

Q1 2006

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Triad Z Club News



Return of the Triad Z Club Newsletter

Trevor Bladon

2005 was a year of turmoil and change for the Triad Z Club. As the new year dawns, I felt it was time to briefly reflect on the past and to plan for the years ahead.

Dave and Donna Newell decided to step aside as President and Secretary of the Club after two years at the helm. The Triad Z Club appreciates all their efforts and we wish Dave and Donna only the best.

I decided to jump back into the fray and accept the role as President (and Secretary and Newsletter Editor...). After years as the VP and/or Secretary, working with Blake Frazier, I wanted to see the Club first survive and second, thrive. We have accomplished goal #1 and now the work begins toward a bright and FUN future. As part of that future, Blake continues as our web master and he agreed to be our Treasurer, for which I am very grateful. I look forward to working closely with Blake again.

We saw a major drop in renewals in 2005, so a top priority this year is to get our members back and to grow the Club again. I will be approaching some dealers to seek their help, as the Desert Z people have found a strong ally in a forward-thinking Nissan dealer has grown their 350Z base immensely the past couple years.

We are starting to see some absentee members at our monthly meetings and I have greatly enjoyed our recent get-togethers at Logan's. Hopefully 2006 will see a resurgence in attendance.

High Point Nissan was sold to the Vann

York group in November. We wish Kyle and the Nichols family happiness and success in the future and the Club extends a special thank you to Kyle for his financial support of the Triad Z Club for many years, and through discounts



on new cars and parts. Vann York has chosen not to be a part of our future. HOWEVER, I think that recent efforts will help our members gain expertise and financial benefits at other establishments (see page 3 bottom).


In the past we found that members liked to receive newsletters and people from around the country also "tuned in" to see what we were up to. Paper copies at shops and dealers attracted owners who were unaware of our existence. My goal is to publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis in 2006 to keep you informed regarding TZC happenings, hopefully with contributions from Triad Z Club members and others. The "thickness" of each issue will depend on who contributes and how much time I can steal away from my businesses AND my Datsun 510 projects! The newsletter will be done on a somewhat ad hoc basis, instead of a schedule that takes some of the enjoyment out of

things. I don't need any additional pressure in my life right now, so this will be a job aimed at helping to renew our Club and to keep everybody updated, even if they can't make the meetings or events. But I intend to try to avoid burnout. The plan is to e-mail a notice to our members and other clubs once the PDF version of the newsletter can be downloaded from the website. If each issue is small enough that it does not clog up your e-mail in box, I might send it directly.

In future issues I would like to see the addition of car and/or member profiles. There is a wealth of knowledge out there and there are some fine Datsuns, Nissans and Infinitis waiting for their moments of glory in these pages! Thanks to Alan Giles for his great article on track days. Triangle Z Club does a great job on these events.

I am looking forward to working with many of our members to evolve the Club and to increase participation in various Z Club and other events, the web site and the newsletter. One of the prime ways to do this will be to collaborate with our friends in NC and VA; the 11th NC Z Show in Durham in November was a rousing success for our first such effort. And, from my perspective, it was a treat to meet the hard-working Triangle Z Club people and to cooperate with them on such a fine show. Spreading the effort around made for a rewarding and less stressful event (for me anyway!)

Without further ado, let's get this newsletter rolling!

It's great to be back! 

On the cover: Robert Matthews brought his orange 240Z to the Concorso at the Grand in early November and he walked away with the trophy for the best Japanese car in the event. Robert also brought a selection of his drawings for the afternoon art show in the Grandover. The following week, Robert brought his yellow 240Z out to play at the 11th NC Z Show in Durham.

