



Volume XXXIV, Nov/Dec 2011

James Snyder, Editor

THE PRESIDENT SEZ Ty Ozgen, President



December is here. That means it is cold outside, especially if you live in the Northern Hemisphere like Chicago. Thanksgiving is now just a memory and we all look forward to the Holidays. After that, we have that long month of January to get through, all 31 days worth. Then comes the short month of February and you know what, then its spring. I know we all get the blues this time of year since the days are shorter, and we tend to stay inside more but there are advantages. First of all, I don't have to worry about the yard, though frequent snow storms can be a pain. My Z's are all hibernating so I don't have to worry about keeping them clean or dwell on which one to drive on the weekend. I have just the one designated car for the winter; a non Z, not even a Nissan, but a Honda Accord. It's not that I am abandoning Nissan but that I just needed a used late model 4 door with front wheel drive, heated seats, reliable, uses regular unleaded and of course in my price range. I had my share of Maxima's but they require premium gas. I did consider the Altima but the interiors on the older ones don't appeal to me. Plus I think they are wider than the Accord is which is not ideal for me in my tight garage. So I drive an Accord during the cold winter. Do I miss my Z's? Sure I do but none of them have heated seats. I did take my '90 to work a couple times in the cold weather this year and it sure was uncomfortable sitting on the cold leather after its been in the parking lot for several hours. Yep, I'll take the Accord for now.

Speaking of cold dark nights, I just had an interesting near miss tonight. We all tend to get junk emails that are often deleted quickly but I do recall one that talked about deer and how they tend to travel in pairs or groups, so if you see one chances are there may be another. Well, tonight I'm driving home in my Accord (with my rear end nice and toasty) in good ole Bolingbrook when out of nowhere a deer (no, it wasn't Santa) runs across the road from right to left. For

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whatever reason, I remembered that email and slowed down even though the deer had passed and wouldn't ya know it, here comes its friend a few seconds later. I suspect that if I had not slowed down, I would be dealing with a broken Accord. There were no signs indicating "deer crossing" either. Come to think about, are those deer crossing signs correct? They always show the deer figure as if it may cross from right to left. Does that mean they will not cross left to right or are there separate signs for those deer? Hmmmm. Interesting observation.....

As the year winds down, I am thankful for another successful year for our club. We just celebrated our 36th year which is something to be proud of. This year we celebrated at the Suparossa restaurant in Woodridge. There was a good crowd and I know everyone had fun. I had a lot of fun too and not because I was drinking. It was just nice to be together without worrying about trophies or fingerprint smudges or brake dust etc. Everyone went home with a door prize as well as raffle prizes. There were videos of the past years events. There were "State of the Union" speeches from each of your officers. We even had my famous "quiz" with a twist. Instead of questions related to Z cars, I had questions about our members and I was impressed at how well you all knew each other. But in all this commotion, I forgot something huge for which I owe everyone an apology for. I forgot to give away the "**Broken Z Award**". If you recall, we started a tradition last year in handing out a trophy to a fellow member who had an issue with their Z. Last year's recipient was James Snyder whose Z left him hanging on his wedding day. This year the trophy goes to.....

(drum roll please).....Glenn Johnson!

If you recall, Glenn is the proud owner of a brand new 370Z which he picked up a couple months ago. He had a '79 280ZX that sort of got *bent out of shape* during a Z road trip. You could say he had it airborne and when he landed, well, lets just say the panels did not fit the same way. He still was able to get home but unfortunately the Z was totaled. I know Glenn had a lot of memories with her and I'm sure it was hard to say good bye. I am sorry for your loss Glenn, but at least now you are the proud owner of a new 370Z with heated seats and a trophy. Congratulations!!

I also want to take the time to thank Jeff Pleiter for all he has done in the last several years for the club. He was our Vice President of Administration for over 10 years and then V.P. of Activities last year until stepping down this year. He has helped me a lot during these years as I would run a lot of questions by him regarding the club. I know he will still be active with the club as he does have the "Z fever" like we all do. Thanks Jeff for your hard work. That means that there is a position open for the V.P. of Activities so if someone would please step up, I would really appreciate it. You will not be left alone to do everything but will get plenty of help. Please let me know.

As far as upcoming events, we will start with the ZGM on Sunday, January 8th followed by the Presidents Night Out dinner on Saturday, January 21st. We will send you more information as time goes by so keep your computers up to speed. Have a Great Holiday Season everyone and we'll Z ya in 2012!!!!

~ Ty

Jeff Pleiter, V.P of Activities

OK, so it's the last column of the year. The plan was for me to back off a bit this year and let someone else take over as VP of Activities. However, no one stepped forward at the Birthday Party, so that office is still open for someone to step into. Ty did a great job planning the Birthday Party, finding the room, and

making the arrangements. Thanks Ty. Even without an official events planner, there will be Z activities

going in 2012. Ty will cover what is coming up through February, but I won't be stepping completely back. Two events that will be happening in the Spring, once the weather breaks, will be the Branson Z Fest and the Midwest Heritage Fest. With the International Convention so far away in Arizona, not many of us are likely to attend next year. A number of WCZC people regularly go to Branson Z Fest which is typically held in early June. At Oktoberfest and at the Birthday Party, a number of additional Z members expressed interest, so it looks like we'll make this an official WCZC group event. If you would like to go, make a mental note, put it on

your calendar, in your iPad, post it note etc., and we'll send you the dates and additional info as soon as they become available on both the Branson Z Fest and Midwest Heritage Fest. Also, if anyone is interested in hosting or leading an event, or suggestions on an event, let Ty or myself know.

