

Ramblings

The Z Club of San Diego's Monthly Magazine/Newsletter OCT 2026



boo and stuff.

Table of Contents

Page 2 -- Table of Contents, ZCSD Information, Officers and Committee Members
Page 3 -- ZCSD's Event Schedule
Page 4-5 -- From the Driver's Seat
Page 6-7 -- Vice Prezident's Message
Page 8 -- Secretary's Scribblings
Page 9 -- Membership, Birthdays and Information Links
Page 10 -- Cars & Coffee Schedule
Page 11 -- Other car meets around San Diego
Page 12-13 -- Track and Racing Schedule
Page 14-15 -- Advert Pages
Page 16-19 -- Past event - ZCON writeup by David Ferris
Page 20 -- Upcoming event - DYNO DAY
Page 21 -- Upcoming event - Z Car Show at Deer Creek
Page 22-23 -- Historian Article (The Giant Killer)
Page 24 -- Membership form
Page
Page

This Newsletter has interactive links. The page #s above will take you to that page. The footer on each page will bring you back to the table of contents.

Websites and emails are also linked. Mentions of a certain event or article will take you to that page as well.

Look for the footer to bring you back to this page!

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 710886,
Santee, CA 92072

This Club was Established in 1991 by the owner of Z-Whizz and is organized as a California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation.

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

Our meetings are held at 7pm every 1st Wednesday of the month with [dinner starting at 6pm](#).

[Meeting is at the following address.](#)

Elijah's Restaurant
7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd San Diego,
CA 92111



ZCSD OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBERS:

President David Ferris
faithfulldf67@gmail.com

Vice President Mike Ryan
lionryan@hotmail.com

Secretary Patty Cook
captpattycook@gmail.com

Treasurer Hans and Kathy Crail co-treasurers
hcraill@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Membership Greg Carlson hitthethrottle@gmail.com

Member at Large Jason Damron jason_damron@yahoo.com

Events Coordinator Jim Thomson jthomson@san.rr.com

Fundraising Katie Sprankles cometgurl1980@gmail.com

Track Coordinator Craig Moya cjm01awt@gmail.com

Webmaster Carl Cook webmaster@zcsd.org

Newsletter Darren Kirkpatrick zmech60@gmail.com

Photographer Galit Ryan galit.ryan@gmail.com

ZCSD 2026 Event Schedule

JANUARY

- 24 — Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum, Carlsbad & lunch at the lake. PAST

FEBRUARY

- 7 — K1 Speed, Chula Vista & lunch. PAST

MARCH

- 21 — Ross Lake Lavender Farm & lunch: 40055 Ross Rd., Fallbrook, AC 92028

APRIL

- 13-15 — Bottom Buster Motor Tour
- 18 — March AFB Museum & lunch

MAY

- 17 — Garage 79, Warner Springs, & lunch

JUNE

- 7 — Main Street America Car Show
- 28 — Annual Picnic at **Bates Nut Farm**

JULY

- 1 — Pizza Party/Meeting, de Anza Cove
- 26 — Donut Media YouTube Day



AUGUST

- 15 — South OC Cars and Coffee and Segerstrom Shelby Museum in Irvine



SEPTEMBER

- 21-26 — ZCON in Pheonix, Arizona



OCTOBER

- 3 — JCCS Long Beach
- 10 — DYNO DAY at JBA in Kearny Mesa.



NOVEMBER

- 14 — Wine and Car Show, [See flyer.](#)

DECEMBER

- 5 — Annual Christmas Party, Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Kearny Mesa



From the Driver's Seat

David Ferris
ZCSD President



What a month! This is going to be a quick message. There was a lot going on, and there is an article on this year's **ZCon** in this issue by me, if you want to know what it was like. There are more than a few events left this year.

This month starts out at **JCCS** October 3rd, this coming Saturday. Next is **Dyno Day at JBA** in Kearny Mesa, on Saturday, October 10th. Remember to go to JBA Speed Shop from the 5th through the 9th at 5675 Kearny Villa Rd, San Diego, CA 92123 and pay the \$100.00 for your slot on Saturday. Mr. Bittle has asked that we do this to be able to set up for Saturday. He will be providing a very fun filled day for us, so please be respectful and sign up in advance.



JBA

SPEED SHOP



Our meeting is Wednesday the 7th.

Donn Austin will be our guest speaker, and he is bringing his BRE after a very successful run at ZCon, with more awards than any other car that attended.

December 5th at 1pm at Filippi's is our **Holiday Party**. Keep your gas tank full, air in your tires, and your battery fully charged. We have lots left to do this year! Don't miss out!

Our **Car Show** is coming up November 14th. Registration is now available through Eventbrite. The link is here to register. <https://zclubsd.eventbrite.com>

The cost is \$12.51 per car, and \$10.00 at **Deer Park Winery** for each person attending, so go online and register your car and when you get there, you'll pay the entry to the Winery and Museum for each person. This keeps our costs down and hopefully makes it easier. If you have questions feel free to ask me. **This show is for Datsun and Nissan Zs only!** No other makes or models are allowed. Any Z is welcome, club member or not.

Z CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

PRESENTS

DATSUN & NISSAN Z CAR SHOW

Z CARS FROM THE SOUTHWEST OF THE UNITED STATES

(All Z cars from anywhere are welcome though!)

