



Z NEWS

December 2021

VOLUME 49 - 12

The Official Newsletter of Z Owners of Northern California



New Velocity Invitational at Laguna Seca

By Ann Devor Photos by Ann Devor and Paul Grommel

The inaugural Velocity Invitational took place the weekend of November 12-14 at Weathertech Raceway Laguna Seca. Advertised as a lifestyle event, the event formerly known as the Festival of Speed at Sonoma Raceway, offered vintage racing, up-close looks at Ford, McLaren and Bugatti supercars, and farm-to-table food and wine. While it sometimes seemed that there were two distinct events taking place between the vintage racing and the Sip-n-Savor pavilion, we were there to see the Zs face off against Porsches in the Group 7 IMSA GT FIA class.

Of the 23 Group 7 cars racing on Sunday, 14 were Porsches and 7 of those were RSRs that are some of the top-quality racing machines of the era. Giving the Porsches a fierce fight

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❄ Save the Date ❄

Sunday, December 12, 2021

We are going to have a Holiday Run!

<https://tinyurl.com/ZONC2022DecRun>

Please join ZONC for lunch on this Fun Run in place of our annual banquet.

We will still have a toy drive, so please bring a new unwrapped toy.

See flyer on [page 3](#)

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

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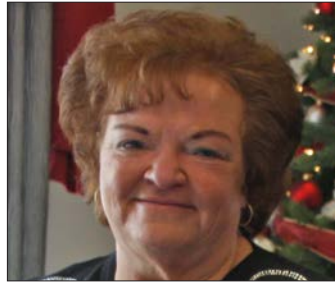
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On Z Road Again

Linda Williams

December 2021



Another year is almost over and in the books for Z OWNERS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA! Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your continued support to keep the club alive. This year we had 26 new members join [ZONC](#)! With the (hopeful) release of the new "Z", I am encouraged that we may gain even more members.

We held our November General Meeting via ZOOM on Nov. 14th with 8 people in attendance. With all the board members there, we all took our Oath of Office for 2022. I'd like to congratulate Jason Green as Vice President, Oscar Lemus as VP of Admin and Wade Warren as our Treasurer, and I look forward to working with them for another year. Thank you to everyone for your votes and I also accepted the nomination and took the oath to be your President for another year. The office of Secretary remains open if any current [ZONC](#) member would like to volunteer for the position. We also have 2 Area Representative positions open for the Solano and Sacramento areas if you're interested, please let me know.

Our December Awards Banquet will now be a **FUN RUN ON DEC. 12th** that will begin at 8:30am and end in Livermore at the Da Boccery. Andrea Ivan has volunteered to head-up the run for all of us. For all [ZONC](#) members that participate, we will be paying for your lunch at the end of the run. If you are bringing a guest(s), we ask that you pay for their lunch separately. The run should take about 4 hours and will take us through quite a few back roads as well as a little bit of freeway driving. We're hoping for a great turnout! Also, if you can *please bring an unwrapped toy*, [ZONC](#) will be donating them to a local Fire Department or Police Station for the kids. This is something that [ZONC](#) has been doing for several years and hope to continue.

Our January meeting will be on **JAN 9th** at **11:30am** via ZOOM. This is our planning meeting to determine when

and what events you would like to have in 2022. Please plan on attending so we can hear from you. I'm hoping that Covid will be behind us and allow us to gather without hesitation so we can enjoy our cars and visit with club members.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, if you were able to get together. As Christmas comes, my wishes are that everyone has a wonderful time with family and friends, and that [ZONC](#) continues to be an exciting club to participate in.

Merry Christmas everyone and safe travels!

Tribute to Bob Bondurant

April 27, 1933 – November 12, 2021



By Bob Jenkins

Bob Bondurant passed away on Friday, November 12, 2021.

Many [ZONC](#)ers will remember Bob from his **BOB BONDURANT DRIVING SCHOOL** at SEARS POINT RACEWAY (now called SONOMA RACEWAY) where he used orange Datsun 240Z's as school cars, which he got from Mr. K.

Bob was a world class driver who raced in FORMULA 1, NATIONAL CORVETTE TITLE, LEMANS GT, the BAJA 500 and many others, before opening his driving school in 1968.

Bob taught many celebrities road racing, including Paul Newman, Clint Eastwood, and Tom Cruise

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DaBoccery Winery
175 E Vineyard Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

Meeting @ 8:30 am and leaving @ 9:00 am

We will begin and end at the Da Boccery with a couple of stops along the way to use the facilities and get gas if anyone needs it.

ZONC members will have their lunch paid for by ZONC and any guests will pay for their own lunch.

<https://tinyurl.com/ZONC2022DecRun>

RSVP to President@ZONC.org by Dec 9th

Please bring a new unwrapped toy.



