



Z NEWS

JANUARY 2021

VOLUME 49 - 1

The Official Newsletter of Z Owners of Northern California

Johnnie K. Gable in Memoriam

By Ann Devor

The Z car world lost a bright light on December 8 with the passing of Ms. Johnnie K. Gable. Johnnie was the hard working and fun-loving secretary to Yutaka Katayama, also known as Mr. K. Johnnie started working for Mr. K on May 23, 1963 during the early years of Datsun car sales in the United States. Mr. K was the Vice President of Nissan Motor Corporation, USA for the west coast. At the time, the cars that Nissan sold were branded Datsuns for the United States and were shipped to the ports at Los Angeles/Long Beach from Japan. When Johnnie was hired, she became Mr. K's right

hand and had responsibility for a multitude of tasks that led to the tremendous success of Datsun and now Nissan cars in the United States. Johnnie was Mr. K's personal assistant and took care of his correspondence, scheduling and orders for cars. She was always behind the scenes taking care of business.

In the meantime, the Datsun 510 had been introduced to the United States and was becoming popular on the racetrack. And then one day, Johnnie told Mr. K about Bob Bondurant's interest in running Z cars at his driving school in Ontario, CA. Mr. K then arranged for Bondurant to get 10 cars. Johnnie also gets credit for delivering parts to Peter Brock in the early days of Brock Racing Enterprises. It was difficult to get parts without Mr. K's support. Brock's development of a 240Z race



Johnnie Gable and Peter Brock at Blackhawk



Steven Millen and Johnnie Gable at Monterey

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On Z Road Again

By Linda Williams



Happy New Year

ZONC members!

Welcome to 2021! Wow, I didn't think this year could come quick enough. I truly wish that this year brings us closer to the end of the Covid-19 Virus. The vaccine seems to be coming for everyone and hopefully will slow the virus down a bit.

We had our December meeting via ZOOM on December 13th. We only had 9 members participating but we still managed to have our Annual Installation of Officers for 2021! This was a first to have it held over a ZOOM call, but we managed. Congratulations to Jason G, Oscar L and Wade W, I'm looking forward to working with you all for another year. I only hope that we have more events than we did this past year. (Of course, it was out of our control for the most part). Financially, we are still holding at the position we like to be in to keep us healthy as an organization. We have 86 members with 9 Associate members and 11 Sponsors. We have had 19 new members signup in 2020 which offsets the members that we lost due to non-renewal and no longer want to be part of **ZONC**, or they sold their car(s). We still have the Secretary position open, as well as the Solano and San Mateo Area Representative positions. Please let me know if you're interested in any of the positions.

In December, we had the unfortunate news that Johnnie Gable had passed away. We sent a card with our thoughts and prayers to her son, Kenny, and the rest of the family, as well as two rose bushes to be planted in her yard. A Memorial Run was held on Dec. 19th in Southern California. She will truly be missed by all of our **ZONC** members as well as everyone in the Datsun/Nissan car world. RIP Johnnie..... Kenny is looking at possibly renaming the "Mr. K Fun Run" to include her name, but that will come in time.

Congratulations to our **ZONC** members that had pictures

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of their cars in the beautiful book/magazine that Art Singer put together "ZCON Celebrating 50 Years of Z-Cars, Z Enthusiasts and America's Most Iconic Z-Car Events". It's a wonderful compilation of information that had many, many people contribute pictures and information about all of the events listed and pictures of their cars. It was great to see **Z Owners of Northern California** had hosted the San Francisco Bay Area 1991 ZCON Convention held in Pleasanton. Kudos to **Bob and Marci** for contributing photos and the 1991 Event Program.

Our January Meeting will be via ZOOM on **Jan 10th** at 11:30am. This will be our annual planning meeting to try and decide on dates for fun runs, events, car show, picnic, etc. I encourage everyone to join in so that we can get an idea of what our members would like this year. I know that the virus and its limitations are still keeping things in limbo, but we can always adjust dates as things improve or change.

Stay safe and healthy, we're going to get through this together!!

Please Welcome

New Members...

Lawrence Jensen
Matt Yager

G35
240Z



2021 ZONC BOARD

President	Linda Williams
Vice-President	Jason Green
Vice- President Adm.	Oscar Lemus
Treasurer	Wade Warren
Secretary	Open

Johnnie K. Gable in Memoriam

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car led to John Morton's SCCA National Championship wins in 1970 and following in 1971. Continuing Datsun's racing pedigree, Steve Millen drove a Nissan 300ZX Twin Turbo to the first of several championships beginning in 1992. Johnnie Gable was there for all of it. She knew everyone and she helped everyone.

In 1977 Mr. K retired from Nissan USA and returned to Japan. Before he left, he gave Johnnie his 1972 yellow G-nose 240Z. This special car was a generous gift but well-deserved for someone who was devoted to her job at Nissan and to her boss. Johnnie lived her life in the spirit of Mr. K's motto,

also leaves behind another son and grandchildren. Without a doubt, Johnnie will be missed deeply but her bright spirit will live on.



