



Volume XXXI, October 2008

James Snyder, Editor

**THE PRESIDENT SEZ
Ty Ozgen, President**

I don't know about you but I really tend to relax when I go for a nice drive. I am not talking about the everyday drive to and from work but rather driving in a leisurely manner...just for fun. It is just man and his machine in perfect harmony. But when you do it with friends who also happen to be driving Z's it is that much better. I was able to do just this with our road trip last month to Lake Geneva. The initial date had to be cancelled due to the remnants of Hurricane Ike and boy what a weather system that was. It just rained and rained like it was never going to end. I kept hearing my sump pump go on and off which is better than not hearing it I guess. I felt bad canceling the trip, kind of like Santa canceling Christmas in the Rudolph cartoon but we had no choice. The roads were flooded around here and in Wisconsin from what I heard. We did reschedule it for the following weekend and what a great day that turned out to be. My Z was ready... t-tops off of course. This particular trip I went with my 1983 280ZXT 2+2. It started out a little foggy at first but then the sun was shining the rest of the day. We made our way to the Lake Geneva area, had a great lunch among friends before getting on a boat for an Ice Cream Social trip on Lake Geneva. The return trip was just as nice. The only casualty my car suffered was that my headliner started to come down shortly before I got home, probably from all the wind turbulence in the cabin. Oh well, what are you going to do? It's a 25 year old car but I had already replaced it once several years ago. I know for a fact that they are no longer available from Nissan. Can you say spray glue?



The next trip was kind of an impromptu trip. I was looking at the long range weather forecast and saw that the upcoming Sunday was to be picture perfect day. What an opportunity to get the Z out again during the fall for a nice drive, checking out the fall colors, this time in my 1990 300ZXTT...t-tops off for half the trip. We caravanned to the Rockford area and then headed south along Rt. 2 toward Dixon along the Rock River. What a pretty drive that was with the sun glistening off

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the river with trees in the background. I can see us doing that again one day but making it a longer trip perhaps with a picnic along the river...maybe next year. At Dixon, we all kind of scattered, some taking the highway home and some taking the country roads but all in all a great day for a drive, probably the nicest Sunday until next year.

I must share with you a "near purchase" I made a few weeks ago. I like to frequent EBay to check what Z's are available and to see what they are going for. I happened to come across a 2006 350Z Touring Roadster with 6k miles listed with NO RESERVE. I looked at it closely, studied each of the pictures and also checked the CARFAX. It looked clean. I thought that if it could be had for a great price, why not go for it. As most of you know I have had my eye on a roadster as my next Z but just haven't taken that step. I confided in my boss (aka the wife) and got the green light. I put it on my watch list and followed it though the days it was listed. I had thought to bid on it at the last day of the auction so I waited but something odd happened. The bidding ended 3 days earlier than the initial intended date without me even getting a chance to bid. When I checked to see what happened, the seller I guess shorted the bidding time and the winning bidder got himself an essentially new roadster for just over \$19k. What a steal! I was very disappointed. What a shame I did not even put down some bid. It could have been mine. Oh well, I did not have room in the garage anyway.

I know it is late notice however our annual WCZC Birthday Party is set for Saturday, November 8th. It will be held at Finley's Grill Room in Downers Grove. It is very easy to get to. Get off on Butterfield Rd. from I-355 going east and almost immediately you will turn right onto Finley Rd. It is a quarter mile down on the left side with ample parking. Please see the flier for more information. It promises to be fun with good food

and spirits, good friends etc. We will have speeches from the officers, elections, prizes and my famous quiz. The cost is \$22 for WCZC members and their guest and \$35 for nonmembers. Please send me your reservation ASAP I need a head count by November 5th. The club will be subsidizing a good portion of the food bill to offset the cost so you have no reason to not go.

- Ty

Jeff Pleiter, V.P. Admin. & Membership



The Convention was held in Cleveland this year and hosted by ZACO. WCZC attendees this year were myself and Dave Johnson. While Dave spent the entire week there, I limited myself to three days. Getting up at 6:30 am Monday, I was on the road in the Nismo headed east by 7:30. Traffic was a breeze all the way out to Cleveland. This was the longest drive so far for the Nismo, and the car felt great, super solid and planted on the roadway. I kept ahead of the rain and maintained a steady 5-10 mph over the limit. I arrived about 3 pm eastern, in time for the Suds-n-shine cleanup, and after going through and getting my goodie bag, lanyard, etc from registration, I washed the bugs and dust off the Z. Dave was already there, as well as other familiar faces from past conventions. There were plenty of cool Zs around and I shot some pictures before heading into the opening reception. The head of Nismo was in attendance, and they Skyped in Mr. K over the internet for a hello and welcome. The Judged and People's choice followed on Tuesday at the County Fairgrounds. It had rained overnight, and would do so on and off for the rest of the day, so I was glad they had arranged for the judged show to be in the enclosed barns. I heard that 40 cars from the southeast did not make it because of the fuel shortages there. I spent the evening hanging out with the Ontario Zed Club, a great group that I met at previous conventions, and got to know better this year. Finally saw Mad Mike that evening, he had been down and out with some sort of virus for a couple of days. At the car show, they realized in the middle of the afternoon, that Mike's car had not been put in the show, so at the last minute there was a mad dash with a crew of half a dozen people cleaning it and readying it for judging. Mike had a 350Z with a one off body kit provided by Nismo. I said had, because I heard that on the way back to Texas, a drunk driver hit Mike and his wife and totaled the Z. I heard his wife had some broken ribs, and they both are going to be OK, but not much more than that. Maybe Ty has heard more. Wednesday was the Mid Ohio Sports Car Course track day, but I planned on going home that day, so I went to

