

WCZC News

Newsletter of the Windy City Z Club

Volume XLII, Issue No. 10

Editor: Jim Koolish

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wczc.news@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

January

General Meeting

February

Auto Show

February

General Meeting

March

General Meeting

See full schedule on page 5 for more details

The President Sees

Jeff Pleiter, President



November brought our annual **WCZC Birthday party**. It has been 43 years since a group of local Z enthusiast banded together in 1975 and formed a club dedicated to our favorite car. Initially focused on autocross, over the years' new members brought additional interests such as cars shows, driving tours, tech sessions, cruise nights, have been added to our list of events. The number of club members has waxed and waned over the years, but the passion of the members for their cars, as well as the easy camaraderie and friendship between members remain steady. I have been a member of a couple of other car clubs in the past and I have found this club to be the friendliest and most inclusive.

Glen Prairie Restaurant in Glen Ellyn was the host venue for the WCZC party this year. They specialize in locally sourced food. With 39 people we were almost at the room's capacity. Dinner included salad, bread and a choice of 6 possible entrees. The consensus seemed to be that all the menu choices were delicious. Dessert was the traditional birthday cake. Officer reports followed dinner - recapping the state of our membership Sue Chan reported it holding steady with new members generally finding us on the internet. Bill Bragg stated the treasury is good with an increase this year over last. The website by Glenn Johnson and newsletter by Jim Koolish continue to be excellent. Both are always open to contributions written by the members. Our VP of Administration was not able to attend due to a bout of food poisoning, but was able to drop off various giveaways. Walt Kreitling gave a recap of the past events. All the persons filling officer and other positions indicated that they were interested in continuing next year, with the exception of Walt who indicated that he was not able to continue as VP of Activities due

Continued on page 3

Officers

President

Jeff Pleiter: 630.832.7857

VP of Activities

VP of Administration

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Secretary/Membership

Sue Chan: wczcmembership@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bill Bragg: 262.697.1779

Webmaster

Glenn Johnson: 630.363.2081

Newsletter

Jim Koolish: 847.269.3175



Some guy with the Gold Medallion Trophy

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

Activities

Walt Kreitling, Retiring VP of Activities



Greetings Fellow Z-ites

When last we talked, I made reference to Summer being over. Given the deluge of snow early this month and the date (12/9) it is safe to say that Winter is here. Being house bound for October and a bit of November I completely missed Autumn. So from my perspective, the weather went from sunny and pleasant on October 2, to winter some time in November. This completely eliminated any enjoyable Autumn drives in my Z, which I really missed because I always try to get as many miles as possible before the "Salt Season" sets in and the Z begins hibernation. Fortunately, today the roads were clear and the weather good so I did get out for a while and ran a few errands. Tomorrow is also predicted to be another good day so all is not lost.

There were two major events since the last Newsletter; Zcon in Atlanta, Ga in October, and the 43rd WCZC Birthday Part, on November 3rd at Glen Prairie in Glen Ellyn. Jeff will give you the lowdown on the Zcon event in the President Sez column (Spoiler alert! Jeff's 12 year old NISMO Z won the National Gold Medallion Award at Zcon. Kudos and well deserved.)

As far as the Birthday Party is concerned, I am pleased to say that I was able to attend, new metallic knee and all (I am now a Bimetallic Biped and grateful that I am not a centipede) and was able to participate in all the festivities. Attendance was great, almost 40 members present, and there was also very good participation from sponsors, with a wide variety of "goodies" available for the raffle. Yours truly scored a Titan/trailer/240 Z 1/64th scale model set, which is currently residing amongst other Nissan miniatures in my collection.

Of course a Birthday Party is not complete without food and drink and Glen Prairie met the challenge admirably. There was also a birthday cake complete with WCZC Logo and appropriate confectionary decorations...very tasty as well. Check out the pictures of celebrants, raffle prizes and cake on the WCZC web site and in this newsletter.

