

# DRIFTING

## Crowd Thrilled By Drifters

### Rising Stars Get A Chance To Shine

THE AutoTrader.co.za SupaDrift Series saw the first leg of an eagerly awaited Drift event held recently at the Gauteng Motor Show 2010 at Zwartkops Raceway.

Johannesburg, Pretoria and motorsport visitors were not only "motortained" to the extreme but highly impressed and notably thrilled when fourteen of the top drifters in SA plus 3 internationals left their rubber on the tarmac.

Drifting is a high-skill, high-powered motorsport that calls for drivers to control a 200hp to 600hp car while it slides sideways at high speed through a marked course. It is similar to rally racing, but is done on a closed course and judged on execution and style rather than who finishes the course fastest. Drifting takes all the thrilling moments of traditional motor sports and packs it together into non-stop competition.

The rising stars of the world's fastest growing motorsport competed for their chance to shine in the AutoTrader.co.za SupaDrift Series. International drift stars were invited from over the border, Mozambique and abroad, being Greece. Drivers like, Nikos Poulas from Greece (who is currently a Formula Drift Pro Am Driver) have participated in the D1 Drift

day would have rather stayed in bed opposed to being slam dunked by local talent!

Local driver, Jonathan Rudman, representing the AutoTrader.co.za Drift Team driving a V8 6.0 litre Chevrolet Lumina, locked good in practice. He has impressed in recent events and having moved up in the ranks of the local series was up for the battle. Jonathan went on to attain a 5th place and R3000 for his efforts. "We go around the country drifting at lifestyle exhibition shows and finally now we have the opportunity to showcase our true talent on high speed circuits!" he said. "Events like the SupaDrift have pushed us into another competitive bracket and have challenged the drift scene considerably to urge the limits of driving and of local motorsport eventing platforms as a whole."

Fans and Gauteng Motorshow patrons were treated to plenty of drifting action along with a host of additional activities and events. XS Promotions (XSP), the leader in SA action (extreme) sports and lifestyle marketing created the AutoTrader.co.za SupaDrift Series for the SA motorheads and current drift fans. "Our ambitions are to conceptualise motorsport eventing and introduce it to patrons and the unconverted by making it fun, exciting and real-life live



**CHEVY POWER:** Two Chevs in action at the AutoTrader.co.za SupaDrift Series.



**FLAT OUT:** The fun, noisy action at Zwartkops was a real crowd-pleaser.

have participated in the D1 Drift scene off of our shores and gave the crowd a fair share of the spills rather than the thrills this time round but could not keep up with SA's best. But, even he, on his good

and the unconverted by making it fun, exciting and real-life live entertainment; a fan can expect an experience where the noise factor and tyre smoking abilities of a drifter and his machine can be



**BURNING RUBBER:** Plenty of rubber was laid down on the Zwartkops track.

**FLAT OUT:** The fun, noisy action at Zwartkops was a real crowd-pleaser.

transferred to the onlookers", they said.

Based on drifting's traditional head-to-head battle format. Drivers attempted to qualify, in single judged runs, to be one of the sixteen drivers to enter the main competition bracket (similar to drag racing). During the bracketed head-to-head battle competitions, drivers were paired off in 8 x head-to-head runs of skill and nerves. The eight drivers were whittled down to one final winner, who gave his finale opponent Pieter Smit more than just a gaseous expulsion of tyre burning fumes; the winner, Otto Graven from the MonsterMob Race Team, based in Kimberley (Northern Cape), set up a mind-bowing final run to outwit, outlast and definitely outdrive his rival.

The AutoTrader.co.za SupaDrift was a spectacular head-

to-head battle event and even the not so well adjusted motorsports enthusiast could barely keep still in their seats.

AutoTrader.co.za have been trendsetters and leaders in the Drift scene in South Africa by attending all the local motorshows with their Drift vehicles allowing public the opportunity to experience the worlds fastest growing motorsport by climbing into the cars and enjoying a 'suicide ride'. Now, at the GMS, they stepped it up again and blew away all the onlookers, supporters and fans with superb drift eventing.

Yokohama, the official tyre sponsor of the event, has also since endorsed their commitment to drifting as a future sport of noteworthiness by renewing their partnership with the SupaDrift Series. Anton Wessels, the Marketing and Sales executive,

stated that although a great deal of rubber gets burnt up and shredded as evident by the plumes of smoke blowing from behind the rear wheel drive vehicles, he believes that the stained tar from spinning wheels is a laudable mark of permanence and one which the Yokohama brand will be supporting in future events.

Future prospects look great - the first SupaDrift event set a benchmark for sponsors, drivers and fans alike.

Watch this space in **MOTORSPORT WORLD** for confirmed dates of the next SupaDrift series event; dates are tentative but rumour has it that Kyalami will be the venue and October will be the sideways craze month.

Editorial & Photos: XS Promotions