



Ramblings

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

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kyuWKhpQS88m1r4s5>

ZCSD OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBERS:

President David Ferris

faithfuldf67@gmail.com

Vice President Mike Ryan

lionryan@hotmail.com

Secretary Patty Cook

captpattycook@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Club Store Sheri Arnoth sherinlenny@cox.net

Track Coordinator Craig Moya cjm01awt@gmail.com

Webmaster Carl Cook webmaster@zcsd.org

Newsletter

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. We will be changing our July event from the Idyllwild run on July 18th to an exciting, somewhat top-secret event on July 26th. The thing you'll need to plan on is to be available Sunday, July 26th and plan on being around highway 79 between Warner Springs and Garage 79. Obviously more information will be coming, and as soon as we get everything ready, we'll let everyone know. It should be an incredible day, and we'll be sharing the event with Group Z!

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



NOVEMBER

- 14 – Wine and Car Show, TBD

DECEMBER

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



From the Driver's Seat

David Ferris
ZCSD President



June has been a busy month. At the time of this writing, we have already had the Main Street America Car show, presented by the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego for the San Diego Center of the Blind. In 4 years, we've come a long way. Cliff and I showed cars in 2023. The following year I managed to get 15 cars registered to get our own "Z" class the following year. I barely got that accomplished. Mike Ryan still won the award for "Foreign vehicle of early years". Last year, with the goal in mind to win the Club participation trophy, we set a show record with 36 registrations. We had 31 cars show and 28 Zs. We had so many that Craig Moya decided we needed 2 classes this year.

This year we set a new record with 46 registrations. We had 2 classes, 69-89, and 90-present. Mike Ryan took 2nd place and Ralph Carwin took 1st in the 69-89 class, and I took 2nd and Roger Castro took 1st in the 90-present. We also took the Club Participation trophy. In 4 years, our club has shown that Zs are still very much alive and we've taken a total of 9 trophies with our Zs. To me that's quite exciting!

We have not had our annual picnic but that is scheduled for the 28th of this month at Bates Nut Farm. I'm sure there will be a write-up in the August newsletter about it but it's too late to put it in the July newsletter, so you'll just have to wait to see what it was like, if you don't join us.

There is also something peeking on the horizon that might be of interest. Donut media has reached out to Mike Ryan and myself to ask us to help with a popular series they produce on YouTube. "I Drove Every..." is going to have an episode with Datsun and Nissan Zs. The producers have asked if we might be able to help with the filming of that. We are working on dates and cars at this point. We have picked the weekend of July 25th and 26th, with the filming on the 26th. We are changing our July event to Sunday July 26th and **it will not be the Idyllwild run**. I promise more information will follow as soon as we have it.

We also have our annual meeting at the beach on July 1st at De Anza Cove at 6pm. Pizza and cake are going to be provided along with water. Bring your own drink and chair. It will be a meeting by the water and there won't be a lot of

Vice President's Message

Mike Ryan
ZCSD Vice President



June was full of many highs. From personal accomplishments to cars and coffee get togethers, car shows and seeing Z's in the wild. This has been a very busy month. As I'm writing this, we still have more events to attend this month alone.

The Z club meeting was a great kick off to a very busy month. We discussed ZCON, the Mainstreet America car show, the Z club picnic and upcoming cars and coffee events. To say we have a lot on our plates in the next couple of months is an understatement.

Our biggest event was the Main Street America car show. The Z club really cleaned up. Not only did we earn four awards for our Z's. Yours truly won 2nd place in my class. Ralph Carwin won first place. David Ferris and Roger win 1st and 2nd in their class. The club had two classes this year due to our turnout size.



We also had the largest club turnout and we received a trophy for that as well. We beat the Miata club for the second year in a row. All of us were proud of our President David Ferris for all of his hard work and effort to make this happen. Special thanks to our competition coordinator Craig Moya for being an instrumental part of the whole event. Looking forward to next years show.



On a personal note. I got to see my Daughter graduate college with her masters degree from UC Santa Cruz in education. To keep this Z related. We saw a nice 240Z running around town. Santa Cruz, Ca is a cool place to see a lot of cool cars. You see them cruising down the main drag by the

Secretary's Scribblings

Patty Cook
ZCSD Secretary



A General Membership Meeting – On June 3, the meeting began at 7:01 PM, with 37 members and guests in attendance. **President David Ferris** led the introductions with the question, “What Z do you have?”