There was naturally business to attend to as well. As is the custom, the WCZC birthday party is also when the renowned *Broke Z Award* is presented to the member who has received the least amount of good luck, automatically speaking, during the year past. It was presented by our former President, Ty Ozgen, with all the dignity and solemnity befitting the award. This year's recipient was Carl Kush from the Indiana delegation. Carl had the mis-

fortune of having the stone shield (bra) on his 350Z Cabrio come loose, at one corner and abrade the paint on the way to the Midwest Z Heritage event in Nashville, IN. It must be pointed out that Carl was not completely bereft of good fortune. Since his car was in otherwise exemplary condition he still won first place in his class at the car show. Quality prevails.

Lastly, there was the election of Club officers for 2019. At the final tally all current officers remain in position (though each offered to defer if there were any members who were interested in participating - none were) with one exception. That being yours truly. I volunteered last year, at the Birthday Party, because the VP of Activities position was vacant. Jeff asked for a volunteer from the membership and there was none. Activities are a significant part of a Club's being. Despite being active in other organizations, I felt someone should do it and so I said Okay. I will be the first to admit it is a somewhat demanding position but I figured for a year it could be done. It was a very interesting year, with both high points and low points. Most of the low points occurred in spring and were due to a very wet stormy spring that required cancelling events. We tried some new meeting locations, participated in a few local car shows at the request of members, had a couple of very interesting tours to the Laurent House and the Dekalb County Barn Tour. On several occasions, other members stepped in and hosted events that I could not attend. My thanks to Glen Johnson for hosting the track events, Keith Keca for doing the background work in Plano, and Ty Ozgen for covering the events in October.

Unfortunately, if I continue to be VP of Activities, there are likely to be more absences in 2019 because of continuing existing demands on my time plus a new project that has been looming for some time. I have another sports car, a 1974 MGB which I have owned for 44 years. Twenty-six of those years it has been dormant, struck down by the loss of significant amounts of smoke from the Lucas electrical system. It is currently under mechanical restoration and will be completed by spring 2019. I am looking forward to enjoying it as much as I enjoy my Z. This will obviously occupy more time.

I was hoping that this year someone else would step up and take the reins. Not so. I have every intention to continue participating in the WCZC as I enjoy the club and the people in it. I have offered to help, on a part time basis, and I have also suggested that perhaps this is a task that may require a committee rather than a single person. One way or the other there will be activities.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year, Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

The President Sez

Continued from page 1

to multiple other commitments in 2019. No one person stepped forward to be VP of activities, so the position is open for anyone who would like to step forward to lead. In the meantime, a number of people have indicated that they would take on and lead at least a few activities. We may take a loose group of volunteers and create a committee to organize the activities for 2019.

The Broken Z award went to Carl Kush this year for an unfortunate incident when the car bra protecting the front of his 350Z roadster came loose on the way to the Midwest Z Heritage Fest, then flapped around and broke his windshield, and also some dents in various panels.

The raffle giveaways followed. Thanks to our following Birthday party give-away donors. If I missed anyone or anything in the following list, it was not intentional:

Windy City Z club - \$100, 50, and \$25 gift certificates,
Tire Rack - \$50 gift certificate, t-shirt, duffle bag, Tire Rack banner, Work gloves, 5 hats, water bottle, mug, 2 flashlights, Kumho shirt

Z Car Depot - \$75 gift certificate, Datsun flag, Z beer stein, metal logo

Motorsport Auto - 4 \$25 gift certificates

Bennett Coachworks - 6 t-shirts

Hagerty Insurance - 15 "shift" hats, 16 oz tumblers, 3 trunk organizers, Hagerty magazines

McGrath Nissan (re-up as sponsor) - 3 bags with t-shirts and Key chains.

Jim Wolf Technology - Oil pan Spacer for VQ35/VQ37
Continental Nissan - 2 WeatherTech floor mat care kits, 5 Titan Truck/trailer w/ 240Z diecasts

ZCCA - misc. ZCCA and ZCON merchandise including mugs, posters, pins, stickers

Chris Wunderle (non-member-joined us for dinner)- various 280Z parts

Members - various Z and non-z related items including 280ZX bra, books, Z clock, earrings skin care/ perfumes, posters, car care items.