★ SATURDAY ★
NOVEMBER 14TH
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

🕒 ARRIVAL FROM 9:00 AM

🚩 Z CARS ONLY • BE IN PLACE BY 10:00 AM
SO WE CAN START JUDGING

👤 THE FIELD WILL BE LIMITED TO 70 CARS

📍 **DEER PARK WINERY & AUTO MUSEUM**
29013 Champagne Blvd.
Escondido, CA 92026

🌐 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SFoh69bntRZtlwau9>

Hosted by Deer Park Winery & Auto Museum

🚗 **CAR SHOW ENTRY**
\$12.51 / CAR ONLINE
IN ADVANCE
\$15 DAY OF SHOW
(IF SPACE AVAILABLE)

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
tinyurl.com/32cp6vpw

🍷 **MUSEUM & WINERY
ADMISSION**
\$10 / PERSON
PAYABLE TO THE WINERY
AT ENTRY

WINERY ENTRANCE IS A SEPARATE FEE
AND YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE CAR SHOW
WITHOUT PAYING TO ENTER THE GROUNDS.

JUDGING CATEGORIES

S30 – S130 (1970 – 1983)	Z31 – Z32 (1984 – 1996)	Z33 and on (2003 to present)
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★ (CATEGORIES AND JUDGING FORMAT SUBJECT TO FINAL DECISION) ★

REGISTER ONLINE!



FOR THOSE ATTENDING FROM OUT OF TOWN

🏨 We will recommend a hotel to stay at close enough to the venue to not make the commute too far.

🍴 **FRIDAY EVENING ROLL-IN DINNER**
Location TBD.
Join us for a hosted dinner the night before the show!

🌴 **SATURDAY EVENING DINNER**
We will try to find a place close to the ocean for dinner Saturday night.

☕ **SUNDAY MORNING ROLL-OUT BREAKFAST**
Location TBD, possibly in Escondido.
For those who are willing, we will try and do breakfast the following morning.

Z CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

Great Cars, Great People, Great Times!

📷 **DISCLAIMER:** The winery building and scenery shown in this flyer are AI generated renders for illustrative purposes only.

Vice President's Message

Mike Ryan
ZCSD Vice President



This month started out with our club meeting. We discussed our last few events for the year. One of which is ZCON. To say I'm excited about attending is an understatement.

Our month's focus has been primarily about ZCON. Due to us preparing for the trip, I didn't attend to as many cars and coffee events that I usually do. I did my usual Rancho Santa Fe showing. Got to hang out with club Prez David Ferris and member Nick Sprankles.



Finally we made our journey to ZCON in Mesa Arizona. I've been waiting a year for this show. It was a bit scaled down vs past ZCONS. Some very nice Z's nonetheless. We also got to see the unveiling of the new Concept Z. Pretty decent overall but I felt it could have been a bit more polished. It did have T-Tops which was a big hit with everyone.



For the judged show we had former ZCSD President Don Austin and his beautiful BRE tribute 240Z. Which he entered along with current members Ralph Carwin with his 240Z, Jim Thompson with his 280Z and our recently former President Michael Montag and his 350Z.



The following day there were a few events going on but the one I wanted to attend was the die-cast exchange. That was fun because we had a former member Rich Scharf show up and he sold some hot wheels. Also the Datsun Enthusiast founder and my long time friend Sebastian Hill was there. He moved from San Diego a few years ago and now lives in Arizona.



Saturday was our run to the Nissan Test facility. We did a van tour around the test area. From there the

Former ZCSD President Michael Libonate showed up the night of the people's choice show. It was basically a Z club of San Diego reunion. Having four former ZCSD Presidents at the event and the current president was very cool.





Secretary's Scribblings

Patty Cook
ZCSD Secretary



A General Membership Meeting – On September 2. At 7:00 PM, **President David Ferris** called the meeting to order. There were about 20 members and guests present.

David opened the meeting with introductions, asking everyone what car they drive and whether they were going to ZCON. He is looking to have a caravan to ZCON on Sunday the 20th. From the members present, he got: 3 yes, 2 maybe, and one leaving on Monday.

The program was a showing of the Donut Media “I drove every Z” YouTube video. **David** stopped it periodically for comments from the participants. Afterward, he entertained questions from the audience.

Past Events:

August 15th – Museum/Drive: The Segerstrom Shelby Event Center was opened for us exclusively. After a brief tour, they let us explore the museum, resulting in some great pictures. If you missed the slideshow at the meeting, you could see the pictures on the Club website

Future Events:

21–26 September – ZCON in Arizona

3 October – JCCS in Long Beach

10 October – DYNO Day at JBA Speed Shop. 8–noon. \$100 / 2 pulls, includes a free lunch!

November 14th – The “Exclusive Z” Car Show at the Deer Park Winery was discussed. General admission to the winery and museum is \$10/pp paid at the gate. Car show entries are \$10/car if pre-paid and \$15 at the door, if openings remain. The show will be from 10–2, in the upper parking lot.

5 December – Christmas Party will be \$20/pp with pizza, pasta, and salad on the menu.

Track events: October 3 & 4 – Spring Mountain, Pahrump NV, and another ‘Outside’ K1 Circuit in Winchester, CA, on October 18.

Greg Carlson, Membership Chairman, announced this month’s birthdays. **Only Jim Thompson** was present to choose a gift. Interesting fact: Jim was born on the same day and year that James Dean crashed his Porsche and died. Jim said that their souls passed in the ether.

