



**THE PRESIDENT SEZ  
Ty Ozgen, President**



It is amazing what a good vacation can do to a person's mood, especially when it involves Z cars. As most of you know I was fortunate to be able to go to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Z Car Convention that was held in Nashville. I was Zless but had a great time nevertheless. The family and I left 4 days prior in a rented 2010 Dodge Caravan. It did not start out very well that morning though. If you remember, that Friday night we had some bad storms rumble through the area. We were to leave by 10AM Saturday but unfortunately we had a delay. My daughter came running up about 8AM that morning, "Daddy, daddy, there's beeping noise coming from the basement". I ran downstairs and found that the backup sump pump alarm was activated and that the main pump had failed. Great. Now what? I can't just leave it like that. So I was off to Home Depot, got the new pump, put it in and off we went by 11 AM. All week long I was wondering how the pump was working but fortunately everything was fine when we got home.

We drove through to Memphis that day...our first stop. No Z stuff here, just Elvis. We toured Graceland the next day and I have to admit, it was quite moving. What a great talent, met by an early death at the age of 42. If you have never been there, I would recommend it. Just to see what his house was like, his gold records, outfits, cars, airplanes and other memorabilia was fascinating.

Then we were off to Chattanooga, stop number two. There we rode up the Incline Railway, toured Lookout Mountain and Ruby Falls. I was just a kid the last I saw these attractions so now it was my turn to show them to my family.

Stop number three, Gatlinburg. This was our first time there and we were pleasantly surprised. Our hotel was nestled right next to the Smoky Mountains and the view was tremendous. This is really a great tourist destination for the whole family with plenty of

**Windy City Z Club Officers**  
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restaurants and places of interest. This is one place I would like to return with or without a Z.

Stop number four.....Nashville!!! The main event! The Z gathering of all Z gatherings. All the above destinations were just a ploy for me to get to Nashville. Heh heh!! As we got off the highway, you could see the Nissan Headquarters with the hotel essentially next door. There were Z's everywhere!!!! What a great thing. There were banners welcoming the guests as well as 2 370Z's as well as a 240Z inside the main entrance of the hotel. We checked in and then my first responsibility was to hang our WCZC banner to show the Z world that we had arrived. I was proud to be there representing our club with our other members. From my understanding, there were over 600 people registered for the convention, a record number of Z fans.

Even though I was without a Z, I still had a great time. Half the fun of attending these events is just hanging out in the parking lot with other people. People were out late just looking around, washing their Z's, working on the detailing or even fixing a few mechanical problems. You can learn a lot just by talking to people about these cars. For example, prior to our trip I was having problems taking out the alternator from my '83 280ZX Turbo. I had it all disconnected but just could not maneuver it out of the engine bay. I probably spent a half hour just trying different angles to get it out from the bottom to no avail. I even have a Service Manual and it gives no clue. I looked on line and noted other people having similar issues but no clear answers. I told myself I would deal with it when I return. As I was walking around the hotel parking lot I noted a red '83 turbo with its hood up with its owner working on it. I struck up a conversation and it just so happened that he was replacing his alternator. BINGO!! He immediately

became my next best friend. I told him of my dilemma and he demonstrated how to angle it around the sway bar and presto, it was out. I could hardly wait to get home to try it.

I did feel bad for the Z's and their owners as throughout the week there was intermittent rain, or should I say downpours. It wasn't your average rain though as Ted and Barb Targonski can attest to. As the rain dried on the cars, it left a stain on the paint which could not be removed no matter how they tried. Thanks to Jeff Pleiter, he just happened to have some Mequiers Scratch remover which did the trick. What I wondered was how they traveled to Nashville in their '72 240Z with vinyl seats and no AC in the first place. Doesn't it get hot? I don't blame them though. They are very proud of their 240Z and wanted to show it off. That's what it's all about!! This is the part that I could not partake in. I wish my Z's were here as well so I could show them off. Anyway, the night before the show, it seemed like everyone was outside giving their Z's the last bit of detailing but there was one problem. About 4:30 the next morning, I was awakened to thunder, looked out and it was like a monsoon. My heart really felt bad for those clean Z's, just a few hours prior to the show. Fortunately everything did dry out by showtime.