New Velocity Invitational

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were five Datsuns: #26 260Z piloted by Jim Froula, #47 240Z driven by Brian Frisselle, #49 240Z with Rob Fuller behind the wheel, #54 240Z raced by Jeff Francis, and #93 260Z as always with Glenn Chiou. Other cars competing in Group 7's final race were a BMW 3.5 CSL, a Triumph TR-6, a Corvette and an Alfa Romeo GTV.

The Datsuns did well in Qualifying with Rob Fuller leading the way with the fastest time of 1:40:043 and Randy Jaffe in the Frisselle car coming in less than a second later. The Porsches seemingly hid from hard competition in Qualifying but started to come to life in Saturday's Race 1. Saturday's race started at 5 p.m., nearly in the dark even though the Group 7 race cars do not have LeMans headlights. While we can thank COVID for the late season racing, the drivers had a tough time seeing cars disappear into the darkness. Think about racing down the Corkscrew in traffic with no lights.



Sunday's Race 2 turned into competition between the three front-leading Porsche RSRs, followed by a tough race between the #47 and #49 240Zs. The 1975 and 1976 RSRs quickly took the lead to themselves with the Datsuns following seconds behind them. There was quite a Datsun battle for 4th place



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New Velocity Invitational

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between Fuller and Frisselle with Fuller leading for 6 out of 10 laps (by my count). But in the end Frisselle took 4th place (16:40.967) in front of Fuller (16:43.233) with the fastest



Porsche winning with a 16:27.020 race time. It was good racing from start to finish.

All in all, the lifestyle aspects of the Invitational were small in comparison to the impressive field of race cars and the huge expanse of the Laguna Seca racetrack. The organizers did a beautiful job getting top quality cars, both for racing and for everyone to see. Miles of green artificial turf covered the asphalt with white fencing separating the paddock areas. McLaren had a large presence with Mika Hakkinen running an ear-splitting McLaren Formula One car on the track. The



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New Velocity Invitational

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new McLaren GTR was also a popular attraction. There were two impressive rows of historic GT 40s and current Ford GTs. Six of James Hetfield's hot rods were displayed next to a group of Porsche 917s housed in the Paul Newman building.



Another area was crammed with Ragtime Racers, one being fueled by a driver in full costume. And a Bugatti Chiron sat all alone near the pit entryway, largely ignored because there was nothing to watch or hear while it sat silently parked on the side. There was too much distracting action and sound for the Chiron to even be noticed.

I would go to this event again. We heard from a shuttle driver that the event is signed up at Laguna Seca for the next few years. If they continue to feature high quality racing and cars, we can go along with the food-n-wine folks and have a great time at beautiful Laguna Seca!



September 2011 Road Trip

By Bob Jenkins

This was a 15-day, 9 state, 4834 mile with 9 cars, lead by Jack & Yolanda Atkinson to Mt. Rushmore, Pikes Peak, Yellowstone, Moab, and many other sites.



Z OWNERS OF NO. CALIF., INC. 2729 Lowell - Richmond - 94804 415/232-3408

DEC. 1975 **Z NEWS** BAY AREA REGION MEMBERS 530

THE Z A FAKE ?
In the Rear View Mirror
 December 1975

By Bob Jenkins

On the front page was an article asking if NOEL IS BACK!, which was about a course marker rally starting from Stanford Shopping Center.

Another article titled AT BONDURANT'S PLACE, talked about a ZONC event on Saturday, November 8, 1975 at Sears Point Raceway. Thirty-one ZONCers started off the day in a classroom with Bob Bondurant, teaching how to drive. Then came a Handling Oval learning how to trail brake. The loop is part of the racecourse, it encompasses turns 1 through 6. On the Loop they learned proper cornering techniques by following Bondurant around after he's driven you around in a Dodge van faster than most guys can drive their Z's. The Autocross course was so tight that we seldom got out of first gear. The Skid Pad was an oiled down part of the course on which Bondurant used a specially instrumented 510 that could be screwed up at the will of the instructor.

The article titled THE Z IS A FAKE was written by the Z Club of New England.

The Bay Area Region listed their membership at 530 members.

An Editorial by the new ZNEWS editor stated that the paper would now be written by a staff of writers, including RALLYING Rich Peterson, AUTOCROSSING Tim Berry, and TOURING Sally Roberts, while Z DOCTOR and GEOS Z would continue their columns.

An article entitled PREZ BOX by Mike Lawrence President of ZONC, talked about the changes in ZNEWS and a lack of sportsmanship by some members.

An article titled SKIDMARKS by Tim Berry talked about a November autocross and protesting other drivers. Tim also congratulated Z RACER Walt Maas for taking second place in the CHAMPION SPARK PLUG ROAD RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS to Bob Sharp.

A SONOMA ZONCED article talked about the 13TH ANNUAL TRICK OR TREAT RALLYE held in Santa Rosa, where 6 Z cars full of ZONCers ran the event and one took home a trophy.

