



# Z NEWS

NOVEMBER 2012 VOLUME 40 - 11

The Official Newsletter of Z Owners of Northern California

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## ZONC's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Picnic

On Saturday, October 13, 2012, we had our annual ZONC Birthday Picnic at ALLAN WITT PARK in Fairfield, CA. With clear skies, no wind and temperatures in the mid 70's, it was a great day for a gathering of friends and cars!

When I woke up, the first thing I asked my wife, Gloria, was, "How's the weather," to which she said "great!". The past few days had been overcast and cloudy and temperatures were in the 50's and low 60's. After getting dressed, we went and got the charcoal and ice and headed to the park. We were met there by my brother, Larry, who manned the grill for us.

After getting the grills set up, we realized that we didn't have matches or lighter fluid so an unexpected trip to the store for those items and when I got back, my son, Marques, was there and we got the coals started. Marci and Bob Jenkins and Ann Devor and Paul Gommel showed up and we started setting up the area for the picnic. When the coals were ready, Larry and Marques started cooking the meats.

Members started showing up and as usual, Ken and Mary Clark jumped in and got involved with helping us, along with Frankie Armstead. By the time the majority of our Members arrived,

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## Up Coming Events

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Annual Awards  
Banquet

January 12<sup>th</sup>

Planning Meeting  
(Everyone is Invited)



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Moving Swiftly Along...

October was a different kind of month for us. We only had our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Birthday Picnic scheduled, after we cancelled some events due to a surgery on the event organizer. We were invited to Driven Authority's Annual "Meet and Greet" in Sacramento, CA on October 27, 2012. Please see next month's edition of the ZNews for a report on Driven Authority's "Meet and Greet".

Our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Birthday Picnic was held at ALLAN WITT PARK in Fairfield, CA on October 13, 2012. We had about 40 Members and guests attend and plenty of great food to eat. We had a 'Show and Shine' Car show and a raffle. The weather was perfect and we had a lot of fun. Please see the BIRTHDAY PICNIC article in this edition of the ZNEWS.

Your Vice President, Ann Devor, gave a report on the 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Z CAR CONVENTION in Chandler, AZ on September 18-23, 2012. She said that the Convention was great and that the Convention

hosts, DESERT Z ASSOCIATION, did a tremendous job of setting up for everybody. Z owners from all over the United States attended along with some owners from Canada! The only negative was the 107 degree heat. Next year's Convention will be held on the East Coast and the 2014 Convention will be held in San Diego, CA, to which ZONC will plan to attend.

Two members of ZONC, Roy Dorn and Rolf Johnsen, are recovering from recent surgeries and I wish them speedy recoveries. For our next General Meeting, please see [ZONC.org](http://ZONC.org) for the date, time and location.

Upcoming events: Our ANNUAL INSTALLATION/AWARDS BRUNCH will be on December 2, 2012 at the HARVEST BUFFET inside of CACHE CREEK CASINO in Brooks, CA. Please see [ZONC.org](http://ZONC.org) for more information and flyer in this ZNEWS.

As the year is coming to an end, the weather is changing but the fall colors of Northern California are very beautiful. The roads are still drivable and you can still have day drives from your home to many destinations and back, on a single tank of gas! Please see: [thezenthusiast.com](http://thezenthusiast.com) for the latest information on the Z community in Northern California. Get out and have fun and always remember to "enjoy the ride!"

**IF IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, SEND IN THIS FORM BELOW WITH YOUR DUES!**

**ARE YOU MOVING?? PLEASE FILL OUT CHANGE OF ADDRESS BELOW!**

☐ ZONC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM ☐ Change of Address (complete 1-8 only below)

Send your check payable to: ZONC to: Ann Devor 2916 Eccleston Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

1) Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 4) City: \_\_\_\_\_ 5) State: \_\_\_\_\_

6) County: \_\_\_\_\_ 7) Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Home Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed are my \$30 dues for the next 12 months ☐ Enclosed are my \$55 dues for the next 24 months