ZCON 2018 in Atlanta. WCZC attendees at the convention included my wife and I, the Rosecrans, Kushes, and Keenes. I also want to give a shout out to our Canadian friends Brian and Karen Gracie who were along with us for many of the events. We all drove separate routes and arrived at different times. The host hotel was the Sonesta, in Duluth NW of Atlanta. After washing 1100 miles of dirt from the Nismo on Monday, the convention started officially on Tuesday with a suds and shine. Z cars and people arrived in a constant stream and the official car wash was busy all day. Checking out the Zs, talk-

ing to the people and having a brew or two on a beautiful day is a great way to spend an afternoon. The WCZC members gathered at the opening reception and were treated to a light meal and opening remarks from the ZCCA, local host club members, and Mad Mike. The Texas clubs brought in their fixings and hosted the traditional Texas Chili Party outside at the pool.

The ZCCA judged car show was held at the Mall of Georgia on Wednesday. Since I had been invited to a sports car focus group in the morning, I didn't arrive until after towels down. (no, I know nothing about a new Z and couldn't tell you if I did - NDA) Initially, it did seem that I would not be able to get into the show, but with an OK from Chris Karl and some help at the show from Tom Keene who had a word with Fred Buoni, the Car Show chairman, I was able to park. I was given 10 minutes to clean up the car, so it was a good thing it was still very clean from the Monday wash. The car was judged and having not had lunch yet, Allie and I went to an adjacent sushi restaurant. We walked back out to find that the other WCZC members had been trying to finding me to let me know the car was called out to be re-judged, and we had not received texts or calls since they were trying my home number. Most of the cars left while I stuck around while they re-judged my car, so unfortunately, I had very little time to walk around the show.

The evening event was a night at Sweetwater Brewery. They had said that food was going to be catered by Jim n Nicks BBQ. My daughter had worked for them in Charleston, so I expected that the food would be good. The night was a bit of a disappointment. While the beer was free, each person was allowed a single beef, chicken or vegetarian slider, two wings, a single deviled egg, and a couple of sticks of celery and carrots. Most of us were left hungry, and since Allie didn't like the wings or deviled egg, she was left hungrier than I. We took the early bus back, and at Allie's suggestion, the WCZC members walked to the Georgia Diner and finished the evening with a big, delicious piece of pie.

Thursday was the Autocross and karting day, or as the WCZC chose, a charity Mountain Drive. A local Georgia Z Club member familiar with the roads led us on a very spirited drive on the Wolf Pen Gap Run in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The roads and scenery were spectacular and I would say this was my favorite part of the convention. After a late lunch, this took up most of the day. I attended the ZCCA business meeting in the evening where the video presentation for the 2019 ZCON in Branson Missouri was debuted. This had been previously voted on, as it was necessary to reserve the Hilton in Branson earlier in the year. If you have not been to a ZCON, or if it has been a while since you have been, Branson is only a day's drive and has some great driving in the Ozarks.

Friday was the track day at Road Atlanta, and while the

Continued on page 4

The President Sez

Continued from page 3

WCZC members did not do the hot lapping, we did the parade laps and photo on the straightaway. The speed of the parade laps has varied in the past depending on track rules, the number of cars, and the pace car. This year there were a lot of cars and the speed was held down to roughly 30 mph or so. At the end of the day, they recreated the large aerial Z photo made out of Z cars. The Nismo, Allie and I can be seen at one end of a row.

Saturday, the people's choice car show was held at the local minor league ballpark - Coolray Field. Followed by the closing banquet and awards dinner. Congratulations to the WCZC members who all came home with a trophy from the judged car show. Winners and the awards are as follows:

- * Carl Kush - 1st Place 350Z Street Modified
- * Tom Keene - 1st Place 370Z Nissan Modified
- * Jeff Pleiter - 3rd Place (Tie) 350Z Stock
- * Bob Rosecrans - 2nd Place 370Z Stock.

The surprise of the night, is that I was awarded a Gold Medallion Award for the Nismo. This is the highest award for a stock car and requires a minimum score of 290 out of 300 points, following which the car is retired from further competition. There was one given out at the convention, and you may wonder as I did, how I received the gold medallion trophy and the 2nd place and 1st place cars (including best of show) did not. The way it was explained to me was that my car was initially judged higher and the second round of judging was done by more knowledgeable judges with a more critical eye, resulting in a lower final score that still met the 290 pts minimum. They did not explain this to the crowd at the banquet, so there are likely people still as baffled as I was. Still waiting for my trophy to arrive though as they had to engrave the info.

