

WCZC News

Newsletter of the Windy City Z Club

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September 2025
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Upcoming Events

October 4, 2025

Cars and Coffee

Hoffman Estates, IL

October 11, 2025

Fall Fling

Dwight, IL

Annual Club B-day Party

Reserve 21

Glen Ellyn, IL

See full schedule on page 3

The President Se_Z

Ty Ozgen, President

Just like the old Datsun Z commercials in the 1980s, the word is “awesome”!! What am I talking about? I am talking about the 38th Annual ZCON that was held in Nashville, Tennessee earlier this month. Words cannot explain what a wonderful week it was getting together among Z enthusiasts and friends from all over the country. You have to be there to understand what the feeling is like to be a part of this wonderful event. If you recall last year, I flew into Tampa for the convention, but I only was there for two days to attend the judged car show, which is typically my favorite part. This year I took my 1990 300ZX twin turbo. It is much more enjoyable when you are there with a car. I guess the downside is that it sits outside for the week which it’s not used to doing. I put 1,343 miles on the car that week. It was so much fun driving this thing down there and partaking of all the activities.

I will be honest though. I was a little bit nervous driving the car down there. It is 35 years old after all, and if you read my previous articles, the tires on it are 15 years old. Although they still look good I was contemplating getting them changed before the drive but never got around to doing it. Also, I thought perhaps I might need to put some new struts in the car as I felt the car tended to take road bumps harsher than I thought it did in the past. I was wrong however. Once we got out of the crappy roads that we have in the Chicago area, it was smooth sailing. The car handled wonderfully!

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Notes

Watch for details regarding the Annual B-day Party.

Payment will be due in advance.



The President Sez

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The tires did their job and got me there safely and back. Several of us drove together down to Nashville. I met Bob and Marlene Rosecrans, Jim and Linda Koolish as well as Fred Grosz at the Lincoln Oasis and off we went, with Jim towing his car. Other members had left at other times. It's really not that bad of a drive as it is pretty much all Interstate 65. The weather during the whole week was absolutely perfect.

I tried to send as many pictures as I could to our Facebook page so feel free to take a look. It was a visual delight to walk through the parking lot and see rows and rows of Z's from original 240Z's all the way up to the new Z. Some were stock, some were modified. I enjoyed walking around and talking to the owners about their cars. That's how I get to meet people. Everyone has a story to tell.

The day prior to the judged car show was the Suds and Shine event. There were garden hoses, cleaning supplies, and drying supplies to get one's Z all ready for the show. Also, there was complementary beer to make it more enjoyable. Still can't figure out if the "suds" is for the beer or the soap. Any thoughts? Anyway, this was a great way to just watch people clean their Z's and see what techniques they use. I did learn something during this time. I saw a few people using a drying towel, which I do not have among my cleaning supplies. I usually use a large cotton towel to do the job. These Griot's drying towels were amazing as I watched them being used. I was so impressed that I went ahead and ordered a pair for myself that evening. Once again during this particular event, Fred and his 1983 280ZX got a lot of heat. It turns out the side marker lamps on the car were reversed and he had not known about it. A fellow 280ZX fan that just happened to be sitting around watching noticed and pointed it out. We gave Fred a hard time about this of course. He's a good sport. I won't go into the other details about his Z..... The judged car show was a lot of fun. It was about a 15 to 20 minute drive from the host hotel to the Graystone Quarry and it was

absolutely gorgeous. They had us park by generation so I was parked with the Z32's. Just a few minor details and my car was ready for the show. I had spent about two weeks cleaning it in my garage at home prior to leaving and fortunately we did not see any rain during the drive to the convention. I only had to wash the wheels. The rest was done with a detailing spray. I was parked next to a red 1996 twin turbo. The owner had just purchased it about eight months ago and was proud of his Z. I learned something new that day. In my 1990 the windshield washer fluid reservoir opening is in the rear of the car. To get to it you have to open up the rear hatch. I learned that in the newer Z 32's the location had moved to the proper location in the engine bay. Not exactly sure what year that changed. Any ideas? I thought I knew these cars quite well but I was wrong. Like I said, you learned a lot about cars and meet some nice people during these events. Our club did quite well in the judged event. I received a 1st place trophy in the daily driver for my class. Fred received 1st place in the survivor class with his 1983 280ZX. Jim received 2nd place in the stock class with his 1982 280ZXT and Glenn received 2nd place, in the street modified class with his 2011 370Z. Congratulations to everybody!

