Z Ramblings

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



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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
hcrail@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



The last 2 months of the year are what's upon us. October, for ZCSD, was a busy month as well. More than a few of us went to JCCS, and while one of us won an award, it was very hot and more or less a very uncomfortable day. Not a typical Southern California October. Congratulations to David Gonzales for 3rd place in his class!



We also had an incredible Dyno Day, set up and led by Jim Thomson, our very own Events Coordinator. This year it was hosted by JBA and J. Bittle. J basically threw us, what I would call, a car party! Upon arriving he had coffee and donuts for the attendees. After we all got lined up, he gave us a tour of his shop and where a lot of the magic happens. Then we lined our cars in a fashion and put each car on the Dyno and put it through its paces. Randy did one warm up pull and then 2 more and gave us a print out of our car's performance. J also cooked us Bittle dogs on the grill for lunch and we had a blast!



The festivities kinda got cut short due to rain, but everyone got their car's numbers and an idea of their placement against the other cars like their own. Thanks again J Bittle and JBA! Thank you to Rick Ball for helping out so much as well. For a retired guy he sure works a lot!

This month hasn't slowed down either. Your board has been working diligently to set up a new car show, called The Z Show

We've taken our yearly Winery run and turned it into a spectacle of sorts. At the time of this writing, we have half of our field filled with 3 more weeks of registration. We have members from 6 different clubs registered. We have a Friday night dinner planned, a Saturday night dinner after the show planned, and a Sunday morning sendoff breakfast. The show itself will be at Deer Park Winery, and **we need volunteers to set up and break down**. And of course, we need to you register and bring your cars out so we can show them what San Diego Zs are all about!

December 5th is our holiday party. It's at Filippi's in Kearny Mesa at 1pm and Mike Ryan has set this year's holiday party up. We will do our usual white elephant gift, something around $20, 1 gift per guest. Please remember these gifts are normally thoughtful and on the upper end of the $20 base price. Choose accordingly.



This month's meeting will allow you to volunteer to run for an office on the board. The elected board positions are, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Membership Chairperson. The Treasury position will be co-held by Hans and Kathy Crail until the position becomes available at 2027's elections, due to their recent appointment. If you feel the need to help lead the club, please feel free to volunteer for the position you wish to help with. If you don't wish to run for a Board of Directors position but still wish to volunteer to help, please let me know and I have plenty of volunteer spaces needing to be filled to help the club.



As this year winds down remember to keep gas in your tank, air in your tires and your battery charged because you never know what might happen next!

Vice President's Message

Mike Ryan
ZCSD Vice President



October started out with an absolute kicker of a car show. JCCS had their annual Japanese Classic Car Show. It did not disappoint. There were so many S30's Z cars, as well as other model Z's. In a way it seemed we had more Z's there the at ZCON.



It was a blazing hot day, and I was battling a sickness that has lasted 3 weeks. Darren was gracious enough to tow my Z up to Long Beach so I could ride in comfort. There was so much eye candy to look at. All different flavors of Japanese classic cars.



A few people from the Datsuns and coffee group won awards. Our very own former president David Gonzales won 2nd place over all for the Z category. San Diego has been going strong between ZCON the weekend before and now JCCS.

Next up was our Z Club meeting. David had asked me to host that one. He wanted me to work on getting comfortable speaking to the group. It went well in my opinion. We had our guest speaker J Biddel from JBA Speed shop. He spoke about our upcoming dyno day event at his shop. We also had Manny Guiterez who will be selling his leather bags at our upcoming Z show. He showed off some of his cool merchandise.

We had our Dyno day at JBA and it was a very cool event. Most fun I had at a Dyno day ever. It was like a kid in a candy store. Looking at all of the really cool cars at the shop. Talking with the team. They were all very welcoming and friendly. They treated the group to a nice BBQ.



Not to mention they gave us extra runs on the dyno. They were really great hosts. Looking forward to doing it again with them next year.

Last but not least. Our club was recognized for the large donation we contributed. It was for the center for the blind. The center for the blind hosted a nice luncheon for representatives from each group who donated.

Myself, Craig Moya and Jason Damron from the Z club showed up to the event. We were treated to live music and some good food. It was nice to see some of the people who were visually impaired show up for the event. The live music was played by two visually impaired people.

I had a lot more appreciation seeing that the money was going to a very good cause.

