



# The NWDE Letter

Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts

March 2014



Roadsters, get ready!

[NWDE.ORG](http://NWDE.ORG)



## 2014 Officers & Contact Information

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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](mailto:news@nwde.org)

**Cover:** Ted's Datsun Roadster at the crossroads



## Up-Coming Events

### March 2014

Feb 21 NWDE general meeting (see inside back cover)

### Spring

Apr 5 Griot's Garage coffee and donuts

Apr 25-26 Solvang Roadster Meet, Solvang CA

May 3-4 SOVREN Spring Sprints, Pacific Raceways, Kent WA

May 11 LeMay Museum tour

May 16-17 Datsun Matsuri, Kelowna BC

### Summer Season

Jun 7-8 Spokane Historic Races, Spokane WA

Jun 14-15 Canby Datsun Meet, Canby OR

Jun 22 NWDE Autocross

Jun 28 Greenwood Car Show

Jul 4,5,6 SOVREN NW Historics, Pacific Raceways, Kent WA

Jul 11-13 38th Annual Portland Historic Races Featuring Datsun

Jul 17-19 Mt Shasta Roadster Meet, Mt Shasta CA.

Aug 10 Blue Lake Datsun Meet, Blue Lake Park OR

Aug 16 Shedd Roadster BBQ, Shedd OR



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## Need Parts?

- Wendy at Renton Younker Nissan has always been very helpful. She's been working in Datsun/Nissan parts departments for decades. 888.606.2305
- Riley Curtis at Lynchburg Nissan 888-691-9608
- Chad Smith @ Chico Nissan Hyundai 530-891-1777 ext 142



# Minutes

## NWDE Meeting Minutes February 21, 2013

*Called to Order at 7:35, Tana presiding*

**Attendees:** Gordon, Ted, Steve C., Doug, Tana, Sandy, Don, Antonio, Michelle, Atchi, Al-Michael, Dave F., Jack

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- \$2865

### **WWSCC Report**

- Date for our event will be June 22 (there is a BEAC-only event on June 21, we will split some costs with them)
- A package of proposed rules changes was agreed to by our members.

### **NWDE Web site:**

- Dave F. will set up credentials and provide some training

### **Annual Banquet Report**

- Another great event at Dave's
- Member of the Year – Antonio
- Car of the Year – Ted
- Hard Luck Award – Atchi and Scott
- Car focus for meetings this year

May – Early Z

June – Trucks

July – Sedans and wagons

August – Roadsters

September – Late Z

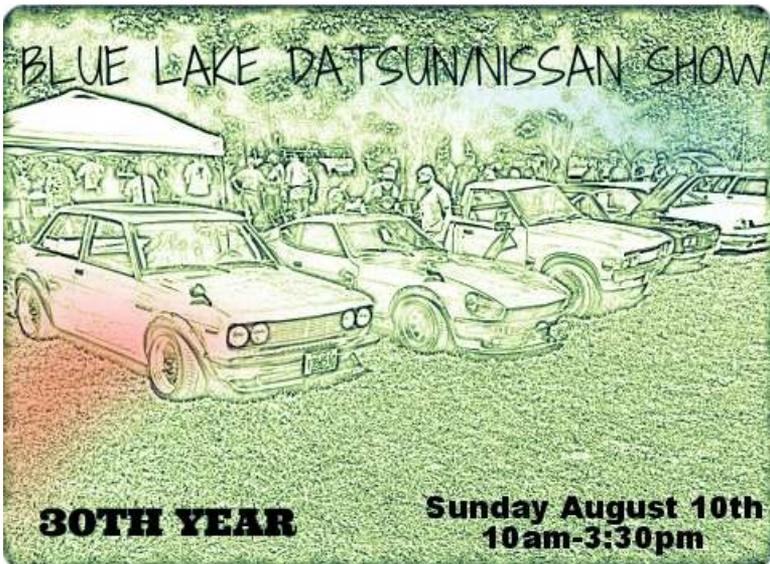
**Minutes (Continued)****Tours**

- Griot's Garage tour on April 5 – be there after 10:30
- LeMay Museum: May 11 @ 1:00. There are group discounts for groups of 10 or more. There are guided tours of the museum

**New Business**

- Sandy expressed concern about an exchange that took place on the DROPS email list around a comment made by Tim Ford. There was extended discussion about how emails can be easily misinterpreted.
- There will be a DROPS Swap Meet at Steve Carter's on Sunday Mar 16 from 1:00-5:00
- There will be the traditional DROPS get-together at Round Table Pizza in Renton in April but no date has been set yet.

