

## Volta Grand Prix Round 2 Race Report

Twenty-three racers took the green flag on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Allsports Grand Prix in Sterling, Va for the second round of the Volta Grand Prix Washington DC Karting Championship. The championship, in its inaugural season, will visit three kart tracks in the Washington metro area as part of a 14 event series. Racers are split into four classes by weight, from GT1 (lightest) to GT4 (heaviest).

### Race 1

After a five minute qualifying session to set the groups and starting positions for race 1, group C started things off, with polesitter Bill Mercurio being passed by Alex Cumming on the opening lap. However, Bill found a way back around Alex on lap 2, and would hold on for the group win.

Ben Schaeffer started on pole in group B and held the lead, while Oliver Rojas moved past Jason "Bananaspeed" Mulveny for 2<sup>nd</sup> on the start. Ben would slowly pull away, winning the 18 lap race by over 4 seconds over Oliver, while Steve Rice would work past Bananaspeed to take 3<sup>rd</sup>. Graham Fuller would secure the GT4 class victory by finishing 7<sup>th</sup>, having started 8th.

In group A, a slow start by Chris Hebert in 3<sup>rd</sup> allowed Michael Wu and Kalyan Jupalle to get past. Michael then worked past Kalyan to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place a few laps in, as Tony Ward and David Nguyen pulled away from the field and battled for the lead. In the end the positions at the top would remain unchanged with Tony taking the overall and GT2 class wins, and David taking second overall and the GT1 win. Linwood Mishler finished 6<sup>th</sup> after starting 7<sup>th</sup>, taking the GT3 class win.

### Race 2

Jeff Navin start race 2 on pole in group C and won the race by a slim margin after a close battle with Graham Fuller second, and Cris Rodriguez 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cris having moved up from starting 5<sup>th</sup>.

Eric Jones would dominate the race in group B, leading from flag to flag and winning by over 8 seconds. Linwood would finish 2nd, securing the GT3 class victory, while Alex Cumming would finish 7<sup>th</sup>, taking the GT4 win.

Michael Wu would started on the pole in group A and led flag to flag to take the GT1 victory. Michael also set the fastest overall lap time for the day in race 2, earning one bonus point in GT1. After starting 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tony Ward would find a way past David Nguyen for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the pair would finish the race in that order, with Tony winning the GT2 class again.

### Race 3

In the third and final race, Bill Mercurio would take the group C win again, after moving up from 4<sup>th</sup> on the grid. Jeff Navin finished second, with Graham Fuller third.

Kalyan won group B by 3.4 seconds over Oliver and Bananaspeed. Linwood swept the GT3 class for the day by winning again in GT3, while Alex finished 6th and took his second GT4 class win of the day. Linwood and Alex also set the fastest times of the day in their respective classes during the race, each earning one bonus point.

In group A, Michael started on pole, but was quickly passed by David, followed by Tony a few laps later. David narrowly held off Tony for the overall win. Eric Jones finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall and second in the GT2 class, while setting the fastest lap of the day among GT2 drivers, earning a bonus point.

### **Championship Standings**

After two events the championship standings are as follows: Tony Ward and Linwood Mishler dominate the GT2 and GT3 classes respectively, with 25 and 14 point leads over their nearest class rivals. In GT4, Alex Cumming leads Keith Shugarts by only 6 points, with Graham Fuller just one more point behind. In GT1, Michael Wu leads David Nguyen by a slim 2 point margin.

### **Next Event**

The next round of the Volta Grand Prix Washington Championship takes place at American Indoor Karting in Fredericksburg, Virginia on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.