

56th Annual BEMC Spring Trophy Races, May 13 & 14, 2006 Mosport International Raceway - Article & Photos by Malcolm Haylock

Well, a new racing season has started. Diane Dale in her Whitehead's Performance sponsored Datsun 240Z is running with a new 240 motor built by Tony and Whitehead's Performance.

As is often not unusual, the weather was not at its best for the first race weekend of 2006 – that's Mosport for you—even though for several weeks prior to this weekend we had been enjoying some early summer weather. Well the weatherman saw fit to order some, cool, windy, and occasionally wet weather for the races this weekend. Fortunately the practice, qualifying, and races were all held in mainly dry conditions.

In order to get more track time, Diane registered in her normal VARAC G70+ race in the GT-G



Greg Whitehead enjoys his first test drive of the 2006 season in Diane Dale's #13 Datsun 240Z.



Diane Dale at speed on the front straight.

class (classes within G70+ are new for 2006) as well as the Ontario GT race in the GT-C class.

Two other Z's competed this weekend in the VARAC G70+ series. Once again Rob McCord was back in his #53 BRE look-alike (John Morton) Datsun 240Z and Neil & Kevin Young were competing in their #48 Datsun 240Z. Neil and Kevin's Datsun had a number of major issues on the weekend. While the car ran fast, initially Neil had a rear differential failure. Then

on Sunday, a clutch/flywheel self-destruct did a lot of damage to the crankshaft and gearbox, with some shrapnel going through various pieces of the body!

Diane was very happy with the new engine and recently revamped suspension – so much so she was barely slower with her 240 engine than with last year's higher horsepower 280 motor. Her fastest lap of the weekend was 1.39.769 lap!

In Saturday's G70+ race, Diane had an excellent 7th overall finish with 1st in G70-G, ahead of both the #48 and #53 Datsun's. In the Ontario GT race, she finished 15th overall with 1st in GT-C class.

On Sunday, Diane had similar results. In the G70+ race, she finished 10th overall with a 1st again in G70-G. Diane had to rush from the podium back to the mock grid to compete in the final GT race of the weekend for Ontario GT race where



Rob McCord coming out of Turn 10 in his #53 Datsun 240Z.



Neil & Kevin Young's #48 Datsun 240Z has an unfortunate end to the weekend's racing riding on the flatbed back to the pits.

she finished 18th overall with 1st in GT-C class. So once again, she was back on the podium to collect more hardware!

It was an exciting end to great first weekend of racing at Mosport for Diane. Diane's next challenge is to try and win the GT-C and G70-G season championships.

So if you want to see some good driving and competitive Z Cars in action, come on out to the CASC-OR (<http://www.casc.on.ca/events.php>) events this summer at Mosport International Raceway (www.mosport.com). Complimentary non-CASC-member tickets to many of these events can be downloaded for printing from <http://www.casc.on.ca/comptkt/>.



Diane Dale and her crew chief Blake Nancarrow proudly displaying the rewards for their hard work. Congratulations!