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CAMEL GT SIMULATOR PROVIDES RACING THRILLS

Sports car racing fans can experience all the twists and turns of driving an exotic prototype race car around a typical road course by taking a ride in the new Camel GT simulator.

The Camel GT SR2 simulator, which seats 12, uses 16mm film and a low-pressure hydraulic system to duplicate the sensation of being in the driver's seat.

"It is as close to driving a race car as you can get without actually driving a race car," says veteran Derek Bell, the host for the two-lap tour.

"I'll tell everyone who asks me what it's like to drive a race car to take a ride in the Camel GT simulator."

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The SR2 simulator, built by Doron Precision Systems, looks like a vehicle of the future. A dozen passengers, seated in three rows of four, sit inside the Camel GT simulator and buckle up their seat belts for their laps.

A 16mm film screen displays what the driver of the race car sees -- the turns ahead, the race traffic, the course itself. The SR2 simulator's hydraulic motion, utilizing 18 degrees of pitch and roll, provides the physical sense of a race car in motion -- everything from accelerating to braking to turning.

Riders are surrounded by the sounds of the race car and race traffic -- everything from the roar of the engine to the squeal of brakes.

Introduced at Lime Rock, the Camel GT simulator will be featured at all remaining International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) Camel Grand Prix races this year.

Spevco Inc., of Winston-Salem, N.C., is in charge of operating the Camel GT simulator.

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