Overall, this month was packed with some really cool stuff. Other than being sick for most of it. I had a great time. I'm looking forward to our upcoming Z Show. It will be the first one we've had in many years. At least here in San Diego. We are working hard to one day have a huge west coast Z show again and have it annually.

Stay tuned there will be more to come.





Z Club of San Diego (ZCSD)

Meeting Minutes

by Darren Kirkpatrick

Guest speaker: Donn Austin, BRE 240Z

Opening

Mike opened the meeting by asking members who they are and what they drive, then asked what they like to do with their Z.

Dyno Day at JBA

- Jim spoke about Dyno Day at JBA.
- James Bittle covered the day's schedule and food, the history of his cars, autocross and racing, the tire shop, and other activities at the shop. He also discussed Coronado racing and the class he ran, the automotive museum, and the kids' night.
- Rick Ball spoke about preparing cars safely for the dyno.

Guest Speaker: Donn Austin

Mike introduced Donn Austin, a past president of the club, who presented his BRE 240Z.

- Donn started with a beat-up Z31 from Florida. After 46 years he finally found a 240Z.
- The car hadn't run in 25 years. It was blasted with walnut shells and had almost no rust, though water had pooled in the floor. All hardware was replaced with stainless. He waited over six months for paint.
- In 1981 he bought a parts car for the engine. The engine was built at Machine Tech by Monty.
- Performance upgrades include brakes from Arizona Z Car, a Schneider cam, a lightweight flywheel, MSA headers and exhaust, and Vintage Air A/C.
- Rich Sharp in Boise did the wiring, dash, windows, and much of the interior.
- Donn took the car to ZCON in Phoenix and won first place in his class.

Vendor: Manny Gutierrez

Manny presented his custom bags and fender covers, which can carry Z logos or Z club logos. He will be a vendor at our car show. He will have leather and vinyl bags with our logo.

ZCON and JCCS

- Mike discussed ZCON and the JCCS car show. He noted that ZCON was a bit small this year and mentioned the awards the club received.
- David, who attended his first ZCON, was very enthusiastic. He also talked about the next ZCON in Mississippi.
- Mike enjoyed the Nissan test track, including a brisk ride at 80–100 mph.
- David described meeting Peter Brock and Randy Rodriguez signing his and Mike's cars.

Upcoming Events

- **Nov 14 – ZCSD Car Show.** We are working to make this an annual Southern California show, possibly filling the gap left by the old MSA show. Trophies will be awarded, and the judges are unbiased.
- **Dec 5 – Christmas Party** at Filippi's Pizza in Kearny Mesa. There will be a white elephant gift exchange with a $25 minimum value.

Club Business

- November is election month. No one has volunteered for any office so far.
- Birthdays were announced.

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	kanjospecd.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

CARS	MODEL
20	240Z
2	260Z
7	280Z
5	280ZX
4	300ZX (Z31)
6	300ZX (Z32)
8	350Z
5	370Z
4	Z (RZ34)

BIRTHDAYS

11/08 Al Milano

11/17 Sherie Arnoth

11/18 Tona Kisiel

11/19 Steve Sverci

11/29 Rob Johnson

11/30 Roger Castro

MEMBERSHIP WEBLINKS

San Diego CARS & COFFEES

Cars and Coffees not listed here, please send me the information (date, time, and address) to Faithfulldf67@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

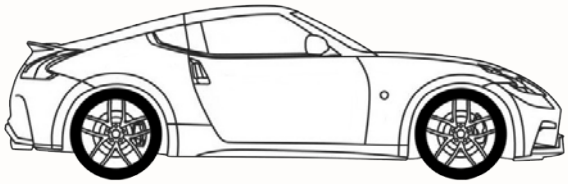
Escondido Cars and Coffee
Every Sunday
7-9 am
3333 Bear Valley Pkwy.
Escondido, CA. 92025

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 SanDiego 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 awsome schedule that is put together by the San Diego Association of Car Clubs.

This is just a snip of **November** that I captured from the website. Please check out the site for a whole years calendar.

click logo above to go to website.