A TOURING WITH SALLY article talked about a Jake Kane lead tour with 31 Z's that started in San Jose and went to a Go-Kart Track for some racing. Then the group went to a vacant lot where some paper cups filled with water were set up in a tight course which was driven as fast as possible and at the end of the course you had to extinguish a lighted candle and all while timed. This was followed by a Quiz about Z cars and a short rally that ended with dinner at a Sizzler.

A THIS Z EVENING article was a review of a restaurant and they said the following month they were to go out dancing.

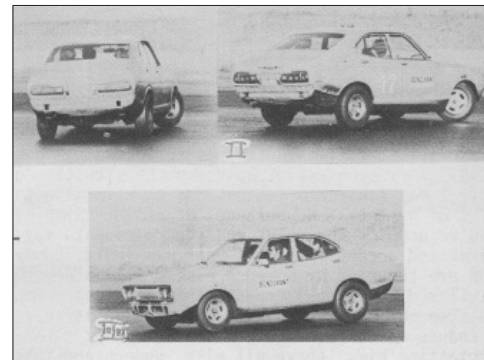
A SKI TRIP article stated ZONC was going to Heavenly Valley for a weekend of fun and only \$54 a person.

ZONC's Annual Banquet was set for the Royal Coach Inn in San Mateo, with a private room and prime rib, filet mignon and lobster tail and only \$12.

In WORKING FOR YOU the ZONC Officers were listed as President Mike Lawrence, Vice President Jack Kane, Secretary Paula Laskelle, Treasurer Juris Dundurs, Activities Chairman Jim Warych, Marin Area Coordinator Frank & Sloane Glasser, San Francisco Area Coordinator Joe & Sally Roberts, San Jose Area Coordinator Ed Mills, Sonoma Area Coordinator Bob Jenkins, Walnut Creek Area Coordinator Paula Laskelle.



In the class room at Sears Point

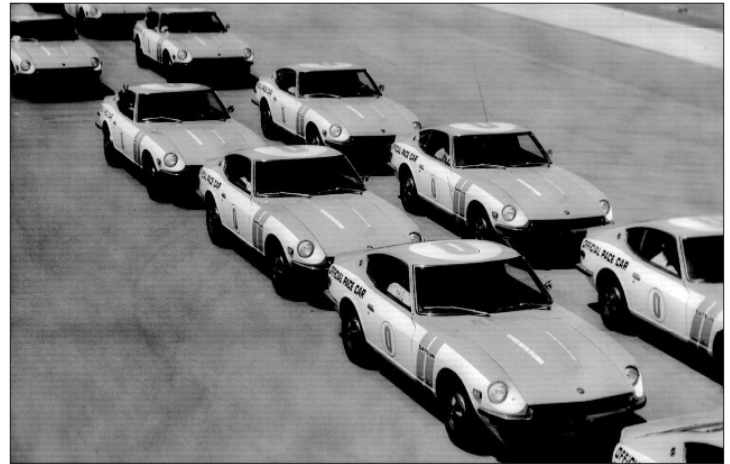
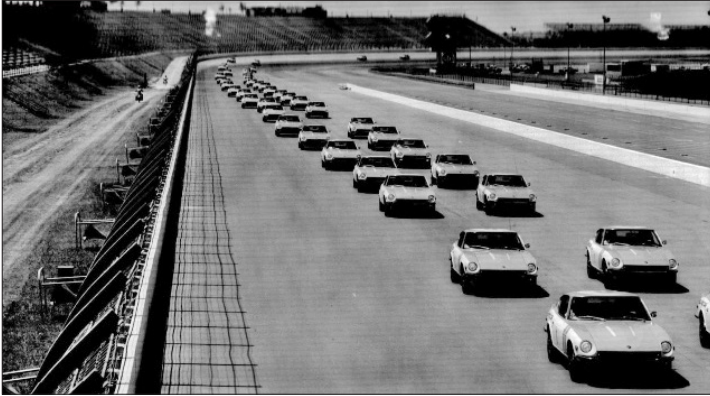


On the skidpad at Sears Point

1972 Ontario Motor Speedway “California 500” Race on Sept 3, 1972

1 of 50 ‘Tribute’ cars

By Linda Williams, October 2021



Fifty Southern California Datsun Dealers take delivery of duplicate Datsun 240-Z Official Pace Cars during the ceremonies officially opening the “California 500” at O.M.S. Driving the lead car is reigning USAC National Champion Joe Leonard.

The question that I’m asked most often is, ‘How did you find this car?’ It’s not a long story but a very interesting one.

I received a message from a gentleman in Porterville that was handling his father’s estate and he wanted to know if ZONC would be interested in having a car donated to them.



Picture of car when purchased 8/2020.



Car refreshed by Z Car Garage and ready for ZCON 2021.