The other car show that was at the convention was the People's Choice car show. This was located in the Nissan Headquarters parking lot. . Again another perfect day for a car show. If you thought the judged car show had a lot of cars. This one was unbelievable. The most represented Z's were the first generation and they were all so nice to look at. Nissan showcased their 1995 SMZ, as well as an original 240 Z. Of course, they had some newer vehicles, such as the Nismo Z, Nismo GTR, and the all-new Nismo Armada. Among other cars in the crowd were two 280ZXR's. When was the last time you saw at least one of them? There were also four gold and black 10th Anniversary 280ZX's. Again, so much fun looking at all of them and talking to their owners!!! Jim won third place, in the 280ZX class

Another great event was touring the Nissan factory, located in Smyrna, Tennessee. This is where they make the Nissan Rogue, Nissan Pathfinder, as well as the infinity QX60. Starting with plain sheet metal

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The President Sez

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all the way to the first start of the car and everything in between. This is so much fun to watch as they drove us from station to station to see how these things are put together. They make roughly 2000 cars a day at this facility, each one taking 24 hours to complete.

Other fun events included the opening ceremony and chili party, HumpDaze dinner and drinks, and drives through the winding back roads of Tennessee. A track day at the Polecat Driving Academy, Autocross and Drift exhibition at the Nashville Super Speedway and karting at the Music City KartPlex. Please refer to Glenn's article for more information on these events. Congratulations to fellow member Tim Head for placing first in the Autocross A class with his 2003 350Z!! Well done!! You see, we brought back a ton of trophies.

There also was an evening where several special guests talking to us. These were all dignitaries of car design, restoration, racing heritage, and more. You might recognize names, such as Peter Brock (Brock Racing Enterprises), Hiroshi, Tamura (Chief Product Specialist of the Z and GTR), Stacey David (Renowned Motorsport TV host) and others. After the talks, there was an autograph session. Many people brought items to get signed by the guests. I brought my posters as well as my owner's manual to be signed. Other people were bringing car models, but the funniest one, in my opinion, was somebody took the hood off their car and had them sign on the underside of it. What a great idea!!

Overall, I had a wonderful time. The closing ceremonies/banquet was the culmination of the week. Just think, it all started with the Z Across America Rally. On a side note, one of the drivers of this 7000 mile trek was Walt Bailey, a Georgia Z Club member. He drove the entire route in his 280Z, passing over 700,000 miles along the way!!!! Unbelievable!!! I recall seeing him in California with his Z when Motorsport Auto used to do car shows. Nissan did a feature about him and his Z last month. Anyway, with over 800 registered guests, this was the largest

ZCON ever. Congratulations to Glenn Johnson for winning a set of tires from BF Goodrich during the raffle! I'm glad I was able to participate. It's funny how a car can bring all of us together. Not just the conventions, but even in our own Windy City Z Club. To get together with friends and just have fun, that's what it's all about. On our way back home, we had to make Fred happy because of the hard time we gave him during the week. One of his requests, on our drive back, was to stop at a tourist trap known as Buc-EE's, apparently the world's largest convenient mart. So we stopped at one in Kentucky and I don't know if any of you have been to these or not but what a sight it was. A football field long array of gas station pumps, as well as a building full of souvenirs, clothes, food, whatever you want. We spent about half an hour in this place. Apparently there's going to be one popping up in Madison, Wisconsin and we will have to make a road trip, at some point in time.

