



by Diane Dale

Well, racing season has begun. The whole 24 hours of Daytona is over. The great Ferrari F1 lapping events (cause I don't think they actually race anymore J) have begun. NASCAR has been turning left since the beginning of the year. IRL and GRAND-AM are running where they can find warmth. Even CART has figured itself out and will begin in April, and by the time you read this - Regional Racing in Ontario, Canada will have had it's first testing weekend. (Hopefully I'm not jinxing the weather!) I was lucky enough to tag along with a GRAND-AM crew in January to start the season early - I've included some pictures here for motivation!

Let's look at a couple of things in this month's column. First off - where can you watch fully prepared, awe-inspiring Datsun and Nissan race cars on the track this season and secondly, the best part - where can YOU track your own personal Datsun or Nissan if you're so inclined!

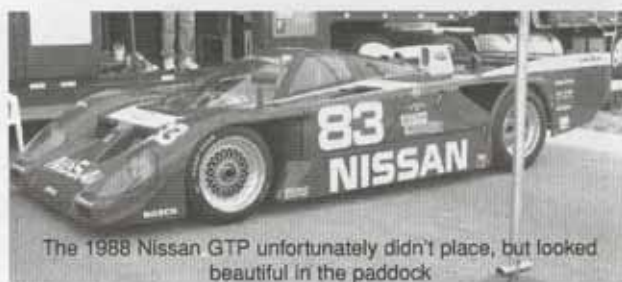
## Race Organizations 101

Oh boy. FIA, CASC, SCCA, HSR, SVRA, VARAC... the list can go on forever. How does a person with a specific interest in a specific type of race car possibly find what they're looking for? Okay... here goes a few pointers into the big picture of our local racing road racing 'scene'.

FIA - The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile is the governing body of motor sport world wide ([www.fia.com](http://www.fia.com)). ASN Canada - The Autorité Sportive Nationale du Canada is appointed by the FIA to govern motor sport in Canada ([www.asncanada.com](http://www.asncanada.com)). CASC-OR - The Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs, Ontario Region ([www.casc.on.ca](http://www.casc.on.ca)) (directed by ASN Canada) in turn fathers more dedicated organizations and clubs such as VARAC - the Vintage Automobile Racing Association of Canada ([www.varac.ca](http://www.varac.ca)) and even our own Ontario Z Car Owners Association ([www.ontariozcar.com](http://www.ontariozcar.com)). ACCUS - The Automobile Competition Committee for the United States is appointed by the FIA to govern motor sport in the United States. In turn, ACCUS coordinates CART (Championship Auto Racing Teams), NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing), IRL (Indy Racing League), GRAND-AM (Grand American Road Racing Association), PSC (Professional Sports Car Racing), SCCA (Sports Car Club of America), NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) and USAC (United States Auto Club). On a side note VMC - The Vintage Motorsports Council is the North American umbrella organization for Vintage and Historic automobile racing ([www.v-m-c.org](http://www.v-m-c.org)) under which organizations like VARAC, SVRA (Sportscar Vintage Racing Association [www.svra.com](http://www.svra.com)) and HSR (Historic Sportscar Racing [www.hsrrace.com](http://www.hsrrace.com)) fall.

## Datsuns and Nissans in 2004

OK... enough with the lessons on the alphabet. WHERE can we see Datsun and Nissan Race cars this season? Historic racing is where you will find the older Datsuns and even some Nissan GTP cars. VARAC, SVRA and HSR combined host a number of events at the local tracks - Mosport, Shannonville and Watkins Glen. Datsun 510s, 1200 Coupes, 240Zs, 260Zs, 280Zs can be found in the Historic Production classes (and VARAC's new Group 70+ class). Nissan GTP Cars (and seriously modified zeds) can be found in the Post-Historic Production classes of SVRA and HSR. Events not to be missed are VARAC's 25th Anniversary Vintage Festival (June 25th to 27th at Mosport) and SVRA's Zippo Vintage Grand Prix (September 9th to 12th at Watkins Glen).



The 1988 Nissan GTP unfortunately didn't place, but looked beautiful in the paddock

Many Nissan 240SXs can be found at CASC-OR's SOLO I (timed lapping) and SOLO II (auto cross) competitions ([www.casc.on.ca/events.php](http://www.casc.on.ca/events.php)) and DriftNation's drifting competitions ([www.driftnation.com](http://www.driftnation.com)). Nissan Sentras (including not-forgotten vehicles from the now-defunct Nissan Sentra Series) and the occasional Datsun (510 or zed car) can be found in the CASC-OR Touring GT Championship and Ontario Challenge Cup ([www.casc.on.ca/events.php](http://www.casc.on.ca/events.php)). Newer 350z's can be found at a couple of different events. Road racing at the GRAND-AM series ([www.grandamerican.com](http://www.grandamerican.com) - unfortunately Mosport is not on their schedule this year but Mt Tremblant, Watkins Glen and Mid Ohio certainly are)



Unitech Racing's 350Z placed 3rd in the GRAND-AM GS support race

and drag racing - at Professional Sport Compact Drag Racing World ([www.theexperience.com](http://www.theexperience.com)).

