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# **Armageddon begets Monster**

**BY RON SOREM**

*Contributing Editor*

BURLINGTON — Chuckanut Sports Car Club and first-time rally-masters Kathryn Hansen and Steve Perret presented the opening round of the Monster rally on Nov. 8. Monster's Revenge may rise from its mascot status for the long-running and now-retired Armageddon Rally — being a poster boy for a rally and never getting to get the recognition deserved may have prompted the Monster's takeover.

As in Armageddon, Chuckanut provided a brisk (though not too brisk) gravel TSD, running into the Cascade foothills around Darrington and Concrete. The route utilized Forest Service roads and a few county roads in the woods. Potholes were the rule in some places, smooth mainline in others. Fog presented some challenges, but the torrential rains of previous years stayed away, and the threat of snow did not materialize.

Our team was not exactly "virgin" material, although driver-navigator

roles were reversed, and my first foray into the world of Timewise went fairly smoothly for the most part. Max's driving was tested in a couple of soft corners and neither of us were totally prepared for accidental switch changes brought on by a big pothole — at a checkpoint, at a speed change — causing great confusion in the car.

As a newby navvie, my gaffe on the switches brought momentary panic for which neither the owner of the box, or the operator of the box, had a quick solution (he was a bit busy staying on the road, dodging potholes). Falling back to my SOP days I did a "wild a\*\* guess" as to what kind of correction was in order and we just winged it to the end of the section. Of course the box thought we were still on perfect zero at the last control, but we knew (feared) worse. It would prove to be an 11 early.

With the anxiety over, it was back to our string of zeroes, ones, twos and threes for the rest of the night. One further "senior moment" occurred at the turn-around section: A simple

pause of 5 minutes allowed teams to record their time as they passed the "Monster" uphill on a twisty bit of pavement, with two checkpoints. Then restart the clock after making a u-turn and awaiting the time out at the next "Monster" for the return trip down hill past the same two controls. All pretty basic stuff — except newby navvie corrected the time only, not the odo — so Mr. Timewise calculated an additional 20 seconds into "our" leg, for 20-late both controls. Ugly!

The Monster was no match for Unlimited (Timewise) team Marinus and Renee Damm from Oregon, accumulating only 19 points over 32 controls, including 15 zeroes. First in SOP went to Daily-Palidar with 121, first Equipped to Thompson-Hobbs with 137, and first Green Class to Perry-Perry in the Smart ForTwo with 481.

A great time was had by all, and congratulations to Kathryn and Steve for presenting a great event, with great support staff and hospitality at the Start and Finish locations.

Complete results can be found at [www.chuckanutsc.org](http://www.chuckanutsc.org).