- SUN. November 1st - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SAT. November 7th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | FACEBOOK
- **SAT. NOVEMBER 7TH - EAST COUNTY CRUISERS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE & CAR SHOW | 9A-2P | 15954 WOODS VALLEY RD 92082 | 619-201-8207**
- SAT. November 7th - Poway Cruisers In-N-Out Cruise In | 10:30a-1:30p | 12890 Gregg Court. Poway, CA 92064 | Every 1st Saturday | billpersonius@gmail.com
- SUN. November 8th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SAT. November 14th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | FACEBOOK
- SUN. November 15th - SD Automotive Museum Cars & Coffee | 6:30a-8a | 2080 Pan American Plaza 92101 | Every 3rd SUN | Brandi@sdautomuseum.org
- SUN. November 15th - Cars and Coffee La Mesa | 7a-9a | 8332 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, CA 91942 | Every 3rd Sunday | INSTAGRAM
- SUN. November 15th - Super Chevy Sunday | 7a-3p | 1750 Wildcat Canyon Rd Lakeside Ca 92040 | Superchevysunday@gmail.com
- SUN. November 15th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SUN. November 15th - Spar Customs Monthly Car/Music/Bike Show | 12p-4p | 890 Palomar rd, Carlsbad Ca 92011 | dabbles@sparcustoms.com
- SAT. November 21st - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | FACEBOOK
- SUN. November 22nd - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- SUN. November 22nd - Black Angus Steakhouse Car Show | 10:30a-1:30p | 707 E St. 91910 | Every 4th Sunday | 619-778-1395
- SAT. November 28th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | FACEBOOK
- SAT. November 28th - Santee Cars & Coffee | 7a-10a | 9608 Carlton Hills Blvd. Santee, CA 92071 | Every 4th Saturday | 619-253-0524
- SUN. November 29th - Escondido Cars & Coffee(MOPAR vs. FORD vs. CHEVY) | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 619-253-0524

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)

Information:
sdrscca.
motorsportreg.com
speeddistrict.com
speedventures.com

WEBLINKS

SCCA

Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium

Buttonwillow Raceway

Willow Springs Raceway (streets)

Willow Springs Raceway (big)

Ramona Fairgrounds

Chuckwalla Valley Raceway

Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Z Club: Step Up and Help Out

Officer Positions

Our top priority is a new Secretary. Our current Secretary is stepping down, and without someone to take over, the club has no one keeping its records, minutes and communications. We need a volunteer to step in soon so the handoff is smooth. We also need people for officer roles for the coming year: (All roles can be nominated for.)

- **Secretary (urgent):** Takes notes at monthly meetings and sends them out, keeps the member roster and club records, handles email and announcements, and helps with sign-up sheets for events. About 3 to 4 hours a month. Good with details and organized? You're a fit, and the outgoing Secretary will help you get started.
- **President:** Runs meetings, sets the agenda, represents the club to the public and other clubs, and keeps officers and committees on track.
- **Vice President:** Fills in for the President when needed, helps recruit volunteers, and oversees committees and special projects.
- **Treasurer:** Collects dues, pays bills, tracks income and expenses, and gives a short financial update at meetings.
- **Event Coordinator:** Plans club drives, meets and car shows, lines up venues, supplies and volunteers, and works with the other officers on the schedule.

Why volunteer to lead

You don't need prior experience, just enthusiasm for the cars and the people. Officers shape what the club does, build real leadership skills, and get to know members better. The time commitment is modest, and the work is shared, so no one carries it alone. If you've been thinking "someone should do that," this is your chance to be that someone.

The car show needs your help

The car show is our biggest event, and it only happens if enough members give a few hours. Even one shift makes a difference. Help is needed with:

- Setup and teardown: cones, signs, tents and tables
- Registration: greeting entrants and handing out numbers
- Parking and layout: guiding cars into place
- Raffle and sales table: handling donations and tickets
- Judging and awards: tallying votes and presenting trophies
- Cleanup: leaving the site better than we found it

How to sign up

Tell us which officer role or car show job you want by [sign-up deadline]. Talk to any current officer at the next meeting, or contact [name] at [email or phone]. Not sure where you fit? Ask, and we'll help you find a spot that matches your time and interests.

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Confidence Drives.

Girlie Garage helps car owners, buyers and enthusiasts make smart decisions through expert guidance, inspections and hands-on learning.

EXPERT SERVICES

CONSULTING
Get expert guidance for car decisions big and small.

INSPECTIONS
Pre-purchase inspections and evaluations so you know what you're buying before you buy it.

EDUCATION
Hands-on classes, workshops and resources that make car knowledge practical and fun.

Real Knowledge. Real Confidence. Real Freedom.

