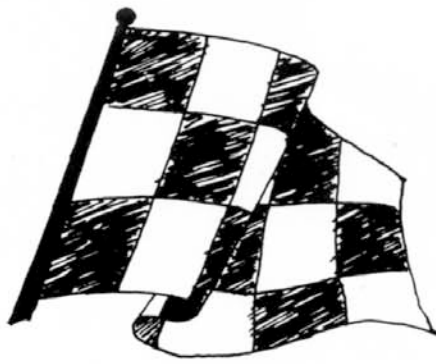


Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

by Kathy Bridgman





"Nobody demands more from a Datsun than ..." Joel Anderson and Frank Leary, winning Datsun 280-Z drivers from Santa Clara County, who by sharing their skills and talents, have come away as top San Francisco Region SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) champions.

The two have been friends for about ten years having met during an autocross competition, and through this friendship have earned their share of competitive racing awards.

For Joel Anderson, cars started out as a hobby back in high school, which eventually led him from Los Angeles competitions to regional and national championships all over California. He is the 1977 SCCA Regional Champion, C-Production; received the 1977 Northern California RDC (Racing Drivers Club) driver's award, C-Production; and currently holds fourth place standing in overall SCCA Northern Pacific Divisional (NorPac) point totals.

And because of his accomplished abilities as an artist and graphics designer, his classic white Z-car with the bold black-arrowed hood and precision orange and yellow accent stripes was cast to share film footage in the Walt Disney film *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo*. Now the posh "Z" is backed by Hayward Datsun, chief sponsor for Anderson.

For Frank Leary, SCCA's 1976 and 1977 NorPac champion and current divisional point leader, racing and cars have been a part of his life since childhood. Through years of

working his way around the racing industry, he not only has achieved "honcho" status at FAR Performance Service and Repair Division, but has taken his mastered perception of the automobile and turned it into a winner!

As owner of Frogline racing crew and ex-crew chief for retired driver Walt Maas (former National SCCA champion and 1977 IMSA GTU C-Production winner), Leary has become one of the most credible and expert champions on the SCCA circuit, currently sponsored by Pierotti Datsun in Fremont.

Leary and Anderson share continual recognition for their merits, but not without paying the price of exhausting schedules and agonizing dedication. Anderson spent \$15,000 on the original Z-car used in *Herbie* and a devoted seven months of blood, sweat and (probably) tears!

Leary came out a winner at the famed IMSA Camel GTU race at Laguna Seca this last April, after having totally demolished his Datsun at the Sears Point Raceway National competition just three weeks earlier. Leary's IMSA win came with only seventeen days of preparation backed by a dedicated and knowledgeable crew willing to devote all their time and energy towards a common goal — racing!

Why? Well, as Anderson puts it, "Racing is a challenge. I get a lot out of knowing that I built the car myself and drove it myself; it's something I myself put together."

Anderson considers himself a semi-conservative driver; whereas, Leary is more the aggressor. But to any dedicated racer, the effect is the same; "When you're in the car and before the race starts, you're like scrambled eggs. But once the green flag drops, there's no other world that exists."

As first and second place contenders, Anderson and Leary will be doing battle against each other as they compete for the National title at the coveted United States Road Race of Champions (USRRC) in Atlanta, Georgia, late this month.

The personal satisfaction of auto racing can be as different as the people themselves; but for Anderson, it's genuine comradery. "It doesn't matter who you are, who you know, how much money you make, or what you do for a living. I know a ton of people on the circuit and I have no idea what they do for a living, where they live, what kind of house they have, or how much money they make. And I don't even care! Racing is a hobby that's supposed to bring back some sanity into an otherwise crazy-world existence."

Will cars #48 and #49 ever become a team? Someday, according to Anderson and Leary, if the right opportunity came along, they would pool their efforts together officially and become a two-car Datsun 280-Z race team. "We're positive that with our backgrounds and abilities, we could produce at least one winner everytime we go on the track." They are driven!