



Volume XXXVII, Jan/Feb 2014

James Snyder, Editor

**THE PRESIDENT SEZ
Ty Ozgen, President**



Are you all ready for spring? I know I am. I am writing this as it is minus 10 degrees outside with this second round of the now famous term “Polar Vortex”. This is getting old now. My furnace is getting a good workout and so far up to the challenge. Also no frozen pipes...yet. What a mess that potentially could be but I try to be proactive by keeping all the cabinet drawers open etc to keep the pipes warm. Last but not least my winter daily driver Accord is starting after sitting outside while I am at work. It does moan a bit when I first start it but otherwise ok. How about you? Are you faring well?

We had a good turnout at our ZGM earlier in the month, probably because we all have cabin fever. We had a good club meeting as well as catch up with friends we have not seen since the Birthday Party. We are setting up our activities for the upcoming year and fortunately Jeff has decided to stay as our Vice President of Activities. This is probably the most time consuming position of the club, not like the cushy Presidents role, sitting in his chair, feet on the table, checking his e-mail. When you really think about it, we all need to contribute to make this club successful. In 2015, we are going to be the host for the Midwest Z Heritagefest Show. It's never early to start looking for a host hotel, sponsors etc.

I want to thank everyone who made it out for the “Presidents Night Out” dinner at Reza’s Persian Restaurant. The day was quite messy with a lot of snow coming down but I would say just about an hour before dinner, it’s like someone turned off a switch and the snow stopped and clouds separated leaving a clear but cold sky. Wow! Thanks. We all sat around a table they set up for us and ate to our hearts content. From shish kebobs, to salmon, scallops, rice, veggies, and of course desert and tea. I was full! We had a lot of fun in a very casual atmosphere. The club even picked up some of the tab.

Windy City Z Club Officers

President – Ty Ozgen 630.910.3616
VP of Activities – Jeff Pleiter 630.832.7857
VP of Administration – Pat Sylvester 847.895.6939
Secretary/Membership – Sue Chan 630.379.6917
Treasurer – Bill Bragg 262.697.1779
Newsletter – James Snyder wczc.editor@gmail.com
Webmeister – Glenn Johnson 630.363.2081

Our next outing is the Chicago Auto Show. This has been set for Monday, February 10. We graciously received free tickets from Jay Weinberger of Continental Nissan. This has been an annual tradition for several years and Jay’s generosity is truly appreciated. The tickets are limited so please email me at tmo212@aol.com if you want one. They are limited to 2 tickets per members. As usual, we will meet by the Starbucks near the entrance to the cars. Rumor has it the parking is cheaper after 6PM so let’s make 6:15 PM the time to meet. The tickets will be dispersed then. I can hardly wait!



Last but not least, I have 3 2014 WCZC calendars left. They are \$15 each but if you want it mailed to you, the cost is \$20. Hurry up before they are all gone. See you at the Auto Show.

~ Ty



Jeff Pleiter, V.P of Activities

So what’s happening with Nissan and the Z Car? We were supposed to have heard some details now about the next

generation Z, at least that is what seemed to come out of what Nissan told the people at the last International Z Convention. It seems like some of the original magic from Carlos Ghosn seems to have worn off at Nissan. The latest Nissan Versa and Sentra was universally panned by the car community as being a step backward. The new Rogue has been reviewed as mediocre, with the CVT transmission hit especially hard by the critics. However, the Altima is both a critical and sales hit and the new Note and Pathfinder have received good reviews. The latest Maxima had OK reviews, but is not really the 4 door sports car of yore.

The new SSC concept (future Maxima) looks pretty good if having a bit of a busy exterior design, especially the “V-motion graphic grill”. Hope that stays off the new Z. Maybe the Maxima will be handsome when it arrives. October Motor Trend reported sources say Andy Palmer Executive VP of Nissan was made personally responsible for the driving dynamics of new Nissan cars and has already sent a couple of cars back to the development teams for more work. Maybe this bodes good news for the Z. On the other hand, the latest (March) Motor Trend suggested that Nissan may be pursuing the Blade Glide and IDx concpets that have been doing the auto show rounds, and if both come to fruition it could spell the death of the 370Z. Generally I like the IDX in general proportion and idea, but the concepts currently look a little too much like snap together plastic model kits. The Blade Glider concept looks a little too radical to make it production, so I am hopeful the new Z is really all new and neither dead nor a minor evolution of the 370Z.