TOPICS That Matter

ENGINE BASICS | BRAKES & SUSPENSION | FLUIDS & MAINTENANCE | ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS | BUYER EDUCATION | VEHICLE SAFETY

Whether you're new to cars or a seasoned enthusiast, there's always more to learn.

LET'S BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE.

Empowering You
THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SO YOU CAN DRIVE WITH CONFIDENCE.

About Girlie Garage

Founded by Talena, Girlie Garage is built on a simple mission: to empower car people with the knowledge and confidence they need to make the right decisions about their vehicles.

REAL MECHANICS. REAL CONFIDENCE.

PWR DETAIL

DRIVEN BY PASSION.
DEFINED BY DETAIL.



Z CLUB MEMBERS GET A DISCOUNT!

DETAILING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS.

PWR Detail delivers a showroom finish with precision, passion, and premium products. Every vehicle. Every time.

EXTERIOR DETAILING
Paint Correction & Protection

INTERIOR DETAILING
Deep Cleaning & Sanitizing

CERAMIC COATINGS
Long-Lasting Protection & Incredible Gloss

WHEEL & TIRE DETAILING
Clean. Protect. Shine.

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ZCSD DYNO DAY

Horsepower, Muscle Cars & Bittle Dogs | October 10th, Kearny Mesa

The club held its annual Dyno Day on October 10th, and for the first time the event took place at JBA Speed Shop in Kearny Mesa.



For those who have never been through the doors, JBA (J. Bittle American) has been a San Diego fixture since 1985 and is still family owned and operated. Today the 22,000 square foot facility combines a machine shop, engine dyno room, tire center, retail parts store, and showroom under one roof, staffed by ASE certified master mechanics and engine builders.

Shop info and a bit of History:

The morning started with coffee and donuts courtesy of the JBA team, followed by a tour of the shop led by owner J Bittle. JBA is Southern California's premier speed shop, specializing in automotive performance, diagnostics, engine machining, building, and balancing; wheel alignments, electrical repairs and upgrades, dyno tuning, suspension and brake upgrades, supercharging, interior upgrades and more. The shop's résumé includes inventing one of the first smog-legal "shorty" headers in the late 1980s, building Zoomy headers for Ron Capps' Camaro funny car, and helping set a land speed record for Ford Motor Company in a 2001 Focus.

The tour started on the main floor, home to an impressive collection of mostly 60's and 70's American muscle cars in various stages of rebuilds and modifications.



From there we walked through the machine shop, where engine blocks and cylinder heads are machined and balanced, then the engine dyno test room, the on-site Meltdown Tires mounting and balancing shop, and finally the Speed Shop showroom.

For anyone new to the hobby, a chassis dyno measures how much horsepower and torque actually reaches the rear wheels. The



car is strapped down with its drive wheels on the rollers and run through a pull, giving owners a real-world baseline and a before-and-after yardstick for any modifications.

About twelve Z cars were registered for dyno runs, along with a few non-Z's brought by members, like me, who couldn't bring their Z for various reasons. The lineup of Z's (and non-Z's) in the JBA parking lot was quite a sight!



Runs started around 9:00 am and continued until about noon, with dyno operator Randy Alldredge at the controls and club member and retired JBA technician Rick Ball providing technical support.







JBA then served lunch, including their famous Bittle Dogs, along with side dishes, snacks, waters, and soft drinks. Afterward, everyone gathered in the Speed Shop showroom to go over the dyno results, compare notes, and trade ideas for future mods.

All in all, it was a great day at JBA! A big shout out to J Bittle and his team for hosting the ZCSD, to Randy Alldredge and Rick Ball for their expertise on the dyno, and to everyone who came out and made it a success.





Written by Jim Thompson
Edited by Darren Kirkpatrick

Z CLUB OF SAN DIEGO

Yall gather around now for

The Z 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

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$15 DAY OF SHOW
(IF SPACE AVAILABLE)

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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.

REGISTER ONLINE!

JUDGING CATEGORIES

S30 – S130	Z31 – Z32	Z33 and on
(1970 – 1983)	(1984 – 1996)	(2003 to present)

(CATEGORIES AND JUDGING FORMAT SUBJECT TO FINAL DECISION)

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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!