If you're interested in more international Datsun/Nissan coverage - you'll be able to see 350Zs at the All Japan Grand Touring Car Championship and the Nurburgring 24-hour Endurance Series. Nissan is sponsoring the World Series by Nissan in Spain and the 12 Hours at the Point Race in Washington D.C. (And of course there's always the Nissan Pickups in the South African Offroad Championship Series and the Paris-Dakar Rally!) I'm quite certain there's a lot more - but that will get you started!

Most important to note is the number of your local Datsun friend's that will be seen racing at Mosport this year. 15 Datsun cars (240Z's, 510s, a B210 and a 1200 Coupe) have all signed up to participate in VARAC's new Group 70+ Class. Events and dates are listed at [www.varac.ca/events.html](http://www.varac.ca/events.html) - come out and support the local talent!



Schuitemaker Motorsport's 350Z placed 7th in the GRAND-AM GS support race

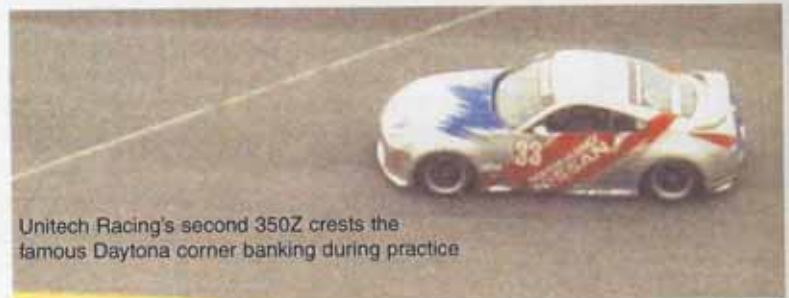


The 1991 Nissan NTP1 car placed 2nd in the HSR Historic GTP Race at the 24 hours of Daytona

## YOU – At The Track!

And now that you've got the fever for racing – what if you're interested in trying your own talents on the track? It's not for everybody (it can be hard on your car), but if you're interested in a local school or lapping day here's a few that I know of...

- Motorsport Club of Ottawa ([www.mco.org](http://www.mco.org)). Performance Control Schools, Lapping Schools and most notably a Racing School (approved by CASC-OR for license application) on April 24/25 at Shannonville; roadworthy, certified car with passenger seat required
- HRC Horizon Racing Club Inc ([www.tractechracing.com/hrc/index.html](http://www.tractechracing.com/hrc/index.html)) Racing School (approved by CASC-OR for license application) on April 8/9/10 at Shannonville; roadworthy, certified car with passenger seat required



Unitech Racing's second 350Z crests the famous Daytona corner banking during practice

- CASC-OR's SOLO I schools ([www.casc.on.ca/events.php](http://www.casc.on.ca/events.php)) Learn how to participate and compete in the Timed Lapping of SOLO I (various events – see schedule for more details, but the first school is on May 8/9), street legal and some race cars permitted
- Saab Owners' Club of Canada Enhanced Driving Schools ([www.computer-ease.com/socci](http://www.computer-ease.com/socci)). April 2 (Shannonville Full Track), July 31 (Women's Day – Mosport DDT), August 20 (Shannonville Full Track), October 8 (Shannonville Full Track). Excellent instruction, driver exercises including skid pad and car control, novice to advanced lapping sessions; street legal and race cars permitted (passenger seat required for instruction)
- BMW Club Driver Training ([www.trillium-bmwclub.ca](http://www.trillium-bmwclub.ca)). April 24/25, June 4/5/6 and Sept 10/11/12 at Mosport. Excellent instruction, driver exercises including skid pad and car control, novice to advanced lapping sessions; street legal car with passenger seat required
- Thousand Islands Zed Car Club ([www.tizcc.ca](http://www.tizcc.ca)). May 10 Lapping Day (Shannonville Full Track). Friendly and fun lapping day hosted by TIZCC; street legal and race cars permitted
- Ontario Z Car ([www.ontariozcar.com](http://www.ontariozcar.com)). August 7 Driver Development Day (Cayuga). Friendly and fun instruction or lapping, novice to advanced; street legal and race cars permitted (passenger seat required for instruction)
- Toronto Motorsports Park Advanced Driver Training/Lapping Program ([www.torontomotorsportspark.com](http://www.torontomotorsportspark.com) or contact Gerry Low by email, [gerry@parallel-mkt.com](mailto:gerry@parallel-mkt.com)) Instruction or Lapping practice, new this year! April 16, May 7, June 11, August 20, October 22 at Cayuga; street legal and race cars permitted (passenger seat required for instruction)
- TrackMasters ([www.trackmasters.com](http://www.trackmasters.com)). July 2/3/4 at Mosport, other dates at Watkins Glen and Summit Point (and a new one may be in the works for Mt. Tremblant). Instruction or Open Lapping with an abundance of track time, intermediate to advanced; street legal and race cars permitted (passenger seat required for instruction)
- Bridgestone Racing Academy ([www.goodman-motorsports.com](http://www.goodman-motorsports.com)). Various open-wheel instruction days at Mosport's DDT. A little on the pricey side, but cars are supplied and select courses are approved by CASC-OR for license application), novice to advanced

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