David then introduced our guest speakers, who joined us from Arizona via ZOOM. **Gregg Rogers**, 2026 ZCON Chairman, and **Jack Saxon**, the Head of Motor Sports (who has also been a member of ZCSD since 1999). They informed us about all the plans for the 39th ZCON, to be held from the 21st to the 26th of September. This will be the 3rd time Arizona has hosted a ZCON. Among the highlights: The juried car show will be indoors (and air-conditioned). The people's choice car show will be outdoors, but in the evening, when it's cooler. There will be tours of the NISSAN Test Center where the AutoX will be held. A chance to see a Chicago Cub Minor League game, a movie night, and lots of other activities. For more information, go to info@XCON.org

Special Announcements:

June 28 – Picnic has been moved to **Bates Nut Farm** from 10 AM to 2 PM in the same spot as last year. Added to the menu are pulled pork, chicken, and cake for dessert. Bring your lawn chair, a side dish to share, and any drinks you desire (water will be provided). You can also purchase beverages at the store there.

July 1st – General Meeting/Pizza Party will be at de Anza Cove starting at 6 PM. Bring your lawn chairs.

August 15th – Museum/Drive will meet at the South OC Cars & Coffee, have lunch, and caravan to the Segerstrom Shelby Event Center in Irvine for an exclusive Club-only viewing.

Dennis Darnall is retiring as the Treasurer. There will be nominations at the July meeting and an election of a new Treasurer at the August meeting. Let any board member know if you are interested in filling this vacancy.

The ZCSD donations (both Club and individual member contributions) elevated us to the Gold Level. This provided us with more advertising and 2 complementary tickets to the Center's Awards Dinner. There will be a special drawing for the members to attend.

Greg Carlson, Membership Chairman's Report: **Paul Meglasson**, the only June Birthday member present, received a gift. **Greg** attended the SD Car Club Association meeting, and our November Car Show will be advertised in their mailings.

MEMBERSHIP

Greg Carlson



Hi everyone,

Welcome to July! Thank you to all of you who participated in the car show! The weather was really nice and so were all the cars.

Our yearly picnic is this Sunday (6/28) so please stop by, say hello and have some food and some fun. I still have some membership badges to give out. And I'll have blank membership forms for new members.

- 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	

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
SanDiego Automotive Museum Page on



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



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 March that I captured from the website. Please check out the site for a whole years calendar. [click logo above to go to website.](#)

- WED. July 1st - Cajon Cruise Celebrating America's 250th with American Muscle | 5p-7:30p | DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 3PM | Main St & Magnolia Ave. Downtown El Cajon | Every Wed May 6-Aug 26 | 619-995-5219
- THU. July 2nd - America On Wheels | 5p-7:30p | 9310 Fanita Parkway, Santee, CA 92071 | Lake 5 | 619-201-8207
- THU. July 2nd - La Mesa Classic Car Show | 5p-8p | 4th St. and Spring St. in La Mesa 91941 | Every Thurs June 4-Aug 27 | 619-343-2460
- SAT. July 4th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- SAT. July 4th - Poway Cruisers In-N-Out Cruise In | 10:30a-1:30p | 12890 Gregg Court. Poway, CA 92064 | Every 1st Saturday | billpersonius@gmail.com
- SUN. July 5th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- WED. July 8th - Cajon Cruise Mopar Jungle | 5p-7:30p | DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 3PM | Main St & Magnolia Ave. Downtown El Cajon | Every Wed May 6-Aug 26 | 619-995-5219
- THU. July 9th - La Mesa Classic Car Show | 5p-8p | 4th St. and Spring St. in La Mesa 91941 | Every Thurs June 4-Aug 27 | 619-343-2460
- SAT. July 11th - Bonita Cars & Coffee | 6a-9a | 4414 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902 | Every Saturday | [FACEBOOK](#)
- **SAT. JULY 11TH - SERRA MESA BLOCK PARTY | 1P-7P | 2721 GREYLING DR, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123 | 619-980-2821**
- SUN. July 12th - Escondido Cars & Coffee | 8a | Kit Carson Park - 3333 Bear Valley Pkwy, Escondido, CA 92025 | EVERY SUNDAY | 858-342-6404
- WED. July 15th - Cajon Cruise El Cajon Harley-Davidson's Bike Night | 5p-7:30p | DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 3PM | Main St & Magnolia Ave. Downtown El Cajon | Every Wed May 6-Aug 26 | 619-995-5219
- THU. July 16th - La Mesa Classic Car