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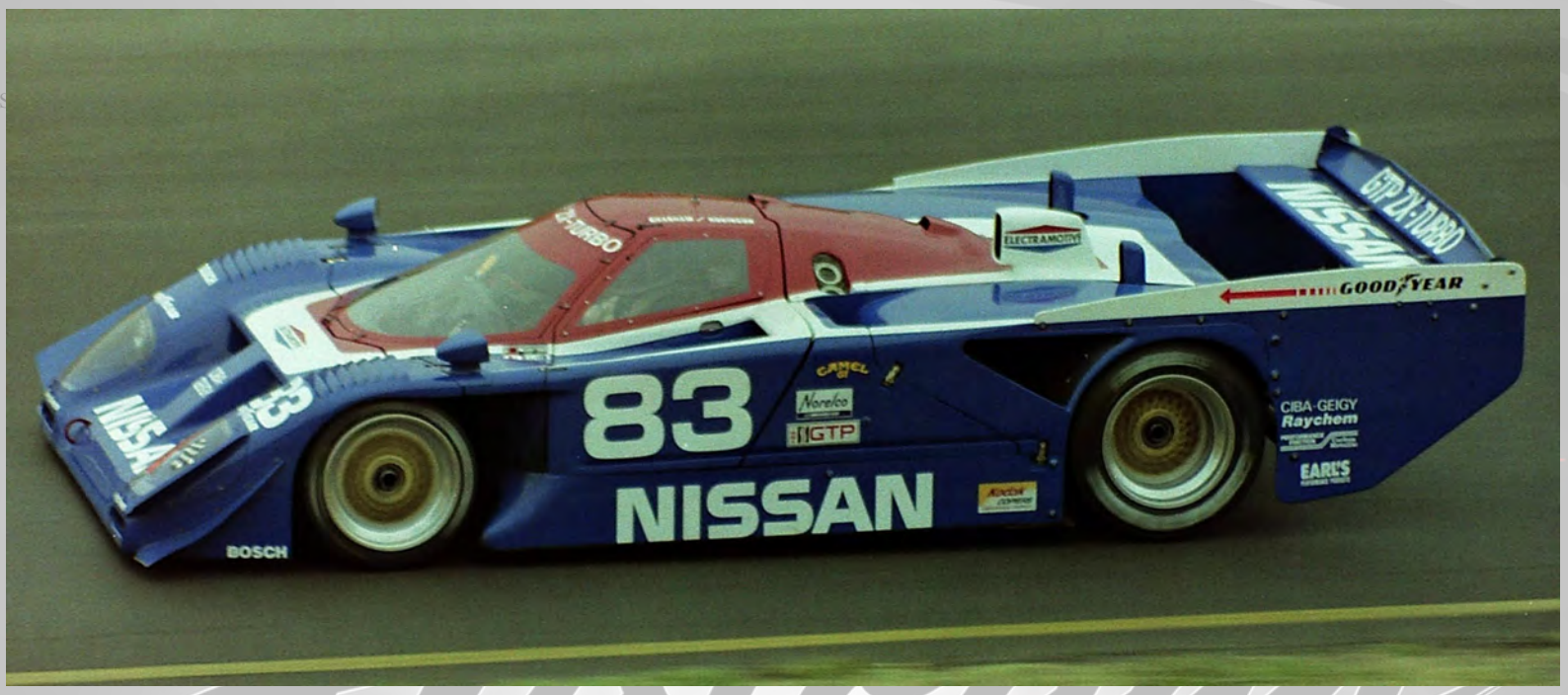
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The Z That Went Prototype Racing

How a turbocharged 300ZX engine and a small California shop took on Porsche and Jaguar, and won

Last month's story ended with John Morton and BRE proving that a Datsun could beat the establishment. Nearly two decades later, the establishment had gotten a lot faster, and Nissan's answer wasn't a showroom coupe with a roll cage. It was a purpose-built IMSA GTP prototype with a turbocharged V6 behind the driver, making more than 850 horsepower by Nissan's own account, and the only things it shared with the street Z were a name and the bones of its engine.

That car was the Nissan GTP ZX-Turbo, and it is arguably the most successful race car ever to wear a Z badge. Its path to the top was anything but smooth.



A Z engine in a Lola

When Nissan phased out the Datsun name in North America, it needed a new face for its racing there. In 1984 it named Electramotive Engineering, a Southern California shop founded by Don Devendorf, its official North American racing development arm and green-lit a GTP program to showcase Nissan technology in IMSA. Devendorf was a Hughes Aircraft electronics engineer turned racer who had spent years running modified Datsuns. The division of labor was simple: Lola in England built the chassis to Nissan and Electramotive's specifications, Nissan supplied the engines, and Electramotive maintained, modified, and raced the cars.