Meeting Adjourned around 8:15 PM.

MEMBERSHIP

Greg Carlson



Hi everybody!

- Greg -



SOURCES

WEBSITES

Z CLUB SD

NISSAN USA

NISMO

ZCLUB of San Diego FACEBOOK page

AFTERMARKET PARTS & SUPPLIES

Z1 MOTORSPORTS	z1motorsports.com
CONCEPT Z	conceptzperformance.com
JDM MUSCLE USA	jdmuscleusa.com
APEXi USA	apexi-usa.com
ARMYTRIX USA	armytrixusa.com
AXIS PARTS	axisparts.jp
ECUTEK	ecutek.com
KANJO SPEC.D	kanjospeed.com
FACTORY SPIRIT	factoryspirit.com
EVO-R	evo-r.com
BOOSTED 6	boosted6auto.com
SEIBON CARBON	seiboncarbon.com
MY JAPAN DIRECT	myjapandirect.com
CARBON CREATIONS	carboncreations.com
AWE TUNING	awe-tuning.com
SPEEDFORM USA	speedformeusa.com
DRIVEN BY STYLE	drivenbystyle.com
ZPEC DESIGN	zspecdesign.com

REVIVER PLATES	reviver.com
CA DMV Digital Wallet	dmv.ca.gov



CLUB CARS BIRTHDAYS

CARS	MODEL	
20	240Z	10/02 Joe Godfrey
2	260Z	10/08 Rod Gould
7	280Z	10/08 Miriam Seo
5	280ZX	10/10 Martha Lantz
4	300ZX (Z31)	10/10 Reeni Alexander
6	300ZX (Z32)	10/12 Bill Kellerman
8	350Z	10/13 Marcy Montag
5	370Z	10/13 Gary Anderberg
4	Z (RZ34)	10/19 Greg Smith
		10/20 Eric Ileri
		10/20 Johnny Blankenship

San Diego CARS & COFFEES

Cars and Coffees not listed here, please send me the information (date, time, and address) to Faithfuldf67@gmail.com with (Cars and Coffee not listed) in the subject line.

Rancho Santa Fe Cars & Coffee Every Saturday

8am-12pm
6004 Paseo Delicias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA. 92091

South OC Cars and Coffee Every Saturday

101 W Avenida Nista Hermosa, San Clemente, CA.
92672

Bonita Cars and Coffee (TheBCC) Every Saturday

7-9 am
4414 Bonita Rd.
Bonita, CA. 91902

Carlsbad Cars and Coffee Every Saturday

7-9 am
7130 Avenida Encinas
Carlsbad, CA. 92011

Escondido Cars and Coffee Every Sunday

7-9 am
3333 Bear Valley Pkwy.
Escondido, CA. 92025

Sunday Funday Cars and Coffee Every Sunday

7:30-10 am
Yum Yum Donuts, 517 Telegraph Canyon Rd.
Chula Vista, CA. 91910

Lakeside Cars and Coffee Every Sunday

8-10 am
9760 Wintergardens Blvd.
Lakeside, CA. 92040

For more information on other car related events, please go to this website.

sandiegoassociationofcarclubs.org/fulllistofevents

You can also find Cars and Coffee information on the San Diego Automotive Museum Page on



Poway Cruisers In-n-Out Car Show Every 1st Saturday of the Month

10:30am - 1pm
12890 Gregg Ct.
Poway, CA. 92064

Gearhead Rendezvous Car Meet 1st Saturday of the Month

10am - 1pm
STP Bar and Grill, 5487 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
Clairmont Mesa, CA.

East County Cars and Coffee Every 1st Sunday of the Month

7 - 9am
Mary's Donuts, 8959 Carlton Hills Blvd.
Santee, CA.

PL Cars and Coffee 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month

7:30 - 10am
2562 Laning Rd.
San Diego, CA. 92106

San Diego Automotive Museum Cars and Coffee Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

7:30 - 9am
2080 Pan American Plaza
San Diego, CA. 92101

Coffee and Datsuns Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

8 - 10am
12070 Carmel Mountain Rd.
San Diego, CA. 92128

La Mesa Cars and Coffee Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

7 - 9am
La Mesa Blvd, between Palm Ave and 3rd.
La Mesa, CA.

Santee Cars and Coffee Every 4th Saturday of the Month

7 - 9am
9626 Carlton Hills Blvd.
Santee, CA. 92071

University City Marketplace Cars and Coffee Last Saturday of the Month

8 - 10am
3202 Governor Drive
San Diego, CA. 92122





If you are looking for something car related to do. Check out this awesome schedule that is put together by the San Diego Association of Car Clubs.