☐ Enclosed is an additional \$10 per person, per year, for an associate membership for \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# 40th ANNUAL INSTALLATION & AWARD BANQUET DECEMBER 2, 2012, SUNDAY

10:00am to 2:00pm

CACHE CREEK CASINO  
BROOKS, CA



→ Bent Z Award → Potty Seat Award → Outstanding Member  
→ Brunch at the Harvest Buffet

(located at the far end of the building from the entrance)

→ Installation of 2013 Officers → Free Raffle

## TOYS FOR TOTS ~ TOY DRIVE

Bring new unwrapped toy for the Toy Drive

### FROM THE BAY AREA:

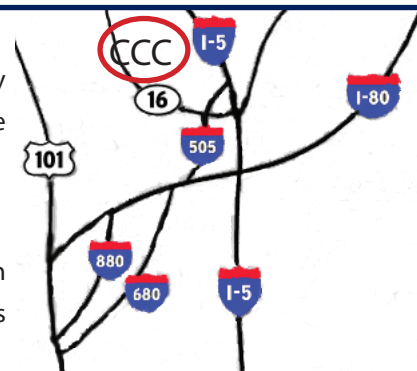
[www.cachecreek.com](http://www.cachecreek.com)

Take Interstate 80 East to Interstate 505 North. Go approximately 20 miles, exit on Highway 16/Esparto, turn left at the light. Follow Highway 16 through Esparto, Capay and on to Cache Creek Casino Resort.

### FROM SACRAMENTO:

Take Interstate 5 North through Woodland to the Esparto/Highway 16 exit. Turn left, then travel three miles to second stoplight. Turn right onto Highway 16, follow through the towns of Esparto and Capay and on to Cache Creek Casino Resort.

14455 Highway 16  
BROOKS, CALIFORNIA 95606



**\$10.00 for Members and Associate Members. \$15.00 for Guests.**

Send check to ZONC, P.O. Box 4403, Petaluma, CA 94955-4403

Check must be received by 11-28-12.

OR use Pay Pal at [www.zonc.org](http://www.zonc.org)

RSVP by 11-28-12 to [thebeard@sonic.net](mailto:thebeard@sonic.net)

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Member # _____	Name: _____	\$10.00
Associate Member # _____	Name: _____	\$10.00
Number of Guests or Children: _____	x \$15.00 = \$ _____	
		Total \$ _____





Jameson Apodaca Photography  
WWW.JAMESONAPODACAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

## ZCON 2012 Tour at Nissan Arizona Testing Center

By Ann Devor

The annual Z Convention – ZCON 2012 – brought Z owners from far and wide to the WILD HORSE PASS HOTEL AND CASINO in Glendale, Arizona in late September. Why Arizona where the temperatures are scorching hot in September? Because NISSAN has its ARIZONA TESTING CENTER out in the middle of the desert and, for the first time ever, ZCCA members were invited for a tour of its top-secret facilities.

This was the big event for ZCON 2012, drawing around 300 cars to take a test drive on the proving grounds. Traveling south of Phoenix, we arrived at the TESTING CENTER located in the middle of agricultural fields, behind barbed wire fencing, with entry permitted only after clearing a guard station. No cameras were allowed and we had to check our cell phones and cameras with the guard.

ZCCA scheduled the tours in groups allowing us to either board the new NV2500 vans or follow along in our own cars. We chose to first take the guided tour and we boarded the big white van that led us past test buildings and around the test track. While we were not permitted to enter any of the buildings other than Building 7 where the cafeteria and restrooms are located, we were told about the tests going on inside the buildings for high humidity, heat and cold. Cold in Arizona? They consider that to be 60°! And it

turns out that extreme cold testing is done at facilities in Alaska where conditions get to 51° below zero and plastic parts can just snap off of a car.

The inside test track twisted and turned through various road conditions, mimicking actual roads in places like San Gabriel, a turnpike in New Jersey and a diminishing radius curve from Sears Point! Every road condition – smooth to rough pavement, potholes, mud, water (zero traction), reverse camber curves, ruts, washboard, steep hills and corrosive salt – were all elements of the proving grounds.