1972 Yellow G nose 240Z



Johnnie Gable and John Morton at Monterey

"Love Cars, Love People, Love Life."

Johnnie continued to be an enthusiastic supporter of Datsun and Nissan sports cars even in her retirement years. In 2018 Johnnie was ZONC's special guest of honor at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion and enjoyed a parade lap with Pat Johnson in his red 1969 Roadster. Recently in April, Johnnie was a special guest at the unveiling of the 50th Anniversary BRE 370Z. In September, she went to ZCon in Nashville to see the unveiling of the new Nissan Z Proto. And she loved ZONC's car shows and gatherings at the Blackhawk Museum.

Johnnie Gable was one of the sweetest and most kind people you could ever know. Besides being a historically important figure in the Z car world, she loved her family very much. She leaves behind her son, Ken Ueda, who has organized the Mr. K Runs out of southern California in recent years. Johnnie



Johnnie Gable and Clark Fenton at Monterey

2021 ZONC Event

January

10 SUN ZONC Virtual Planning Meeting

February

07 SUN ZONC Virtual Regular Meeting

March

14 SUN ZONC Virtual Regular Meeting

May

22 SAT Datslocos Car Show & Swapmeet



Goodbye to ZONC Mascot

We are sad to report on the passing of long time ZONC mascot Rain, aka Pup, Puppy. If you have been on a ZONC tour or came to a car show or other ZONC event, you would have seen Pup enjoying the event from the window of the red 240Z of Ken Clark and Mary Rozmajzl, or walking around with them. Pup will be greatly missed!



Possibly one of Pup's first ZONC tours
the 2007 Death Valley Run

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS...

Ruffin Apperson
Ronald Jackson
Steve Maggioncalda
Matt Yager

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!

ZONC Member Profiles Wanted

Let your fellow ZONCERS get to know you better! We're asking all members who would like to write a short profile about themselves and their car(s) to send it in.

You can write about the things you have done to your car, the ZONC events you like to attend, when you joined ZONC, and/or your hobbies other than ZONC.

Please hold your article to no more than one page.

Also include a picture of yourself and your car and send to the ZNEWS editor at:

thebeard@sonic.net



ZONC's 2011 Canepa Run





2009 Contra Costa Run



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1/2 Page	\$35	\$184	\$315
1/4 Page	\$25	\$125	\$200
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Autocross & Hill Climb Websites**American Autocross Series**

<http://www.americanautox.com/schedule/>

SFR SCCA:

www.sfrscca.org/autocross/

Northwest Hill Climb Association
(541) 772-7314

<https://nhahillclimb.org/>

Redwood Sports Car Club Eureka
(707) 441-1603

www.rsccl.net



34th ZCON
August 16-22, 2021
Colorado Springs, Co

<http://zcon.org/conventions/2021/schedule/>

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(include membership # with ad)

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SAN RAMON, CA 94583



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

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President	Linda Williams	408.761.1869	president@zonc.org	Club Store Mgr.	Yolanda Atkinson	650.873.5552	yojack1@aol.com
Vice-President	Jason Green	909.996.3003	vp@zonc.org	Club Historian	Marci Jenkins	707.546.6867	thebeard@sonic.net
Vice-Adm	Oscar Lemus	510.709.8189	vpa@zonc.org	Tech Coord.	Doc Kanarowski	209.742.6150	zdoc@yosemite.net
Secretary	OPEN		secretary@zonc.org	Activities Coord.	OPEN		
Treasurer	Wade Warren	*****	treasurer@zonc.org	Webmaster	Karl Twiford	*****	ktwiford@sbcglobal.net
Z News Editor	Bob Jenkins	707.546.6867	thebeard@sonic.net				
MembershipRep / Database Mgr.	Bob Russell	*****	bob.russell2468@gmail.com				

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Alameda	Ron Jackson	404.403.3522	dejack39@yahoo.com	Placer/Sacramento	Eric Lindrud	916.397.7577	eric@fairladyzg.com
North Valley	Susan Keller	209.642.1125	smkeller@yahoo.com	Sacramento/Placer	Nick Fisher	916.225.8434	ncfisher25@gmail.com
Contra Costa	Wade Warren	*****	wade@kamikazeracing.org	Santa Clara	Bryan Dolohery	650.248.3825	bryan.dolohery@yahoo.com
Marin/Sonoma	Bob Jenkins	707.546.6867	thebeard@sonic.net	San Francisco	Robert Clark	415.244.4260	robert.clark.sf@gmail.com
Mendocino	Dave Moody	707.391.8756	mendozonc@yahoo.com	San Mateo	OPEN		
Mendocino	Dona Moody	707.391.2852	mendozonc@yahoo.com	Solano	Christy Nocon	707.333.4799	asiansky2@aol.com
Monterey/Santa Cruz	Gary Kerchner	408-223-7544	garykerchner@sbcglobal.net	Yosemite Valley	Doc Kanarowski	209.742.6150	zdoc@yosemite.net

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