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:20*



Blue Lake show by North West Datsun Owners — facebook: BlueLakeDatsun



## DROPS Swap Meet 3-16-14

**Datsun Roadster of Puget Sound** hosted a swap meet March 16 and several NWDE club members attended.



*Photos and text by  
Ted Heaton*

A GREAT ( but very wet) swap meet today. Wonderful large turnout of about 30 Datsun Folk, even from Oregon and Canada! Many wonderful parts were exchanged and a fine time was had. A lot of parts were given away or sold at very low prices. This is in the fine roadster tradition of helping our fellow owners and “what goes around, comes around” assures a future return.



Check out the picture of a HAPPY Antonio. He needs a new starter and ends up with 2 free ones from Greg B!

**DROPS Swap Meet (continued)**

Even the rarely seen and elusive DEF escaped from Flat Speaker Land and can be spotted in the pictures.

Our roadsters were hiding from the heavy rain but Paul B, Wayneo and NWDE's Jack K did bring their Datsun trucks.

A great early spring motivator to prepare us for the upcoming better Roadster weather. Many thanks to all who made this a great event, Steve C for hosting at his place, Ray for providing Pies and chips, Don for bringing sodas and Ted for pizza, chips and sodas. Thanks to Ross of Sports Imports for attending and showing the Canuck flag.





## UPDATE: Rowland's Datsun 320 progress

Current news from NWDE club member Rowland.

Got my Thai bumperettes installed. I'm not sure if this is factory as-built but I had two extra Y shaped bumper holders like the ones that attach the front bumper. I had a hunch the reason I had extras is because they fit the rear also. They did. So the rear bumpers are now attached. Now I can cut up that ugly diamond plate bumper and toss it.



Fabricated a heater-box-to-vent duct out of neoprene fabric. It was a bit short but I did get it attached. I'll probably make another one. For a good price I might be willing to fabricate more. Getting them perfected might use up my entire quarter's allocation of curse words while working awkwardly under the dash, so who knows.



**Rowland's Datsun 320 (continued)**

Went up to TAP plastics in Bellevue and got some acrylic for the dash tray, it's done, just need to bolt it in. I think it will be nice having it clear instead of opaque.



Got my replacement mirror glass Monday and put it in last night. It was from [haganauto.com](http://haganauto.com), 4-1/4" . I thought I was just ordering some flat glass, nothing special, mirror. I don't know what's up with this mirror but the quality is exceptional, just brilliant. It's curved. My original glass, with missing silvering, was just flat. I think I'll like this curved one better for visibility, with the convex side out.



## Mechanics Engine Rebuild Tool

A lively discussion ensued recently on the NWDE email list regarding this eBay listing:



“This auction consists of a tool used by my dad, a certified Nissan mechanic back in the 1970s-80s. I’m not sure exactly how it was used — I believe it would keep the timing chain in place while he did piston work. It’s made from the front of a head that’s been lopped off.”

Mechanics Engine Rebuild Tool 1970s-80s Datsun 1600 1800 Timing Chain.

Not so much “what is it?”, but “how would you use it?” was the question we entertained. It was observed that this is not a factory tool but a one-off custom-made tool.

Doug said:

“The actual purpose I believe is so that you can rotate the engine after removing the head (without removing the timing cover). With the chain wedged (which is required to keep the tensioner from popping out of L-series engines), you can’t bar the engine over. This allows you to put the chain upper sprocket and chain back on, and bar the engine over without having the chain lose tension.

Dave further expounded on the dangers of Datsun L-series timing chain replacement::

“I can understand someone going to the effort to make this, since I’ve personally have had tensioners inadvertently pop out when I



## Mechanics Engine Rebuild Tool (continued)

stupidly moved the crank (to clean the piston tops and examine the bores), and knocked my chain wedge out of place.

