



**THE PRESIDENT SEZ**  
**Ty Ozgen, President**



I don't know about you but I am ready for the spring. After that bad snowstorm a couple weeks ago and now with the spring like temperatures we just had, I am anxiously awaiting the change of season. Even Punxsutawney Phil apparently did not see his shadow this year which means an early spring. Speaking of that snowstorm, I was unfortunately driving in the storm that Tuesday late afternoon, witnessing it snow sideways with that strong wind blowing but the coolest thing was to see lightning flashes in the sky; wasn't that the neatest thing - I don't think I have ever seen this before. We were fortunate that we did not lose power that night and kept warm in our home. That next morning as I looked outside I was surprised as to the amount of snow there was & I was thinking of how I should dig out the driveway. Four foot drifts are nearly impossible to get with my snowblower so the top layer was dug out by hand and the lower layer by machine. Fortunately, it was not a heavy snow; after 3 ½ hours, it was clean.



With all the snow we have been having this year, I was able to test the snow tires that I recently purchased. I bought a winter vehicle to sacrifice itself for my Z's in November. A 2004 Honda Accord EX with all the trimmings including heated seats. One owner, no accidents, all records etc. The only problem I eventually noted was the tires. Not that they were worn, actually quite the contrary. They had plenty of tread but with the first snow of the season, I realized that they were terrible winter tires. Here I am in a front wheel drive car and thinking that I should have no

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issues but I felt unsafe with them. Not just to get going but to stop or even turn in the snow. They were the Michelin MXV Energy tires which from what I read are great for fuel economy and long lasting but I feared was that the compound in the tires were too hard, hence the issues in the snow. I checked the Tire Rack web site for reviews on these tires and I was not the only person

who noted these issues. So I took the plunge and bought some rims and snow tires from Tire Rack and wow....what a difference!! I am telling you people out there, snow tires are the way to go. It is unbelievable the difference in control. You know me; I am not the most aggressive driver out there but I feel very safe with them driving in the snow and ice now. Sure four wheel drive will get you going, but they will not stop nor turn any

better than any other vehicle. Now I just have to watch out for people running in to me who don't have the stopping capabilities I do. Other than that, the Accord has been a great sedan...well except now it is making a ticking noise when first started in the morning that lasts a few minutes. Oil level was OK. I even put synthetic in it without any change. It probably just needs a valve adjustment. I will find out next week as I'm bringing it over to Continental Honda, just down the street from Continental Nissan, to have them check it. I hope it's nothing major.

Speaking of Continental Nissan, many thanks to Jay Weinberger for getting us complimentary tickets to the Chicago Auto Show once again. Yes, it was Valentine's Day that Monday but several members were still able to venture out. What a nice day it was. As always, we gathered by the Nissan area first to check out the Z's they had on display. There was a red NISMO as well as a Play Station 3 version of the 370Z and that was it. No Roadster, not even a regular 370Z. Of course there were other Nissan products present but they were lacking any "pizzazz". The area was partitioned off with fabric walls which I thought was odd. It just was not an exciting display. Even the new electric Leaf was sitting there with hardly a creature stirring around it, not even a mouse. Nissan should have done more with the Leaf in my opinion because of what it represents. My thought would have been to put it on a turntable and have someone talk to the public about how it all works etc. The closest competitor to the Leaf, the Chevy Volt had major crowds around it and the display for it was just beautiful! It was as you were looking into a Spring Day with the grass, the tulips, the bushes, and the young trees with buds in the end of the branches. How appropriate.

Another display I liked was the 2012 Ford Mustang BOSS 302, sitting up there on a dyno, all strapped in. A gal would come out to say a few words to the crowd, followed by a guy hopping in the Mustang, firing it up to let it rumble for a few minutes and then going through the gears in a dyno run. What a beautiful sound that was.

One last note. Your club has been working diligently in regards to the 2011 Midwest Z Heritagefest event the weekend of June 10-12. We

have met twice at Jeff and Alie's home (thank you) and have made a lot of progress. It is going to be a great event but there is still a lot of work to be done. We could always use more help so please speak up. More information should be coming soon.

~ Ty



**Jeff Pleiter**  
V.P of Activities



Thanks to Ty for coordinating the annual visit to the Chicago Auto Show, tickets donated by Continental Nissan. As always I find it great fun to see what is coming up and to plan (dream) for the future. I'll let Ty cover that event in more detail, but I found the Infiniti Essence to be the most beautiful concept car there. It was full of

gorgeous swoopy lines. Speaking of swoopy lines, Nissan has released some info on a concept electric sports car. The body looks suspiciously Z like. Could this be a teaser hidden in plain sight for the design concept of a next gen Z? Check it out and see what you think at [Yahoo Autos](http://Yahoo Autos).

The next Z General Meeting will be held on March 6 and will be a planning meeting and social gathering at my house. Expect to receive another invitation to the event via email.

New events:

In March, I have made reservations for a purely social dinner at Mago in Arlington Heights at 6 pm on Saturday March 19. I figure we need a break from all the planning and the dismal weather. So come on out and join your friends. This restaurant was recently featured in the Daily Herald -



"Mago dazzles with Latin-kissed cuisine" (you should be able to find the review on their website) and I thought it looked interesting. Check out [www.magodining.com](http://www.magodining.com) for more info on the place and menu. I will need to confirm numbers a week ahead of time, so look for an invitation and request for RSVP soon. It may be a little early for the Zs, unless the

weather breaks.

For April (19 or 23), I am tentatively setting up a tech session with Michaels Automotive in Plainfield. Several people have asked for recommendations for an old school mechanic for their Z and this place has been suggested by Bill Opperman, one of our members. More info to come in the next newsletter.



For May (14 or 21), I am considering doing the Spring Fling Drive to be along the Illinois River Road. Still in the planning stages.

