

Burlington, NC

Conover Motor Sports wins National Championship!

Conover Motor Sports President Bowie Gray put an exclamation point on a hugely successful maiden season for the team by winning a hard fought National Championship at the American Road Race of Champions in Braselton, Ga this weekend. Competing in the ITB class in teammate Kirk Knestis' VW Golf, affectionately known as "Pablo", Gray qualified second, well under pro racer Randy Pobst's longtime lap record. Race day dawned clear and fast, and the battle for the championship was on from the first turn of the race. Bowie traded positions with Derek Luger from Canada as well as Beran Peter from Massachusetts, often entering turns 2 and 3 wide before finally coming out victorious after a hard-fought 20 lap sprint to secure the first ever National Championship for a CMS car!

Gray also campaigned his Mazda Miata in the ITA class, qualifying 4th. On the second lap, however, he made contact with a concrete wall, ending his day early and dashing his hopes of pulling off an unprecedented "Double" at the National Championships. CMS team member Thomas Lyman qualified his Integra 6th in ITA as well, and was able to hold onto that position throughout the 20 lap race. Lyman and his co-driver Tom Hoppe continued the successful weekend for Conover Motor Sports, winning the three hour endurance race in ITA Sunday afternoon and coming in 3rd overall. Christian Shipp rounded out the CMS effort, running as high as 12th and turning a personal best lap time before contact with another car sent him flying through the air in a way that must be seen to be believed! He soldiered after the landing on to finish 16th.

The ARRC wasn't the only event for CMS in November, as Kirk Knestis represented the team at VIR for the Annual 13 hour "Charge of the Headlight Brigade" endurance race. As he has become accustomed to, Kirk led his team to victory in Pablo the VW even after being sidelined by a nasty flu bug. The victorious result brought Kirk's season total to three 1st place and one 2nd place finishes in ITB in four endurance outings, as well as 4th place overall in the Kumho Tires Endurance Championship Series. This includes a dominant victory by a 25 lap margin at the 24 hour "Longest Day" at Nelson Ledges in August, where Bowie joined Kirk's illustrious list of co-drivers.

Conover Motor Sports drivers accounted for an incredible 16 victories in 2007! Not only that, they scored 8 second place finishes and 5 third place finishes. Not a bad season's work for the upstart group! In addition to that record, for another year none of the Conover Motor Sports supported vehicles had a single mechanical DNF!

Conover Motor Sports drivers also won two regional championships in 2007. Thomas Lyman won a barn-burner of a SARRC championship chase in ITA by

finishing 2nd in the finale to capture the title by a mere six points. Bowie Gray swept the table in the Atlanta Region Pro IT series, winning all four events he entered and winning the ITA crown by 50 points, bringing home over \$2500 in prize money!

Cameron and the gang at Conover Motor Sports are already gearing up for 2008, with an even busier schedule for the New Year! In addition to the usual support at SCCA events, look for their trailer at Tarheel Sports Car Club time trial events next year, as they come on board as a presenting sponsor for THSCC's 5 event track season. "We can't wait to help THSCC drivers get the most out of their vehicles." CMS President Bowie Gray said. "With my history with THSCC this is a natural fit, and one that should be tons of fun!"

Conover Motor Sports, Inc is dedicated to providing the best service and support possible to racers and drivers throughout the Southeast. Based out of Burlington, NC, Conover Motor Sports provides a comprehensive set of services for any racer—from complete car builds, to engines and transmissions, even trackside support, delivery, and driver coaching. Contact Cameron Conover or Bowie Gray at 336 226 0540, visit them on the web at www.raceconover.com, or see them at a racetrack near you!