In other words, the sequence is:

1. Set at TDC.
2. Secure the tensioner with a wedge before taking apart anything.
3. Remove cam gear.
4. Remove head.
5. Reassemble in reverse order.

The sequence done the long **painful** way is:

1. Set at TDC.
2. Secure the tensioner with a wedge before taking apart anything.
3. Remove cam gear.
4. Remove head.
5. Stupidly turn crank, even a little bit.
6. Remove loose chain wedge.
7. Remove radiator etc.
8. Remove fan & water pump.
9. Remove crank pulley.
10. Remove timing cover (cheat by not removing the oil pan, like you should; if you are lucky).
11. Remove all timing components (reassemble ideally with new parts; the only upside).
12. Reassemble in reverse order.

This momentary lap of intelligence creates hours of extra work removing the timing cover etc. to fix this stupidity.

**So what happened to the auction?** It received zero bids. But was relisted at the same price and on this second try sold for the minimum starting bid: US \$20.00 +\$12.0 shipping from Washington state, USA



## Interview: History of NWDE

*by Gordon Glasgow, as interviewed by Tana Bryan*

Back in about the year 1978 when Gordon was first autocross racing, he found other folks who also autocrossed their Datsuns. They found out that in order to be eligible for season points, you had to be a member of a Dub Dub (WWSCC – [Western Washington Sports Car Council](#)). These were usually marque clubs (devoted to a particular make of cars) such as BMWs or Corvettes. There was the Boeing BEAC club too involved in autocross racing. There were two other clubs that the Datsun owners could join, one of which was the Bremerton SC club and then they would have to go to Bremerton for meetings and events. Not always so practical. Plus there was Acme Hardware Racing, which had no social events and two meetings a month that were mandatory. These AHR folks were hardcore autocross racers and usually won about 50% of all local races and were based out of Seattle.

The Datsun owners were very successful racers but still did not have a Dub Dub club to belong to and therefore could not accumulate points. Ted Hanson and Terry Sanborn, both Z car owners and racers contacted Gordon about starting a Datsun club. They did the research needed to learn about starting a club. The first meeting was in 1979 in Issaquah and had about 20 people showed up. Pretty good for a first time meeting! It took a while but a name was finally decided on: **Northwest Datsun Enthusiasts**. The club applied for membership with Dub Dub and in 1979 they were officially a WWSCC car club. Ted became the first President and Gordon was the 1st VP, while Terry became the first treasurer.

Gordon took first place that year in Improved B class! Several other Datsuns all took home trophies that year.

Gordon ended up being NWDE's 2nd President. (since then he has held every position more than once). He also ended up being Dub Dub's President too ... although he had never even been to a Dub Dub meeting at all. He worked hard at being the Dub Dub President, by trying to get new members and leveraged an information hot line. He stayed as President of Dub Dub for two years.

Back then, autocross racing was still mostly an invisible event. Gordon managed to get the [Seattle Times](#) sport section to publish autocross race results. The Times covered a Dub Dub event for the cover story

## Interview: History of NWDE (continued)

for the Pictorial section.

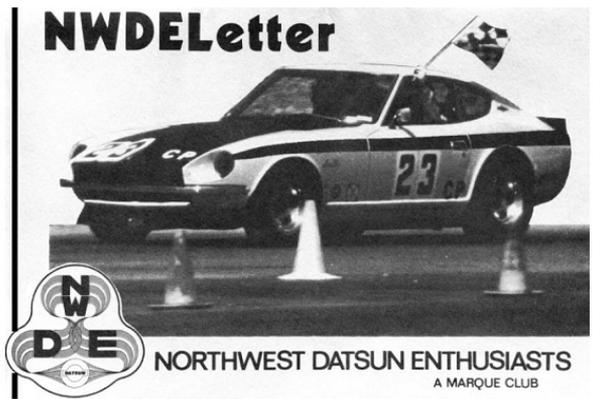
Meetings in those early years took place at different locations including the Bellevue Library.

