



The NWDELetter

Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts

June 2013





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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

Cover: Don and Sandi at the Canby Datsun show



Up-Coming Events

June 2013

- 21 NWDE general meeting (see inside back cover)
- 29 Greenwood Car Show in Seattle, WA

July 2013

- 5-7 Pacific NW Historics, Pacific Raceways in Kent, WA
- 12-13 Roadster Show, Shasta. CA

August 2013

- 11 Blue Lake Datsun show in Portland, OR
- 11 Vancouver All Nissan Meet in Vancouver, BC
- 17 Shedd Roadster BBQ. Shedd OR
- 18 South Sound Summer Jam, South Sound Speedway, Rochester (formerly Olympia Nissan car show)
- 24 (tentative) NWDE Drive-In Movie Night
- 31 Tacomaboy's Vintage Datsun/ Roadster end of summer bash.

September 2013

- 28 Japanese Classic Car Show in Long Beach, CA

Minutes

NWDE Meeting Minutes May 17, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm

Attendees: Tana, Jack, David G, Dave F, Gordon, Jo Ann, Don A, Sandi T, Roger, Doug B, Antonia C. Honored guests: Al-Michael Franco (just joined nwde), Mark Moynihan (just joined nwde), Ken and Atchi friends of Antonio

Treasurer's report: Curent balance \$4771.45

Old Business:

- ◇ Jack needs the Greenwood Car Show (on June 29th) applications by May 29th to secure our preferred parking location
- ◇ Tana needs the NW Historics applications (on Sunday July 7th) ASAP



Meeting minutes (continued)

- ◇ Autocross: PETE GIVE US THE UPDATE ON MOVING AUTOCROSS TO AUBURN DOWNS IN OCT AS THERE WAS A LOT OF INTEREST IN THIS TOPICS

New Business:

- ◇ Antonio brought up the idea of reimbursing members who attend other car shows esp the Renton Car Show. This will be held on July 7th this year which is a conflict with NW Historics. It was agreed that all members would rather go to NW Historics this year. The door was left open for attending/ reimbursement of other car shows. It was loosely agreed that at least 3 or more members must attend, promote the club and hand out NWDE info forms (this is something we need to discuss further)
- ◇ Cruising America magazine has a list of all car shows in the area
- ◇ Don and Sandi invited all to the Shedd BBQ in Oregon on August 17th. It is a fun event
- ◇ Jack discussed the idea of Dives, Datsuns and drive in movie theatres. Members liked the idea, however, a number of the local drive ins have closed. Jack will research more when they open for the summer. Saturday August 3rd and Saturday August 24th were the selected dates. Jack will send out an email to decide the date

meeting adjourned 8:17pm

New Wheels for Trucks

Ted's Datsun 320 Sports Pickup ready for the trip to Canby. Sporting the stock





STREET CRED

At the May NWDE meeting, the fun began in the parking lot. Dave F, David G, Don/Sandi and Mark M gave rides to our guests until dark when David G got busted by the cops for acting like a teenager (the blue light special).



Photo by Al-Michael

David was pulled over for engine being too loud and having an insufficient "cannon" muffler. But after showing him the main muffler he warned David to be careful.

New Wheels for Trucks (continued)

powder coated wheels with Jack K-approved new 195/75/14 whitewall tires for the stock look and correct 320 hub caps. Also cranked the torsion bars up and got the front nice and level and standing tall!



Also see wheel detail on the back page.



Datsun 320 Truck Rear End Swap

Making an old Datsun Farm truck into a Freeway Cruiser! - By *Ted Heaton*

The 320 trucks from the factory are geared REALLY low, for optimum hauling at low speeds. Stock rear end is 4.88. This causes the little E engine to be screaming at 4000 rpm at 60 mph. NO good for going any where that requires freeway driving. Some folks on Ratsun have reported good results using a higher rear end ratio.



