



Volume XXX, November 2006

Bob Rosecrans, Editor



THE PRESIDENT SEZ

**Ty Ozgen
President**

As we wind down another successful year with the Windy City Z Club I have to give credit to our officers that have taken the

time and effort from their lives to make this organization what it is. If they feel anything like I do and I am pretty sure that they do the duties that they have is done because of their enthusiasm for this Z club and to the Z itself. We do not get paid for what we do in a monetary way but from the thanks we hear from you the members who come to our events and have a good time. Bob Rosecrans has done an excellent job with the activities this past year. Knowing Bob, I am sure he will give a lot of credit to those people who stepped up to the plate to help him throughout the year. He has also unselfishly taken over the reigns in putting this very newsletter together since our old editor stepped down. That is what I call commitment. Jeff Pleiter also has done a great job with the administrative component of the club as well as the secretarial role in which he assumed. He has made the membership process a well-oiled machine. What can I say about Bill Bragg. He comes down here from Kenosha to make our meetings and events and as far as I know has been the treasurer of the club since the Carter era. Is that right Bill? I think he just likes driving his 350Z. John LaMaide has also been working on our website keeping it updated for the world to see. We do get a lot of traffic from this to our club so it is a vital component for us to maintain. I thank each and every one of you!!!

These officers including myself will gladly continue doing what we do but the position for secretary and newsletter editor are definitely available for an able body. Actually, the positions for all the other officers are open if someone wants to step forward. If anyone is even remotely thinking of it,

2006 Windy City Z Club Officers

President – Ty Ozgen 630.910.3616

Vice President of Activities – Bob Rosecrans 630.244.4180

VP of Administration – Jeff Pleiter 630.832.7857

Treasurer – Bill Bragg 414-697.1779

please let me know. I would be willing to answer any questions you may have about the responsibilities of each of these positions. The positions will be voted on at our annual WCZC Birthday Party on November 18th.

Speaking of the birthday party, this is our way of celebrating our clubs anniversary. We have been around for over 31 years, being one of the oldest Z clubs in the country and we are going strong. I know that there are other clubs out there but I feel we are unique in what we have to offer our members. We have the backing of the ZCCA, Nissan North America as well as local sponsors. This year we hope to have a lot of new as well as familiar faces in attendance. It is a very informal get together among Z friends to celebrate the past year. If you have been waiting all year to do something, than this is it. It promises to be a fun filled event.

Last but not least, I cannot thank Jay Weinberger from Continental Nissan enough for once again hosting our club at the Autobahn Country Club for the Oktoberfest event. Jay has been one of our biggest supporters if not our biggest. He was there for us during the lean years when the 350Z was just a figment of our imagination. His loyalty to the Windy City Z Club means a lot to us but you know the best part of Jay is that you can just sit down and talk to him like he is your best friend. Thanks Jay!!

Hope to see you on the 18th.

Ty



Jeff Pleiter
V P Admin. & Membership
Hello fellow Z fans!

It was a cold day at Autobahn Country Club on Oct 22nd. The weather forecast called for rain and it seemed

like it would not be great day for the Continental Nissan Octoberfest event. I heard that 146 people (more or less) RSVPd for the event. I think that maybe half that number showed up. It sounds like many people looked out the window that morning and pulled the covers back over their head like the rest of my family did when they saw the cold gray rain. Of course that didn't stop us die-hards. It did rain lightly on my drive down to the caravan rendezvous point at Rt. 30, but when I arrived there to join others, the rain had stopped, and in fact would hold off for the rest of the day for the event. After driving down, we signed our waivers and got our wristbands from security. Continental had a tent set up, with sides to protect us from the weather. Coffee and hot chocolate were brought in as a supplement to the pop, and a heater was brought in to bring the temperature up. It was good to get some meet and great time with old friends and new people. I think Mike from the Indy Z Club drove the farthest distance from Indianapolis in his red 280Z. He was up to get a chance to drive on the track. The track was dry except for a few puddles here and there. There were no events scheduled, so the Country Club was able to open the whole track up, combining the north and south circuits into one long track. This was not a high performance driving event, and pace cars were deployed to keep people from going crazy on speeds. Still with the wide open track, and a relatively low number of cars it was a great time and you could get a real feel for the track. You could open it up pretty good when you had some space in front of you. You could get on full throttle for the straights, although you would still brake at a corner earlier than you would if you were really trying to make time. After too short a time, it was over, although it was nearly an hour from the time we left the tent to when we returned. Everyone seemed to rave about how fun it was. I think it was the warmest time as well. After the track touring, Continental served a great hot lunch. The number of dishes and the quality of food was great. No way could anyone have gone hungry. Things broke up fairly quickly after lunch due to the cold weather. Mike said next year he'll bring some more Indy people. I think that most everyone had