With my Zs parked away, I still need my car fix during the winter. Watching car shows is one way to keep my passion for cars sated.

"Top Gear" is of course the top show. It is more than a car review show, it is "bloody good" entertainment. I'm talking about the BBC version of course. The imagination, writing, and the hosts are "Brilliant"; whether they are top speed testing the Bugatti Veyron, transforming combines into snow plows, comparison testing cold war "Commie Cars", or assaulting the beach with the Royal Navy and a Ford Fiesta, they are one of the funniest, clever and intelligent shows on television – not just for a car show. Of course, if another country has a successful show, Hollywood has a long tradition of trying to copy it. Hence there is an American "Top Gear" on the History Channel (guess they had the highest bid) - at least this is a licensed version – not a rip-off. Off to a shaky start, it had improved by the end of last season, but the hosts, the best of which being Tanner Foust, are not quite as good, the scenarios are not quite as good, and when copied directly from the BBC version, not executed as well. But I still consider it worth watching – it seems to be on the upswing.



“The Car Show” was a short lived series on Speed Channel that included Adam Corolla as host. Good – he is a huge Datsun fan, and owns early Z race cars and roadsters, many of which were on the show. Bad – I found him not funny, although I believe he is supposed to be a comedian. Dan Neill, a car reviewer with the Wall Street Journal, was another host. He was actually good, a clever and witty host – a foppish version of Jeremy Clarkson – but he knows cars and knows how to drive them. Some of the show though was a direct copy of reviews he did separately under his own review show on Speed. Matt Farah of the smoking tire.com was another host who didn’t impress, and for some reason they had some NBA player I won’t bother to name. I don’t know why they had him as a host except that he could afford a lot of expensive cars. Worth checking out for the Datsun features, and few other bits, but best viewed with a DVR that you can fast forward through the rest. This started as an hour program, went down to a half hour then disappeared. Don’t know if it will be back.

“My Classic Car” with Dennis Gage found on Speed Channel is another good show. It has a wide spread of coverage, most of it is on street rod and street machine shows all over the countries. It does find some of the interesting and out of the ordinary shows, and also has some shows about specific collections and cars. I still have the episode with coverage of the International Z Car Convention at Nashville on DVR.

There are more shows past, present and future that I may cover another time, and a new one starting tonight on Speed called “CARnivore” that I’ll check out.

How do you get your car fix during the winter? Do you just take a complete break? Maybe you drive your Z during the winter. Since my winter driver is a Mini Cooper S on snow tires, it is not all boredom in the snow. If you have comments, stories, or an article pass it on and we’ll include it in the newsletter.

~ Jeff

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If you have photos or articles that you'd like to contribute to the WCZC newsletter, please submit them to wczc.editor@gmail.com



MARKET

For Sale: 1977 280z limited edition “Zap Car”

Needs a new home with someone who appreciates the 280z’s. It is a limited edition “Zap Car” of which only 1100 were made in 1977. It is all original and I have all the work records for the car since I bought it in 1981. The engine runs strong and the body is in good shape for a 1977. I always stored the car in the winters but there is some surface rust. I put on new original front fenders in 1993. Asking \$3,000.



I live in Naperville, please contact me through my work e-mail address if you have any questions or want to see the car. - Rob - rktrading@sbcglobal.net

Windy City Z Upcoming Events Calendar

Date & Event	Venue	Contact Info
Jan 8 – General Z Mtg	TBD	tmo212@aol.com
Jan 21 – Presidents Dinner	TBD	

WCZC TEN YEARS AGO

Ten years ago, we had just celebrated our 26th year of existence with a birthday party at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook. As always, everyone walked home a winner with prizes. At this event Lee Plasmier had stepped down from his tenure as the President and yours truly was elected (what was I thinking?). We were all excited about the new 2003 350Z that was to debut later in 2002. There were several pictures circulating in the tabloids for Z fans to see. Other recent events include the Octoberfest at Continental Nissan and a Fall Fling to the Kettle Moraine area in Wisconsin. On a sadder note, we lost a past President and member Steve Applebaum to cancer.

WANTED

36 year old Z club looking for single/married, male/female, age 18-80 member to develop/share activities with. Must be a Z member, preferably owning a Z, condition not important but prefer running. I am not looking for a short fling but a meaningful long term relationship. Divorced Corvette, Mustang, Miata or NSX owners not a problem as I am open to all ideas. I love the outdoors and like to go on Road trips, do Tech Sessions, have parties and picnics. If this is you, please inquire within. I would love to meet you.



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