

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association
PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187

Meeting: Friday, October 19th

Doors open at 7:00PM

Meeting starts at 7:30PM

Packer Engineering

1976 N Washington St, Naperville, IL 60563

Directions: Packer Engineering is the on East side of Washington St, just North of the I-88 Tollway (North of Diehl, South of Warrenville Rd). Turn off of Washington onto Bighorn at the Packer Engineering sign, then take the first right into Packer Engineering and then an immediate left. Park in the lot between the buildings. 1976 is the new building up the hill. Enter the building in the middle of the North side.

October 2007 Newsletter



Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

A Not-For-Profit Illinois corporation and the Chicago area chapter of the Electric Auto Association

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and Introductions

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Old Business

- Next month's meeting will start at 7pm, doors open at 6:30pm
- Recruiting Business Members
- Committee Announcements and Updates

New Business

- R E N E W A L S !!!
- Anyone have anything else?

Intermission - EV Viewing, Networking, Refreshments, Raffle Tickets!

Raffle Winners

Show/Tell/Ask - Anyone can show/tell/ask something EV-related for 1-2 minutes.

Programs

Report on CACC EV Seminar - Ted Lowe, et al

Ted will show pictures and videos from the recent CACC EV Seminar and lead a discussion on the issues raised and our impressions of the EVs present.

Hydrogen Storage using Porous Silicon - Peter Schubert, PhD, Packer Engineering

Packer Engineering has five US patents pending covering the use of porous silicon as a hydrogen storage media. A technical feasibility study demonstrated this approach can store about 20 times more energy than Li-ion batteries.

Dr. Peter Schubert, Senior Director for Space, Energy & Education Research at Packer Engineering, will talk about how this technology works and how it may be an important part of our energy future.

You may prepare for this talk by reading a brief white paper on the topic: <http://www.fveaa.org/fb?87>

President's Words - Oh no... too many leaders!? Phew...

Ted Lowe



i have a confession to make. i made a BIG mistake during our elections at the September 2007 meeting and nobody caught it! We accidentally elected 4 Directors instead of 3 which our bylaws stipulate. Thankfully, this problem has been resolved by Todd Dore honorably stepping down from the BoD (to be the new Chair of our Legislative Affairs Committee - read more below). I didn't want to say goodbye to any of the 4 great Directors elected, but this solution seems like a very good fit for the both FVEAA and Todd (given his interest and focus on governmental policy as it relates to EVs and PHEVs). Long live Todd Dore and the FVEAA!

On another note, enjoy the \$2.60/gallon price of gasoline while it lasts (for you out there still using it:-)! My prediction is that the price will rise again early next spring and hit a new record over \$4/gallon. Is this just wishful thinking on my part, or is there any research behind it? i read with fascination any and all financial articles i find relating to "Peak Oil", the rising prices, and declining supply of oil. Even though it is a bit like enjoying horror films, it's important for me to face this issue head on! A survival instinct (deep inside all of us) is compelling me to educate myself about _possible_ future scenarios so i can **prepare now** for the ones that look the most likely. This isn't Chicken Little saying "The Sky Is Falling!" Read all you want to about Peak Oil by googling it sometime. My prediction is based on some gut feelings and extrapolation of recent EV events, but also on solid science from the overwhelming majority of experts in this field. Even our own Dept. of Energy believes in Peak Oil and has ramped up it's efforts to educate US citizens:

http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/reserves/npr/publications/Peak_Oil_-_the_Turning_Point.pdf

So it seems our FVEAA forefathers were really onto something when they founded the FVEAA some 32 years ago. Among other reasons, they wanted to take control of their own energy needs, so they set course to educate themselves and take action to build EVs. The rest is history. Can you imagine a world where we're driving ultra-efficient 'right-sized' electric vehicles charged from renewable energy? i hope so, i can!

Meeting Minutes

Rich Carroll

Minutes of FVEAA meeting at Packer Engineering, September 21, 2007

Ted Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:28 P.M. At that time, there were 53 in attendance. Several members, including the Treasurer came in during the meeting. We proceeded to introduce ourselves one by one. Ted noted Steve Clark was present; Steve was a past Vice-President of the FVEAA. The

minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Old Business

The ByLaws passed, noting that we received more than 70% of the 155 members voting.