The car show was probably the nicest collection of Z's that I have ever seen. It was held on the front lawn of the Nissan headquarters. They limited the judged cars to 125 but there were plenty more just on display. It was great. Anything and everything was there when it came to Z's. See our website for some great pictures. Do you remember the article a few months back in Nissan Sport Magazine about finding the earliest Z sold in the country? That 240Z, serial number 00013 was there!! Nissan even took out their collection of Z's and other special historic vehicles like old sedans, trucks and race cars. For example, they had a 1980 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 280ZX like mine with 14 miles on it, a 1984 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 300ZX with 8992 miles and one of the last few 1996 300ZX's to be brought into the USA with 173 miles. Famous Z car racers John Morton and Peter Brock were there signing autographs as well as My Classic Car personality Dennis Gage. Like I said, the Z gathering of all Z gatherings. The only problem ...it was hot and humid but no rain. Nissan even opened their headquarters for people to get out of the heat and get lunch at their restaurant. They had a store inside for Nissan/Z shirts, etc at terrific prices. Thanks Nissan.

My other favorite part was the tour of the assembly plant in Smyrna where they build the Maxima, Altima, Frontier and Titan's. From rolls of sheet metal on one

side to gleaming new Nissan products on the other side, it was a great tour. The place was sparkling clean for as much stuff that goes on there and everything was ergonomically correct to minimize injury. Too bad there were no ergonomics as I struggled with my alternator, reaching into the engine bay, sweat pouring down, fingers getting crushed and dirty and my back complaining of leaning over too much.

The closing banquet wrapped things up with speeches from John Morton and Peter Brock as well as Mr. K. via skype from Japan. Trophies were presented as well with several WCZC members picking up several trophies (see Jeff's article). Congratulations!!

All in all, it was a great trip full of great memories. Speaking of memories, I will be setting events up for September so check your emails. Oh yeah, as far as my alternator, I replaced it last weekend...piece of cake.

~ Ty

**Jeff Pleiter**  
**V.P. Admin. & Membership**



2010 International Z car Convention

Windy City Z Club attendees included myself, Ty and his family, new members Mike and Paula Bennett from Wisconsin (nice restored 1973 brown 240Z), Randy and his wife Joey Bentley from Jacksonville, IL (1980 black/gold 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) who joined immediately after the convention, Dave Johnson, Andy Kyrk, and the WCZC Indiana contingent of the Keenes, Kushes, Targonskis, Jarrells, and the Kings.

The convention was a good time in Nashville, TN. The WCZC people left on different days, different times, and by different routes, so we never put a caravan together. Some of us kept in touch by phone instead on the way down. I took I-57 down and I-65 back and never had any trouble with traffic or construction. There were a couple of rain showers on the way done, and during the days in Nashville, plus it was beastly hot and humid. There were a record number of attendees (722+) and cars. The host hotel sold out and so did a secondary hotel added later. A number of the events also sold out. Next year is at Savannah, Georgia. So if you plan to go, sign up early.

The convention was not hosted by a local club, but was arranged by the ZCCA officers remotely. The high attendance and remote set-up led to the only low point of the convention - the on-site registration process. There were not enough stations and staff to quickly process the attendees. In addition, pre-registered people and on-site registration had to go through the same, single line. I spent an hour in line to get to the sign in and received only the wristband for

the welcome reception, then after the reception had to stand in line for another hour for the full registration. Come on people, you need to set up separate lines for pre-registered people and on-site registration. That is one of the reasons we pre-register! Hopefully that is a lesson learned. Fortunately everyone that I saw was cordial and patient, including the staff, volunteers, and attendees. They did respond the best they could to get everyone the band for the opening reception.

It was the best opening reception that I have been to, the food was great leaving little need for the chili and margaritas at the Texas Chili Party following the reception. As always it was good to see and hear from Mr. K at the opening reception and closing banquet. He is as spry as ever.

