus due to the Gorge fire closures. After 4 long years, in Fall of 2021, we were informed by permitting agencies that enough of the trails had been reopened for us to resume the event. Our Special Use Permit was reapproved by US Forest Service, ODOT and Oregon State Parks to resume in April 2022!

Venue at Marine Park

In an effort to elevate the event's overall quality, we sought to move the event staging area to Marine Park from Benson State Rec Area for the 2022 event. After proposing our event and applying for a permit, approval was granted by POCL to relocate the staging area to Marine Park. Demand for this already popular event has since grown significantly. The grounds and amenities at Marine Park offer a fantastic trail race setting and we are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to share this special area with people from all over the country, North America and the world.

Current Event Status

The 2022 edition of Gorge Waterfalls hosted nearly 500 race participants over the weekend in early April, involving 100K and 50K trail running races. In 2023, the event expanded into a 3-day series that saw nearly 900 total runners participate in a new 30K race distance on Friday, the 100K on Saturday and 50K race on Sunday.
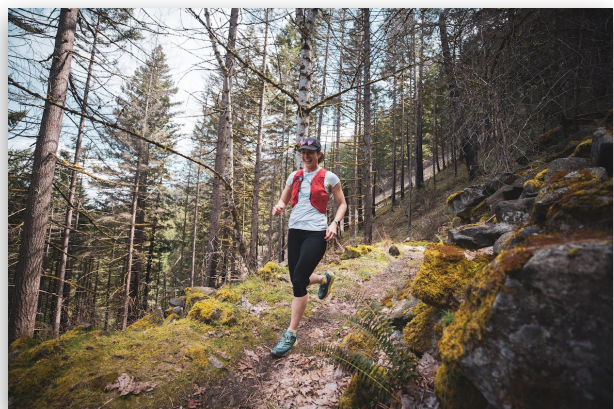
Registration for the 2024 edition opened in mid September, with nearly 800 registered runners already signed up for the April 10-12 event weekend. This is sure to be the most successful iteration of the event so far, and most certainly an exciting bump for local businesses, lodging and tourism.

We are currently in the process of having the 100K and 50K races certified as the 2024 National Championship races through USA Track & Field, the country's governing body of running events.

Beneficiary & Stewardship

We have contributed hundreds of hours of trail maintenance on Gorge area trails used by the event over just the past two years. We have volunteered with Trailkeepers of Oregon on an ongoing basis and have also conducted trail work with the PCTA to ensure the Pacific Crest Trail is kept cleared of down logs. Earlier this year, we cleared over 30 logs on a 5 mile segment of the PCT in a single day.

We remain committed to a sending a monetary donation to non-profit Trailkeepers of Oregon from event proceeds each year as well.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our appreciation to Jeanetta Blue, Events Coordinator with Port of Cascades Locks, as well as all of the Marine Park maintenance staff. Their honorable work stewarding Marine Park and its amenities has helped to ensure Gorge Waterfalls remains a successful event and a strong annual attraction to Cascade Locks.

About Daybreak Racing

Founded in 2016, Daybreak Racing now hosts the largest trail running event series on the US West Coast. In 2022, we hosted approximately 3000 race participants, representing every US State, most of Canada and over a dozen other countries. We are on track to reach 3500 trail runners by the end of 2023! With the sport of trail running growing 10% per year over the past 20 years, the future of the sport remains bright.

We aim to provide a welcoming, highly organized trail race experience with safety and enjoyment as top priorities. Our participants often return again and again because of this, as well as the fine venues, scenic race courses and well-supported aid stations.

Meet Us At Gorge Waterfalls!

Please join us at Gorge Waterfalls next spring to see what all the excitement is about!

Send all correspondence to:

Jeremy Long, Owner & Race Director
Daybreak Racing, LLC
Phone: 971-645-0247
Email: jeremy@daybreakracing.com

THANK YOU!

BOTG RUN 2023

2023 BRIDGE OF THE GODS RUN REPORT

Participant Breakdown

1389 Total Runners Participated
47 States Represented
747 Runners From Oregon
347 From Portland and the Gorge
Average Ave of Participants 46
79% Women 21% Men
46 Campers on Thunder Island

Traffic Impact

Half Marathon Start
14 Minute Bridge Closure
5 Cars Delayed

10K/5K Start
14 Minute Bridge Closure
10 Cars Delayed

Community Impact

$6500 Raised for Local Schools!
Not a single hotel room available in the Gorge!
40 Hours of Trail Clean Up

2024 Goals

2000 Runners!
$8,000 Raised for Local Schools
More Extended Stays by Participants!

New for 2024

- Increase the number of runners by 500

- Add a twilight 5K race across the bridge on Saturday night

- Music on the Island Saturday night as well as add a festival component

- Increase camping on Thunder Island and Marine Park by 200%

Columbia Gorge Racing Association 2023

World-Class Sailing!

The Gorge has it all:

- Breathtaking scenery
- Wide stretch of river
- Warm, fresh water
- Plenty of wind!

CGRA is

- an all-volunteer group of local sailors

- based in Cascade Locks since 1996

- organized as Oregon 501(c)(3) non-profit

- bringing world-class sailing events and training opportunities to the Gorge

- establishing Cascade Locks as a world-class sailing destination

Focus on Youth Sailing

Sailing skills are life skills:

- self-confidence
- self-reliance
- sportsmanship
- teamwork
- healthy exercise
- love & respect for nature

Youth Sailing at CGRA

- Regional and national youth regattas

- High performance training clinics for advanced youth sailors

- Weekly Community Sailing & potlucks

- Coming in 2024: week-long summer sailing camps, STEM science sailing activities for kids

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2023 Highlights

- 587 total sailors (50% youth)

- Youth Optimist Dinghy Pacific NW Championship

- Annual CGOD multi-class regatta

- Two weeks of youth racing clinics with professional coaches

- Two adult racing clinics with Olympic Gold Medalist

- Return of Thursday night Community Sailing & potlucks!

Thursday Night Community Sailing & Potlucks Revived!

- Six weeks of sailing mid-July to mid-Sept for dozens of residents and out-of-towners

- Collaborated with Gorge Canoe Club on potlucks, facilities, equipment and refurbished a now shared lifejacket shed

- Paid, certified coaching staff sponsored by Oregon Youth Sailing Foundation

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Economic Impact

- 96% of CGRA visitors stay in local hotels or campsites

- Average stay: 4+nights

- Average group size: 2.7 people

- Repeat visitors (3 or more events): 73%

- Average daily spending (per person): $295 *(lodging, restaurants, Sternwheeler, etc.)*

- CGRA direct spending (2022): $30,0000 *(hotels, restaurants, Port fees, moorage, facilities, staff salaries)*

Coming in 2024

- Four weeks of youth and adult racing clinics

- Four regional championship regattas

- Thursday night Community Sailing & potlucks at the Marine Park beach

- Expand partnership with Gorge Canoe Club to include summer camps, boat building and regatta spectating

THANK YOU PORT OF CASCADE LOCKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Columbia Gorge Racing Association

2023