

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRIVE Off-Road Racing Holds Inaugural Race in Plaster City

El Centro, CA - (January 21, 2009) – Just as the sun rose over the most challenging desert racing terrain in the Southwest, the green flag dropped, beginning a new era of desert racing in Plaster City, CA. More than just a new day was dawning, DRIVE Off-Road Racing made off-road history by launching its inaugural race, the **TROPHYLITE 200** on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

The excitement began with early morning qualifying, with the TROPHYLITE (class 6000) and class 1601 participating. The speeds and adrenaline were high on the 2.2 mile point to point qualifying course. The racers battled the clock, to get the pole position for their class, at the start of the main event. A couple unlucky racers fell victim to the ever-sneaky Plaster City terrain, but Caleb Sanden and Louis Chamberland kept the greasy-side down and got the pole-position for class 1601 and TROPHYLITE/6000 respectively. There was a short intermission, then all race vehicles were skillfully lined-up by volunteers. At 9:30 **Bob Ham** (Off-Road Hall of Fame inductee) dropped the first green flag, and the battle to win the inaugural DRIVE TROPHYLITE 200 began. Three class 101 cars screamed off the start line. Multiple Baja championship winner **Drew Belk** in car 141 was the sure bet to win class 1, but mechanical problems sidelined the team on the second lap. **Jeff Farris** in the 109 car also had issues on the first lap and was forced to pull-out of the race. Class 101 “up-and-comer” **Kyle Conlon** “laid-down” 6 consistently fast laps to take 1st place in Class 1 and the overall title. The 1601 class favorite was **Caleb Sanden**, but young-gun **Quentin Tucker** and veteran **Terry Tolbert** were betting on an upset. Unfortunately, the “buggy-eating” Plaster City terrain had different ideas for Quentin and Terry, and they were slowed making stops to fix mechanical problems. Caleb masterfully skipped across the rough terrain and landed 1st place in class 1601, with Quentin taking 2nd and **Ray Files** in 3rd place. **Terry Tolbert** never gave up and was the last car to cross the finish line. The TROPHYLITE class (class 6000) was anticipated to be the closest and most fierce competition of the day. 14 TROPHYLITEs launched off the start line to begin the 2009 General Tire/TROPHYLITE series. The pack of TROPHYLITEs began to jockey for position, and find the best traction around corners. The closely matched and controlled “spec-trucks” required the leaders to “hang-it-out” if they wanted to remain in the lead. 2008 TORPHYLITE Champion **Louis Chamberland** in truck 6000 clawed and scraped for every second he put between himself and the team 6027 SMD sponsored truck of the Trophy Truck racer **Andy McMillin** and TROPHYLITE founder **Matt Scaroni**. This was Andy’s first time behind the wheel of a TROPHYLITE. Despite a blistering fast first lap, Chamberland was slowed by mechanical problems on lap 3. Now a new battle for the lead began between the 6027 truck and **Glen Rolfe** in the 6060 truck. Glen expertly navigated the Plaster City desert, and repeatedly recorded fast lap times. With Chamberland slowed and Glen’s experience in the TROPHYLITE, Glen grabbed the TROPHYLITE 200 win and 2nd Overall. **Trey Piersall** had a “beaming” success in class 1001, taking 1st place with a new yet reliable car. **Jason Duncan** brought home the win and 7th overall in the 1450 truck class. **Robert Yeakel** was moving amazingly fast in a 9-car not raced since the FUD days and obtained the victory in class 901.

After the race, Andy McMillin gave some insight into the action,

“It was a lot of fun...I got in the truck half way through...on the 3rd lap and we just had a great run...we didn't have any breaks., and we were just trying to real him (Rolfe) in the last couple laps...it got pretty close”.

After months of logistics, permits, and planning for every conceivable pitfall, DRIVE President, Doug Wasser watched his brainchild race series roar to life. Along with the roar of the engines was a roar of approval from the racers! Since improving customer service for the racers of Plaster City is a mantra for DRIVE...new innovations such as “Gates” were introduced. The “Gates” make navigating the many twists and turns of the racecourse in Plaster City easier for the racers...and avoids “creative lines” in environmentally sensitive areas. The racers were pleased to find the atmosphere very “grass-roots”, family oriented, affordable, and friendly, much like the days of the old FUD races.

No desert race is possible without the help of dozens of volunteers. The, volunteers all masterfully ran the Road Crossing, Checkpoint, Start/Finish, Spotter, Rover/Gate Guard, Timing, and communications positions. DRIVE and TROPHYLITE extend the deepest gratitude to the volunteers that made this race the well-oiled machine that it was. DRIVE also thanks our volunteer sponsors that help to make a volunteer's day even more fun by providing food and refreshments to the volunteer positions. The Volunteer sponsor for the DRIVE/TROPHYLITE 200 were Beardesignz and Elite Auto Services.

DRIVE would not be possible without the support of a dedicated team of sponsors (Title Sponsor) **TROPHYLITE**, (Contingency Sponsors) **PCI Race Radios**, Amber Racing Services, Beardesignz, Major Performance, McKenzie's, ORW, Vision X Off-Road Lighting, Trackside Photos, SignPros, US Wheel Repair, Mendeola, Clarks Motorsports Imaging, TrailGlow Off Road Lighting, RacerX Motorsports, Howe Performance, Race Ready Products, Elite Auto Service, Zoomlenz4u.net, RB Components, ProComm Radios, Sway-A-Way, Sand Syndicate and High Desert Oils (Amsoil).

The next DRIVE Off-Road Race is the Race-Dezert.com 250 on March 21st 2009 in Plaster city. All classes are invited. For more details visit www.drive-racing.com and for up to the minute DRIVE info...visit www.race-dezert.com. look for the DRIVE discussion forum. See you at the next race!

DRIVE Off Road Racing holds a 6 race series in Plaster City, 30 min west of sunny El Centro, CA, and 1.5 hours Hour East of San Diego, CA. DRIVE's mantra is to provide a safe, fun, fair, and affordable grass-roots desert racing experience.