



DRIVER TRAINING AND LICENSE QUALIFICATION FOR FREE STATE 500 TO START ON JANUARY 16

Driver training and license qualification for the inaugural Free State 500 at Phakisa Freeway on January 31 starts on January 16.

Two instructors from the Drivetech Racing School based in Fontana, California arrive in South Africa next week and will be conducting two two-day courses at the Free State circuit's 2,5-km banked oval in preparation for the first-ever NASCAR-type American stock car race to be held in South Africa. The event is being presented by the Free State Government in association with ASA.

Former Daytona 500 winner and current ISCARS competitor Geoff Bodine was in South Africa in December and during a media demonstration of the ASA race car's capabilities the former Daytona 500 winner set a target lap time which will be used in the qualification process of the South African drivers wishing to enter the "Battle Between Two Continents", as the event is being billed.

A total of 25 cars have been brought from America and the target is to pit as many South Africans as possible against established ASA racers from the United States in a one-off 500-km race around the 2,5-km Phakisa oval. All the cars are prepared to ASA rules by the American teams and will be set-up for the race by the experienced American pit crews.

Local drivers who enrol for the two two-day courses presented by Drivetech Racing School at Phakisa (on January 16 and 17 and again on January 19 and 20), will receive classroom training and 75 laps of the track over the two days. Aspirant local drivers will have to meet strict criteria and meet a level of competency covering driving ability, safety, and knowledge of American oval track racing etiquette and taking instruction from team spotters during racing.

Once a driver has met the criteria he or she will be eligible to receive an ASA license and will then be able to negotiate with the American team owners of the cars to hire or buy a car in which to compete in the Free State 500.

Drivers interested in attending one of the two courses with a view to qualifying to race in the Free State 500 should contact Etienne Swanepoel at jim1@mweb.co.za. The American teams are expected in South Africa on January 27. Official practice is on January 29 with qualifying on January 30. The 207-lap 500-km race will be run on Sunday, January 31.

Tickets for the four days of action can be obtained from Computicket outlets countrywide or go to www.computicket.com. Prices range from R20.00 on Thursday to R 330.00 on Sunday. Spectacular discounts for Saturday/Sunday tickets are available. All tickets include a 90 minute Pit Walkabout on all days.

Ends

Issued on behalf of the Free State 500. For further information please contact Charmaine Fortune on 011 462 6243 or visit www.freestate500.com. Pics can be downloaded from www.motorpics.co.za.
<http://www.racingwest.com/series/asa-transcontie/2010/1/>

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