

WCZC News

Newsletter of the Windy City Z Club

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April/May 2020

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Upcoming Events

June 6

General Meeting via Zoom

June

Spring Fling

Summer

WCZC Picnic

September 14

ZCon

Nashville

See full schedule on page 3 for more details

The President Sees Z

Jeff Pleiter, President



What a crazy time. Our last newsletter was March. This is a combined April/May newsletter due to the new coronavirus. In March, we had no idea we would be where we are now. Sheltering at home from the novel coronavirus, with occasional forays out to the grocery store, hardware store, and ordering curb side pick-up instead of going out to restaurants. Some of us may have been furloughed, and some like myself, transitioned to working at home full time. Events with large gathering of people are not allowed, with State mandated Phase 3 reopening limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people. The economy was shut down and the stock market crashed. With the gradual reopening, stocks have made a good jump from the lows, but it looks like it will be a long while for Main Street to catch up to the optimism of Wall Street.

I parked my daily driver Honda Pilot with a battery maintainer on it, and my wife and I pretty much use her Nissan Cube, on a daily basis as we don't need more than one car. One of these days I will take the snow tires off the Honda and put the all-season tires on - it needs new ones. I finally took one of the Zs out for a drive to the south Cook Co. forest preserves on Memorial Day. While some of the preserves were closed, as I drove by I could see a good number of people in the open parking lots. Hopefully you have had more of a chance to drive your car(s).

Like many organizations, our events needed to be canceled. We did organize a Zoom WCZC General meeting in May. We had 18 attendees and it worked out fairly well. It was nice to see and talk to many of you. We plan on having another

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Note:

The publication schedule for the newsletter has been modified, due to activities being canceled because of the virus. This is the combined April and May issue.

The President Sez

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Zoom WCZC meeting on June 6 at 6 pm

We have been monitoring the coronavirus situation, with regard the Midwest Z Heritage event. The spread of the virus and related State stay at home orders were constantly changing. It seemed likely we would need to cancel the event, but in discussion with the hotel we decided to wait and monitor the situation. The uncertainty of what the end of June would be like and the contract clauses we could be held to made waiting the prudent choice. Now that we are within a 30-day window where we can invoke the Force Majeure clause, we can finally announce that the MZH event is cancelled and will likely be rescheduled for next year.

In regards to future events, they will continue to remain in flux. Some people have suggested that we do a socially distanced group drive in June. I am open to the idea, although the details would need to be worked out. Please send any ideas you may have on how to do so, or even better, volunteer to plan and lead it.

July 25 Road America Vintage Races - depends on status at track and how comfortable people are to go.

WCZC Picnic - We have not had one in a couple years. We may have one later this year, depending on the coronavirus situation.

ZCON 2020 Sept. 14-19, 2020. So far, this event is still on. The convention will be held in Franklin Tennessee at Nissan's Headquarters. The host hotel is full and information on their website is available for overflow hotels. If you plan on going, I suggest getting your hotel registration now. Registration for the event is also now open. Website is www.zcon.org. Perhaps they will have some information on the new Z.

If you are interested on attending any of the above or have an idea for another event let me know, especially if you are willing to take the lead on the event.

Most of you have probably seen the teaser video from Nissan that shows silhouettes of upcoming products. The last silhouette is of a new Z car! It looks very reminiscent of the shape of the 240Z and in my opinion looks good based on what you can see in the video. The video is on the Nissan YouTube channel and has been widely shared on the internet. No release date or specs have been issued, but based on Nissans plan to release a slew of new product in the next 18 months, we should see

something soon. The rear end is not shown; rumors are it will have taillights reminiscent of the Z32. Seems they are going for a retro look based on input from Z enthusiasts. Word is it will be based on a reworked chassis, not an all new car, but will have updated interior and technology, possibly a 400 hp turbocharged V6, and a base price of \$40,000. We will see, as Nissan really needs to up their game to recover from their current situation.

Nissan has not been profitable and they have had to come up with measures to cut costs. Employees are being laid off, they are planning on cutting \$2.8 billion in annual costs, production is being reduced by 20%, worldwide the number of global nameplates is being reduced from 69 to 55, and they are moving out of some areas of the world. The resurrected Datsun name, which has been used on small cars in other parts of the world will end. The Renault / Nissan merger has come to a halt, and will remain an alliance for now, with a revised focus. Nissan will focus on their main markets which include North America. Seems to me that they need to focus on improving their product for their mainstream cars and SUVs to be competitive, and to hit a home run with the new Z, as an affordable halo car to bring some excitement and draw people into the showroom. The GTR is great, but really not affordable for most peo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiqOLRji7nU>

WCZC 2020 Schedule of Events

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

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact and Details	WCZC Event
June 6	6PM	General Meeting	Zoom	E-mail invitation/link to follow	Yes
June 2020		Spring Fling	TBD	Evite to follow	Yes
Summer		WCZC Picnic	TBD		Yes
September 14, 2020		ZCon	Nissan Franklin, TN	Evite to follow	Yes



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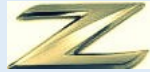
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