Upcoming Events

January 17	Meeting at Logan's
Feb. 11-12	Track Day at VIR Full Course (photo at right). Click here for details or go to www.trianglezclub.com
February 21	Meeting at Logan's
March 11	Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance
March 21	Meeting at Logan's
April 8-9	Track Day at VIR North Course (see right). Click here for details or go to www.trianglezclub.com
April 18	Meeting at Logan's
April 28-30	Walter Mitty Historic Sportscar Challenge Featuring the Sports Cars of Japan. Road Atlanta, Braselton GA. For a PDF flyer, click here . For event info, click here .
April 29-30	Alfa Club Track Day VIR South Course
May	The Moonshine Run – check the web site for updates
May 14	Tidewater Z Car Club Z - 10th Annual TZCC Car show
May 16	Meeting at Logan's
May 20	ZDayz at the Tail of the Dragon (see right)
June 3	Emerald City Z Club Show Nissan of Kinson



Nissan News

Nissan USA recently announced that they are moving their head-quarters from Gardena, CA to the Nashville area. In 1960, Mr. K initially established Nissan in the US market with the HQ in the LA area, so this is a major shift for the company. Reports indicated Tennessee invested heavily to “convince” Nissan to move its operations east, near its Smyrna assembly plant.

Most major magazines and web sites have indicated that the 2007 Skyline GT-R will have a turbocharged 400+ HP V6, possibly all-wheel drive variants and a patented take no prisoners demeanor. The famous inline 6-cylinder engines are history, as the factory building those powerplants was axed by Nissan as part of its cost-cutting survival strategy. Like its looks or not (I

prefer the classic looking R32 to R34 variants), the new Skyline GT-R will be imported in limited numbers into the US as a left-hand drive car for the first time ever. Oh, and don't look for it at your favorite Nissan store. It will be an Infiniti-branded car in North America only. Guess they figured people would rather take a \$65-70,000 sports car to an Infiniti dealer for service? We'll see. **Z**

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Discounts for Triad Z Club Members

Crown Nissan provides a 20% discount on parts on a trial basis – Ask for Jay Weston, the Parts Manager. 3900 West Wendover Avenue Greensboro, NC 27407. Phone 336-851-7102. If we do not use this discount it will be discontinued.

Lynchburg Nissan offers a substantial discount on parts (usually 25%) to members. Motorsports parts and accessories have a smaller discount. Riley Curtis (Parts Manager) will ship UPS Ground to your address. Riley is very knowledgeable about Zs, 510s, etc. Phone 1-800-443-2117. parts@lynchburgnissan.com. Also open Saturdays 7:30AM-noon.

Z Club Track Days

Alan Giles

Here in our region of the US we are blessed with plenty of opportunities to take a street car to an open track. Not just a U-joint breaking 1/8" mile joint, but real live natural terrain road courses.

There are marquee clubs that run what are called "DE" events at places like Virginia International Raceway, Carolina Motorsports Park, and Road Atlanta. If you want to travel further you can make your way to the historic Sebring International Raceway or the manicured track and facilities at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham.

To find an event that you would like to attend, simply go to www.trackschedule.com, provided by Coco Strayer. Here you can find an event that fits your schedule and area. Click the link for that event and you should be taken to the site for the coordinating club. Such a site might be Triangle Z Club, our sister NC Z Car Club (www.trianglezclub.com). There you will find at least two events for this spring. In February (kind of spring) there will be the first event at VIR for the '06 season. There is still a limited time to register for this event.

Now that you have found an event, or know how to find one what do you do next? Get the car in shape!! In the event registration forms will be a tech form of some type. You will need to take your car to a good shop or club sponsored tech day to make sure it will be track worthy.

Flushing the brake fluid with fresh quality fluid should be done at this time, or shortly before the event. This will keep the pedal firm and confidence high. Make sure to check for any suspension play and brake pad thickness.

... you can communicate without yelling at each other while driving 90 mph. This is fun, not a domestic dispute...

Now that the ride is ready what you need to make yourself track ready. This mainly includes a 2005 Snell SA rated helmet. Some clubs still take a 2000 SA sticker, but if you have to buy one get a new quality lid. SA has Nomex lining. This is what you will need to get through tech. A motorcycle rated helmet has a flammable nylon. I recommend going to a shop that sells safety equipment and try on the different styles to find THE helmet that fits YOUR head.

By now you are thinking that this is going to cost some real money. You would be correct. It is a sports car economy enhancement program. However if you happen to enjoy driving at an attention-getting pace on the public highways you may already be participating in the lawyer economy enhancement program. If you figure \$350.00 for one lawyer bill that is a good helmet or one track event. If you lose the case you get to pay the \$350.00 plus another \$2000.00 over the next couple of years in insurance. See how GIECO likes you then...

