

April 2010

You Are Racing

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VGP Round 2

We had even better turnout for Round 2 with 23 drivers. Again, it took place at Allsports Grand Prix.

The format was tweaked from Round 1 by doing away with the reverse grid in the final race, and running 3 races instead of 2. Each event now consists of a qualifying session and 3 races. All races are now of equal length and each one awards equal points and serves as qualifying for the next one.

The other big change is that drivers are grouped by qualifying time rather than weight class. However, points are still scored only by class. This means drivers are usually racing with others of comparable speed, but judged on performance only against those in their weight classes. And it worked.

The level of sportsmanship and racing improved greatly between the first and second events.

Round 2 Winners

- **GT1:** David Nguyen won 2 races, Michael Wu won 1 and set fast lap.
- **GT2:** Tony Ward swept all 3 races in GT2. Eric Jones set fastest lap of all classes.
- **GT3:** Linwood Mishler won all 3 races and set fast lap.
- **GT4:** Alex Cumming won 2 races & set fast lap. Graham Fuller won one race..

VGP Round 3

This time the series visited American Indoor Karting in Fredericksburg, VA – a completely different type of facility.

Building on the momentum from the previous event, a few more changes were made to further enhance competitiveness.

Rather than assign random qualifying groups, they are now

assigned from GT1 to GT4, and then by championship points.

What this does is put the lightest and highest scoring drivers at a slight disadvantage with cold karts, tires and track, “bunching up the field” somewhat.

This too was a success and the competitiveness and sportsmanship of all the drivers at such a physically demanding track should be commended.

Round 3 Winners

- **GT1:** David Nguyen won 2 races and set fastest lap of all classes. Michael Wu won one .
- **GT2:** Eric Jones won 2 races, Dave Biddle won one. Oliver Rojas set fast lap.
- **GT3:** Linwood Mishler won 2 races and set fast lap. Ary Jogasurya won one race.
- **GT4:** Graham Fuller won 2 races & set fast lap. Keith Shugarts won one race..

VGP Round 3 Prizes

As a bonus the drivers in each class who scored the most points in this event were each awarded a \$25 gift certificate to AIK and two runs each in the Volta GP electric kart. They are Michael Wu (GT1 – your author, David Nguyen, is not eligible!), Eric Jones (GT2), Linwood Mishler (GT3) and Graham Fuller (GT4).

Spotlight: Alex Cumming

Alex’s interest in cars and racing started in high school when his school added an automotive shop class his sophomore year. The teacher, with whom he is still in contact, had his own NASCAR Nationwide series car and team (then called Busch Grand National) and got Alex hooked on cars and racing.

During his junior year the school started an electric racing

program and converted a Volkswagen pickup into an electric racer for competition against other high schools at RIR in Richmond, Virginia.

During college Alex honed his restoration, fabrication, and modification skills on many different cars but mainly focused on Nissan Sentra/NX2000 models.

After college he moved into racing and rotary-powered Mazdas with the goal of running RX7s.



Over the past two years he has had 5 RX7s, with his last “track beater” being the car of choice when he comes to the kart races.

But he doesn’t stop there. Next time you see him at the track, ask him about his personal kart – the one with a bored out, flat-head Briggs and Stratton motor being force fed by a SMART car diesel turbo.

Just like his older cars, if something needed to be made for the Kart, Alex fabricated it from scratch in his garage using a 110 MIG welder and spare tubing. Alex says “It’s great to see a Kart push 5 lbs of boost and shoot flames about 3 feet from the down pipe, but I know they wouldn’t let me run it at Allsports.”

When he’s not working on a car or kart, he’s either packing and preparing for his new house or working to fulfill government military contracts; well that, and racing in the Volta GP series.

2010 Volta Grand Prix Points Standings

Updated March 22, 2010

		Event 1 2/27/10 AGP			Event 2 3/13/10 AGP				Event 3 3/21/10 AIK				Event 4 4/17/10 AGP				Event 5 5/1/10 SPK				Event 6 5/22/10 AGP				Event 7 6/5/10 SPK				Spring Championship
Date Venue		R1	R2	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	R1	R2	R3	FL	Total
GT1 - Blue																													
1	David Nguyen	14	14	1	16	14	16	-	14	16	16	1															122		
2	Michael Wu	16	16	-	14	16	14	1	16	14	14	-															121		
3	Ben Schaeffer	-	-	-	12	12	0	-	12	12	0	-															48		
4	Sam Schechter	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															24		
GT2 - Green																													
1	Eric Jones	14	14	-	5	8	14	1	14	16	16	-															102		
2	Oliver Rojas	12	10	-	8	10	6	-	12	14	14	1															87		
3	Tony Ward	16	16	1	16	16	16	-	-	-	-	-															81		
4	Dave Biddle	-	-	-	10	12	12	-	16	12	10	-															72		
5	Kalyan Jupalle	6	6	-	14	6	7	-	10	8	8	-															65		
6	Steve Rice	10	7	-	7	14	10	-	-	-	-	-															48		
7	Cris Rodriguez	3	5	-	1	2	3	-	8	10	12	-															44		
8	J. "Bananaspeed" Mulveny	7	10	-	6	5	5	-	-	-	-	-															33		
9	Gilbert Eman	8	12	-	3	4	4	-	-	-	-	-															31		
10	Chris Hebert	-	-	-	12	7	8	-	-	-	-	-															27		
11	Bill Mercurio	4	3	-	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-															16		
12	Chetan Devraj	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															9		
13	Mario Vega	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-															4		
14	Kapil Kher	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-															0		
GT3 - Yellow																													
1	Linwood Mishler	16	16	1	16	16	16	1	12	16	16	1															127		
2	Jeff Navin	14	12	-	14	14	14	-	14	14	14	-															110		
3	Ary Jogasurya	10	14	-	12	12	12	-	16	12	12	-															100		
4	Santiago Gabela	7	7	-	10	10	10	-	10	10	10	-															74		
5	Mark Snodgrass	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															22		
6	Hossam Ahmed	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															16		
GT4 - Red																													
1	Graham Fuller	12	12	-	16	14	14	-	16	14	16	1															115		
2	Alex Cumming	14	16	-	12	16	16	1	14	12	12	-															113		
3	Keith Shugarts	16	14	1	14	12	12	-	12	16	14	-															111		