

# FVEAA NEWSLETTER

## Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

An Independent Not-For-Profit Corporation & Chapter of the National Electric Auto Association



**November  
2005**

### This Month's Meeting

**When:** Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – 7:30PM (**Note time changed from 8PM**)

**Where:** Downers Grove Community Church  
6600 S Fairview Ave  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

**Note we are NOT meeting  
at Triton this month!**

**SW corner of 66<sup>th</sup> & Fairview, enter rear parking lot from 66<sup>th</sup>, enter in back.**

**Membership Information:** Any person interested in electric cars and alternative energy systems is welcome to join the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association. The cost for a full year's dues is \$20.00 which entitles members to receive our monthly Newsletter that contains useful information about electric car conversions, construction, news, policies and events. These member dues are prorated on a monthly basis for NEW members (not renewing members) joining after the beginning of the club's fiscal year.

Guests are welcome! Membership **is not required** to attend our monthly meetings.

**Annual Member Dues of \$20.00 for 2006 are due and payable prior to January 2006.**  
*\$5.00 discount if Newsletter is sent in electronic format only.*

**Fox Valley Electric Auto  
Association**  
PO Box 214  
Wheaton, IL 60189-0214

STAMP  
ME !

## Meeting Agenda

1. Update on Kevin Zak – *John Emde*
2. Introductions
3. Treasurer’s Report – *Report by Dale Corel*
4. Membership Dues Reminder
5. Member Show-and-Tell
  - a. Todd Dore – Winterizing project
  - b. Tim Moore – New battery pack project
  - c. Ted Lowe – Recent updates to his S10
6. Election of 2006 Officers & Directors
7. Discussion on Triton College Meeting Space and Future Meeting Locations
8. Committee Break Out Sessions – Reconvene in 1 hour
9. Committee Reports – **Reports limited to 5 minutes each**
  - a. AFV Event Planning Committee – *Report by Ted Lowe*
  - b. 501c Tax Status Committee – *Report by Dave Arvold*
  - c. EAA 5<sup>th</sup> EV’er Planning Committee – *Report by Todd Dore*
  - d. Meeting Programs Committee – *Report by Steve Grushas*
  - e. Public Relations Committee – *Report by Laddie Vitek*
  - f. Website Committee – *Report by Ted Lowe*
  - g. Membership Committee – *Report by Rob Glowacki*

PREZ-pro tem SEZ

*Submitted by: Ted Lowe*

**Update on Kevin Zak:** I visited Kevin again this week, but was unable to see him because he was in PT. I talked to the nurse that has been working with him the whole time he’s been at Marion Joy. She had good news and bad news. Kevin is continuing to improve slowly. But a recent CAT scan shows that the brain swelling has gone down so the impairment Kevin has is damage that will take “quite a while” to recovery from. She said that the part of his brain affected is the language center, so even though he may know what he wants to say, he has a hard time articulating it. She said that he does remember his parents and sibling’s names and also can identify all people in a picture book he has. He may be moved at the end of the month due to the insurance coverage changing. His parents are of course overwhelmed with what to do next, so your prayers and positive thoughts for them and Kevin would be greatly appreciated.

**Update on Meeting Space Availability at Triton:** Ray Oviyach talked with Associate Dean Panos Hadjimitsos after the Triton Board discussed our request for meeting space. Triton’s Board did not yet decide to continue to allow us to use their space. They want the FVEAA to engage the Triton students and facility in some meaningful way as part of the conditions for us returning there. I feel this is a fair request and more brainstorming and discussions need to take place for us to reach a mutually acceptable arrangement. I wish we could have just signed a month-by-month contract so we could continue to meet there until we work out the details instead of abruptly losing the meeting space without a prior warning. I would like to discuss this issue in more detail at the meeting.

## Meeting Minutes

No minutes due to cancellation of October meeting.

## FVEAA Elections At November Meeting – Submit Your Nominations Now

Nominations are being accepted through the time of elections at our November meeting. Please email or call your nominations to Ted Lowe at [trl@creativespirits](mailto:trl@creativespirits) and 630-260-0424.

Come one, come all to cast your votes for the 2006 officers and directors!

## FVEAA's New PO Box

Please record our new address for future reference:

FVEAA  
PO Box 214  
Wheaton, IL 60189-0214

## Renew Your FVEAA Memberships for 2006

Membership dues for 2006 are due in November. Attend the November meeting to pay in person or snail mail your checks to Treasurer Dale Corel, 595 Gateshead North, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-3433.