This is just a snip of **October** that I captured from the website. Please check out the site for a whole years calendar.
[click logo above to go to website.](#)

- SAT. October 3rd - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- SAT. October 3rd - Poway Cruisers In-N-Out Cruise In | 10:30a-1:30p | 12890 Gregg Court. Poway, CA 92064 | Every 1st Saturday | billpersonius@gmail.com
- SUN. October 4th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SUN. October 4th - Classic Retro Car Show and Pancake Breakfast | 8a-12p | 1400 E Washington El Cajon, CA 92019 | 619-279-3184
- **SUN. OCTOBER 4TH - MUSTANGS BY THE BAY | 10A-3P | EMBARCADERO MARINA PARK NORTH - 400 KETTNER BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 | 619-282-2210**
- **TUE. OCTOBER 6TH - SDACC OF CAR CLUBS MEETUP | 5P-7P | 9630 CARLTON HILLS BLVD SANTEE 92071 | 1ST TUES IN APR, JUNE, AUG, OCT | 619-201-8207**
- SAT. October 10th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- **SAT. OCTOBER 10TH - IMPERIAL VALLEY FALL CAR SHOW | 10A-3P | 373 E. ATEN ROAD, IMPERIAL, CA | 760-455-0791**
- SUN. October 11th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- **SUN. OCTOBER 11TH - CONSERVATIVE AUTOBODY CAR SHOW | 9A-1:30P | 7075 MISSION GORGE ROAD, SAN DIEGO CA 91920 | 619-204-9799**
- SAT. October 17th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- SAT. October 17th - Elks Chula Vista Trunk or Treat Car Show & Craft Fair | 8a-2p | 901 Elks Lane , Chula Vista, Ca 91910 | 619-244-6088
- SUN. October 18th - SD Automotive Museum Cars & Coffee | 6:30a-8a | 2080 Pan American Plaza 92101 | Every 3rd SUN | Brandi@sdautomuseum.org
- SUN. October 18th - Cars and Coffee La Mesa | 7a-9a | 8332 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942 | Every 3rd Sunday | [INSTAGRAM](#)
- SUN. October 18th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SUN. October 18th - El Cajon Elks Car Show | 9a-3p | 1400 East Washington St, El Cajon CA 92019 | 619-249-3659 OR 619-985-7595
- SUN. October 18th - Spar Customs Monthly Car/Music/Bike Show | 12p-4p | 890 Palomar rd, Carlsbad Ca 92011 | dabbles@sparcustoms.com
- SAT. October 24th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- SAT. October 24th - Santee Cars & Coffee | 7a-10a | 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd. Santee, CA 92071 | Every 4th Saturday | 619-253-0524
- **SAT. OCTOBER 24TH - SAN DIEGO ROAD RAMBLERS FALL FLING PICNIC | 9A | 15805 EL MONTE RD LAKESIDE, CA 92040 | SAMVARTWORK@OUTLOOK.COM**
- SUN. October 25th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SUN. October 25th - Black Angus Steakhouse Car Show | 10:30a-1:30p | 707 E St. 91910 | Every 4th Sunday | 619-778-1395
- SUN. October 25th - Belmont Park Fall Car Show | 3p-6p | Belmont Park - 3146 Mission Blvd, San Diego, CA 92109 | 619-201-8207
- THU. October 29th - Trunk or Treat at Santee Lakes | 3p-6p | Santee Lakes - 9310 Faniita Parkway, Santee, CA 92071 | 619-201-8207
- FRI. October 30th - Uptown Car Wash Halloween Spooktacular Trunk or Treat | 5p-8p | 4157 Normal Street, San Diego CA 92103 | 619-253-0524
- SAT. October 31st - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)

2026 Racing Schedule by Craig Moya (Track Coordinator)

2026 Racing Team Schedule

Location/Track	State	City	Organization	Dates	Day	Cost 1 day	Cost 2 days	Comments
L.E. Storm parking lot	CA	Lake Elsinore	SCCA	Mar. 7/8	Sat/Sun			Novice school/practice on Sat.
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Mar. 22	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
Streets of Willow	CA	Rosamond	Speed Vent.	April 4	Sat	\$340.00		Student group w/instruction available
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Apr. 12	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
Grand Prix of Long Beach	CA	Long Beach	IndyCar	Apr. 17-19	Fri-Sun			6 race groups including IndyCar & IMSA
L.E. Storm parking lot	CA	Lake Elsinore	SCCA	Apr. 18/19	Sat/Sun			Novice school/practice on Sat.
Buttonwillow 13CW	CA	Buttonwillow	Speed District	Apr. 24	Fri	\$425.00		
Buttonwillow New Circuit	CA	Buttonwillow	SpeedSF	Apr. 25/26	Sat/Sun	\$250.00	\$500.00	
Spring Mountain	NV	Pahrump	LVRPCA	May 16/17	Sat/Sun	\$455.00	\$655.00	\$75 rebate with 10 reg., student group
K1 Circuit	CA	Winchester	COCSD/ZCSD	May 24	Sun	\$125.00		2 "Arrive & Drive" races + annual license
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	June 14	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
NASCAR Street Race	CA	Coronado	NASCAR	June 19-21	Fri-Sun			3 race groups including Cup Series
L.E. Storm parking lot	CA	Lake Elsinore	SCCA	June 20/21	Sat/Sun			
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	July 12	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Aug. 9	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
Sonoma	CA	Sonoma	GGLC	Aug. 21	Fri	\$340.00		6 sessions per run group
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Sept. 13	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
Spring Mountain	NV	Pahrump	LVRPCA	Oct. 3/4	Sat/Sun	\$455.00	\$655.00	GREAT first-timers student course!
K1 Circuit	CA	Winchester	COCSD/ZCSD	Oct. 18	Sun	\$75.00		2 "Arrive & Drive" races
Buttonwillow New Circuit	CA	Buttonwillow	Speed Vent.	Nov. 7/8	Sat/Sun	\$300.00		
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Nov. 15	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races
Las Vegas Grand Prix	NV	Las Vegas	F1	Nov. 19-21	Thur-Sat			Qualifying Fri. night, Race Sat. night
Buttonwillow 13CW	CA	Buttonwillow	Speed SF	Nov. 27	Fri	\$225.00	or less	Yes, we leave on Thanksgiving Day, 11/26
Laguna Seca	CA	Monterey	Speed SF	Nov. 28	Sat	\$450.00	or less	92dB
Sonoma	CA	Sonoma	Speed SF	Nov. 29	Sun	\$400.00	or less	Ultimate Track Day Weekend 2
L.E. Storm parking lot	CA	Lake Elsinore	SCCA	Dec. 5/6	Sat/Sun			
Buttonwillow 13CW	CA	Buttonwillow	OnGrid	Dec. 12	Su	\$150 - \$260		passengers allowed
K1 Speed	CA	Chula Vista	COCSD/ZCSD	Dec. 13	Sun	\$43 - \$78.50		3 "Arrive & Drive" races