Of course, I wanted to say ‘YES’ but unfortunately, we are a 501(c)7 and not a 501(c)3, and we cannot accept any donation of this sort. He also had 2 additional vehicles to donate, a 1957 Thunderbird and an older Nash. Of course, this sparked my interest and I said I would be interested in the car if they were going to sell the 240Z. The following day he texted me and said their Tax man suggested selling the vehicles and donating the cash in his father’s honor. The car had been stored at his mom’s house in Porterville, CA (pic above) and hadn’t been moved since his dad had passed in 2006. After several conversations over the next 3 days, he had finally decided on a price and made it clear to me that

there would be no other price than what he had stated. I was very interested and called Rob at Z CAR GARAGE and told him about the car only to find out that Rob’s #49 car was one of the ‘original pace cars’ from that same race! He was so excited and told me I should buy it or someone else would buy it out from under me. Needless to say, I bought the car and trailered it back to the Bay Area. It has many documents that go back to the original owner and her purchase of the car, as well as the warranty card and owner’s manual. It appears, through paper invoices, that the car was sold to the second owner sometime between 1973 and 1975. It currently has

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1 of 50 'Tribute' cars

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45K miles and still has the original paint and red interior. The history of the cars is that they were brought over from Japan by Mr. K. and then they were painted with the blue livery color for the race and then given to the Datsun dealers in the Los Angeles area to be sold. The "O" on the cars represented the ONTARIO MOTOR SPEEDWAY (OMS).

Rob at Z CAR GARAGE went through the car and ordered all the necessary parts to bring it back to life and make it a driver that I would be able to take to ZCON 2021 in Colorado Springs this past August.

At ZCON, the car was chosen to represent the S30 class in a display of each of the generations of Zs at the FLYING "W" RANCH the evening we were having a reveal of the new NISSAN Z from New York. I felt very honored.

After many, many hours of research and working with Carl Beck, we have figured out that there are 2, maybe 3 of these cars that are accounted for out of the original 50 cars. There was no 'master list' of vin numbers to account for these cars so it's been a real challenge to really find out how many are still out there. The only way to discover these cars seems to be when the provenance is with the car regarding when and where it was sold and other documentation from the dealers. There is one car in San Diego owned by the Cooks, and they have put many, many miles on it as well as replacing the engine a few times. They track and race their car and enjoy it tremendously. We aren't really sure about the possible 3rd car. There are pictures of one that was painted a burgundy color and when it was being stripped down to repaint, the blue and white paint was revealed. We do not know where this car is today. There are rumors that there might be one in Woodside California, but that hasn't been verified yet. If you know of any of these that still exist, please let me know. I have spoken to Peter Brock, who was at this race, and he's checking his archives for any information he may have. I am also working with the Ontario Library, which currently has the archives of paperwork from the Ontario Motor Speedway after it was demolished in 1981.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario_Motor_Speedway

After completing its official duties, the 1972 OMS Pace Car was purchased by Joel Anderson from the Datsun Competition Dept. for \$1.00 and Joel picked it up at Sears



ZCON 2021.



Mr. K and .



Rob Fuller, Z Car Garage

Point from Bob Bondurant in 1979. Joel was Frank Leary's Crew Chief and later became a fellow competitor. Joel and Frank shared a shop together in Santa Clara for years. Joel was one of the competitors at Atlanta when Frank won the AMERICAN ROAD RACE OF CHAMPIONS in 1978. The OMS Pace Car was later prepared for competition in IMSA's GT-U Class. Now more highly modified for IMSA GT-U duty, the former OMS Pace car was campaigned by Anderson in black livery wearing #49 show here at Laguna Seca and is owned by Rob Fuller, Z CAR GARAGE.

ZONC 2021 Car Show Sponsors**Nissan-USA****Z Car Garage****BRE - Brock Racing Enterprise****Cynthia Myers Glass****Coker Tires****Rock Auto****ZCCA - Z Car Club Association****La Guera Taco Truck****BUSINESS DISPLAY AD RATES FOR
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Full Page	\$55	\$303	\$495
1/2 Page	\$35	\$184	\$315
1/4 Page	\$25	\$125	\$200
Bus. Card	\$15	\$68	\$90

**HAPPY DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS...****Ken Clark****Susan Keller****Charles Moll****Chris Morrison****Casey Noel****Tina Skates**

*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!*

**2021-2022 ZONC
and Other Car Events
December 2021**

04-05 24 Hours of Lemons- Sonoma Raceway

12 **ZONC** Fun Run**January 2022**09 11:30AM **ZONC** ZOOM Meeting**July**

25-30 ZCON 2022 Birmingham, AL

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://www.nhahillclimb.org>

Redwood Sports Car Club Eureka

(707) 441-1603

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WWW.ZONC.ORG

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

WORKING FOR YOU

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