



The NWDELetter

Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts

January 2013



Special Truck Issue



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Who are we? Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts (NWDE—pronounced **'nude'**) is an organization dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all Datsun/Nissan vehicles. We meet monthly (except December), and try to schedule automotive/social activities on a monthly basis (see Calendar of Upcoming events). We are members of the Western Washington Sports Car Council (WWSCC). NWDE is not affiliated with Nissan Motor Company, Ltd.

Got News? Please email it to news@nwde.org



Up-Coming Events

January 2013

18 NWDE monthly meeting

February 2013

15 NWDE monthly meeting

April 2013

17-18 2nd Annual Datsun Matsuri show in Kelowna, BC

June 2013

9 (tentative date) Canby Datsun show in Canby, OR

August 2013

10 (tentative date) Blue Lake Datsun show in Portland, OR

Kris Will Be Missed

January 11, 2013

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the passing of one of our club members, Kris Eberle of Pt. Orchard.

She was a very talented person who totally restored her beautiful Datsun 320 truck with the help of her husband Joe. Some of us were lucky enough to meet her and get to know her at the three big car shows. Her truck won some top awards at these shows. She always had a smile even when she was not feeling very well. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

- Tana Bryan, NWDE President



NWDE Loves Trucks

Though NWDE members have all sorts of Nissans, from 410s to Maximas and Infinitis, trucks are becoming more popular. Club members drive most of the Datsun pickup models since 1963.

1962-1965 Datsun 320 model series



1965-1972 Datsun 520/521 model series



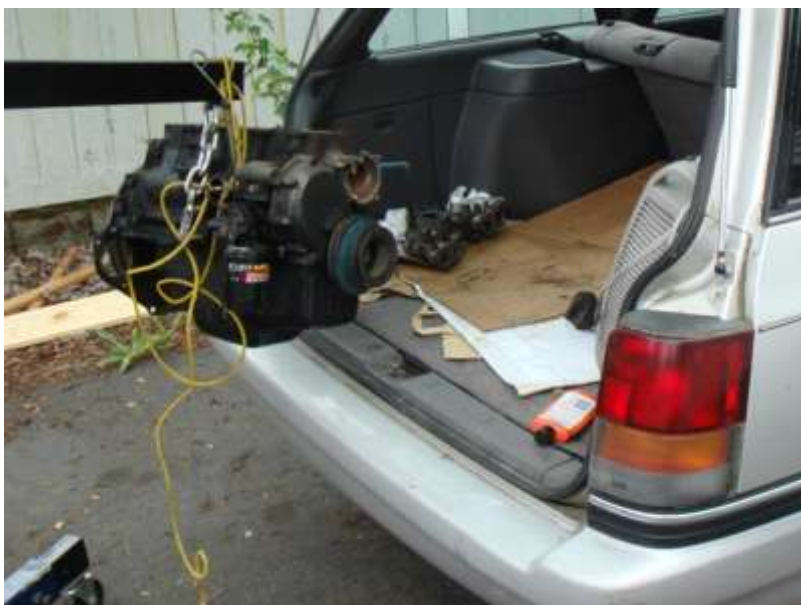
1971-1994 Datsun/Nissan 1200 Truck



NWDE Facebook Page

Did you know that NWDE has a page on Facebook? Join now and feel free to post tidbits and photos too. The traffic is pleasantly low, so it **won't overwhelm**. News last year included **member rides, club events, member road trips** and general Datsun work photos. Who can forget **Jack K's record speed in a Datsun 320 pickup?** Or **David G's breakdown 1000 miles from home?** Here's a couple photos that were shared:

Datsun A14 engine. Subaru wagon makes a great parts chaser!



Marty joined the ZCCW road trip last spring—next trip coming up soon





Ted's Truck Ranch

By Jack Kampa

It was a dark and stormy Sunday afternoon at Bellevue's hottest attraction — Topless Ted's Truck Ranch, formerly known as Tanas' Truck Town. Ted gave Pete D, Dave F and myself the royal tour of his backyard filled with all his prized possessions, including tires, wheels, hoods, doors, tailgates, body/suspension parts, instrument clusters, wiring harnesses, spare engines and transmissions. Blue tarps covered everything. Ted even had 2 Datsun NL320 trucks shipped from Arkansas to enlarge his "herd". He still won't say what he paid for shipping costs to Bellevue.

To Ted's credit his daily driver is the white Datsun NL320 and is stored in his garage next to Mr. Leaky. "Faded Red", his parts truck, minus an engine is out back all covered up for the winter and is now a "mobile storage device". He insists that it will live again! With all the projects that Ted has going, he gets the award for having more Datsun ambition than most fans have half his age. Other than having such bad weather and poor light to view all his "barn finds", it was a great way to spend the afternoon.