As far as local events, we had a car show get together at Cantigny. The forecast was for rain, which I believe kept a lot of people from showing up, but we were all there. Not one rain drop during the entire day. It was a People's Choice show and I believe there were about 250 cars of all makes and models. Our club had several winners including myself, Linda Strain, Jim Koolish, Bob Rosecrans and Bill Opperman. Congrats!! Until next time.



Member Column

By Glenn Johnson

A DAY AT POLECAT DRIVING ACADEMY RACE-TRACK DURING ZCON 2025

My alarm was set for 5:00AM on Friday morning as I quietly got dressed and gathered my helmet, for the big event of the day. Time to get some fast laps in my 370Z on a real racetrack! This year I decided to drive to Nashville with my BFG RE71RS track tires making sure I leave enough tread to make the 500-mile trip back home. It was still dark out but I'm not one for the direct route anywhere in my Z. With fog showing in the dips of the road, the 2-lane highway was a challenge as I weaved my way through the backroads down highway 41 south 60 miles to the track. I don't think I would have found it in the middle of nowhere without my trusty iPad mounted on my center console running Google Maps. Finally, one small sign pointing towards the front (only) gate to enter.

After not seeing any Z's on the trip there I soon was surrounded by 45 Z's of all different years and more kept pulling in. Track days require that everything, and I mean everything, must come out of the car, including floor mats and spare tires (if you have one). Once empty, a trip to the ZCON tent to sigh "more" wavers and pick up my new track T-shirt. Then on to the classroom for some quick instructions and any questions you might have. I was in the advanced class, and the novice class had quite a few newbies but there were enough instructors for all of those new to the open track racing with zero experience. It does take some courage to be sitting in the passenger seat of a 400+ horsepower Z never even meeting the driver until you're strapped in. As instructed in the meeting, the first lap is under full caution as we find our way around the 19 turn track with a 145 foot elevation change and a few blind corners. You just need to aim at the orange pylon, as they are positioned at the correct apex (this is where you want your Z to be) before turning in/out of the turn. I installed Harry's Lap Timer on my iPhone just to get an idea of time around the track. It was well worth the \$20.00, as it was showing a good lap time

for me was just under 2 minutes. That might seem slow but not when you're in your Z flying around the corners and hitting over 110mph down the straight before braking very hard for the next turn and then keep doing it repeatedly for 25 minutes. I can understand why Formula One drivers or any drivers competing must be in excellent shape, as my neck would get sore just keeping my head straight during all the tight turns.

I've been doing track days for years, so my Z is set up with track brake pads, an oil cooler, and lots of other goodies. Many other drivers would come in after 10-15 minutes to let things cool off or to wait for their next time slot. That's what is so nice about these ZCON get togethers, just jump out of your Z and talk to the person parked next to you, in the pits or walk up to the track and watch others fly around in their Z's.

Lunchtime was a whole other event. I'm not sure if anyone got lost on the ride to the track but track touring was limited to approximately 100 Z's. That's a lot of Z's on the track at one time. The ZCON motorsports team did a great job getting all the Z's on the track for photos from a drone flying overhead as well as a few laps around the track, at a much slower speed. As we came around the final turn they lined up 2 Z's at a time for a quick Drag Race down the straight before exiting out through the pits to the parking lot. I'm sure everyone enjoyed getting out on the track just to experience what a real racetrack is like with the elevation changes and banked or blind turns. Ty and Jim (with Linda) also participated in the parade laps.

After lunch they put the Advanced drivers (me) and the instructors into one group. This meant 50 minutes of track time for my 2 final sessions. Very tempting but 20-25 minutes out on a track where you can pass anywhere was more than I needed. I think I put over 100 miles on my Z that day! I packed up my Z around 3:30 and waited a few minutes to follow others as my GPS did not want to work until we were 20 minutes from the track and I was able to pick-up a signal. I'm not sure what I would have done at 6:30AM if my GPS had given up on me then.

