

Z Club of San Diego

May 2024 Vol. 33 No. 5 Est. 1991

Serving the
County of San Diego



GENERAL MEETING IS TUESDAY

May 7, 2024 — 7:00 PM

AT DENNY'S

4280 Claremont Mesa Blvd.

Come Enjoy Your Dinner at the Meeting!



April Cruz
To The
Campo Train Museum

*Photo By
Michele Ruppert
Story on pg. 7*



SEZ THE PREZ

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"Now that we have had a couple of weeks of no rain, I hope it stays that way until next winter/rainy season for SoCal."

That was my opening line for my President's Message one year ago and I hope it stays that way this year.

Last month's run to the Campo Trail Museum was a good one I hear. We even had guests from ZONC from the SF area. The weather was nice and everyone had a good time riding the train and visiting the museum. Lunch, however, was a different story. I will let Clif tell that story at this month's meeting. A big thank you to Clif for putting together a great run.

Make sure to ask Patty, Wally and Clif about this year's Bottom Buster Run. I heard some good stories came out from the run.

Our next run will be the club's annual picnic at Bates Nut Farm on Saturday, May 4th. Come out and enjoy good food, good conversation and good Z's. Event details are later in this newsletter.

Be healthy, be safe!

Z you on the road.

Michael

Established in 1991 by the owner of Z-Whizz

The Z Car CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

Is a group of Datsun and Nissan Z enthusiasts and a Charter Member of the National Z Car Club Association.

Purpose: The Club is organized as a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation formed to:

- 1) Provide its members with access to knowledge about their Z Cars;
- 2) Provide a forum for members and other interested parties;
- 3) Exchange Z Car information;
- 4) Organize events and activities for members which enhance their enjoyment of Z Car ownership.

Persons interested in becoming a Member should fill out the Membership Form located on the last page of this Newsletter.

Monthly Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month with a dinner at 6 PM and the meeting starting at 7 PM. See below for driving directions.

Contact an Officer: See the list of Officers on the left side of this Newsletter. Any officer will respond to your Email.

Club Mailing Address:

Z Club of San Diego
P.O. Box 710886
Santee, CA 92072

MONTHLY MEETING PLACE:

DENNY'S

4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 921117

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From the 15;

Take the 52 West, exit on Gene-see Ave South, turn right on Clairemont Mesa Blvd, it's on the right just past Clairemont Drive.

From the 5;

Take the 52 East, exit on Regents Road South, continue onto Clairemont Mesa Blvd, it's on the left at the end of the Claremont Town Square shopping center.

We park in back of Denny's

CHUCK'S MAY REPORT ON BIRTHDAYS & MEMBERSHIP

Birthdays		
SO Name	Last Name	Birth Date
Hans	Crail	05/01
Michael	Ryan	05/02
Bill	Pickelsimer	05/06
Rosemarie	Vinluan	05/06
Jennifer	Smith	05/09
Bill	Bennett	05/15
James	Bohnsack	05/19
Michael	Grassi	05/20
Jeremy	Morace	05/25
Judy	Carlson	05/27
Deborah	Clark	05/29



Our annual picnic is coming May 4th, a Saturday at Bates Nut farm in Valley Center. Food will be provided and water. Please bring a side dish of your choice to add to the menu. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats will be provided. If anyone would like to be grill master please help out since Lenny will be side lined for a while.

Bring you Z's to show off to the club. Hopefully the weather will be comfortable. Bring chairs for your group. There are lots of trees for shade.

Cars Count	
ZCars	Model
25	240Z
3	260Z
10	280Z
11	280ZX
7	300ZX - Z31
13	300ZX - Z32
8	350Z - Z33
6	370Z - Z34

Z you there, **Chuck**

2024 ZCSD EVENT SCHEDULE

JAN. 6	ZCSD Hawk Watch & Lunch, Ramona
FEB. 10	Automobile Museum, Balboa Park & Lunch
MAR. 10	ZCSD Gimmick Run to Café 101
APRIL 13	ZCSD Cruz to the Campo Train Museum <i>See Article & pics. pgs. 7-11</i>
APRIL 15-17	Bottom Buster Motor Tour
MAY 4	ZCSD Anniversary B-B-Q at Bates Nut Farm <i>See Flyer pg. 6</i>
MAY 7	ZCSD General Meeting and <u>SPEAKER</u> ! Denny's, 7:00 PM 4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
MAY 19	Datsun Enthusiasts Coffee & Datsuns <i>See Article & Flyer pgs. 13 -14</i>
JUNE 9	ZCSD Cruz to Idyllwild for Lunch
JULY 2	ZCSD — MEETING & Pizza at the de Anza Cove
JULY 20	Main Street America Car Show <i>See Flyer pg. 12</i>
JULY 21	ZCSD Cruz to the Eagle Gold Mine, Julian & Lunch
AUG. 17	ZCSD Sand Castle Cruz, & Lunch
SEPT. 9-14	ZCON 2024 — Tampa, FL https://zcon.org/conventions/2024
SEPT. 21	ZCSD North County Canyon Cruz & Lunch
OCT. 5	ZCSD DYNO Day
NOV. 2	ZCSD Wine Cruz & Lunch
DEC. 7	ZCSD HOLIDAY PARTY

