

ROADSTER

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Rockin' all over the world!

**Roadsters from Australia,
United States and Europe**



**DEATH DEFYING
DATSUN**

Half-year Vegas roadster
avoids the crusher

**ROADSTER
NATIONALS**

Australia's biggest
roadster meet

LOU MONDELLO TALKS CARBURETTORS

europa



A group of visionary European enthusiasts has abandoned the traditional Euro sports car in favour of something far more enticing.

vision





Toward the end of 2008, fanatic roadster driver, Roger Loop, and enthusiastic Nissan 300ZX and multiple website owner (me), started a registry and website together, specifically for the Datsun Sports/Fairlady roadster in the Netherlands.

Roger supplied a lot of information and a list with possible owners in The Netherlands that he had tried to maintain before the existence of the internet.

For my part, I read a lot of books and dug up much information from the internet. In 2009, the website was

online. I tried to contact all of the people on Roger's list and invited them to the first meeting in April 2009.

With the good will of the brothers Den Hartogh, living in the most northern place in The Netherlands, we gathered together 20 Fairlady roadsters.

In addition, Z and ZX owners were invited so we had about 60 cars total.

It was a really big meeting that was held in a small and, for most people, faraway place. This was the first step in what became a yearly meeting (usually held in April) that includes a tour

around the neighbourhood.

My interest in Datsun/Nissan started like a virus when I was 18 years old (I am now 31) with a 1985 Nissan 300ZX 2+2.

After a few years, I also purchased a 1982 280ZX Turbo 2+2 and then a 1977 280Z. Other 300ZXs came and went (together we have eight cars and two motorbikes).

The virus also infected my brother, who purchased a 1986 Nissan 300ZX 2+2 and my dad bought a 1983 280ZX 2+2. My mother, who could not be left behind, bought herself a 1967 Fairlady 1600 in perfect, restored condition.

After I borrowed her car for a small rally, I was infected with the roadster virus and in 2009, I bought myself a 1967.5 1600 from the 311s forum in USA.

After some work, I was driving my own Fairlady to the second meeting in 2010.

It was so fresh that the ink on the (registration) plates was still drying and the official registration papers arrived two days after we returned from the meeting! This meeting was held in another place and organised by other enthusiastic owners.

We usually gather about 20 cars together. We like to share the love



for our cars but we decided to have meetings only with roadsters. This keeps it more a familiar group and a manageable size for the organisation.

Every year, another organisation tours with us and arranges a place to meet - special thanks to lots of (former) dealers, who have the room and budget to organise a meeting!

Most owners are, or were, Datsun/Nissan dealers but not all of them are grey and old (not that there is anything wrong with being old and grey!); there are younger people who want something different than a '13-to-the-dozen' MG-B, or just fall in love with the lines of this small sports car and the joy that ownership can give you.

The roadster was never sold in the Netherlands but more and more of the cars are travelling overseas to our country.

This year we also arranged a technical day in September, but it was without a tour. Our biggest roadster nut, Richard Klimmert (who has a collection of its own), is our technical source.

Richard wanted to become a parts supplier but due to overseas transport costs, local tax and the small number of owners here, it never happened. Nevertheless, he is always willing to help you out.

Richard hosted the technical day at his place, where there was plenty to see. You could bring parts or ask for parts from your wanted list, arrange future group-buys or show and view the under-side of your roadster on a carlift.

This allowed more personal interest, and you had more time to speak with every roadster owner.

Four years on, we now have an enthusiastic group of roadster owners. I counted 43 registered (road legal) roadsters in the Netherlands, but I think there are more around that I do not know of.

Also, there are about 30 known roadster projects; parted out or imported cars waiting for a new owner and registration. So, around 70 cars are here and that is a lot for The Netherlands. There are 10 to 20 roadsters in Norway, and that country is a lot bigger than 'Holland'.

As a result of the website, I have gained more contacts and found there





are more European owners who are searching for parts, contacts, and to be a part of the roadster registry group.

I know owners in Belgium, Norway, Germany and Austria, so maybe we will grow into a European roadster group! If you are a European owner, feel free to contact me and write up your car in the registry. www.datsunfairlady.nl/index1.html

You can choose to share your email address, home place, pictures and information etc. Then, you and others can contact each other and friendships can form easily. If necessary, I can send the mailing list to certain owners of interest.

Next time I will write more about my own Fairlady roadster. Keep those Lady's on the road! 