Nissan brought a 400hp Project Clubsport 23 370Z show car to SEMA 2018. Info/photos can be found on www.nissannews.com. From the Nissan website:

In building Project Clubsport 23 project, the Nissan Motorsports and MA Motorsports team started just like any Z[®] enthusiast would - finding a donor body and engine. In this case, the project started with a 2012 Nissan 370Z NISMO. The original 350-horsepower 3.7-liter VQ37VHR engine was replaced by a factory 3.0-liter VR30DDTT twin-turbo V6 rated at 400hp.

To fully engage sports car enthusiasts, it was decided to keep the 370Z NISMO's 6-speed manual transmission.

This was a challenge due to the fact a VR30DDTT has never been coupled to a manual transmission. MA Motorsports managed to develop a clutch disc, cover and fly-wheel assembly to complete the transition all the way back to the NISMO GT LSD Pro-Carbon 2-way differential, which is cooled by an MA Motorsports Differential Cooler. Much time was spent to ensure the VR30DDTT engine properly communicated with the manual transmission.

The refinements continued, starting with an AMS Performance Cold Air Intake kit and Z1 Motorsports blow-off valves. MA Motorsports fabricated a bespoke dual exhaust system measuring 76 mm in diameter to ensure there was no disruption in airflow from the VR30DDTT engine. The exhaust exits through the rear license plate body panel, which gives the Project Clubsport 23 a unique, motorsports look and feel. To help keep the VR30DDTT powerplant running cool, the factory cooling and steering systems were upgraded with an AMS Performance heat exchanger, MA Motorsports power steering cooler and Z1 Motorsports radiator and intercooler silicone coolant hoses.

The braking system was upgraded using soon-to-be released NISMO HC Street/Track brake pads, Z1 Motorsports 2-piece slotted rotors and NISMO stainless steel brake lines. The suspension modifications included a combination of newly released NISMO front and rear suspension components, NISMO 3-piece body brace set, KW Variant 3 coil-over shock kit and Eibach rear springs.

Topping off the project's go-fast parts are NISMO-branded RAYS cast aluminum-alloy 18x10.5-inch wheels and Hankook RS4 285/35R18 high performance tires. The wheels utilize the latest in RAYS "flow-forming" technology for high quality, strength, durability and affordability. They are expected to be available through Nissan dealerships at a future date.

Depending on interest levels, Nissan Motorsports may offer a "builder's kit" that consists of hard parts and electrical components to assist customers with building their own ultimate track Z[®] car.

2019 Activities:

I am thinking of setting up a WCZC General Meeting and white elephant gift exchange at Manny's Ale House in January, We'll also show pictures from 2018. I'll let you know when it is set.

WCZC general meeting February, March, April

Midwest Z Heritage 2019- June 13-15 hosted by the Cleveland Z Club. Host Hotel is the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Car Show will be at Summit Racing. More events are in the planning stage.

International Z Car Convention 2019 July 16-21 in Branson, Missouri hosted by the Ozarks Z Club and combined with the Branson Z Fest. Hilton Hotel Branson. The ZCON Branson Announcement video can be found on vimeo.com. Note both car shows will be in air-conditioned halls.

WCZC 2019 Schedule of Events

For more information, contact Jeff Pleiter, unless noted otherwise.

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact and Details	WCZC Event
January	5 PM	General Meeting	Manny Ale House	Evite to follow	Yes
February	TBD	Chicago Auto Show	McCormick Place	Evite to follow	Yes
February		General Meeting	TBD	Evite to follow	Yes
March		General Meeting	TBD	Evite to follow	Yes
April		General Meeting	TBD	Evite to follow	Yes
June 13-15		Midwest Z Heritage Fest	Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio	Evite to follow See Z Heritage Website	Yes
July 16-21		ZCon	Branson, Mo	Evite to follow See ZCon website	Yes



Contact Jeff at villazx10@comcast.net to purchase

License Plate Frame

\$3 ea. or 2 for \$5



WCZC shirts can be ordered directly from Cherokee Rose Embroidery. 630.941.3305. See the WCZC Website, for more information



Z Events

ZCon Photos by Jeff P.



Z Events

WCZC B-day Party Photos by Jim K. and Glenn J.





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