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		

Advertising and Promo



angelalyn designs.com



San Diego, Ca 92111
Hours 8am-9pm Daily.
(858) 455-1461
elijahsrestaurant.com



Pettey's Auto Service Inc

11641 Iberia Pl.
San Diego, CA 92128
petteys@att.net
858-485-7820
Contact: Andrew

Business Hours

Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Sat - Sun Closed

Look for us on [Angie's List!](#)



Poway Valley Collision
14211 Garden Rd, Poway Ca 92064
Monday thru Friday 8-5
(858) 679-7476



June 28th, we will be having our annual picnic at the same location we've used for the past few years. We will be in the same spot as last year, next to the animal pens near the store under the large canopy tent. We've had a great time there over the last few years, and after some research, we found that the Poway Lake picnic area just isn't as well suited for our club.

We will still be having a potluck, but we are changing the main course this year. The club will be providing BBQ, including pulled pork, brisket, and chicken. We will also provide buns and water. If you would like something other than water to drink, please bring it with you or purchase a beverage at the Bates Nut Farm store.

We will begin setting up at 10:00 AM, and you are welcome to come out early if you'd like. We plan to have the food ready by approximately 11:00 AM. I'm also pretty sure there will be lumpia and possibly cake!

Parking will be right in front of the picnic area so we can all see and admire our cars during the event. See the link below for directions.

Bates Nut Farm
15954 Woods Valley Rd
Valley Center, CA 92082
(760) 749-3333

Location:



EVENTS

ZCSD 2026 August 15th Run

South OC and Shelby Event Center

August 15th at 7:45am we will be meeting at Denny's at 529 Avenida Pico, San Clemente, Ca 92672.



A few of us will be at Denny's earlier if you'd like to join us for breakfast. We will be going to the San Clemente Outlets and arrive at 8am for entry into South OC Cars and Coffee. In order for us to go in as a club I will need to know you're attending. You must let me know you're going to join us to enter as a club to get in early, or else you will have to wait for the 8:30am roll in with all the other cars. The entrance is less than 5 minutes from Denny's. ***If you'd like to attend, email me at faithfuldf67@gmail.com.***



We will have lunch at a place to be determined at a later time, around 11am. The place will be along the route.

We will need to leave South OC at 10:30am.

After lunch we will be heading to Segerstrom Shelby Event Center at 5 Whatney Irvine, Ca 92618.



<https://segerstromshelbyeventcenter.com/>

Everyone will need to have paid their tickets in advance for entry. You can do it that day, but you need to have your tickets before entry. There will be multiple ways to pay if you need them.

Below is the route from South OC Cars and Coffee to Segerstrom Shelby Event Center.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bLTJZfaBZ1nATBrWA>

Hope to see you all August 15th~.



RED, WHITE & BOOST

CELEBRATE
FREEDOM
THE **Z** WAY
★ ★ ★

FREEDOM. HORSEPOWER. BROTHERHOOD.



PIZZA PARTY
AT DE ANZA COVE
SAN DIEGO, CA



GOOD PIZZA
GOOD PEOPLE



SCENIC VIEWS
OCEAN BREEZE



Z FAMILY
ONE COMMUNITY



FRIDAY
JULY 1, 2025



6:00PM
ONWARDS



DE ANZA COVE
SAN DIEGO, CA



ALL Z'S
WELCOME

BRING YOUR Z ★ BRING A CHAIR ★ BRING GOOD ENERGY



Z Club Sets Another Record at Main Street America



The Z Club of San Diego (ZCSD) once again made its presence known at the annual Main Street America Car Show, presented by the Corvette Owners Club of San Diego in support of the San Diego Center for the Blind. As a Gold Sponsor of this outstanding charity event, our club was proud to help support a show that continues to bring together Southern California's automotive community for a great cause.

Last year, our members rallied together with the objective of bringing home the Club Participation Trophy. The response was incredible. We set a new show record with 36 registered vehicles, 31 of which attended the event, including an impressive 28 Nissan Zs. That record-setting turnout earned our club the coveted Club Participation Trophy and demonstrated just how strong the Z community has become in San Diego. This year, we raised the bar once again. Our club shattered its own record with 46 registered vehicles, making the Nissan Z Club of San Diego the largest participating club at the show. Thanks to the tremendous turnout, we once again captured the Club Participation Trophy, defeating the always-competitive Miata Club for the second consecutive year. We also received the trophy recognizing the largest club turnout.