The exciting 5.4 mile high-banked oval course surrounds the inside track. The NV2500 van, powered by the same engine as the TITAN, appeared to hit 140 mph and circled the track by centrifugal force alone – hands-free off the steering wheel – holding steady in the second fastest track lane. Does the NV2500 that NISSAN released in the US go that fast? It all depends on what they learned in testing it with various tires and different speeds on the testing track.

After the guided tour by NISSAN's test crew, we were invited to get in our cars and drive along with the next guided tour without restrictions, except for our own good judgment. Some of us really pushed it – at 109 mph, we were passed by a GT-R and a Z32!

Paul won a high-speed test ride and graciously gave it to me so I could write this story. While others were still touring the test track in the NV's, I got a ride in a prototype 370Z that is still being used as a training vehicle. The driver demonstrated the 370's performance innovations such as the rev-matching downshift feature that reduces engine and clutch wear without unnecessary slowing from braking.

I asked how NISSAN set the top speed limiter for the 370Z prototype and learned there are different vehicle top speed limiters depending upon the country where the vehicle will be sold and used. For example, in Germany where drivers are allowed to drive faster than in the U.S., the vehicle speed limiters allow you to go faster and the cars are sold with tires with higher speed ratings than what we get when we buy a new car here. The TEST CENTER has a warehouse of different tires for testing speed and performance for each test vehicle as it will actually be used in

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Picnic

(Continued from page 1)



everything was set up and most of the cooking was done and it was time to eat! There were some awesome side dishes: baked beans, salads, vegetables and desserts that went along with the chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and links that were cooked. Rolf Johnsen, North Valley Area Representative, brought some ribs that were thrown on the grill!

We had about forty Members and guests attend and we had a raffle and a "Show and Shine" car show. Winners of the car show were: Oldest Z-1970 240Z owned by Ken Clark, Best

Paint-2003 350Z owned by David Morse, Best Interior-1973 240Z owned by George Mattos, Cleanest Engine-1974 260Z owned by Joe Armstead, Most Bugs on the Windshield-2007 350Z owned by Lynne and Rick Warner and the Most Mileage on the Odometer-1974 260Z (302,000 miles) owned by Joe Armstead. Each winner received a certificate and a "gag" gift. Your Vice President, Ann Devor, gave a short report on the 25th Annual Z Car National Convention, then Ann and Marci brought out the Birthday cake!

We had a great time with some great people, great food and some great cars!







## Danville Concours

By Bob Jenkins

On Sunday, September 16th, Marci and I headed down to the Bay Area and the Danville Concours, held on the streets of Danville. The Danville Concours d'Elegance, which gives its proceeds to supporting Parkinson's Research and Patient Care, is a fun event, which not only has lots of great high end cars, race cars, boats, motorcycles, and an open exhaust drive down the main street by some special race cars.

There were lots of Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Porsches, Cobras, and British cars of all types from Land Rovers to Lotus and this year they even had some Nissans.

The Danville Concours is usually on the second weekend in September and the web site is:

<http://www.danville-delegance.org/>

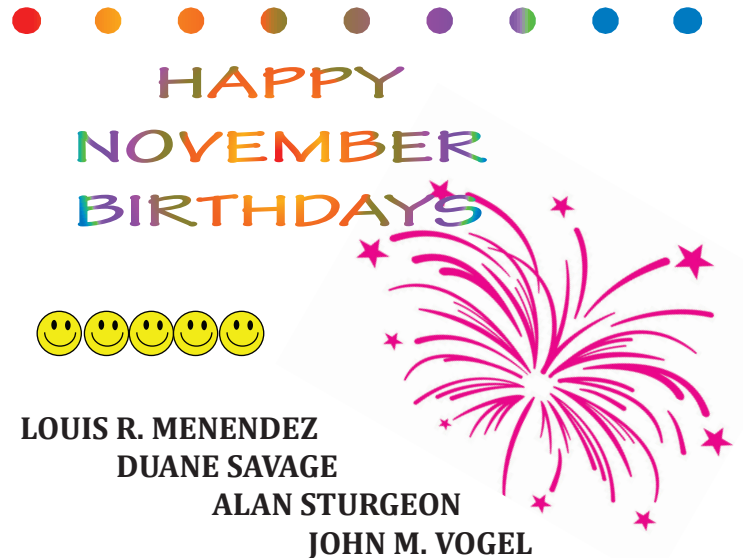


## Testing Center

(Continued from page 4)

the various countries where it will be sold. That was probably one of the closed buildings we didn't get to see!