NWDE used to also do rallysports too. Most of these were done on public roads, called TSD or Time/Speed/Distance. The navigator was very important to the driver's success. Can you imagine no onboard electronic navigation system? There were also some folks who liked to participate in Pro Rally which was usually done on unpaved, closed roads and much more dangerous.

Gradually NWDE began to get members who did not race and enjoyed social events too. Members and their families liked to get together for events and food. The tradition continues on to this day and we have these three folks to thank for getting the club started.

A huge thanks to Gordon Glasgow for keeping the club going all of these years. He has been to nearly every meeting too! Gordon is quite the photographer too as you can see by his photos on his website. His website is: <http://www.gordon-glasgow.org/> please look at the amazing photos of race cars that he took himself. He did sports photography in high school and went to Pacific Raceways with his father, who was an official photographer for PR. There will be more on Gordon in another article to come soon.

Thank you  
Gordon for  
this great  
information.





## 2014 Greenwood Car Show

*by Jack Kampa*

The annual **Greenwood Car Show** will be held on **Saturday** June 28th. Last year NWDE had 11 members in attendance, however a number of our members couldn't go as they didn't get their applications in on time and were shut out as this event was completely sold out. **DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU.** All registrations must be submitted thru the club and submitted in one group envelope to facilitate processing by Greenwood car show. Send your applications to me by **MAY FIRST** so that we can get the same preferred spot as last year.

ENTRY form is available at <http://www.greenwoodcarshow.com/>

Bring to the club meeting or send to me.

## Griot's Garage – Saturday April 5th

*by Jack Kampa*

Join us for coffee and donuts at [Caffeine & Gasoline at Griot's Garage](#) on **Saturday, April 5th from 8am to 10am.** This event is sponsored by Griot's, and is open to all.

Griot's Garage Store & Events Center  
3333 South 38th Street  
Tacoma WA 98409

This event is always fun. Last month they fired up a dragster in parking lot. Who knows what they will have next month. Griot's is easy to get to. Just take exit 132A heading South on I-5. Stay to the right, go straight on 38th about 3/4 of a mile and it is on the right. See you there.

If you want to carpool, meet at the Renton Yankee Diner at 7:30am and we will caravan in style!

## 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:** As of January 2014, the meeting will be at a NEW and more central location:

### Yankee Grill

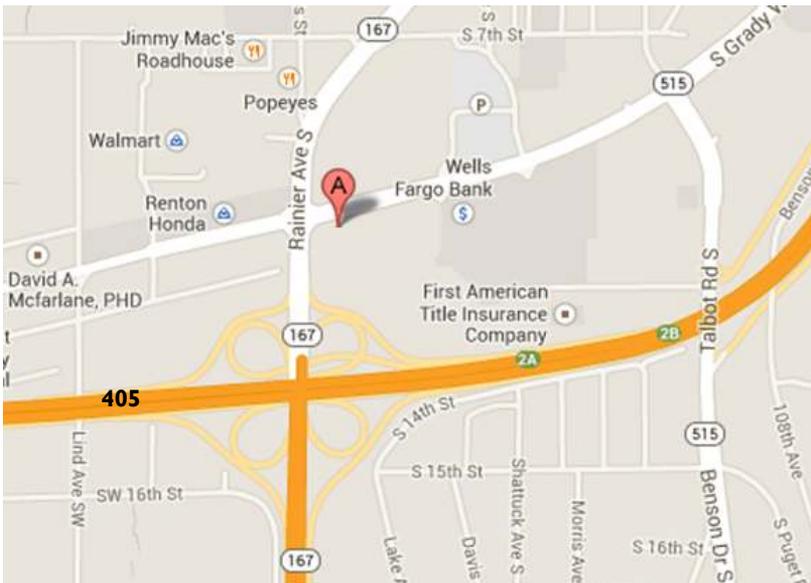
One South Grady Way

Renton WA 98057

Phone: 425-255-8543

### Directions:

1. Take I-405 to Renton
2. Take the northbound Rainier Ave S exit (167 + Rainier exit)
3. Once on Rainier, immediately get in the far right lane
4. Turn right (east) on S Grady Way
5. Yankee Grille is in the first shopping complex on the right (turn in just before the Chevron station)



**NORTHWEST DATSUN ENTHUSIASTS**

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