Autocross
Karting
Professional Race
Special multi-day event
Track Day(s)

[SCCA](#)

[Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium](#)

[Buttonwillow Raceway](#)

[Willow Springs Raceway \(streets\)](#)

[Willow Springs Raceway \(big\)](#)

Ramona Fairgrounds

[Chuckwalla Valley Raceway](#)

[Las Vegas Motor Speedway](#)

Information:
[sdrscca.](#)
[motorsportreg.com](#)
[speeddistrict.com](#)
[speedventures.com](#)

Track Time at Spring Mountain, Oct. 2-5

Are you interested in learning the capabilities of your Z? How about improving your driving skills? Here is a great opportunity to do both safely, while having a full weekend of fun. Join members of ZCSD and COCSD as we head up to Spring Mountain Motor Resort in Pahrump, Nevada for a weekend on their challenging, but oh so fun Charleston Peak course.



The Las Vegas Region of the PCA is hosting the event. They put on a terrific event, with safety their top priority. Registrants will get four 30-minute sessions on the track both days, with four run groups (student, novice, intermediate and advanced). The PCA student program is by far the best offered by any track day organization. Whenever a student is on the track, their instructor is in the car with them. This kind of one-on-one instruction would normally cost well over \$1000, but it is offered to first-timers at no extra charge. Even if you have participated in autocross or other track days, you will learn more with the PCA course.

We anticipate the cost to be \$655 for both days. No, it's not cheap, but it is well worth the money. The LVR-PCA folks appreciate that we are willing to drive up from San Diego, so if we get enough members to sign up, we may be able to get a few dollars refunded. At this time, it looks like we will have a sizable group going up. We leave Friday morning and drive home on Monday. You don't have to drive up with the group, but you are very welcome to do so.

Most of us (if not all) will be staying at the Wine Ridge RV Resort & Cottages (www.wineridgervresort.com), located between the track and beautiful downtown Pahrump. There are several one-bedroom, one-bath cottages available for roughly \$125 per night. Or you can save a few bucks by sharing one of the 4 two-bedroom, two-bath "casitas" with another person or couple. We hope to rent all of the casitas, which are more conducive to group gatherings.

To participate, you will need to have a helmet with either a SA2020 or SA2025 rating. Sorry, motorcycle helmets are not allowed. If you don't have one, let me know and I can help you get one from Pyrotech for less than retail. Driving shoes are recommended, but not required. Attire is long pants and long sleeved cotton shirts. Driving suits are only required for the advanced group. You will need to get your car inspected by one of the approved shops between now and the event. There are several in the San Diego area, including Caliber Auto Repair in El Cajon. The PCA requires them to fill out a form, documenting their inspection. The cost is around \$100.

Feel free to reach out with any questions. Registration is expected to open on www.motorsportreg.com in mid- to late August.

Craig, 619-723-2020



ELIJAH'S

— RESTAURANT —

**GREAT FOOD.
GOOD TIMES.**

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Thanks for keeping the Z passion
alive in our community!



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SINCE 1996



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CLUB DRIVES &
SPECIAL OCCASIONS.



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7061 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92111



858.455.1461



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ZCon for the First Time

This was an incredible month for Z cars. We started out the month by watching the video by Donut Media “I Drove Every Z” that our club contributed too. There were a lot of Cars and Coffees and then we got to ZCon week! I went as an absolute newbie. I had really no idea what to expect. I mean I’ve heard stories from Lenny, Michael, Mike, and Clif, but no idea of the scope of the week. I also got to bring Shane, one of my sons, with me, so it was an incredible week.

Mike Ryan and I left fairly early on the Sunday before. We made great time despite both of us using every rest area along the way. It was a nice, pretty uneventful ride out. Around Yuma we passed an incredible looking custom trailer that had Ralph Carwin’s car with Jim Faaborg and Ralph in the truck towing the rig. We had heard along the route that Michael and Marcy weren’t too far behind us, and Lenny and Sheri were on their way as well.

Both of our cars ran exceptionally well. When we got there, early of course, we were both able to check into our rooms and onload and unwind a bit. There were a lot of people already there. Roaming the halls where ZCon would unwind this coming week allowed us to meet a couple of others who were instrumental in getting this event set up. We ran into Gregg Rogers and Jack Dixon, whom the club had as Zoom guest speakers a couple months before. Gregg Rogers was this years Chairman of the event, and Jack Dixon was head of the motorsports part of the program. I can only say these 2 worked very hard this week as well as the weeks previously to put this convention together.

