

Burlington, NC

Conover Motor Sports sets the pace up and down the east coast!

The Conover Motor Sports team GTI set a blistering pace at the 12 hour of the Point enduro June 2nd, but was challenged by a mechanical gremlin and had to fight for a 2nd place finish in ITB. Drivers Matt Brown, Jon Kofod, Phil Phillips and Kirk Knestis teamed up for the first long enduro of the season for the Conover group, and were pulling away to a comfortable lead over the other ITB competitors when the Golf's limited slip differential went out, cooking the transmission and putting the team out of the race. Led by Cameron Conover, the crew worked feverishly to swap in a spare transmission and get the car back into the action quickly, but the loss of over 1.5 hours proved too much to overcome. "It's obviously frustrating to let one slip away, particularly since it was due to a mechanical problem that caught us completely by surprise." team principal Kirk Knestis said. "Ultimately, I take responsibility. Everyone involved in the effort did everything asked of them, and I'm proud of their effort. We didn't have a handle on the expected life of the diff but we'll learn from this and I won't make that mistake twice." Even with the mechanical difficulties the team had a great time. Team driver Matt Brown agreed, saying "Having MB Racing join Conover Motor Sports for the 12 hour race was a tremendous experience and we look forward to working with this outstanding team again in the future. The hard work of the entire crew to get the car back on track was nothing short of amazing. VIR should be quite an event as we team together again this fall."

Meanwhile, far down the map in Atlanta, Bowie Gray had another successful weekend in his ITA Mazda Miata, winning his class and finishing second overall at the penultimate Pro IT race of the 2007 season. "The car was fantastic as always this weekend!" Gray said. "There was only a small turnout, although there were several tough competitors in the group. We qualified on pole and were looking forward to a battle, but the next two cars in class both had problems so we just cruised." The weekend's result vaulted Bowie into the points lead and he carries a 30 point cushion coming into the final event, which will be held July 23rd.

New team driver Christian Shipp continued his improvement in only his second season of racing, managing a 3rd place finish in the SARRC race on Saturday while working his way up to speed at the tough Road Atlanta. He was in line for a podium finish in the Pro IT on Sunday before going off track to miss a spinning Spec Miata and having to pit to make repairs to his damaged front bumper. Christian rejoined to finish 4th on the track, but was rewarded with a 3rd place trophy in impound for reasons unknown! "The car felt perfect all weekend long. The RoadRaceGear airdam and splitter helped me carry more speed through T12 and T1 by improving turn-in. As an added plus I noticed reduced oil and water temps throughout the long race. I'm still completely psyched up from my first double podium weekend and can't wait for the July Road Atlanta race!" said Christian about the double podium weekend.

Cameron and the gang at Conover Motor Sports are currently hard at work moving “CMS World Headquarters” to a larger space in Burlington, North Carolina to better serve their ever-growing team of drivers. “I’m super excited to be getting more space.” Cameron says. “The extra room will also allow us to start on some exciting new projects.” Bowie Gray, President of CMS said “This move opens up lots of doors for us to grow. We were bursting at the seams already at the old shop but now we can offer storage to all of our customers as well as expand our business into street cars. We are very excited about the expansion and can’t wait to be settled in.”

Coming up next for CMS is a busy July, with two SCCA race weekends and the Ultimate Track Car Challenge with “Grassroots Motorsports.” Kirk Knestis and his trusty VW have been selected by the magazine to compete in the “Shop Category, JV Class” which is for 4 cylinder cars only. “We are very excited to have Kirk representing Conover Motor Sports at this prestigious event.” said Bowie Gray, “We hope to do well and further develop our relationship with the guys at Grassroots Motorsports.” Stay tuned for more information as the summer progresses!

Conover Motor Sports, Inc is a new entry into the competitive amateur racing market in 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 or delivery. Contact Bowie Gray or Cameron Conover at 336 340 7826, visit them on the web at www.raceconover.com, or see them at a racetrack near you!