Nominations for office: (combining nominations from several sources)

Ted Lowe President
Todd Martin Vice-President
Dale Corel Treasurer
Rich Carroll Secretary
Todd Dore Director
Rich Hirschberg Director
Gerry Jackson Director
Ted Sanders Director
Tom Kranz Director

At this point no other nominations were offered and the nominations were closed. There was a motion to accept all four officers, and this was passed unanimously. One minute was given to each director candidate to speak, and they did. After a vote was taken, the winners were:

Todd Dore
Gerry Jackson
Ted Sanders
Rich Hirschberg
New Business

It was noted that exiting the facility on time was difficult if a full program was planned, and it was proposed to change the start time of the meeting to 7 P.M. This was approved by voice vote.

The question of making the newsletters available on the website, just to members or to all. It was moved and seconded to make these available to all. It was amended to make this true for PDF versions of the newsletter only, and this was approved. Todd Dore suggested making available only the archived versions which were more than three months old, making the information available, but encouraging membership to allow the most recent information available only to paid members. It was suggested the newsletters be redacted to delete details of the treasurer's report, street address information for club projects and certain individual information. The motion was passed to have PDF format newsletters (redacted form) publicly available after the meeting. (Carried, three opposed votes)

A discussion of the online web forums ensued, and it was discussed whether we wished these available to the public. It was decided that we should wait until the forums contain more information, before we make this publicly available. Information on how to use the forums will be published in the newsletter. Guests were encouraged to examine the forums at: <http://IBurnCorn.com> to view a similar, useful forum. The motion to make the forums public was tabled.

Members were encouraged to visit <http://eaaev.org>.

The raffle was to give away an issue of Solar Today, an issue of Home Power, a 7 function multi-tester, and a book Gasoline to Electric by Gary Powers.

Ted noted that each meeting attendee would receive a Solar Tour Guidebook, worth \$10. In addition free copies of the Illinois Solar Newsletter were offered, and other newsletters which could be picked up at break.

Jim Dawson and Todd Martin were both awarded FVEAA Member of the Month as members who had stepped right into the club, drove EV's and were very active members.

David Lomblad was selected as the Raffle Meister, charged with selling raffle tickets.

Charlie Sheridan from Evanston discussed a project he had been working on, an electric powered 1910 Model T. It uses a DC propulsion system, with 9 eight volt batteries, a chopper controller, and was transformerless. It has a range of 15-20 miles, and a top speed of 35 MPH. (This is faster than a stock Model T) He offered to show it at break to any/all interested parties.

Rich Mouche has brought his 1981 Bradley GT electric, and also offered to show all at break.

So we took a break.....

The meeting was reconvened at 09:07 P.M. Raffle winners included Gerry Jackson (Solar Today) Bob Heinlen (Home Power), Gary Powers won the Multimeter, and Jim Dawson won the book. Jim explained that the book was very helpful in making his EV Saturn, and he already had a copy, so he donated it to the club library.

Dale Corel presented the Treasurer's Report, which showed a checking balance of USD \$364.23 and savings account balance of USD \$5,783.89. It should be noted that Bahamian dollars and US dollars are used interchangeably throughout the Bahamas Islands.

Joe Sykes from Prospect Heights discussed the EV conversions being promoted by LionEV in Virginia.

Rich Hirschberg discussed the upcoming showing the movie, Who Killed the Electric Car. It should be noted that we should invite Bill Shafer, our first President.

For the evenings presentation, Todd Martin shared his Powerpoint presentation, which discusses EV's and what they are made of and how they work. This presentation is available to any club members wishing to make a presentation to groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 P.M.

FVEAA Now Offering Business Memberships!

Ted Lowe

After much discussion and development, we are ready and able to accept business memberships! This is how they work:

There are 3 levels of business membership: 1) Business - \$100/year, 2) Premier Membership - \$250/year, and 3) Charter Membership - \$500/year.

Each level includes advertising in our monthly newsletters (which are publicly accessible on our website just after the month's regular meeting). The ad sizes are business card-sized, 1/4 page and 1/2 page respectively.

Business members (aka FVEAA Sponsors) will also receive listings on our website's Sponsors page. The listings are grouped by level (Charter, then Premier and then Business) and alphabetically within each group. Each listing includes the business contact information, a graphic logo and a paragraph or two description of the business' products/services.

So begin recruiting potential businesses for our new business memberships and if your business is relevant to FVEAA's mission, we'd gratefully appreciate your support as well! See more information at: <http://www.fveaa.org/join>

Membership Renewals Due

Ted Lowe

It's that time of year again folks. All our memberships are **due on 10/31/07 so Renew or Trick** soon!