I spent the following morning cleaning the dirt and bugs from the Nismo, then took the bus into Nashville for the afternoon, where I walked around visiting the downtown area with Steve from the New England Z Club. The group dinner at the Wildhorse Saloon that evening was good – I bet that place really hops on a Friday or Saturday night. One of the highlights for me was the tour of the Nissan assembly plant Friday morning. I had never been to an auto assembly plant before, and I was impressed by the ability of them to put so many different vehicles together on just two lines. Vehicles produced there include the Altima, Maxima, Pathfinder and Frontier. It was going at about half capacity, but at full bore can produce a car every 28 seconds. The car show on Saturday was very cool or very hot, depending on if you were talking about the cars or the weather. Fortunately Nissan opened up their headquarters and cafeteria so you could go in and cool off, get something to drink and eat. They took a number of group photos at the beginning of the show so we'll be showing up in promotional or advertising

materials at some point. There were hundreds of very cool Zs, plus other Nissan vehicles. Probably the biggest gathering of very top notch and rare Z cars. Windy City Z Club members took home a total of eight trophies. See the list below.

I did not make any of the track events as most took place on Sunday, while I was on the way home. See the photos in this newsletter and on the website for a sampling.

Check out the September Road and Track for a comparison test between a BRE 240Z re-creation and the modern 370Z BRE tribute car, and for the long term test results of their 370Z touring.

ZCCA Judged Car Show Results – WCZC

Winners:

- 1st Gen 280Z Nissan Modified – Second Place, David Johnson
- 2nd Gen 280ZX Stock – First Place, Randy Bentley
- 5th Gen 350Z Stock - First Place, Jeff Pleiter
- 5th Gen 350Z Street Modified – Second Place, Carl Kush

- 6<sup>th</sup> Gen 370Z Stock – First Place, David Jarrell
- Best of Show – David Jarrell

Peoples Choice Show Results – WCZC Winners:

- 1st Generation – Third Place, Andy Kyrk
- 2nd Generation – First Place, Randy Bentley

~ Jeff



**MARKET**

Looking for that Z or part? Have one for sale? Email [wczc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wczc.editor@gmail.com) to post in Z Market

*Windy City Z Upcoming Events Calendar*

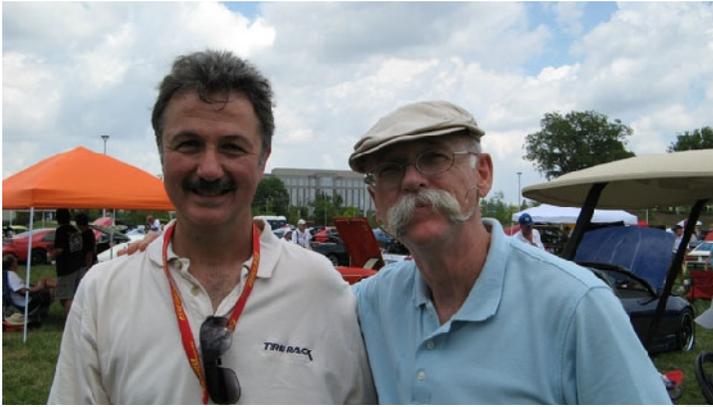
Date & Event	Venue	Contact & Info
Aug 22 – Fair Oaks Farm, IN	<a href="#">Fair Oaks Farms</a> email Ty if you plan on going!	<a href="mailto:tmo212@aol.com">tmo212@aol.com</a>
Sept – TBD	TBD	<a href="mailto:tmo212@aol.com">tmo212@aol.com</a>
Oct 22-24 – Fall Colors of Indiana	Indiana	<a href="mailto:bobbienick@comcast.net">bobbienick@comcast.net</a>
Nov 6 – WCZC Birthday Party	Seven Bridges GC, Woodridge	<a href="mailto:tmo212@aol.com">tmo212@aol.com</a>

*23<sup>rd</sup> International Z  
Convention,  
Nashville TN  
July 28- Aug 1, 2010*

Photos by Carl Kush, Jeff Pleiter & Ty Ozgen







*Myers Woods Picnic*

*Darien IL  
August 8  
2010*





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***\$34,685***

***NEW 2010 NISSAN 370Z***

***Brilliant Silver / Black***

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***\$39,600***

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