## Fred Kitch Returning To EV Ownership

*Submitted by: Fred Kitch & John Emde*

Fred Kitch happily reports that he got a call from Ford in CA and they have a Ranger with a metal hydride pack with his name on it! He expects to receive it between 11/15 and 12/1, so he should have it at the December meeting. Congrats Fred!

## Newsletter Editor Wanted

*Submitted by: Ted Lowe*

I have volunteered to edit the newsletter for this month but after that I'd like to pass it to another club member! It's not a large amount of work but I'm already over worked and under paid in my volunteer positions (i.e., many hours, \$0 pay). If you'd be willing to take on this task (even temporarily and/or on a rotating basis), please contact me at [trl@creativespirits.org](mailto:trl@creativespirits.org) or 630-260-0424. Thanks!

## Newsletter Submission Deadline

Please submit any news or articles for the monthly newsletter by the Friday before the meeting.

## I Love My EV

*By: Ted Lowe*

I've been working on my S10 a lot lately and am loving it more each day. First, I put in a (long overdue) stereo in it. I chose an Alpine unit that plays MP3/WMA RW discs, so I can make "mixes" to suit my mood. This makes driving so much more enjoyable! The stereo also has an I-Pod interface that supports controlling the I-Pod from the front panel of the stereo (I just need to buy an I-Pod someday). Next, I finally solved all my 12V system problems by replacing the old SLI battery with a new Deep Cycle battery, the old DC-DC converter with a new DCP model and new heavier gauge battery cables. I finally have bright lights, fast turn signals and windshield wipers, etc. Finally, I have completed an auxiliary heater unit for the driver compartment. It really cranks out the hot air (like me), so I am poised to have the warmest winter driving season since I bought the S10 in Feb. 2001. I will show-and-tell the heater at the meeting. Now I'm left wondering whether Fred Kitch will loan me his "5 mile jacket" ☺.

All this discussion of why I love my EV reminds me about the article I wrote that was published in the Daily Herald Auto section just prior to our EV Seminar back in 2003. I've included the article here for members that may not have read it (or for an additional laugh of those of you that have ☺).

As published on the front page of the Daily Herald Auto Plus section on Sept. 8, 2003:

## **Plugging into new technology can be fun**

By Ted R. Lowe, Wheaton

I love my truck. Ask anyone who knows me. One of the reasons I love it is because it is unique. Yes, everyone says their vehicle is unique. Perhaps then it is the way it is unique. First off, it doesn't use gasoline. None. Nada. It is a fully electric vehicle (EV) that gets its propulsion energy from electricity stored in 20 deep cycle batteries. Another reason I really love it is because it is very efficient and economical, using only about 2 cents of electricity per mile. Still another reason is its simplicity of design. With only three main parts, the battery bank, the electric motor, and electronic controller, it is a very reliable and low maintenance vehicle that I can own for many years to come.

I remember about 8 years ago when I first heard about fully electric cars and thought that I would love to own one. So I started to figure out how I could buy one or build one. I found out that a number of books had been written on gasoline-to-electric conversion so I bought one and read it cover to cover. Another major piece of the puzzle fell into place when I learned about the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association (FVEAA). They have tons of EV experience and expertise that they are eager to share with "newbies." They conveniently meet at a junior college near my home each month, so I started attending meetings to learn how to build my future electric vehicle.

I learned that one of the first steps in doing a conversion is to find a suitable donor vehicle. Typically, a donor is a smaller car (for its lighter weight), with little or no rust and a blown engine. I also had decided that I wanted to build a small truck because of its utility value and solid construction. I looked and looked for almost two years, but could only find rust buckets in Illinois. My desire to own and drive an electric vehicle was becoming quite intense when the president of the FVEAA told me about an ad he saw on the Internet for a used Chevy S10 EV!

I jumped on this opportunity and contacted the owner who lived in Florida. For about two weeks, we exchanged many emails and phone calls and he sent me photos of his truck. After I realized that it was a great vehicle and we agreed on a fair price, I sent him a cashier's check and arranged to have the truck transported to Illinois. It arrived on a cold February night back in 2001. I had to meet the transport driver about 1 mile from my house because he didn't want to navigate on small side roads with his rig. After cumbersomely pulling it off the transport trailer (since I had never driven an EV before) I proudly headed for home in my new EV! My elation quickly turned to surprise as I discovered the truck had very little acceleration and in fact could barely get home. I thought to myself: "Egads, I bought a lemon!"

This problem with cold weather was something the previous owner in Florida never had to deal with. I've since redesigned the battery boxes to include insulation and battery heaters (a trick I learned from a Canadian EV expert) to get good range during the cold Illinois winters.