We met up with Michael and Marcy Montag when they arrived and we had been invited out to Bill and Celeste Gilbert’s place by a long time Zcon and Z fanatic, Walt Bailey. Bill Gilbert has a bunch of Zs. He has a 10th anniversary, a 50th anniversary, a Black Pearl, a Zapp, and many more. Their house is beautiful and in a very scenic desert location. Marcy and Mike Ryan went out in Michael’s 350Z, and my son Shane rode with me. It was only 30 minutes away from the hotel.

We got to meet some of the Z community’s most well-known. Walt was there, of course, and I had the pleasure of meeting Nismo Nick. David Bailey, Walt’s son, was there. There were more and getting to meet them at the beginning of the week in such a setting was wonderful. I felt as if I had made new friends immediately. Jeff Agner, Prez of Group Z was also there, and it was fun catching up with him as well.

Registration was the following morning. I had gotten to rinse off a lot of bugs at the Suds and Shine that goes on at the event each morning for the first few days. Then it was time to go to the registration. It had started at 10am and there was a line already. There were a lot of cool things going on. There were some nice shirts and stuff from previous ZCons. I had signed up for a few things at the beginning of registration, not sure if I would be able to attend everything. I did have Opening and Closing ceremonies, Humpdaze, and on Saturday an autocross, a tour, and the Charity Parade lap at the Nissan Testing facility ATC in Maricopa AZ.

The Opening Banquet was my first real event. I got to meet more people and got to catch up with more friends, one of whom happened to be the President of the DZA (Arizona club), Dyan Nielsen and her daughter Grace. I also got to meet Linda Williams, the President of ZONC (the Northern California club). They laid out the schedule and told us what to expect for the whole of Zcon. Earlier that day I met the Director of ZCCA Chris Karl. He is a very busy man and was also everywhere the whole week.

After the banquet I talked to more friends recent and new at the Texas Chili Party afterwards. This is also a tradition I am told. Marcy volunteered to help with this as she had earlier in the day with the registration room. You have to hand it to her, she is always available to lend help! Thank you, Marcy!



The next day I had planned on adding the Movie night, F1 being the movie, and getting my Tech inspection done. The last took a little longer than I expected, and I was the very last one to line up for the drive to Tortilla Flats that morning. Led by Chantel, I managed to catch up and actually follow right behind the leader to the 1st stopping point. At that point I had run into Cody Yocom, who had joined our club earlier this year shortly after he had taken ownership of a Midnight Purple 2026 Heritage edition Z.

I had asked him, earlier in the year, if he would ever let me drive it, and he had said yes. He asked me while we were waiting, when I wanted to drive it? I suggested we switch cars for this part of the run and he agreed. Shane and I grabbed our stuff from my car, and we switched keys and on one of the windiest twisty roads I was driving a new Z with an MT! It was a blast! It is absolutely a fun car! Lots of power and it handled very politely. At the bottom we switched keys back and compared.

Tortilla Flats had a restaurant, an ice cream store and a mercantile. We left after eating lunch and headed home. It had rained a little on us but nothing to get us too dirty, and on the way back we passed a very striking mountain and a Ghost town called Goldfield. There were a lot of awesome views. We made it back and got ready for movie night.

In February, sitting with Gregg Rogers and Dyan Nielsen, they had talked about picking a movie for ZCon movie night and had rattled off movies they were considering. I had told them, hands down, they should show F1. I had just recently watched it and loved the film. Brad Pitt played an incredible persona and the cars and the tracks were awesome! I had to see it on the big screen and here was my chance. Mike Ryan and I left for the theater together. Shane and I sat close to Jeff Agner, Mike, Dyan, and Grace and watched the movie. So much better on the big screen! I never thought about playing such an adrenaline charging movie before a bunch of Z owners and then letting them loose at night on the streets all at the same time. Luckily there weren't any problems, but I'm sure a lot of us made record time back to the hotel.

The next morning was the judged car show. I haven't been to a judged show yet. I told Michael Montag that I would help him with his car and got up early to ride in with him. We arrived at the AZ Athletic grounds at 7am and were told to wait to roll in. Donn Austin had arrived the night before and we caught up with him in the lot before they let everyone go in. Jim Thomson also had a harrowing experience on the way in and despite having won a trophy, now has his car in the shop. I'm sure you'll hear more on that at the meeting and Dyno Day.

Dyan and Grace were working on Dyan's gold Z31 and everywhere I looked there were cars being polished before going indoors. Thank goodness the show was indoors with air conditioning. We went over the car trying to get all the nooks and crannies. The car looked immaculate at judging time. There were a lot of wonderful cars there. Mike Ryan said the field looked smaller than normal, but I understand how tough things are nowadays. It's tough to be able to afford to go anywhere and it's only getting more expensive.

At 12:30 the ZCCA and others had a prototype reveal. Unveiled on time was a new Z with T-tops. The new Z had the GReddy brand on the sides, a white interior, and color wrapped Pacific Teal. Lots and Lots of pictures were taken. We were the first group the car had been revealed to live. After that there was an explosion online of reviews of the car. It was pretty cool to witness.