Of course, heaven forbid you should have an accident involving someone's Mother or Daughter; then it would/could be even more \$\$ and dire consequences.

Enough of the doom and gloom. My point is that we have fine places and great folks to put on events where you can safely drive your car at your pace and learn how much you don't know.

You will be placed with an instructor that has plenty of driving and communication experience to guide you through your weekend at the track. The instructor should have a microphone/ear phone system with

which you both can communicate without yelling at each other while driving 90 mph. This is fun, not a domestic dispute... When not on track you will have a classroom instructor to guide you on terminology and car/speed dynamics.

There are three or so groups, so you will be on track with drivers of similar speed and experience. You will find that letting your vision see everything there is to be seen will be the first obstacle. Then smoothness of control inputs will come into play. After that comes developing a plan to drive "the line". By the end of the weekend you will feel like a new driver and have a better comfort level. The main goal is just that. Have a safe and fun time at the track. Leaving better than when you came. Proper preparation will help a great deal to make sure you spend your time at the track driving and learning.

At most events you will get 3 to 4 hours of track time over two days. This will be enough to send you home tired and speed satisfied. Then of course three days after you get home you will be back on www.trackschedule.com to find the next event.

After a few events you will find that you are a member of a tremendous group of folks. Come on out and see how you like it. If you don't want to run an event but would like to see how one works then come on out. There would be no charge to watch. It would be good to email the event coordinator to see what to say at the gate to make sure you will get in smoothly.

Bring the family and spend a day at the track... blue skies and smooth asphalt... Add some cool cars, good friends and you have a great life recipe. Z

Triad Z Club Membership

Join Triad Z Club Today

- Your annual membership includes a subscription to Sport Z Magazine subscription (4 issues, 72 pages per issue, normally costs \$18.95 per year)
- Newsletter – Quarterly newsletter informs you of local and regional events, news and Club activities
- Events—shows, swap meets, drives, tech sessions and more
- Track day discounts
- Monthly meetings
- Parts and Service discounts
- And much more

To join or renew your membership, please use the form below or go to the [web site form](#)
If you have questions send an e-mail to president@triadzclub.com

Annual Membership Application

Please include a \$30 (individual) or \$40 (family) check payable to the Triad Z Club and mail it with this application to:

Triad Z Club, PO Box 1319, Jamestown, NC 27282

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Vehicle #1 Model _____ Year _____

Vehicle #2 Model _____ Year _____

Areas of interest:

Autocross Rally Sports Car Racing Restoration Drag Racing

Social Events Car Shows Tech Sessions Parts Discounts

Other _____

11th Annual Fall NC Z Show

Jason Jarvis

Thanks to all of you who volunteered, participated, or just generally offered support, the North Carolina Fall Z Car Show on Nov. 12 was a huge success. We had 36 registered vehicles, and from 5 to 20 additional vehicles at a time throughout the day. We had an amazing time, and we hope everyone who participated did too. The turnout, weather, Michael Jordan Nissan and all of our volunteers and supporters were perfect.



We had outstanding vehicles from every generation, a very early 240Z (#319), a perfect 78 Black Pearl edition 280Z, an impressive supercharged Z31, and a



host of seriously modified 350Z's sporting forced induction, vertical doors and custom audio and electronics systems are just a few examples.



Triad Z Club continued the tradition of the Fitzy Cup, a very special award which honors not only an outstanding vehicle, but also an outstanding owner, someone who upholds and improves the standards and traditions of the Z community. This years Fitzy Cup went to Ray Chisenhall and his beautiful blue



260Z. Not only did Ray take home a trophy, but as is Triad's tradition, his name will be engraved on a plaque on Fitzgerald's actual 1976 C Production trophy.

First place in the showroom class went to Larry Loftin and his one owner 78 black pearl edition car. Not only does Larry have a perfect example of an original 280Z, it is also one of the rarest of the first generation cars. In the S30 class, Keith Mashburn took home top honors with his beautiful blue 1972 240Z with chrome accents.

Winner of the 280ZX class was Ken Bolick, with a perfect silver and blue ZX enhanced by tasteful chrome in the engine bay.

