

2007 Overview

What a fantastic season this past one turned out to be. I earned my racing license much earlier than expected, allowing me the opportunity to compete in the final three events of the season. This changed the schedule of modifications needed for the car in order to get it safely on the track. We installed the seats (Recaro Pole Positions) and the cage in late May, and hit the track for our first wheel2wheel action in July at Pueblo Motorsports Park (PMP). Prior to that, however, Dave Balinget – Regional NASA director – drove the GTI to a 2nd place finish in the Saturday enduro at MidAmerica Motorplex (MAM) in Iowa. Personally, one of my biggest accomplishments was the improvement in my times at PMP – from the July to the November event I was 1.6 seconds a lap faster!

The season did not finish the way that we had hoped, as I had an incident at the last NASA event of the season at PMP. Fortunately, the damage to both car and driver were minimal, and the car will be ready for the 2008 season opener – with additional modifications that we hope will significantly improve the car (and the driver)!

The success of the season is due in no small part to my sponsors. Autobahn Premier Service has provided significant time and effort in maintaining the track worthiness of the GTI. Corbeau's harness kept me firmly planted in my seat as I was bouncing around in my off-track excursion. SCR Performance provided me modifications that helped the car become much faster over the course of the year. And many, many thanks to the team at Signs by Tomorrow for the trailer graphics that just make the trailer look fantastic. Thank you, one and all for your support this past season!!

2007 Achievements

July 21st – earned my NASA wheel2wheel license!
Accepted the role of NASA GTS Regional Director
May 2007 EuroTuner – 1/3 page photo and write up of car
May 2007 SportsCar – RMDiv write up covering the driver

Finishes:

1st Place FP Class – Regional SCCA Solo II Summer Series final standings
1st Place GTS3 Class (heat and main race) – Regional NASA MPH Event (August 25)
1st Place GTS3 Class (heat and main race) – Regional NASA MPH Event (August 26)
2nd Place Eunduro – Regional NASA MAM Event (June 30, driven by Dave Balinget)
3rd Place Eunduro – Regional NASA PMP Event (July 21)
5th Place GTS3 Class (main race) – Regional NASA PMP Event (July 21)
4th Place GTS3 Class (heat and main race) – Regional NASA PMP Event (July 22)

Racing Event Reviews

July 21st and 22nd

Pueblo Motorsports Park, CO (PMP)

3rd place overall in Saturday 1.5 hour enduro, 4th in both main and heat races on Sunday
Fastest lap – 1:49.825

Race notes: I would have come in 2nd in the enduro, however, unbeknownst to me early in the race a car had dripped some oil, leaving a line of oil from turn 1 through turn 5. I

got sideways in turn 4 and went off. I didn't realize at the time the reason, and I pulled back on track and came back up to race speed. Coming into turn 5, as I applied the brakes the back end became squirrely. I thought that I may have blown a tire when I slide off in 4, so I took it easy and drove the car back into the pits, where I could find nothing wrong. After the race, someone explained to me that another car had dumped the oil. I gave up ~5 minutes hunting for a problem that didn't exist allowed the 2nd place finisher to gain 2 laps on me. Then, when I stopped for fuel, he moved 4 laps ahead of me as he didn't need to stop. The racer that finished ahead of me was a full 13 seconds a lap slower than I was. Oh, well, that's racing.

August 25th and 26th

Hastings Motorsports Park, NE (MPH)

1st place both days in main races and heat races

Fastest lap – 1:44.283

November 10th and 11th

Pueblo Motorsports Park, CO (PMP)

DNF – Accident in first lap of heat race in turn 5.

Fastest lap – 1:48.350

Race notes: Well, unfortunately, the season ended with a bang – I banged the GTI off a bunker in turn 5. Fortunately, the damage was relatively minimal. The Corbeau harnesses worked flawlessly, keeping me firmly planted in my seat. The only personal damaged sustained was a minor twinge in my back that lasted for about 3 weeks.





The parts that need to be replaced are:

- Rear torsion beam
- 2 wheels (perhaps)
- 2 tires
- Both front struts
- Both tie rods
- Front bumper
- Radiator support
- Radiator
- Driver's side harness
- Driver's side Recaro Pole Position seat (perhaps)

The minor body damage is going to be ignored, as it shouldn't affect the performance of the car.

We are taking the opportunity to do some performance upgrades to the car:

- Designing a multilink system for the rear torsion beam to minimize flexing
- Removal of the remaining environmental comfort components (heater core)

- Finalize the removal of the Secondary Air Injection (SAI) components
- Reworking the front upper strut towers to allow for more camber adjustment and to include independent caster adjustment
- Redesign the rear sway bar mounting to come through the floor pan
- Install a 15 gallon fuel cell (to minimize the need for stops during endurance races)
- Have a new paint scheme applied!!

The 2008 look:



2008 Preview

August – Dubwars, Willow Springs CA (if no conflicts with other racing schedules)

June – Wustefest, Las Vegas CA (if no conflicts with other racing schedules)

DATR (pending schedule)

Preliminary 2008 NASA Racing Schedule:

- March 15-16 - Pueblo Motorsports Park
- **June 13-15 - Miller Motorsports Park**
- July 12-13 - Pueblo Motorsports Park
- August 9-10 – Hastings
- September 11-14 - Mid Ohio National Championships

I will also be participating in SCCA Club Racing and Time Trials as schedules allow. I am really looking forward to the event at Miller Motorsports Park as I have heard great things about the track.

Again, thank you everyone for your continued support and help in making 2007 a very successful year!