Over the past several years, our participation has grown from simply attending the event to becoming one of its most recognized clubs. One of our long-standing goals was to earn enough participation to justify our own dedicated Z judging class. Thanks to the continued support of our members, that goal became a reality this year. With the number of Zs now attending Main Street America, the Corvette Owners Club introduced two dedicated Nissan Z judging classes—1969–1989 and 1990–Present. This was a proud moment for our club and a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment our members have shown over the years.

Our members proudly represented the club in both classes:

1969–1989 Class

1st Place: Ralph Carwin

2nd Place: Mike Ryan

1990–Present Class

1st Place: Roger Castro

2nd Place: David Ferris



NISSAN DESIGN AMERICA

AMERICA'S CREATIVE HEART

Written by Darren Kirkpatrick

Perched on the cliffs above the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla, California, sits one of the most influential automotive design studios you've probably never visited. For more than four decades, Nissan Design America (NDA) served as Nissan's creative bridge between Japan and the North American market, producing concepts, production vehicles, and design ideas that would influence generations of Nissan and Infiniti automobiles.

The story began in 1979 when Nissan Motor Co. established a small satellite studio in San Diego under the name **Nissan Design International (NDI)**. At the time, Japanese automakers were rapidly expanding in the United States, and Nissan recognized that understanding American tastes required more than market research—it required American designers.

The mission was simple: immerse a talented design team in Southern California's unique automotive culture and allow them to create vehicles specifically tailored to Western consumers.

Southern California was already becoming the epicenter of automotive design. The region's car culture, custom builders, racing heritage, and year-round driving climate made it an ideal laboratory for creativity. Nissan recruited experienced designers from General Motors and other major manufacturers to form the studio's initial team. Among the earliest hires was designer Gerry Hirshberg, who would later become one of the most influential figures in Nissan's design history.



Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the La Jolla studio's influence grew rapidly. Designers contributed to vehicles that would become icons among Nissan enthusiasts. The rugged **Hardbody pickup**, the original **Pathfinder**, and the versatile **Pulsar NX** all reflected an understanding of American lifestyles and preferences that could only come from designers immersed in the U.S. market.

Perhaps no vehicle better illustrates the studio's impact than the **Nissan Xterra**. Introduced for the 2000 model year, the Xterra embraced a simple philosophy: everything you need, nothing you

How a Coastal Design Studio Helped Shape Nissan's Global Identity

The studio also played a significant role in reviving Nissan's sports-car heritage. Contributions to the development of the **350Z** and later **370Z** helped reconnect the company with the excitement and performance that enthusiasts associated with the legendary Z-car lineage. NDA designers were instrumental in ensuring these vehicles appealed not only to Japanese buyers but also to the passionate North American market that had embraced the original Datsun 240Z decades earlier.

Beyond production vehicles, Nissan Design America became known for its bold concept cars. Projects such as the Actic, Terranaut, and numerous show-car studies allowed designers to experiment with future technologies, interior layouts, and styling directions. Many ideas first explored in these concepts eventually found their way into production vehicles sold around the world.



In 2000, the studio officially adopted the name **Nissan Design America**, reflecting its expanded role within Nissan's global design network. By then, the facility had evolved into a full-service design center capable of conducting every phase of vehicle development—from initial sketches and digital modeling to full-scale clay sculptures and color-and-material studies. Its influence extended beyond Nissan-branded vehicles and into Infiniti's luxury offerings as well.

For automotive enthusiasts in San Diego, the presence of a world-class design center just minutes from the Pacific Ocean has long been a source of pride. While most of the work conducted inside remained confidential, generations of designers, engineers, and modelers quietly shaped the appearance of vehicles driven by millions of people around the globe.

As Nissan approaches the future of mobility, electrification, and autonomous technologies, the legacy of the La Jolla studio remains firmly embedded in the company's design DNA.

Today, the story of Nissan Design America is more than a chapter in corporate history. It is a reminder that some of the most influential automotive designs in the world were conceived not in Detroit, Tokyo, or Europe, but on a scenic bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla, California.

The Final Chapter: Why Nissan Design America Is Closing

After more than four decades of shaping some of Nissan's most recognizable vehicles, Nissan Design America is preparing to close its doors. In September 2025, Nissan announced that its La Jolla-based design center would be shuttered as part of the company's global restructuring initiative known as **"Re:Nissan."** The closure marks the end of an era for one of Southern California's longest-running automotive design studios.

The decision was not driven by a lack of creativity or relevance. In fact, NDA remained an active contributor to Nissan and Infiniti projects until the very end. Instead,



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

Thanks!!