After the shows finale we had to hustle back to get ready for the Humpdaze event. I wasn't sure what to expect with this either. I was also tired and didn't want to drive. Luckily there were buses taking us. I was even more excited when I saw that lots of my friends were going to be on the bus. Shane and I headed down after I got cleaned up and got seats towards the front of the bus. We were taken to the Martin Auto Museum and let off near the entrance. We were let off at the wrong spot, but this was a plus as well. We got to see some of the cars in the museum. Nate told us about one of the cars that wowed us, a 2002 Lincoln Continental prototype. It had suicide doors, a white interior, and an Aston Martin V12.



We then had to get in line to get our food and drink tickets and then we got our seat and prepared for the party to start. Joining us was Bob and Andy Russel. Bob has also joined our club as a member earlier this year. He is on the board of Zonc, and I believe his brother Andy lives here in San Diego. We had Jim Thomson, Jim Faaborg, Ralph Carwin, Michael and Marcy Montag, and Shane and I. It was a fun meal and evening, going through the museum after. You were allowed to sit in some of the cars, and one of those was a nice Ferrari 360 Spider.

Shane and I had discussed going back out towards Tortilla Flat to explore the Ghost town we had passed. The days that we didn't have anything scheduled were Thursday and Friday, at least in the morning. There were the Tech Talks and the Die Cast exchange later that evening, but we didn't have anything in the earlier part of the day. I decided to see who might be interested in going with us. I asked who might be interested in going to Cracker Barrel for breakfast and then heading out to the Ghost Town. I also checked with Dyan and Chantel to see if it would be something worth doing.

When all was said and done, we had 8 Zs and 2 trucks and a Hyundai go out, and about 16 people join us for breakfast. I got to hang out with Dyan and Linda, and the Russel Brothers came with us. Most of our San Diego crew came along and Mike Ryan and I joined the line up following the leader, Dyan, in her Toyota truck. It was a fun ride out and lots of us took the train around the town and did the mine tour. We also walked through a wonky cabin that had slid to a 45-degree resting place and had been stabilized for a tour. There were shops and tours in the town itself, and we all had a good time. It also rained on us on the way there... so for the 3rd time this trip I had to wash my car.

The Die Cast trade was ok. I talked to someone who might be able to make me a Roadster version of my car. Art Singer also had just arrived, and I got to talk to him. Sebastian, the one who started the Datsuns and Coffee in Carmel Mountain was also there, and Mike and I got to catch up with him as well.

The Tech Talks were next. We got there to hear Peter Brock talk about the early years of BRE and John Morton as his driver. Everything was very interesting, pulling things from my youth that I remembered reading. I had looked forward to this part of ZCon.

Next was Randy Rodriguez. Randy is the designer for the 370Z. He did this at Nissan Design in La Jolla while it was in operations in the early years of the 2000s. He explained his roots in cars and how he arrived at some of his inspirations. He had a lot of design work on the power point he was showing and man is he talented.

I was too tired to make it through the whole panel and ended up leaving early to get some sleep. The next morning, I decided to wash my car and enter it in the People's Choice car show. Shane and I ended up having breakfast again at Cracker Barrel and I worked on getting my car ready before the ZCCA Business meeting at 2pm.

The Business meeting showed us a few behind the scenes things. We learned early where the next Zcon would be held and where the 2028 might also be held. We learned a lot about the running of ZCCA and how contributors worked and some very interesting things. Next year Zcon will be held at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. It looks like it will be fantastic, and yes once again, hot.

The People's Choice show started at 6pm but a few of us were allowed to park earlier. We lined up on the grass, all of this gleaming metal and colors and lights as the sun set and more and more cars showed up. I had hopes but it was my first ZCon show and I wasn't sure what to expect. I did get compliments on my car and that was enough. The 370Z category had a few really nice cars, but it was people's choice and I was an out-of-towner. Ralph Carwin took 2nd place in the 240Zs, and Donn Austin took 1st. That showed everyone that ZCSD had shown up at this year's ZCon and we had some really nice cars. Donn also won an award from Peter Brock and the car most voted for. It was a fun evening, but it was time for bed because tomorrow was the Autocross and Parade Lap.



I did get some sleep. Not as much as I would have wanted but still enough. Shane and I wanted to get there early. We left at 6am and headed to the Nissan Test Facility, ATC. When we got there, we were led to the Autocross setup. We parked and were immediately taken by a Nissan van to our tour of the grounds. We saw a bunch of different roads/ surfaces and many different types of road set ups, from New York streets to things seen around the world. There were also grade setups and many different types of potholes and such. (I thought they could find all of those in San Diego County if they just looked, but they engineered those surfaces for durability.)

Then was the Autocross. It was a nice track. To be blunt about my performance, I sucked and was never able to fund the track proper on any of my runs. I guess I didn't get enough sleep. But after that was the Parade Lap. This is a 5.8 mile oval that can allow speeds up to 190mph on a very banked corner. We didn't get to go on the banked corners but a little over a hundred cars lined up on the track and got to go around a few times between 80 and 100mph. Just so you know, all Z drivers are not equal. Still, it was a blast. At one point they set up a drag strip type race for us all. That was a lot of fun!

Shane and I left afterwards and went and got some food for lunch at, you guessed it, Cracker Barrel. Then it was time to get ready for the last event, the Closing banquet. All the Judged show awards would be given out and there would be a couple of speeches and a reveal of where the next ZCon would be. Long story short, every San Diego Club member who entered the judged show won an award. Michael won 2nd place in his class. Ralph won 1st and both Jims won 1st in their class. It was pretty awesome! On the way out I got to shake Peter Brock's hand and that was such an honor!