Individual memberships with electronic newsletter delivery are still only \$15!

Family Memberships Introduced

In addition to the new business memberships described above, we have added a Family membership level. Family membership is \$5 more than Individual (\$20), but allows access for multiple people in the same household to our listserve, website and forums.

Postal Mailed Paper Newsletters Cost \$10 Extra

We have also split out the approximate cost of copying and postage out from the base membership levels to allow you to pick which delivery method you prefer.

Ways To Renew Your FVEAA Membership

1. Fill out the renewal form in this newsletter and snail mail it back with your dues check.
2. Pay in person by check or cash at an FVEAA Event (like a monthly membership meeting).
3. Use **our Online Renew & Pay** system to avoid the "old-fashioned snail mail thing" and save us all some time (that will be put to good use promoting **EVs**)! **You can pay with a credit card or PayPal account and it only takes about 5 minutes:**

<http://www.fveaa.org/renew>

Please renew soon to minimize the all busy work, expenses and nagging associated with reminders!
Thank you!

Legislative Affairs Committee Formed

Ted Lowe

The new BoD met last week and supported the idea of this new committee. Todd Dore is the Chair and Howard Hansen and myself are charter members. We invite others that want to help out in this area to contact Todd to get involved.

The first two issues for this committee to address are: 1) changing IL state law to give electric trucks electric plates, and 2) getting IL state law changed to allow Neighborhood EVs (NEVs) to drive on IL roads.

For background, more details, discussion and latest status, see this committee's board on our Forums:

<http://www.fveaa.org/forums/index.php/board,43.0.html>

Ken's Korner

Ken Simmermon

EV Tips for October

1. Winter is fast approaching and it's a good time to prep your EV for our Midwest climate. If there is any bare metal or rust treat it now! Maybe you could install that heater you have always wanted but couldn't afford the kilowatts.
2. It's a good Idea once or twice a year check your connections on the motor controller and other high current components. One of our club members found out that internal parts can come loose too. If your controller or DC to DC converter are not sealed units, it wouldn't hurt to inspect them at the same time you inspect your brushes.
Remember Disconnect your battery pack in two places to insure maximum SAFETY whenever working on you EV.
3. If you are storing your EV for long periods of time, periodically charge the batteries and you may want to disconnect your DC to DC converter depending how your vehicle is configured.
4. When building your EV, never connect any of the high voltage system to chassis ground. I hope to have a circuit in the next couple of months that would show battery leakage from both positive and negative to chassis ground. This would give you an idea how dirty your batteries are getting or a possible cable failure.
5. Remember this winter that Salt is a very good conductor, plan accordingly!

I'll save my Lead Sled comments for December!

Ken Simmermon
2000 NiMH Ranger

Carroll's Corner

Rich Carroll

Do we have all the items we think we need to make a viable EV? Not quite yet, but several developments look very promising. I hear chants of heresy when I say we don't have a viable EV right now. But let's be realistic. While I believe our members have vision that is missing in 99% of the population right now, there are no real viable EV's to be found. Yes, you can find the occasional Ranger pickup, already converted, or your Solectria Force. Those are available. But those aren't the kind of cars we think we need.

We think we need a car that will take those occasional trips to Grandma's house 200 miles away. We think we want a comfortable, air-conditioned, well heated sedan/SUV with room to take the kids to scout trips and to go to the home supply store for a sink or other bulky sized object. That's what we think we need, what we want. I haven't seen a car yet for sale which will carry a family of four and their stuff for a weekend trip, whether it be a camping trip for the family or a visit to the relatives. And we think we need to have all this capacity 24/7, when we really need a little module to get around to and from work and a short shopping trip.