If you ever want to get out on a racetrack, the ZCON

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WCZC 2025 Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact and Details	WCZC Event
October 4, 2029	9AM	Cars and Coffee	Woodfield Nisan 700 W. Higgins Hoffman Estates	Evite has been sent	Yes
October 11, 2025	9AM	Fall Fling to Dwight, IL	Meet at Bollingbrook Starbucks, 699 E. Boughton	Evite has been sent	Yes
November 8, 2025		Club B-day Party	Reserve 21 Glen Ellyn	Evite to follow	Yes
July 12, 2026		Annual Picnic		Evite to follow	Yes

Store

Contact Ty at tyozgen@gmail.com 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

event is a great place to try. There is a link on our website for the “SCCA Track Night”, which runs at Blackhawk Farms Raceway in South Beloit, once a month on a Wednesday evening during the summer. I try to take a half day off to make it there since the season is short, but it’s laid back and you usually get 3 20-minute sessions of track time. If you have any questions just track me down at one of our upcoming events. I have the 2011 Black Cherry 370Z!

WCZC Activities

ZCon Photos by Jim K and Ty O..



WCZC Activities

ZCon (Photos by Jim K and others)



WCZC Activities

Cantigny (Photos by Jim K. & Ty O.)





Sponsors

Windy City Z Club has many sponsors. Most Nissan dealers will provide a discount when asked. We recognize and thank the following companies, for providing constant support to the club, our members, and the national Z community. Please let us know, if you think your company should be on this list.

Local Dealers:

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Sponsors

A promotional advertisement for Woodfield Nissan. The ad features a collage of images: a close-up of a driver's hands on the steering wheel of a blue Nissan Z, a blue Nissan Z driving on a road, and a yellow Nissan Z parked in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. The text is centered and reads: 'WOODFIELD NISSAN' in a red and white box, followed by 'WOODFIELD NISSAN HAS YOU COVERED' in large bold letters. Below this, it says 'CHECK OUT OUR SELECTION OF ALL-NEW NISSAN Z MODELS, OR SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE YOURS SERVICED!'. At the bottom, there is a white button that says 'CONTACT WOODFIELD NISSAN' and contact information: 'WOODFIELDNISSAN.COM | 847.310.1900' and '700 W HIGGINS RD, HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169'. A small Nissan logo is in the top right corner.

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Glenn Johnson, Webmaster - webmaster@windycityzclub.com

Bill Bragg, Treasurer - 262-697-1779

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____, 20____

Name _____

Dual Member's Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

(____) _____ - _____
Cell Phone

(____) _____ - _____
Home Phone

(____) _____ - _____
Work Phone

Occupation _____

Birthday (Mo/Day) _____

Shirt Size _____

Dual Member's Birthday _____

Shirt Size _____

e-mail address (please print): _____

Your e-mail address is important because we send the WCZC newsletter and club notifications via e-mail. Please remember to keep us updated if your e-mail address changes.

Type of Zs Owned (Please indicate year and quantity):

240Z _____ 300ZX _____

260Z _____ 350Z _____

280Z _____ 370Z _____

280ZX _____ NISSAN Z _____

How did you hear about our club? _____

Membership \$30.00 1-year or \$50.00 2-years. New memberships due at time of joining. Renewals due January 1st of every year

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ Autocrossing
- ☐ Trips-Touring
- ☐ Rallying
- ☐ Car Restoration
- ☐ Road Racing
- ☐ Social Events

- ☐ Tech Seminars
- ☐ Hosting a club event
- ☐ Customizing
- ☐ Committee Volunteer
- ☐ Club Representative
- ☐ Leadership Role

If you have any questions concerning these categories, please call one of the Club Officers listed above.

Please make your check payable to the Windy City Z Club and mail it with this application to:

WINDY CITY Z CLUB

27447 S. Wildwood Drive, Monee, IL 60449

Your membership packet will be sent to you by return mail within two to four weeks

OR

- 1: Download form and print or save. 2: Attach completed form and email to: membership@windycityzclub.com
3. Use the PayPal button on the home WCZC web page to send in your Payment