great time despite the weather. Thanks again to Jay Weinberger, his family, the staff of Continental Nissan, and the Autobahn Country Club for putting on such a great event, all at no cost to the Z community. I'll definitely be back next year. Hope to see you all at the November Birthday Party. Please join us.

Tech Tips
by Ken Jamin:

I just found a great replacement for the radio antenna drain hose grommet on my '78 Z. This is the grommet that permits the drain hose to pass through the bottom of the left rear fender well to the outside. Needless to say, the original was rotted beyond repair and, we all know what happens if we let water accumulate anywhere in these "rust magnets" disguised as first-generation "Z" cars.

I went to Pep Boys and purchased a "Help!" brand PCV Valve Grommet, part no. 42324 and a PCV connector, part no. 47045, which snaps tightly inside the grommet. The assembly fits the hole in the fender perfectly, and the center opening in the PCV connector is a watertight fit for the drain hose (use dishwashing detergent to lubricate the hose.)

I confirmed with the Illinois Secretary of State Police that it IS legal to display historical license plates representing the model year of the vehicle, IF the valid "Antique Vehicle" (AV) plates and registration issued by Illinois are carried in the vehicle and are available for inspection. However, he was unable to say whether an out-of-state, e.g., Wisconsin or Missouri, police officer would honor the Illinois statute if stopped. We don't know which other states have similar laws but it may be worth exploring for first generation Z owners who live in other states.

Car and Driver Magazine's Nissan 350Z Project
Car Ready for 2007 Grand-Am
Cup

Submitted by Bill Bragg

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (October 21, 2006) -- Can a championship winning club racer and America's best-selling enthusiast car magazine drive a bone-stock Nissan 350Z off the streets of Los Angeles and into the premier dealer-stock road racing series in the United States? Car and Driver magazine, in concert with San Francisco entrepreneur and amateur racer Richard Biscevic, intends to find out. The Car and Driver/ NoHotWire Ravelco project Nissan 350Z will

run the 2007 Grand-Am Cup season and learn what it takes for a group of racing amateurs and car magazine editors to compete in the nation's newest and hottest road racing series.

Two perfectly fine but non-saleable 350Zs belonging to Nissan Motor Corp. were diverted from their date with a junkyard crusher and shipped to Impact Engineering in San Jose to be transformed into Grand Am Cup race cars. Once Impact Engineering had the cars ready for painting, regular Grand-Am Cup racer Phil Malgren professionally painted them at his company, Collision Craft in San Pablo California. Impact Engineering is currently finishing the fabrication work and NoHotWire Racing is preparing to run the cars.

The Nissan 350Z has proven itself competitive with the Porsches, BMWs and Mustangs that run in the GS Class of Grand-Am Cup. The process of converting cars straight from the dealer showroom to racing is a slow and arduous one. The team has over 500 hours stripping the cars of their interiors, meticulously seam welding the body for strength, installing roll cages, rebuilding the engines, redesigning the fuel systems, installing new suspensions, and reinstalling the cars' engine management electronics. All of this and more must be done before the team has a chance to turn a wheel testing in the next few weeks. The cars are set to debut at the 25 Hours of Thunderhill enduro in Willows, California in December and the team will have just a few short months to apply what it learns before the 2007 Grand-Am Cup season opener in Daytona in January of 2007.

Although the factory Nissan ECU does an excellent job, its engine management functions are intertwined with its traction control system (which is not allowed in Grand-Am Cup), and it does not offer comprehensive data-logging, so the team has decided to run the full Bosch engine management system that will become part of the 2008 Grand-Am Cup specification.