So what is up with the new Z? Not much news out there except it is to be smaller and lighter. After the Subaru BRZ and Toyota companion car came out, I wouldn’t be surprised if the new Z had to go back to the drawing board, as these would be serious competitors for people shopping a sports car. The new Mustang and other pony cars are also competitors. So Nissan, in the opinion of this one Z enthusiast, you need to step up your game in general, and for the Z in particular. Need something with a clean design, light and fast. You need to match or better 370Z performance, and should leave plenty of robust design in the engine for tuners. Mike Piasowski – Director of Exterior Design for the next Ford Mustang said that part of the process in designing the next generation

Mustang was to take individual details off the concept one at a time and see if it was needed. “If it still looked like a Mustang, we kept it off” he said. Sounds like a good philosophy to me for design of the next generation Z.

EVENTS Calendar:

- February 10: Chicago Auto Show. Contact Ty to RSVP and reserve your tickets.
- March 2, April 6: WCZC General Mtg - Fuddruckers
- May 18 or 19 tentative: Spring Fling
- June 13-15: Midwest Z Heritage Fest – Aurora Ohio
- July TBD: Cruisin’ Z USA
- August 5-9: International Z car Convention San Diego, California
- September TBD: Z’s in the Wood Picnic With Indy Z car Club
- Fall Fling date TBD. Rescheduled Poker Run put together by Carl Kush.

Other Possible Events:

- Trip to Road America, July 20
- Join Central Z Enthusiasts for Car Show in Springfield, IL

As always, we are open to event ideas. Email me at villazx10@comcast.net.

~ Jeff

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Nissan News

Nissan had a good year in 2013 with 1,131,965 sales, up 10.8% from 2012 whereas Infiniti was down 2.9% to 116,455 sales. Leading the way was the Altima with 320,723 units sold, up 5.9%. The Z did not fare as well with 6,561 sales, down 10.6% from 7338 sales. The GTR actually did better this past year with 1,236 sales, up 4%. Other notable figures include the electric Leaf with sales totaling 22,610, up 130%!! The Leaf has now sold over 100,000 globally, with the 100,000th sale in the United Kingdom. This makes it the best selling electric vehicle in history with a market share of 45%. Unfortunately the Cube was down the most with 5,461 sales, down 28.8% (sorry Allie).

Nissan will attempt to get its 3rd victory at the Rolex 24 at Daytona in February. Nissan was the first Japanese manufacturer to win the overall coveted race in 1992. They had taken the lead on the second lap of the race and never looked back. The distance record for the Nissan team that year of 2,712,720 miles (762

laps) still holds today. Two years later they won it again with a margin of victory of 24 laps.



The Nissan Sport Sedan Concept made its debut at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The design concepts may be adapted into future Nissan models. This concept reveals the new “V-Motion” front end that flows from the front grill up through the hood. It is powered by a 300+ hp 3.5litre V-6 with a sport tuned Xtronic CVT transmission. Autoweek has already named it the Best Concept at this Auto Show. Lets see if it will make it to Chicago.

Last but not least, Nissan celebrated 80 years of building cars on December 26th 2013. They had a parade of over 100 Nissan and Datsun heritage cars on the streets of Yokohama, Japan commemorating the event. Happy Birthday Nissan!

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WCZC club directory

The Windy City Z Club is contemplating putting together a directory in PDF form with all the members’ names. It may contain other information such as your address, phone or email address, and possibly photos you submit. This will only be available to members. At the present time, it is available only to the officers. If you are not interested in having your name on the list, please let us know.

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If you have photos, articles or Nissan news of interest that you'd like to contribute to the WCZC newsletter, please submit them to wczc.editor@gmail.com by the 10th of the month.

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WCZC patch - \$3/ea

License plate frames - \$3/ea or \$5/pair

WCZC polo shirt - \$30, specify size

Contact Ty at tmo212@aol.com to purchase

Windy City Z 2014 Events Calendar

Date & Event	Venue	Contact Info
Feb 10 – Chicago Auto Show	McCormick, Chicago	
March 2 – Z General Meeting	Fuddruckers in Downers Grove	Ty Ozgen - tmo212@aol.com
April 6 – Z General Meeting	Fuddruckers in Downers Grove	Ty Ozgen - tmo212@aol.com
May 18 or 19 (?) Spring Fling	TBD	Jeff Pleiter - villazx10@comcast.net
June 13-15 – Midwest Z Heritagefest	Aurora, Ohio	
July TBD – Cruzin' Z Show	TBD	
August 5-9 – Int'l Z Convention	San Diego, California	
Sept TBD – Z's in the Woods Picnic	With Indy Z Car Club	
TBD – Fall Fling/Poker Run		Carl Kush



SPONSORS

Windy City Z Club has many sponsors. Most Nissan dealers will provide a discount when asked. We recognize the following sponsors for providing constant support to the club, our members & the National Z Community.

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- Gerald Nissan, Naperville, IL, 630-355-3337

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- Jim Wolf Technology, CA, 619-442-0680
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The Windy City Z Club would like to thank all our sponsors for their support of the club. Please let us know if you think your company should be on this list.

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