

VGP Round 13

Round 13 of the championship was incredibly intense and perhaps the most thrilling one of the year.

A total of 15 drivers raced at Summit Point Kart (SPK) in conditions that can best be described as torrential. It rained the whole time making the races even less predictable than usual.

The track configuration was shortened to avoid sections which had flooded, reducing lap times to below those times normally reached on the full circuit under dry conditions.

The difference in the performance of the karts was magnified in these conditions, though karts that are fast in the dry may not be the faster ones in the wet.

Karts were randomly assigned due to time constraint and cold temperatures, with most everyone soaked through to the skin.

The action was terrific with drivers battling back and forth all through each of the races.

There's nothing quite like turning a bunch of drivers loose on the track on slick tires in a downpour, and having them finish smiling and laughing about the great time that was.

It may well have been the best of the year. If you weren't there you really missed out on a phenomenal event.

Round 13 Winners

- **GT1:** **Michael Wu, John Shim** and **"Bananaspeed" Mulveny** each won one race, with **Shim** setting fast lap.
- **GT2:** **Marco Restivo** won three races and set fast lap.
- **GT3:** **Robert Orr** won two races and **Alexander Cumming** won one race and set fast lap.

Racing In the Rain

Once in a while in karting we come across a situation of racing in the rain.

Without prior experience you will definitely "leave speed on the table". Short of actually having done it, what can one expect of such conditions?

First, recognize that track conditions are always changing, whether wet or dry. In the wet the changes tend to occur faster.

Another immediate difference is compromised visibility, especially when following another kart. The spray can be severe, and the inside of the helmet visor can fog up from your breath. Anti-fog coatings should help reduce that.

Third is the difference in grip between the usual "dry" line, and the lines that are faster in the wet. The usual apex of the corner will likely be more slick.

To be fast, put all these things together and be smooth. That will put a driver on the path to racing well in the rain.

The bottom line is he who adapts fastest wins.

Profile: Bartosz Nowakowski

Bartosz first became interested in racing through computer games and would race against friends in organized events for lap times and virtual wheel-to-wheel multiplayer games.

When he got his driver's license he would "borrow" his father's car and race other youths from street light to street light at night.

In addition to the occasional kart race, he would also go to country roads and drive sideways, imagining what it was like to be rally star Richard Burns.

Having survived such youthful antics (apparently unscathed), he ended up having to settle for being a gamer and spectator of various

genres of racing (WRC, F1, touring cars, etc) due to time and money – or rather lack of – as a college student.

Upon completing his PhD. in mechatronical engineering, he moved to the DC area and started to scratch his racing itch again.



He found it with Volta GP and hopes his karting performance will one day match his computer racing skills.

"Dr. Bart" loves fighting for position with his fellow racers, and finds it very rewarding to race at his personal limits [Flow by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi explains this phenomenon – Ed].

He loves driving his VW GTI and has a fascination with cars in general, since he also works primarily in R&D of ultra precise instrumentation, which in karting is frequently found right in the driver's seat.

Round 14: Season Finale

The last event of the year will take place at Allsports GP in Sterling, Virginia on October 15, 2011.

And like last year we will tally the points right after the races to determine championship standings, and crown the winners.

Trophies will be awarded and then we will have a potluck dinner. All are welcome. See email for details.

Lilian Fernandez will once again be our photographer for the event, on-track and afterward.