Mobile storage device



Ted's Truck Ranch (continued)



Ted's organized garage



Pete D scores some roadster wheels and 510 parts



Ted's Truck Ranch (continued)



If all else fails get out a bigger wrench!



3 amigos covering up the white Datsun NL320

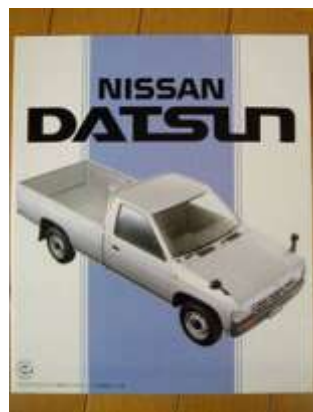
Introducing the New Datsun

After Nissan phased out the Datsun brand worldwide in 1983, they still continued to use the Datsun name — but only in Japan.



1998 Datsun King Cab

Periodically, Nissan discusses bringing back the Datsun brand. In Japan, Nissan sales have always been very brand-centric, with brands such as Datsun, Sunny, and Cherry being sold by different dealers. And now Infiniti has been successful in some markets alongside Nissan-branded vehicles. So why not a 3rd world brand? Only time will tell.





NWDE Member's Trucks, 2012

Ted H's Datsun 320 Sports Truck, NWDE general meeting



David G's Datsun 1200 Pickup, June NWDE meeting





NWDE Member's Trucks, 2012 (cont.)

NWDE members meeting for Greenwood Car Show, June 30



Impromptu Run, Summer 2012





Datsun U320 Double-Cab Pickup

Ted H. got some photos of the only known Datsun U320 Double-Cab Pickup in the USA. They were sold in Japan and other RHD markets, and are basically a 4-seat version of the unibody Datsun N320 Pickup. It is a 2-door but with a back seat.



At last check it was for sale for \$5000. It has been dismantled. About \$1500 to ship it to Seattle. L320 and NL320 parts would fit for about 90 % of the restoration. Don't you think this would be a great and unique retirement restoration project?



When restored it would look like this



NWDE Truck News

The NL320 Sports Truck of Dave F. has been painted and returned to the Firestone driveway where it is behind all the seven (!) Roadsters nestled in their Winter tarps. The new paint is NICE. Dave says there



were two shades of tan and he has gone with darker one.

There are only 6 months to the Canby Datsun show and Dave emphatically states that it WILL be driven there. Ted motivated him when I mentioned the possibility that the NL restoration could be branded with the "Pete" tag (never completed) if he does not get moving on it.

Ted's Parts Yard is being reestablished. It is not like the Glory days of the early 2000s, but it can grow! Mini storage shed/shelves and mostly 320 truck parts along the fence. Proud NL320 owner by his long term project. Under the long tarps are more 320 seats and doors (from the Tana Truck Ranch) than any sane person should have. The NL project truck is doing parts storage duty for now.



Road Force Balancing *By Jack Kampa*

Our Spokane member, Mike N, owns a 2002 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 that he has taken to three different places to have the four snow tires balanced and rebalanced due to a harmonic that starts vibrating at 52 mph and drives out at 60 mph. No one could solve this problem. He had heard of a new way to balance troubled tires at Les Schwab called Road Force Balancing so he decided to give it a try. It costs about \$25/wheel and is only done after normal spin balancing fails to solve the problem.

The Road Force Balancer has a lead roller that performs a computer simulated road test. It measures loaded radial runout to within 0.002". It measures the tire/wheel assembly to determine how "round" the assembly is when rolling under a load. If a tire were not exposed to the road surface, then balance would be more than sufficient, however, not all tires roll round under a load.



Before starting this machine, the tech enters the make/model of vehicle and tire/wheel size to determine the amount of load to use. In Mike's case it was 1500 pounds. After the initial "loaded" spin, Schwab separates the tire from the wheel and reassembles it with the light-

est part of the tire and mounts it to the opposite lightest side of the wheel. Airs it up and retests. Balancing weights are put on both the inside and outside of the rims and reinstalled back onto the pickup. Ahh — the moment of truth — the test drive. Problem solved. Mike notices a definite improvement in handling and less vibration.

So, the next time you have "problem tires" check into Road Force Balancing. To learn more go to <http://hunter.com> and click wheel balancers.

Club Meetings

When: Third Friday of each month (except December)

Time: 7:30 pm. Folks usually arrive earlier to gather & gawk at vehicles, then order pizza.

Where: Redmond-Overlake Round Table Pizza

Round Table Pizza
15025 NE 24th St
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: 425-644-7117

Directions:

1. From I-405 head east on I-520
2. Take the southbound 148th Ave NE exit
3. Once on 148th Ave NE, get in the far left lane
4. Turn left (east) on NE 24th St
5. Turn right (south) on 151st Pl NE. Round Table is straight ahead



NORTHWEST DATSUN ENTHUSIASTS

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