the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame instead. It was a great place to go if you are a fan. Being the middle of the week, I was able to find a parking space in the middle of the lot away from everyone else to make sure door dings were not added to the Z. In the middle of the week, while school was in session, is a great time to go. The place was almost empty, so there was no waiting for the films, and I could wander around and see everything without crowds. After spending several hours, it was time to head back to Chicago. Once again, traffic was not a problem and I cruised home uneventfully. Dave Johnson picked up a first place trophy for Nissan Modified category, and I picked up a second place for 350Z stock. There should be a few photos of the convention, and of the Rock River cruise in the newsletter, but I plan to have all my photos available for the Birthday Party.

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Latest word on the 370Z is that Nissan will release photos on October 29, prior to unveiling the car at the L.A. Auto Show in November. The 370Z forum on my350z.com has some lightly disguised spy photos and video which you may want to check out.

- Jeff

### Dave Johnson Jr., V.P. Activities

HELLO fellow Z owners!

Well its the end of the year, so you know what that means...SNOW.. Actually before the snow flies (I hope) we will have our annual Birthday party on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, see Ty's article & flyer for more info. I hope everyone tries to show up this year so I don't get all the door prizes. The year of activities was plentiful all over Chicagoland and the rest of the country. The convention in Cleveland Ohio at the end of September was a great convention and everyone that missed it missed an awesome time. We had only 3 cars: my new toy 1970 240z #1382 (most likely will have it at the B-Day party if it doesn't rain/snow), of course my 1976 280z 2+2 and Jeff P's Nismo 001 and thats it...quite sad when the convention was 5 hours away, it was probably due to the time of the year. On kind of a sad note "Mad" Mike Taylor was involved in a crash with a drunk driver while driving home from the convention in Tennessee that banged he and his wife up a bit and the 2nd 350z that Mike has owned was totalled. They are expected to make a full recovery, and rumor has it that Mike is replacing the car with a new 370z.

I have been very busy this year with my company; its been quite a rollercoaster. Due to my company expanding into different markets I will be resigning from VP of Activities for 2009, I too busy so something needs to go (no my Z's are not for sale). I will still

attend activities and already reserved my room for the convention in San Antonio Tx for 2009. I will still be around to help anyone with the Z needs and wants. I had fun this year especially with the Midwest Z Heritage fest where we had more than 70 cars attend, we had fun in the sun and rain. The 2009 Midwest Z Heritage Fest will be in Brown County, IN again. The gas prices and the economy tried to put a damper on our fun times this year, minimizing the participation of the members here to the core of the Windy City Z Club. I say thanks to all of you for a fun Z year and hope that next year is even more fun!

Thanks again, Dave



## MART

For Sale: 1991 300ZX NA, 5 sp, 145k miles, great condition. JWT pop charger, aluminum pulley, Stillen headers, aluminum driveshaft, JWT performance chip, lightweight flywheel, new leather interior, Brembo rotors, Hawk pads, 17 inch BBS type wheels, Z rated tires (recent) T-tops, no rust. Well taken care of car. \$7500 firm. Ken (847) 669-1874.

\*Email [wczc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wczc.editor@gmail.com) to post in Z Mart\*



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## Windy City Z Upcoming Events Calendar

| Date & Event                 | Venue                         | Contact & Info                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 8 – WCZC Birthday party | Finley's Grill, Downers Grove | \$22 for members & 1 guest \$35 for non-members<br>RSVP asap (by Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> ) to Ty Ozgen |

*~ Lake Geneva Trip ~ Sept 21, 2008 ~*



Photos supplied by  
James Snyder

~ 21<sup>st</sup> International ZCCA Convention ~  
~ Sept 28 - Oct 3, 2008 ~



Photos supplied by  
Jeff Pleiter

~ Rock River Cruise ~ Oct 12, 2008 ~



# Windy City Z Sponsors Page

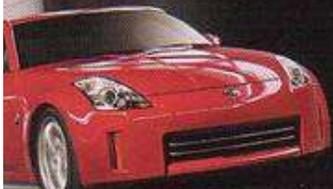
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