**ZCSD Meetings held the First Tuesday of every month at
Denny's, 4280 Claremont Mesa Blvd.**

7:00pm

Come Early and Enjoy Your Dinner Before the Meeting!

GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 2, 2024

Secretary's Scribblings

By Patty Cook

The April General Meeting was called to order by V. P. David Ferris, at 7:00 PM. After member introductions David introduced Dennis Darnall who told us all about racing your Z at Willow Springs. He had slides and videos to share. Next David introduced me (Patty Cook) and I discussed the challenge of racing your Z at an Autocross. I also had videos to share along with some show-n-tell items to make racing more fun for all. Dennis and I hope to see you out using your Zs in a **NEW** way—RACING!

David turned the meeting over to President Michael Montag and we had the committee reports and birthday gift selections. This was followed by discussions of the upcoming and past events.

REMINDER: The **Club Picnic** will be **May 4th** (before our next meeting). See the flyer on page 6.

Don't miss the **meeting May 7th**—there will be a **speaker** talking about the **NEW Z!**



ZCSD Annual Picnic

Saturday, May 4th, 2024

Bates Nut Farm
15957 Woods Valley Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082

We will meet at the Bates Nut Farm at 11 o'clock

There will be plenty of shade, a petting zoo for the kids,
and gift shops with something for everyone.

Water, Chips, Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided
And there will be cake!

**Please bring a side-dish to share and
something to sit on**

Please come out and enjoy the day with

The Most Active Z Club in Southern California!

April 13th

Campo Cruz

By David Ferris

The history of railroads coming into San Diego started in the early 1880's. Like any new venture there were a lot of problems. A lot of things got dumped into the bay. Coal cars, engines, rails, etc. There were a lot of entrepreneurs that got in too deep and lost everything, but eventually there were a number of railroads in the San Diego area.



April 13th our club started at Carl's Jr right off Jamacha and highway 94. There were a few people there early, at 8:30am, and ready

It was a chilly morning and Carl's Jr didn't have their coffee machine working. That caused a little problem for a few of the folk that were counting on their



morning cup of joe to get going. Judy (Carlson) and Judy (Heintskill) decided that they were going to run to Circle K to grab a cup just as the drivers were told to mount up. We all decided we needed one more Judy to come, so we can say the Cary Grant line, from "Only Angels Have Wings", "Judy, Judy, Judy" correctly.

Campo Drive — Cont.

Carlton and Gail, Greg and Judy, Patty and Wally, Clif and Marcia, Ron and Judy, Michelle, and myself were in attendance. Bob Russell being the Member Chairman of ZONC (Z Owners of Northern California) and his brother Andy (who is a docent at the Auto Museum of San Diego) brought out a new Blue Z Performance. Bob was down from Rock Springs to visit his brother, Andy. That gave us a pretty spectrum of colors, red, blue, green, white and rounding it out, a champagne colored Jaguar (AKA Jag-Z).



Campo Drive — Cont.

After the girls got back from their coffee run, we drove out to the 94. Traffic wasn't too bad. There were a few slower cars but not too bad. One truck pulled over to let us all pass. Straight out to the museum, it was a cool overcast day. The sun peaked through now and again and we crossed the railroad tracks and pulled into the parking lot.

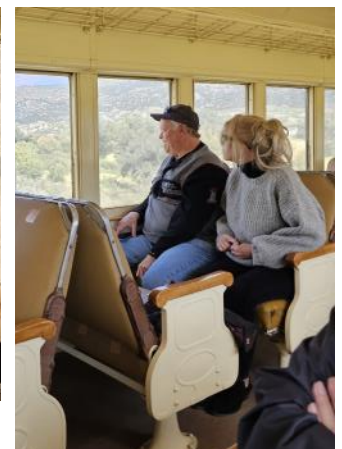


The train was supposed to depart at 10:30am. The ticket seller came into the waiting room to tell us the conductor needed to get his watch fixed because the train would be a little late.