"We've had a tremendous amount of support throughout the whole process," said Biscevic, of NoHotWire Racing, who also is a lead driver on the team. "Rather than build the car with another ECU, we decided to go straight to the Bosch system for its excellent integration with the stock engine and its extensive data-logging capabilities." Bosch has been helping NoHotWire Racing set up the new ECU, and Hasselgren Engineering has truly played a critical role in the program. The

Hasselgren-built engines will power the team's 350Zs, and Hasselgren's experience in working with and tuning the Bosch systems will hasten the team's learning curve.

"Nissan Motorsports, 350EVO, and Unitech/Playboy Racing have all been great at helping us learn what to pay attention to when building and running a 350Z," Biscevic said. "Tons of others, from AlpineStars to Cobra Seats and Jongbloed Racing have all helped shape the direction of the team and the car builds. Everyone's expertise is being put to use in the cars. We've had support from Sic-em Advertising who did the graphics for the car and certainly, from Car and Driver who will be providing coverage with regular updates on their website and in print with Car and Driver Magazine."

Christmas Gift Idea

By Linda Strain

Here is the latest 240Z Hot Wheels Car posted on the HotWheels Collectors.com website. There is also



a sneak peek at a 350Z on the website.

Bob Rosecrans Vice President for Activities



Are you looking for help, try the WCZC. I'm amazed at the talent pool of the membership. We have physicians, lawyers, engineers, realtors, accountants, business owners, educators, you name it and we probably have it.

I joined the club many years ago to broaden the base

of people I knew and it has been a fabulous ride. I can not say enough about the interesting people I have met over the years. Why do I bring this up? The WCZC is one of the most friendly groups of people you find anywhere. Yes, the car brought us together but it is only the start of so many other things. If you have not attended an event, the upcoming Birthday Party is a great place to start. Put it on your calendar and you will not regret it.

Ty and Jeff have already discussed the Octoberfest celebration sponsored by Jay Weinberger and Continental Nissan and all I say is you really missed the boat if you were not there. Jay is an extremely friendly, non-assuming gentleman and once you have met him you think you have known all your life. Jay does put on Octoberfest but does not fill it with commercial endorsements as a matter of fact it is just the opposite. That being said, (by me and not the WCZC) if you're in the market for a car no matter what make or model give Continental Motors a try. Marlene and I have purchased multiple cars from Continental Motors and the experience has always been excellent. On behalf of the WCZC, I want to give a heart felt thank you to Jay Weinberger, Joel Weinberger, and Mr. John Weinberger for the Octoberfest celebration and feast.

I'm in my thanking mode again, so I would like to thank everyone who put on an event during this past driving year. I'm not going to name you individually for fear I may forget someone. A BIG THANK YOU for making this year a tremendous success.

Our Birthday Party is Saturday, November 18th at Pilot Pete's Restaurant in Schaumburg. The facilities are first rate, the food excellent, and the atmosphere fun. A Birthday Party flier is included with the newsletter. I know people get busy with all sorts of activities and family commitments, so if you can not make the dinner portion, stop by the restaurant and join us later in the evening to finish off your Saturday.

I have agreed to run for VP of Activities again but I do not have a stangle hold on the position. If you're interested in running for the VP of Activities, contact Ty, as the elections are held at the Birthday Party. If I am the VP of Activities for next year, I plan to run the events in the same manner as I did this year. I will work with members who volunteer to host an event and make the events worthwhile for everyone.

Lastly, I want to thank all the members for their support of the WCZC, the friendship they displayed toward me and the club, it is the sole reason I have remained active in the WCZC. Z Ya Bob

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POP QUIZ QUESTION

I will buy a drink to the first person who attends the Birthday Party and successfully answers the question below. If the owner of the car comes forward, I'll also buy that person a drink if that person admits it's the car.

Who showed up at the Octoberfest celebration in a car I'll call Drivin' Dirty? This car is always immaculate and I've never even seen a speck of dirt on it over the years. Blackmail pictures are in my possession!!

Who's the owner?
See me at the Birthday Party, Bob Rosecrans