Perhaps the real need is to find a way to change our expectations. There are several startup companies that will allow you to use a car by the hour, or by the day. I see an I-GO car in Chicago almost every week; cars that are not owned by the user, but used for a short, specified time only. (see <http://www.igocars.org>) This concept works fine for the city, but perhaps what we need is to use a rental car for the occasional longer trips and use a modestly sized EV for the daily commute. If these rental cars were just a little more available, with a pricing policy that would encourage occasional, perhaps regular, repeated use, we would all benefit. This infrastructure is already in place, but companies like Enterprise, or Avis would do well to market their vehicles to those who already own vehicles, but need extra capacity for the weekend. Enterprise would like you to think that they can easily do this now, but try to drive over to Enterprise in your EV to rent a minivan for the weekend. Perfectly reasonable, except that Enterprise has nowhere for you to park the EV for the weekend. Now, if they had a place to park AND recharge the EV, they would help their bottom line significantly, and help the EV commuter. It makes a lot of sense to drag around only the baggage you need, so commuting in a mini car (powered by electricity) makes sense on the days you are commuting, and dragging around a pickup when you need to bring lumber home from the big-box home supply store also makes a lot of sense. By the way, many of the big-box home supply stores will rent a pickup or flatbed for a flat charge to allow you to carry a truckful of wares home, then return the truck. Now that makes sense, especially when the rental rates are relatively inexpensive and the paperwork easy. If only Enterprise could do what Home Depot does, the EV using world would be easier.

Upcoming Event - Step-It-Up Rally - Geneva - Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 - 2-4p

Ted Lowe

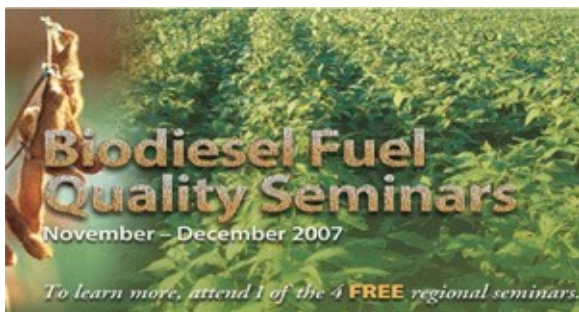


The FVEAA will have some of its electric vehicles at this rally. This effort is aiming for 1) 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050, 2) no new coal plants and 3) the creation of green jobs.

For more information about Step It Up Events:
<http://stepitup2007.org/article.php?list=type&type=31>

More information about this rally:
<http://events.stepitup2007.org/november/events/show/2245>

Join us! Let Rich Hirschberg or Todd Martin know if you'll be attending (with or without an EV).



The Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition in conjunction with the IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the IL Soybean Association, the IL Environmental Protection Agency and others are sponsoring a series of Biodiesel Fuel Quality Seminars in IL. This series of FREE seminars intends to educate stakeholders in the biodiesel industry on how to best achieve acceptable standards for fuel quality.

Keynote speaker Hoon Ge of the MEG Corporation is a nationally-renown expert in biodiesel fuel handling, storage, analysis and troubleshooting for users and marketers of biodiesel. Mr. Ge consults for many organizations and companies including the National Biodiesel Board, Minnesota Biodiesel Council, Illinois and Iowa Soybean Associations and many well-know fuel distributors across the United States.

Chicago Area Clean Cities and its partners are hosting 4 seminars around IL. Seminar agenda and registration information is attached to this email. Please contact Samantha Bingham at 312.744.8096 or visit <http://www.chicagocleancities.org> if you have any questions or would like more information.

Editor's notes: The seminars are on weekdays from 10a-2pm: Nov. 28 (Glen Ellyn, COD), Nov. 29 (Rockford, RVC), Dec. 3 (Springfield), Dec. 4 (East Peoria). Read more: <http://www.fveaa.org/fb?82> (announcement), <http://www.fveaa.org/fb?83> (agenda), <http://www.fveaa.org/fb?84> (registration form).

EV Presentation at Crystal Lake ILGP Meeting, October 13th*Todd Martin*

I brought my '97 Solectria Force and our EV Presentation to the Illinois Green Party's (ILGP) membership meeting/workshop/fundraiser.

The ILGP has about 1000 paid members and their October meeting at the McHenry County College was intended to figure out how best to move forward since they have now become an "established" party in Illinois (meaning they can have a primary election and have reduced petition requirements just like the Republicans & Democrats).

The ILGP made a number of arrangements for me:

- 1) They obtained permission from the McHenry County College to allow me to plug in
- 2) They advertised the Electric Car presentation in their literature for the meeting.
- 3) They provided a meeting room with a projector for a 3:00pm showing to be followed by a show-and-tell of the car.

At the event, about 30 people attended the EV presentation. Separately Charlie Howe (A GP member) brought his Electric Scooter for show and tell. A Green Party Presidential candidate, Kent Mesplay, went for his first EV drive!

After the meeting, a GP member has volunteered to speak to the Village of Oak Park about getting an AVCON station.