After the awards we started to get ready to leave early the next morning. Jim Faaborg offered room in his trailer for anyone who bought too much ZCon stuff, (me) and others were loading up their cars. On the way to the bar to get a goodbye drink with friends, new and a little older, I got texted by Mike Ryan, "Where are you, I'm by your car with Randy Rodriguez." I was there in seconds. I got to talk to him, and he did sign my car and it was truly magical. I will remember that always. Randy is an incredibly nice guy. He has a home here in SD County and hopefully at some point we'll get him to come talk to the club.

After about 4 hours of sleep, we loaded up and drove to Buc ee's. I got gas and we got some snacks for the road and started the trip home. It was a wonderful time of the day. The sunrise in our rear views and just like that it was all over. Pretty awesome 1st time! Who could ask for anything more?

By David Ferris



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21 of 25

The Giant Killer

How a shoestring race team and a Japanese coupe embarrassed Porsche, BMW, and Alfa Romeo

Fifty-six years ago this month, Nissan held the American debut of a car nobody in Detroit or Stuttgart took seriously, a lightweight Japanese coupe called the Datsun 240Z, unveiled on October 22, 1969, at a preview event in New York. What almost nobody in that room knew was that the same small California race shop responsible for making the 240Z's reputation on track had already spent years convincing Datsun to take racing seriously at all and was about to pull off one of the more unlikely championship runs in American road racing.

That shop was Brock Racing Enterprises. BRE's story, and its October connection to the Z, is a better underdog tale than most people realize.



John Morton's BRE-prepared 240Z on its way to Datsun's first SCCA National Championship, Road Atlanta, 1970.

An outsider's outsider

Peter Brock founded BRE in 1965 to run Datsun 2000 roadsters in SCCA's "D" Production class, but the partnership with Datsun almost didn't happen through official channels at all. Brock's own pitches to Datsun's American office went nowhere, so he worked backward through an old contact at Hino, who happened to know Nissan's president personally. Two roadsters were flown to Los Angeles from Japan and quietly handed to BRE, without Datsun's own U.S. division even knowing the deal had been made above their heads.

The wager paid off once Yutaka Katayama, the Datsun USA president everyone in the racing world would come to know simply as "Mr. K", found out. Katayama loved both cars and racing, and once he saw Brock's team on track, he became the program's biggest advocate inside the company, tying the race results directly to the brand's marketing back home.

The 240Z gets thrown into the deep end

By 1970, John Morton, the driver who'd cut his teeth in BRE's roadsters, was moving up into SCCA's "C" Production class, and partway through that season he handed the roadster over for something new: a Datsun 240Z, straight off the same assembly line that had just started shipping cars to American dealers.

It did not go smoothly at first. The 240Z program started the season slowly, still being sorted out as a race car while Datsun's road car was becoming the fastest-selling import in the country. But the team's preparation caught up with the car, and Morton swept to victory at Road Atlanta, giving Datsun its first SCCA National Championship, with a 240Z that had been a street car's blueprint only months earlier.

Morton and BRE repeated as "C" Production champions in 1971. By then, the rest of the class had simply stopped showing up. Porsche took its factory effort to Can-Am with Roger Penske instead, and Toyota, after burning through half a million dollars trying to beat Datsun with the Shelby-run 2000GT, failed to even qualify for the SCCA Runoffs and walked away from American club racing for a decade.

The Giant Killer



The "giant killer": Peter Brock and John Morton's Datsun 510 upset the factory Alfa Romeo and BMW teams to win back-to-back Trans-

The giant-killer act, twice

BRE wasn't finished. In 1971, with import racing gaining real traction, the SCCA folded to pressure and opened its professional Trans-Am series to a new Under 2.5 Liter class, and BRE showed up with something even less intimidating on paper than the 240Z: a Datsun 510 sedan, again with Morton driving.

Nobody expected a Japanese economy sedan to run with the class's presumed favorites, the factory-backed Alfa Romeos and BMWs. BRE and Morton won the championship anyway, and did it again in 1972. The upset was significant enough that it earned the little 510 a nickname that stuck for good: the "giant killer."

Why it mattered more than the trophies

The scoreboard is the fun part, but the real story is what the wins did off the track. Katayama had bet on a simple idea, win on Sunday, sell on Monday, and it worked at a scale that surprised even him. By the time BRE's factory contract with Datsun ended in 1973, the brand's American import sales had climbed from seventh in the country to first. A race program run out of a small shop in Southern California had helped turn Datsun from a curiosity into the sales leader it would remain through the following decade.

It's also a reminder of how much of the Z's early identity was built by people who weren't Nissan employees at all. The 240Z's reputation as a genuine performance car, not just a cheap, good-looking coupe, was earned in "C" Production paddocks against Porsches and Triumphs, largely thanks to a team that Datsun's own American office didn't even know existed when it started.

Why this is worth telling in October

The 240Z's American debut and BRE's first championship season are permanently linked by the calendar, the car arrived in the fall of 1969, and by the fall of 1970 it had already won a national title. For a historian's newsletter, that makes October a natural home for the racing side of the Z story, less about the showroom car everyone already knows, and more about the underdog team that gave it credibility before most Americans had even seen one in person.



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