Many of us hung around after the test drives, sharing stories and meeting with other Z owners from the United States and Canada. Everyone was thrilled to be there and our hosts were just as excited to show us what they do for a regular job. After lunch in the cafeteria, we headed out in the heat of the day and retrieved our phones and cameras from the guard station, having thoroughly enjoyed another memorable event brought to us by ZONC's membership in ZCCA.



**LOUIS R. MENENDEZ**  
**DUANE SAVAGE**  
**ALAN STURGEON**  
**JOHN M. VOGEL**

*If you're not listed - it's because the Data Base Manager does not have your month of birth.  
 And you're wished a Happy Birthday!*



More ZONCers at the Picnic

**FOR SALE****1971 240 Z Classic reconditioned**

123,000 miles. Complete rebuilt motor, carbs, motorsports headers. New clutch, brakes, tires, paint, interior like new. California car purchased at Sacramento Datsun, no rust.

**\$9,000 obo.**

**Call: 310-625-4781**

**email: mdwphdj@gmail.com**

(2)

**FOR SALE****2004 Nissan 350Z Touring Coupe**

Sporty and fast. Loaded. Spotless, showroom quality. Under 26K original miles. Le Mans Sunset with leather interior. 17" aluminum alloy wheels. Many accessories. All records since new (including original window sticker). Pampered!

**\$17,000**

**Call: Kevin at 925-522-9667**

(2)

**Z MART ADS**

Members: no charge for nonbusiness ads

*(include membership # with ad)*

Nonmembers: \$10.00 per ad,  
\$20.00 with photo.

Please send via email with photos, if possible  
(.gif or .jpg of 100 to 150 KB in size) to:

**thebeard@sonic.net**

Ads run for two months

(unless you tell me to remove it after one month).

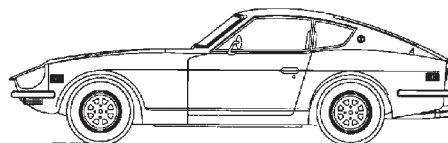
Please include your complete address with ad.

**DEADLINE: is the 15th of the month,**  
**for inclusion in the next issue.**

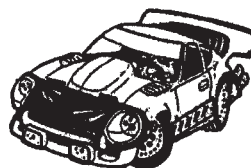
Please make check or money order  
**payable to: ZONC.**

Please send ad with payment to:

**BOB JENKINS, Z MART**  
**2173 DOLEN CT.**  
**SANTA ROSA, CA 95401**

**BUSINESS DISPLAY AD RATES FOR  
Z NEWS**

	<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>6 MONTHS</u>	<u>YEARLY</u>
<b>Full Page</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$303</b>	<b>\$495</b>
<b>1/2 Page</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$184</b>	<b>\$315</b>
<b>1/4 Page</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Bus. Card</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$68</b>	<b>\$90</b>





**ZONC...Sharing a Love for Fun & Cars**  
**P.O. BOX 4403**  
**PETALUMA, CA 94955-4403**



**Check Your Expiration Date**

*ZONC is a non-charitable, domestic nonprofit corporation formed in 1976, club formed in 1972*

## WORKING FOR YOU .....

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VP-Admin.	Peter Iozzia	707.480.9650	iozzia@aol.com	Club Historian	*****	*****	*****
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## AREA REPRESENTATIVES .....

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North Valley	Rolf S. Johnsen	209.578.2952	rsjohnsen@sbcglobal.net	San Francisco	position open	*****	*****
Contra Costa	Wade Warren	*****	wade@kamikazeracing.org	San Mateo	Yolanda Atkinson	650.873.5552	yojack1@aol.com
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