Regards,
Todd Martin

Forums Tip - Messages Summary Tool

Ted Lowe

Have you logged into our Forums yet ? If you're having trouble getting in for the first time, email or call me for help!

Here is the first of in a series of tools that will help us move from the [fveaa] listserv to the Forums. This page has sortable columns which can be used to look at the data in a number of different ways. It shows the latest messages on top by default.

<http://www.fveaa.org/apps/smfsum/getmsgs.php>

Online Versions of FVEAA Bylaws with Amendment 1

Ted Lowe

Here's are the updated PDFs of our bylaws with Amendment 1 dated 9/18/07:

<http://www.fveaa.org/fb?85>

And the diff-marked version showing each change in detail: <http://www.fveaa.org/fb?86>

Please acquaint yourself with the rules the FVEAA must abide by.

Welcome New FVEAAers

Ted Lowe

Let's give a big FVEAA welcome to the following new members:

Terry Kane from Glen Ellyn
Bob Fox from Laporte, IN
Phil Chaban from Grass Lake
Rick Mouche from Naperville

Charlie Sheridan from Evanston
Frank Pavlik from Lombard
Robert Waddell from Algonquin

Welcome aboard Folks! Let us know what we can do to help you in your EV pursuits!

EVs in the News

Rich Carroll

I have noted with amusement that several major manufacturers (Nissan, Renault, Opel, and VW) have all made press releases with EV's in them this month. Most appear to be pie in the sky projects, not at all likely for production in the near future.

Below is **Nissan's** Pivo2, in which all wheels turn to accommodate easy parking. All wheels pivot through 90 degrees. This seems to be an interesting styling exercise that has no production chance at all.



VW seems the closest of that bunch to production. They have shown two variants of their short (136 inch long) Up! Rear engined concept car. One variant is a micro minivan, the second variant is a Plug-In Hybrid. Goal for the PHEV is 100 MPG. The micro minivan will be shown in Tokyo Motor Show, while the PHEV is slated for introduction at the Los Angeles Auto Show.



Opel has on their drawing board the Flextreme. Powered by diesel/biodiesel fuel, it uses electric power to extend it's range.



The **Chevrolet** Volt may not be a Chevrolet after all. During the recent contract negotiations between GM and the UAW, a document was leaked showing the "Global Delta Volt" is scheduled for the Hamtramck, Michigan production facility. The Global Delta platform is a worldwide compact car platform GM is designing.

The Hamtramck plant builds Buick and Cadillac models, and the Buick is an unlikely fit. Chevrolet production is in several nearby facilities, including Willow Run. So a car built in the Hamtramck plant would more likely get the laurel crest of the Cadillac name. This might also be a better fit if the car needs the extra sales discussion of purchasing or leasing the car, but leasing the batteries. If the entire Volt is to be sold, it will be an expensive sell, and less likely for Chevrolet than Cadillac. The UAW documents have the car on a production schedule of 2010. It is not without reason that this could be pushed back, as GM has not announced their choice of the power source for the on-board recharging system, nor announced where they plan to obtain the Lithium batteries. We do know they have two battery suppliers under contract, so a 2010 time frame might not be unrealistic.



On a lesser note, September was one of the dates that the makers of the **Tesla** electric car had said would start full scale deliveries of their much-delayed car. The new schedule says the first fifty cars should ship in the first quarter of 2008.



Coming Attractions - November 2007 FVEAA Meeting

Ted Lowe

Our new VP Todd Martin has jumped right into planning many excellent programs for future meetings!

Tentatively scheduled for the November meeting:

- Ted Sander's report on his "LionEV Test Drive" trip
- Belly Pan Installation Demo

Please let Todd know about any ideas or requests you may have for future meeting programs.

**Fox Valley Electric Auto Association
Membership/Renewal Form**

Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____ (only need to fill in Name below)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone Type: Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Email: _____

How did you hear about the FVEAA ?

Membership Types and Annual Dues (please circle your choice):

Individual	\$ 15
Family	\$ 20
Business	\$ 100
Premier Business	\$ 250
Charter Business	\$ 500

Newsletter Delivery Types (please circle your choice):

No Newsletter	\$ 0
Electronic Only	\$ 0
Postal Mail Only	\$ 10
Postal Mail and Electronic	\$ 10

Total Due: _____

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Please make your check payable to "FVEAA" and postal mail it with this form to:

FVEAA
PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60189-0214
Attn: Membership