

Racing VW Beetle = 560 HorsePower

0 to 60 in 1.9 seconds

by Bob Kocher

Motorsports and Volkswagen have a long history in many different forms of motorsports but somehow 560 horsepower I think for that little bug is a bit over the top. WOW but what a nice exciting ride it should be.

Remember Volkswagen owns Porsche, Audi, Bentley, Bugatti, and Lamborghini just for starters, all great racecars companies. I have watched VW Beetles in Drag Racing, SCCA Sports Car



Racing. Then there was the Love Bug. And how about those VW Rabbits, Shucks I even campaigned a VW Rabbit in SCCA amateur racing for several years.

However it's all just the word at this point, Michael Andretti's word and what more can I say.

Well I think it's a somewhat fact in as much this all-new Beetle that is all race looking made a debut at the recent 2014 Chicago Auto Show (2/6/14). And with those who are involved you can believe it's a lot of fact. Can't wait to see it run!

Volkswagen of America, Inc. announced the details of its 2014 rallycross program at the Chicago debut. The racing VW Beetle is a all-wheel-drive rallycross car that is the ultimate expression of the third-generation Beetle and will feature more than 560 horsepower from its turbocharged and direct-injection TSI® engine.

To top that VW will partner with Andretti Autosport to form the Volkswagen Andretti Rallycross Team, running two cars in the "Red Bull Global Rallycross" series (GRC) for the drivers Tanner Foust and Scott Speed.



Michael Horn, President and CEO, Volkswagen Group of America. "We're excited to partner with Andretti Autosport, one of the great names in American motor sports, and delighted that we will be running the iconic Beetle in the series."

Michael Andretti, CEO of Andretti Autosport, added: "I'm thrilled to be entering the series, and especially happy about teaming with Volkswagen. We are excited about our driver lineup of Tanner [Foust] and Scott [Speed]; I believe we have the best drivers in the series and will be a top contender."

Tanner Foust, GRC champion in 2011 and 2012 and runner-up in 2013, will drive the Rockstar Energy Drink Beetle. You may just happen to recognize Foust for his hosting of the U.S. version of *Top Gear* on TV. And also for his stunt driving plus he holds records for distance jumping and looping the loop in a car.

Scott Speed will be racing the 7UP entry for the Volkswagen Andretti Rallycross Team. As well as being a standout in the 2013 GRC Series, winning two races and finishing fifth overall, Speed has competed at the very pinnacle of motorsports, driving Formula 1 for Scuderia Toro Rosso in 2006 and 2007. He also competed in NASCAR between 2008 and 2013.

The Red Bull Global Rallycross series opens in May. The Volkswagen Andretti Rallycross Team will attend with a pair of

Polo cars driven by Foust and Speed. The definitive GRC Beetle will appear at the X Games in June in Austin, TX.

Rallycross is said to be the fastest growing form of motorsports in the U.S., attracting big crowds at venues across the country as well as live TV coverage.

Cars are pitted against each other and the clock in a series of heats on a closed course that's usually a mixture of dirt and pavement, with a 70-foot jump. The action is fast, it's intense, and is hugely appealing to a crossover audience of auto and live action sports fans.

Can't wait to see the results of this exciting new Volkswagen Racing endeavor, and Good Luck to all involved!