In the Z31 class, the first place trophy went to Brian Lukowski, who drove in not only one of the cleanest Z31's, but also the first supercharged VG30 most had ever seen in a Z.



In the Z32 class Kenny West took the top spot with his recently completed white Twin Turbo, sporting a shaved JDM nose and a controversial but impressive two tone burgundy and grey leather interior.

In the popular Z33 class, the winner was Andy Morris and his supercharged brickyard 350Z, showcased by vertical doors and his popular "URINZWAY" tag.



The Other Nissan class was won by Trevor Bladon and his clean G35 coupe, while people's choice went to Ryan Ayers and his silver 350Z accented by blue engine bay trim, vertical doors and an extensive electronics package.



Finally, the dealers choice award was won by 280ZX class winner Ken Bolick, who not only impressed our judges, but Michael Jordan Nissan Sales Manager Dave Butler as well.



Thanks again to everyone, and we hope to see you all again next year! Z

11th Annual NC Z Show Winners

Showroom

1st - Larry Loftin
2nd - Damian Craig
3rd - Matt Sparks

S30

Keith Mashburn
Gerry Zoucha
Mark Wilson

S130

Ken Bolick
Jody Younger
Fred Ange

Z31

Brian Lukowski
Alex Labdon
Fred Cintorino

Z32

Kenny West
Chase Cassanova
Joe Gregory

Z33

Andy Morris
John Dunn
(Tie) Robin Lemans
(Tie) Ryan Ayres

Other Nissan

Trevor Bladon

Peoples Choice

Ryan Ayres

Dealers Choice

Ken Bolick

Jim Fitzgerald Award

Ray Chisenhall

Concorso at the Grand

Trevor Bladon

On November 5, member Bill Dymond and some friends put on a great show at the Grandover Hotel in Greensboro. The Concorso was held to benefit the Brenner Children's Hospital and especially to support the families of sick children pre- and post-treatment.



On Friday evening several people cruised to the Rock-Ola in Greensboro for dinner, then early Saturday the car show took shape. There were trophies in several classes. The Italian and German car contingents showed up in force and there were several British cars present too, including a Lotus Elise.



Detroit iron (& fiberglass) appeared; several Vettes and a new Ford GT were prominent. Ken Bolick drove



Ford GT horsepower under glass

his pretty 280ZX, Robert Matthews brought a 240Z (see cover), I had my G35 Coupe and Robert Brown's 510 filled out the Japanese roster. Robert drove home with a nice trophy. There was some very attractive and expensive machinery at the show, from a bright



RED Ferrari F430 to a Porsche Carrera GT, Lambos, etc., there was plenty to admire.

In the afternoon an art exhibit was

held at the Grandover and that evening a dinner was put on.



Porsche Carrera GT – no substitute !!

On Sunday a group drove to VIR, where Flow BMW/Mini hosted a day at the track. For all events, donations were voluntary and, as of mid-November, the group had raised in excess of \$6,000 for the hospital.

Given the short time available to put this show on, Bill and the rest deserve much credit for their admirable efforts. The hospital was very appreciative. The hope is that future events will be even more popular and supported by a broader cross-section of the car community. There could be an event at a vintage race weekend at VIR this summer and another Concorso at the Grand in the fall.

We will post pictures of the car show on the Triad Z web site soon. Z



www.triadzclub.com

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We are a non-profit organization focused on the enjoyment of the Z Car, 510, Roadster and Infiniti G35. Based in the Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point and surrounding area of North Carolina. Triad Z open to anyone who is interested in these cars or any other Datsun/Nissan product. For more information about our club, [click here](#) or [write to us](#) (address at left).

[Click here if you would like to join](#) (or see page 5 inside).

Links to Recent Articles on the Web Site:

- [2005 ZCCA Convention Photos](#)
- [Aerial Tour of Virginia International Raceway](#)
- [John Dailey's 280ZX Miami Vice Roadster](#)
- [Nissan/Infiniti Skyline GT-R Concept](#)

In the Next Issue:

We'll see you in the Spring with a series of new articles and more info on upcoming events. If you would like to contribute, please write to the snail mail address above left or send an e-mail to president@triadzclub.com

Thanks and be safe!