June 10, 11, and 12 we are hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Midwest Z Heritage Fest. Look for the website to go live on this event with the registration form, hotel information and schedule of events very soon, although it may already be up by the time you read this.

The 24 hrs of Lemons will be running at Autobahn Country Club in Joliet in October. This looks like it will be a hoot to go down and watch. You may have seen this race of low buck racers featured in any number of magazines or on television. I'll be asking for a show of interest in this.

See the calendar elsewhere in the newsletter for more event info.

*~ Jeff*

### **~ WCZC 10 Years Ago ~**

Since I have just turned the magical age of 50, I have been doing a lot of reflecting these days, pondering the past as well as the future. Life has changed a lot in 10 years, not just for me personally but also with our club. I thought I would reflect on what was happening with our club 10 yrs ago at this time so I dug out my old newsletters and thought I'd share it with you. Back then, Lee Plasmier was our fearless

President, I was doing the activities, Jeff was still our V.P. of Administration, Linda Strain was our secretary, and Bill Bragg was still our Treasurer. Come to think of it, he was still Treasurer 11 yrs ago, 15 years ago, 20 years ago; 25 years ago...do I hear 30? Yes I believe he was. Wow Bill...I'm impressed. Anyway, back then, there was no Z car being sold. The only thing we had was an artists rendering of what the 350Z might look like. We were looking forward to going to the Chicago Auto Show to see the new Z concept, getting tickets from no other than Jay Weinberger. We had recently been to a Tech Session at Body Werks in Skokie as well as a classroom like Tech Session from a master technician from PepBoys, held at the now closed Chicagoland Z Cars. The movie "Fast and the Furious" was just coming out and the inaugural edition of the then "Sport Z Magazine" was just released. Also we were just starting to get our website up and going back then. Yep...a lot has changed.

*~ Ty*



### **~ Nissan Esflow Concept ~**

The 2011 Nissan Leaf represents many firsts for the Japanese automaker, including mass-produced EV technology and a unique platform. With those assets in hand, the automaker is showing what it can do beyond the Leaf with its Esflow Concept.

Debuting at the 2011 Geneva International Motor Show in March, the Esflow is an all-electric sports coupe with a look that's reminiscent of the Nissan 370Z, though it's likely much smaller. If it ever went on sale, its main competition would be the Tesla Roadster (we've already thought up a few headlines for the hopeful comparison).

The Esflow isn't all bark. The Leaf's electric propulsion system has been re-engineered for more sporty intentions, and the EV sports car features a lightweight aluminum body and roll cage, twin rear



electric motors and lithium-ion batteries slung low for better weight distribution. The Esflow should be capable of zero to 62 mph acceleration times of less than 4 seconds.

The batteries should give the car a range of about 150 miles, which is much better than the Leaf's 73 miles of range.

Nissan and its partner French carmaker Renault have promised to put some 1.5 million electric cars on the road by 2016 through seven models, including the Leaf. With so many EV models coming, a sporty coupe similar to the Esflow could certainly be a possibility.



### **Nissan Engines For Signature LMP2 Le Mans Car**

Feb 9, 2011 by Arman Barari

This year we will be seeing Nissan's badge on an LMP2 car in the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup (ILMC) as they've signed a two-year agreement with the French team Signature Racing to supply them with NISMO tuned VK45V8 engines.

It's been a while since last we saw a Nissan prototype racer in Le Mans 24 hours. They already have the GT-R in GT1 class and this one will expand their rich motorsport portfolio which includes everything from International rallying to Touring Cars, Le Mans, the Daytona 24 hours and the FIA GT1 championship.

Beginning with their first race under the banner of 'Signatech Nissan' in the ILMC on March 19th in Sebring, USA, the Signature Racing team will be powered for the first time by Nissan's engines.

Announcing the new agreement, Vincent Wijnen, Nissan Vice-President, Strategy and Marketing, said "Nissan is very happy to announce our new partnership with Signature and we look forward to working with such a professional and well respected team. I know our customers, fans and dealers will be following our progress when we start racing in March and will of course be anticipating our return to the Le Mans 24 hours."



## **MARKET**

Looking for that Z or part? Have one for sale?  
Email [wczc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wczc.editor@gmail.com) to post in Z Market

## *Windy City Z Upcoming Events Calendar*

<b>Date &amp; Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact &amp; Info</b>
Mar 6 – ZGM	Jeff Pleiter's House	<a href="mailto:villaZX10@comcast.net">villaZX10@comcast.net</a>
Mar 19 – Social Dinner @ 6pm	Mago Restaurant, Arlington Heights	<a href="mailto:villaZX10@comcast.net">villaZX10@comcast.net</a>
Apr 3 – ZGM	TBD	
Apr 16 (TBC) – Tech Session	Michael's Automotive, Plainfield	
Apr 23 (TBC) Tech Session rain date	Michael's Automotive, Plainfield	
May 8 – ZGM	TBD	
May 14 – Spring Fling	Illinois River Road, Ottawa	
May 21 – Spring Fling rain date	Illinois River Road, Ottawa	
June 10-14 – MWZ HeritageFest	Lisle, Bolingbrook	
July 18-23 – Intl Z Convention	Savannah, Georgia	
TBD – Z Progressive Dinner		
TBD – Fall Colors of Indiana	Indiana	
Sept 15-18 – Mecum Auction	St Charles, IL	<a href="mailto:villaZX10@comcast.net">villaZX10@comcast.net</a>
Sept (TBD) - Octoberfest	TBD	
Oct 8 – 24 hrs of Lemons	Autobahn Country Club, Joilet	
Nov (TBD) – WCZC Birthday Party	TBD	<a href="mailto:villaZX10@comcast.net">villaZX10@comcast.net</a>



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