This (cold weather) challenge was just the first of many that I've had with my EV, and I guess that is part of the attraction for me. I've learned so many things owning and operating it and regularly have to "think out of the box."

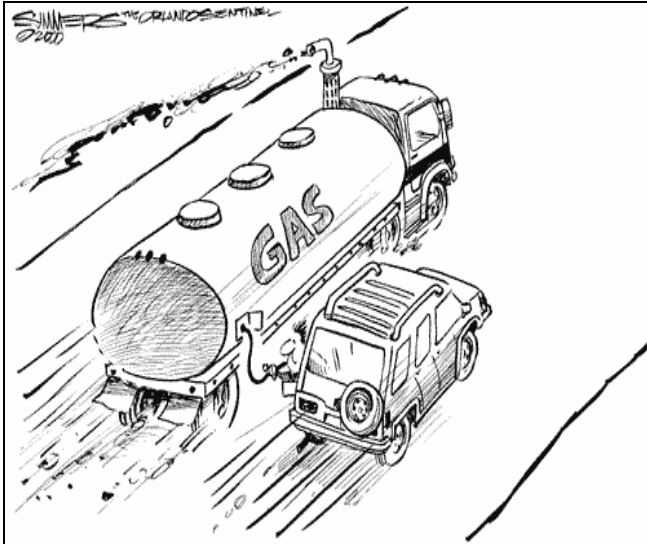
I love transportation issues and vehicles of many shapes and sizes. When using my EV, I especially love not being so beholden to the major oil companies, service centers, auto parts stores, etc. And I loved to only hear about the price of gasoline rising recently (not experiencing it). I love that when I'm waiting at a stoplight, my EV is consuming zero energy (i.e. gasoline dollars), and emitting no pollution, heat or noise! You have to love the elegance of this simplicity.

The EV is a great alternative to the internal combustion engine (ICE) design that the great Henry Ford brought to market about a century ago. Actually, Henry Ford's wife had an EV because she wasn't strong enough to hand crank the ICE engine to start it. So EV's have been around for a very long time. Perhaps they will come back into vogue now with ever fluctuating and higher gas prices ?

If after reading this column you are curious to learn more about electric vehicles, the timing couldn't be better for you! The FVEAA is putting on an Electric Vehicle Seminar on Saturday September 13th at Triton College in River Grove. We will have a dozen or so EV's of different types, including cars and trucks, an Electric Dragster, bicycles, scooters, motorcycles and lawn mowers. We will answer any questions you have and take you for a test ride if you want. Three Illinois companies that do EV R&D and manufacturing will be present with some of their products. Visit our website at [www.fveaa.org](http://www.fveaa.org) to learn more about the seminar and to reserve yourself a seat. For more information, feel free to call me at 630-260-0424 or email to [seminar@fveaa.org](mailto:seminar@fveaa.org).

Perhaps owning an EV isn't for everyone, but for me, it is an ongoing love affair!

*Is it time to get an Electric Vehicle ? They say "a picture is worth a thousand words". Here are some thousands...*



Send the editor some more pictures for the next newsletter!

# FVEAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

November 2005 thru October 2006

Any person interested in electric cars and alternative energy systems is welcome to join the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association. The cost for a full year's dues is \$20.00 which entitles members to receive our monthly Newsletter that contains useful information about electric car conversions, construction, news, policies and events. These member dues are prorated on a monthly basis for **NEW** members (not renewing members) joining after the beginning of the club's fiscal year.

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**\$5.00 discount if Newsletter is sent in electronic format only.**

*Please Print Clearly*

Name: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	Phone: _____
City: _____	Fax: _____
State, Zip: _____	Email: _____

*Newsletter Option (Check One)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Send the newsletter by mail <i>\$20.00 Annual Dues</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Send the newsletter by Email <i>\$15.00 Annual Dues</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Send Both <i>\$20.00 Annual Dues</i>
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### Prorated Membership Dues

FVEAA annual membership is \$ 20.00. The fiscal year begins November 1 <sup>st</sup> .											
Dues for <b>NEW</b> members (not renewing members) joining after that date is adjusted according to the following schedule:											
Nov. \$ 20.00	Dec. \$ 19.00	Jan. \$ 18.00	Feb. \$ 17.00	Mar. \$ 16.00	Apr. \$ 14.00	May \$ 12.00	Jun. \$ 10.00	Jul. \$ 8.00	Aug. \$ 6.00	Sep. \$ 4.00	Oct. \$ 2.00

Make your check payable to the FVEAA and mail to:

Dale Corel, FVEAA Treasurer  
 595 Gateshead North  
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-3433