The first two chassis arrived in early 1985 as the Lola T810. The engine was the VG30ET, the same V6 family found in the street 300ZX Turbo, hence the "ZX-Turbo" name. But where the street block was cast iron, Electramotive developed a cast-aluminum racing version with block specialist Joe Anahory. Engineer Chris Willes, who joined in 1986, later estimated it was making around 1,000 horsepower, and boost routinely cracked blocks, dropped oil pressure, and blew engines. The gearbox was not much happier.

Hard lessons, 1985 to 1987

The car debuted at Laguna Seca in May 1985 with Devendorf and Tony Adamowicz and finished 11th, seven laps down. Devendorf later remembered it as a nervous, unpredictable machine that darted sideways under braking. A heavy crash in practice at Charlotte then sidelined it for much of the season.

For 1986, aerodynamicist Yoshi Suzuka, who had been with Nissan since the BRE days, drew a new body that stabilized the car, though the extra downforce overloaded its Bridgestone tires and the team switched to Goodyear after Elliott Forbes-Robinson broke his collarbone in a crash at Riverside. Nissan skipped Daytona and Sebring to concentrate on development, and Geoff Brabham's third place at Portland was a high point in a season that ended seventh in the constructors' standings. Willes recalls that the program ran on a year-to-year basis with limited backing from Japan.

The breakthrough came at Miami in 1987, when Brabham and Forbes-Robinson won, beating a Porsche 962 by eleven seconds. Nissan still ended the year fifth in the constructors' standings with roughly a sixth of Porsche's points, but the team had shown it could win.



1988: the year it clicked

For 1988 Electramotive added a second car and a new chassis designed by Trevor Harris, even as IMSA tightened the rules with intake restrictors aimed at curbing the turbos and the factory Jaguars arrived to take on Porsche. After an eighth at Miami, Brabham won at Road Atlanta by four seconds over Jaguar. Nissan credits Brabham and John Morton with that season's victories, which also came at Palm Beach, Lime Rock, Mid-Ohio, Watkins Glen, and Road America. When the second car debuted at Portland, the two Nissans swept the top spots. The eight-race win streak finally ended at San Antonio with electrical problems.

Nissan took nine of 14 rounds and Brabham won the drivers' title, but the constructors' crown slipped away by a single point to Porsche. The reason was a choice made years earlier: Electramotive had skipped Daytona and Sebring.

Champions, then a handoff

In 1989 Nissan went to the endurance races, and at the 12 Hours of Sebring Chip Robinson, Brabham, and Arie Luyendyk won by two laps. Over the season Nissan took ten wins to Jaguar's three, claimed the constructors' title, and ended Porsche's run of championships that dated to 1983. Brabham edged Robinson for his second drivers' crown. Crews had often rebuilt cars overnight, sometimes until 2 a.m., to be ready for Sunday.

At the end of 1989, Nissan bought Electramotive outright and renamed it Nissan Performance Technology Inc. The team opened 1990 with the older ZX-Turbos, including wins at Miami and Sebring, while it finished an all-new car, the NPT-90, which debuted at Topeka and won at Mid-Ohio. The last factory GTP ZX-Turbo was retired soon after. Nissan took the constructors' title again and Brabham his third drivers' title. Nissan left GTP after 1992, and the final GTP ZX-Turbo race came at Miami in 1991, a 13th for a privateer entry.

The Z32 connection, and the legacy

The street 300ZX Twin Turbo, the Z32 we covered earlier in this series, arrived in 1989, the same season the GTP ZX-Turbo won its first constructors' title. Nissan used the race car in 300ZX advertising, and it even turned up in a Miami Vice episode set around the IMSA Miami Grand Prix. It was the BRE playbook again: win on track, sell on Monday.

In 2024, IMSA inducted Brabham and the GTP ZX-Turbo into its Hall of Fame, and Nissan showed the car at Monterey Car Week beside a Z Heritage Edition. The #83 championship car now sits in Nissan North America's heritage collection, and Willes tells the full story in his book, Developing a Champion: The Electramotive Nissan GTP Story.

Did you see a GTP ZX-Turbo race in person? Reply and tell us about it. We may feature reader memories in a future issue.

Our membership application has been moved from PDF to Google online forms. Please use the new form online.

Thanks!!