He then went into the back room and came back with 2 model train sets and announced to all waiting that "I am off to play with these while you all wait for the train."



Shortly after that the train arrived and we all carefully boarded.



Campo Drive — Cont.

It was about a 30 minute ride out and back. We got within a mile and a half of the Mexican border. Stopping to take pictures and let everyone explore the joined cars, we all ventured through the 2 passenger cars and the luggage car. It was a pretty day outside and you could tell spring was in the air.



When we got back to the station, we were dropped off at the museum proper and we walked through and explored different restored cars in different states of restoration. There was one passenger car that had been used in several movies. There was a lot of railroad history there.



Campo Drive — Cont.



We went to the Campo Inn for lunch where we joined tables and waited for our food. We learned that the French dip there took a lot of time to make. After lunch everyone went on their way to different events. Some even got to go see Billy Joel and Sting at Petco. I hope they had a great time. Would be a terrific end to a wonderful day!

Photos by: Michele Ruppert, Clif Yaussi and David Ferris

ZCSD will be helping to
Sponsor this
Car Show:

SAVE THE DATE!

Main Street America

A People's Choice Charity Car Show

Presented by the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024 10 AM – 3 PM

Embarcadero Marina Park North (Seaport Village)

A fundraiser for the San Diego Center for the Blind

Registration will be available in May!



Please plan to enter your Z
And if your Z isn't ready to show...
Please plan to attend and support this car show

Datsuns and Coffee — April 2024

Just a quick note about attendance and what goes on at the Datsuns and Coffee in Carmel Mountain. This cars and coffee meets every 3rd Sunday at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf in Carmel Mountain at 12070 Carmel Mountain Rd. in front of suite 296, zip 92128.

This last meeting was pretty great! Lots of Zs and we need to work on getting some of the owners to join. Lots of great looking cars here and lots of information. I know Greg Carlson was helping someone with an issue this last get together and there's a lot of knowledge in this group. Come out if you get the chance!





Datsun Enthusiasts Monthly Meet

You are invited to the monthly Coffee & Datsuns

Sunday May 19th at:

Coffee Bean and Tea

12070 Carmel Mountain Rd San Diego 92128

This is a coffee and cars format, from around **8am to 10am**. Come out and kick some tires and visit with some Z guys and girls.

This is a third Sunday meet every month.

This is not a Z Club sponsored event just an opportunity to drive your Z and hang with Z people. For more info visit their Facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/sandiegoDatsunEnthusiasts.

2024 SCCA — Competition Schedule

SAN DIEGO REGION SCCA



AUTOCROSS — NICU Amphitheatre, Chula Vista

May 11—12

June 1—2

Sep 7—NOVICE SCHOOL

Sep 8

AUTOCROSS — Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium, Lake Elsinore

Oct 5—6

Nov 2—3 and 23

Dec 14

ROAD RALLY — San Diego

April 6

June 8

Sept 14

Dec 7

TRACK WEEKEND — Chuckwalla Valley Raceway, Desert Center

Nothing Scheduled

For more information about San Diego SCCA events please visit:

<https://sdrscca.motorsportreg.com/>

<https://speeddistrict.com/>

SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time

Last year, in the middle of December, I went with Dennis to Willow Springs to a day at the track. The track was Willow Springs, Streets. Dennis told me a lot of things about racing on the way up and the day there, but one thing he told me well before we left was, "Be careful, this can be addictive." After this last weekend at the SCCA autocross at the North Island Credit Union Amphitheater, I can only say that he was right.

I was hooked after riding with Dennis around the "Streets" track at Willow Springs. After driving my own car around a parking lot, that I've never gone more than a couple miles an hour after a concert, I can't wait until the next autocross! I was extremely apprehensive about doing such a thing. I was not sure how I would do. As Paul Newman said about his own racing, he would quit "when I embarrass myself". I didn't want to start out embarrassing myself, either.

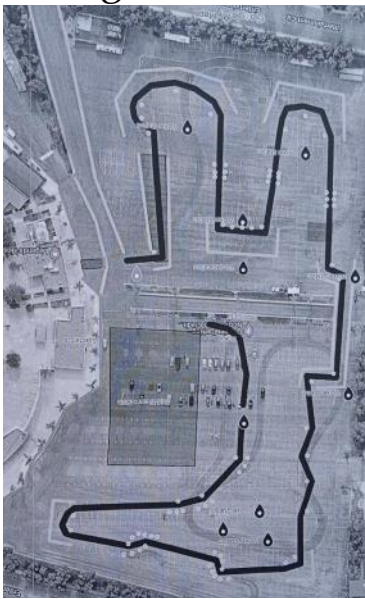
Here's a little about what it's like to do this thing for the 1st time. I arrived at the venue at 6:45am. Registration started at 7am so I got set up with a parking space and started cleaning out the accessories from my car that I might need that day, and all of what I would not want in my car during my run around the track. When I had that finished, I applied my number to my car doors. There are many ways to do this. I had stickers that the number had been hand drawn on that I applied to my doors. They held up well for the day.



SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time, Cont.

After registration you have to take your car through Tech inspection. At registration they give you a sticker with your run time and # which you put on the top left of your windshield. At Tech they check tires, battery (to make sure it's secure and won't slide around), fluids, brake pads, the interior of the cabin to make sure there isn't anything that will slide underfoot at any time, and trunk space to make sure there aren't any heavy objects that might slide around and damage the car during the track runs. They also check your helmet to make sure it's up to Snell Code rating. After you pass Tech, they mark the sticker to show you're compliant.

After Tech I walked back to the track area to walk through the track. You have time to do this before the 9am driver's meeting.



At 8:30 an instructor takes the newbies out through the track in a group. Joseph Parsons was the instructor that walked us through the track, and he was very informative. You can ask questions and the instructor passes on his wisdom to go through the track with the best results.

After walking through the track a few times, there was a driver's meeting at 9am. Rules and information was given and then safety was discussed.

This went all the way through what to expect on the course, either in your car or on the track when the work group is taking care of the track cones. The main thing is to keep everyone out there, and their cars, safe. I listened carefully and tried to follow every instruction to the letter. It was mostly common sense and awareness. If you have these two things everything for your day should turn out fine and fun.

SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time, Cont.

Registration was a bit of a hike from the paddock area and tech inspection, but I needed the exercise to burn off some of the nervous adrenaline flowing in my system. I was in run group 2. That put me in work group 3. That allowed me to watch run group 1. This was an educational experience.

Watching run group 1, I was able to see a few of the best ways through the track. We watched as different cars got different times. You could see some choices worked out well for drivers and some cost the drivers' times. You could see when the cones would really get in the way and when the path was a simple line. You could also hear when most drivers accelerated and braked. With the Teslas all you could hear was the brake and the squeal of tires. You could also see, from time to time, when a driver pushed too hard and lost control, either by oversteering and sliding out the back end or understeering and pushing through a set of cones.

After watching, I went back and added a little more air to my tires. My tires and car say my normal running psi should be 32. I added all the way up to 37 all the way around. I ate a bite of PB and J sandwich and drank some Gatorade and went to the grid line up for our group run. I got into line behind Dennis and so through our runs, followed him on each lap. Then I was at the starting line. The excitement at this point was unreal. I have never been given a free pass to let my car do what it can do at whatever speed I can maintain before. If I pushed my car to see what it was capable of, I had to watch for police or highway patrol. I had to be careful to make sure I didn't lose control even for an instant. I had to make sure I wasn't endangering any other motorists all the while wishing there was some place I could just go as fast as I wanted.

It was my turn, I dropped the clutch and sped through the track. My 1st time around I shifted through the gears and tried to pick my path as I had walked the track. The 1st time through the track I tried to gain as much speed as the course would allow. This had me actually shift to 4th gear at one point for a nano second. After the realization that I wasn't going faster,

SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time, Cont.

farther down the course I downshifted to 3rd and then back to second and held that gear through the rest of the course.

Upon seeing the original window sticker on my car, earlier this year, I found out that it was set up as close to a Nismo as you can get in the roadster. It has 19" staggered wheels, Nissan sport brakes, a Viscous limited slip differential and Euro-tuned sport shocks. It also had a couple of things that allowed me to be pretty safe going around the track. It's equipped with Vehicle Dynamic Control and a very good Traction Control System, that I can turn off when needed. I left it on for most of my track time.

My 1st run time wasn't embarrassing. I did it in 57.067 seconds. There were several cars that did the run over 60 seconds. SCCA tries to give you 10 runs for a practice day if your car is capable and if they have the time. I got to run all 10 tries. I improved most of my runs. On one run I shut off the Traction Control and pushed too hard on one corner and slid off the coned course. On another run I lost half a second from the time before. My last run, though, was 49.543 seconds. I think I did ok and didn't walk away embarrassed and definitely will be trying this again. I'm not quite sure I will do this for competition yet, but I do like to compete so who knows?

The ending of the day had me take my car back to the paddock grab a quick bite and my sunscreen and hat and head back to the track. I was given section 4 on the track as my work assignment and sent out to work the cones. It was a long hour and forty minutes out there on the pavement. I watched every single car every single run. I picked up and replaced lots of cones.