Wayne Leuth in Vancouver has done this swap and helped with extensive articles and videos on Ratsun about how to do it. The roadsters and 320 520 521 and I believe 620 trucks all used the H190 rear end so any of the differentials can be swapped among the rear ends. Being Roadster folks and having some spare roadster and 320 rear ends Joe Eberly and I made the change to the 1600 roadster 3.9 differential. Most of the credit for the swap goes to Joe E who did all the work, as I just provided the rear ends. We decided to build an entire rear end so we could swap in the converted one and save our stock units. The concept is straight forward. Remove the truck differential and remove the side gears. Remove the road-



Datsun 320 Truck Rear End Swap (continued)



ster differential side gears and replace them with the 320 side gears. This is necessary as the truck axles have different splines than the Roadster axles. This does not involve disrupting the ring and pinion. Put the roadster 3.9 differential in the truck rear end and your

done! On line calculations show 75 mph at 4000 rpm with the 3.9 differential. So nice cruising at 65-70 mph. Only concern is if the powerful 60 hp E engine could accommodate the higher ratio and the answer is YES. Joe and I have both driven 300-400 miles on the differential and the engine power is fine but you do need to use more of the gas pedal. I had no problem on the 400+ mile trip to the Canby show in Oregon. Steep long hills will require downshifting but I have not had it occur yet. Also the trucks will not be as good at hauling heavy loads but we do not do that as we are "Gentleman" farmers!

I highly recommend this change to any 320 truck owner, for easy 70 mph cruising.





May Meeting Roundup

A special thanks to our new member Antonio for bringing his three friends to the May meeting, one of whom also bought a 311 recently. One of the fellows (Ken) is



from Japan and has a 1970 Datsun Z car as his only and daily driver. **He saw David's** 1200 micro truck and he told me that was the vehicle he really wanted when he was in college, so was he happy when David took him out for a drive in his truck. The roadster owners (four showed up) took the new folks and anyone who wanted a ride out for drives and then they switched and let the visitors drive the cars. There were a lot of smiles on all of the drivers faces.

David G got to drive the Dave F Datsun 2000 Roadster. It was a smooth civilized cruiser. **By comparison Antonio's 1600 Roadster had a performance edge to it.**

Planet Of The Datsuns 2013



A light turnout happened for the Ratsun Planet Of The Datsuns show-n-shine in Des Moines on May 26. Ted showed his Datsun NL320 truck . A total of 12 vehicles attended. Weather was OK with some sun.

Ted and friends in front of Ted's Datsun 320 Sports Truck





Canby Datsun Show Report

Canby Datsun Show was held on June 6-9. Weather was nice and it got sunny about mid day. Dan Anderson and Sandi, Cher Griffin and Ted caravanned to the show on Sunday AM at 7 am. Met up in Centralia with Cher from Aberdeen. Cher has a nice 1968 Datsun that she will be selling soon. Cher has had roadsters since



1969 when she bought one new! After the required rest, bathroom,, gas and Burgerville stops we arrived about 10:30 am (Sandi can not go past Centralia without a stop at the Burgerville). While at Burgerville, Guy Selle's son in law pulled in to chat after he saw the Datsuns.



Allen B, Gary W and our man Jack K (without his 320 again!) went on Saturday for both days of the show. Members Pete Dills and Jen came down in the 350 NISMO.

Canby Datsun Show Report (continued)

Jack and others reported that there were not many good parts for sale. Ross from Sports Imports in BC did bring his roadster full of parts to sell! Steve C and Joe S



were there and other OR locals we know from DROPS were there. Leigh Brooks,





Canby Datsun Show Report (continued)

Mike Stubbs, Bill and Dave Neal, Wayne Lueth, John Wallum, Bill Cole and Tim Corcoran. Tim lives in Newberg now so he can get to the OR shows easily. Tim got the Best Roadster award and Best interior with his beautiful black 64 1500. Elisa said he was polishing it all week!



As usual, the show was over too soon. Amazingly, the usual I5 traffic mess was not experienced on the return to Seattle.





Canby Datsun Show Report (continued)





New Member Profile—Al-Michael

My name is Al-Michael Franco recently acquired a 1969 1600 roadster in early November. I've always been a big fan of the roadsters and now I can enjoy the



feeling of owning one. I am very excited to be part of this group and meet other Datsun enthusiasts. I not only have passion for Datsuns but all other cars as well. Thanks you for taking the time to read about me and hopefully to meet more of you in the future.

Updates

- ◇ South Sound Summer Jam info: <http://southsoundsummerjam.bigcartel.com/>
- ◇ After receiving input from our NWDE members August 24th is the best date for the Datsun Drive-In get together. We have not selected a preferred site but the top vote getters are Coulon Park in Renton, XXX Issaquah and Big Daddysin Auburn. Will discuss more at the June and July meetings
- ◇ The brown 320 in Canada sold for \$1225 on eBay
- ◇ **David's Idling problem turned out to be the Solex "starters" (choke). As soon as it warmed up, they started raising the idle. With those off, it runs fine!**

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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