I grew to dislike Teslas even more. I didn't think I could dislike a car more than I do Teslas before going to this event. You see almost every time a

SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time, Cont.

Tesla went through the course, it knocked cones down. One of the Teslas was being driven by the instructor, Joseph Parsons, the one who walked the newbies through the course. He had the quickest times all day. His runs were amazing. My problem was 2 different things, every run he did he knocked down a cone, or 2. You also couldn't hear his car so as you watched another car go through your section, the Tesla was suddenly behind you because you couldn't hear it coming up.

There were another couple of cars that really made you stand your guard. There was an M3 BMW. This one was always on the edge of control. On one pass, going through the slaloms, he lost control and for a second was coming right at me. He quickly righted himself and went on through the course. There was also a newer Toyota Supra that was always there on the edge the whole way through. It was mesmerizing to watch these cars go through the course, but also a little unnerving thinking that if the driver was a little less good, he could come within a hair's breadth of taking you out as well as the cones. That never really came close, but like anything when you're bored, your imagination can get carried away.

When the last run was over, we packed up our water bottles and walked off course. When I got back to the car I checked my tire's air pressure and adjusted it back down. I loaded everything back into the trunk and kept the top up, turned the air on, and headed home. I will probably do this every chance I get. It might not have been the most fun I've ever had (I did drive a Lamborghini around the Sonoma track last year), but it was easily in the top 6 or 7, I think.

There are a number of resources if you would like to try this. SCCA website has a lot of valuable information. Patty and Dennis are old pros at autocross and are always willing to talk and help. There are a number of YouTube videos with dos and don'ts, how to, what to expect, and instruction. The one thing I will pass on to you is this, if you ever wanted to do this, you should, even if it passed through your mind quickly one day, it is absolutely worth it.

SCCA Autocross For the 1st Time, Cont.

Man, or woman, the best time of the day was by a woman (Darleen Pittman) who had been getting the quickest times of the day in a '67 Lotus Elan. There was a man who built a Mini Cooper Original, not the one BMW makes now, and put a Tesla motor in it that put out 550hp, and Darlene Pittman drove it for him to see what she could do with it and got a 40.008 time. Everyone that wants to can do this if they have a car that goes around the track. Give it a shot! All I could think about at the end of the day was "Go, Speed Racer, Go!", and how I wish I had my own Mach 5 to race!



Autocross

Article by David Ferris

NOVICE SCHOOL—Sept. 7

Pictures by David Ferris and Dennis Darnall

NICU Amphitheatre, Chula Vista



Z Club of San Diego

Membership Form



Active Full Member Renewal \$36.00 _____
 Military/Student Full Membership \$21.00 _____
 Associate Member Renewal \$21.00 _____

Membership renewals are due in March. Please, return this form along with your payment.

Indicate level of membership, sign and return this form with check payable to:

*Thank you,
 Chuck Golden
 Membership Coordinator
 760-443-5625*

Z Club of San Diego
 P.O. Box 710886
 Santee, CA 92072-0886

Member Number	<i>If known for renewal</i>		
First Name	Last Name	Nick Name	Birth Date MM/DD
SO First Name	SO Last Name	SO Nick Name	SO Birth Date MM/DD
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code Phone
E-Mail Address		SO Email Address	
Z Car #1 Year/Model/Color	Z Car #2 Year/Model/Color	Z Car #3 Year/Model/Color	

Waiver and Release from Liability

This form limits Z Club of San Diego's liability. Read it thoroughly and sign below.

As a Member of the Z Club of San Diego (ZCSD), I am solely responsible for any damage or injury to third parties, or myself resulting from anything connected with ZCSD Events/Activities. I agree to fully indemnify and hold ZCSD, its officers and representatives harmless for or in any claim, loss, damage, injury or liability which may be asserted against them by me or by any third party as a result of my activity. The foregoing covenants of exculpation and indemnity are intended to be and are complete, general and without restriction and include but are not limited to negligence (active or passive) or willful, reckless or wanton activity. I further agree that my car will be operated by a licensed driver and that the driver will comply with all applicable provisions of the California Vehicle Code. I further warrant that I carry automobile liability insurance on the vehicle, meeting or exceeding all California statutory requirements and that this insurance will be in force and effect for all ZCSD Events/Activities in which I participate. I will not participate in any Event/Activity under the influence of any alcoholic beverages or other drug or drugs that would impair my ability to perform at ZCSD Events/Activities. This release will be active for all ZCSD Events/Activities in which I participate.

 Member

 Spouse(Significant Other)

 Date