



February 2018 FVEAA Newsletter

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

The FVEAA is a Not-For-Profit Illinois Corporation and the Chicago-area chapter of The Electric Auto Association

Next Meeting

February 16, 2018

Special meeting and test drives of the new Mitsubishi Plug-in Outlander at 5:30

at Max Madsen (3990 Ogden Ave, Aurora, IL 60504 Which is 1.7 miles west of our meeting place)

Starts 7:00 p.m. Ends 9:30 p.m.

Community Christian Church

1635 Emerson Lane

Naperville, IL 60540

[Google Map](#)

Agenda

- 5:30 Meet and greet at Max Madsen.
- 7:00 Call To Order, Welcome and Introductions
- 7:15 Jeff Miller -- Introducing the technical details of the Outlander plug-in
- 8:15 Break
- 8:30 Simon Gibson -- EVSE Infrastructure: What it means and communicating with it

President's Words

Michael Willuweit

For being the doldrums of winter things are really heating up in the EV world. First, our own forums at the FVEAA website have been quite active this month. It was good to see one of our long time members Tim Moore picking the brains of our members about various EV related issues, one of which warrants future discussion -- workplace charging. Speaking of Tim, the club would like to acknowledge and thank him for his generous donation to the club he sent in with his renewal.

Secondly, the Tesla Model 3 is out and about in the wild here in Chicagoland. While I haven't seen one on the roads yet I think one will be showing up at one of our meetings in the near future. Get ready for the Tesla revolution.

Thirdly, other car manufacturers are trying to catch up to Tesla and have made some fairly big announcements in regard to their EV production One such announcement was the long anticipated arrival of the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV. This crossover SUV has been on the market overseas for a few years but was continually delayed here -- something we are accustomed to here in the EV World, I'm still waiting for the PHEV version of the Saturn Vue which was due back in '09! Anyway, the kind folks at Max Madsen have invited us to their dealership for some test drives right before our meeting. Let's plan on being there from 5:30-6:45 and then we will head the 1.7 miles east on Ogden Avenue to our usually meeting place. Hopefully we will have an Outlander to bring over to the church for those who can't make the special early meeting. Regardless, Jeff Miller will present on the Outlander PHEV, can't wait to hear about it. Simon Gibson will be presenting after the break about EVSE and charging infrastructure and the shape of things to come as we get ready for the EV

revolution.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge what a great meeting we had in January. Bil Becker gave a thoughtful and moving tribute to his friend, and our "token boat guy," Jim Schmidt. John Emde then took us down memory lane with a discussion on a past electric dragster conversion, which really just whets our appetite for progress on his new conversion dragster project using a gen 1 Honda Insight body. And last but not least we were fortunate to still have Dr. Rich Carroll in our company and we are happy to feature another great installment of Rich's Ramblings in our newsletter this month.

Hope to see you this Friday!

Jim Schmidt Tribute

Bil Becker



We miss you BIG TIME "BIG JIM"! Some of us have known you for 35 years.. Like when you were a straight-A student majoring in Industrial Design at UIC. You had GREAT IDEAS and Models for Boats, Cars & Planes -Way ahead of vehicles that came later. And then when you helped KDA Cabinets, Inc. perfect their connector systems. And then when you began your electric boat research in the '90s, and began building in the 2000s!

Visits to your Boat Building Workshop, in McHenry, was like a trip to the "Wizard's Magic Lab"! With its wonderful SHIP in the middle of the room and the Walls covered with "Words of Wisdom" like: "Teach a Man to Fish and He'll Never be Hungry.... Teach a Politician to Fish and He'll Steal your BAIT!"

So many Laughs and so much Learning! And among the EV Car Guys, your were the "outlander" "BOAT GUY"! Always reminding us that the WORLD was 3/4s WATER!

And often teasing us to "Take the TRAIN!" WE LOVE all of your 6 foot 6 inches and know you are finally cruising the Key West Waters you had worked so hard to reach!

Bil Becker



Ted Lowe charges up his Dodge Dakota conversion.



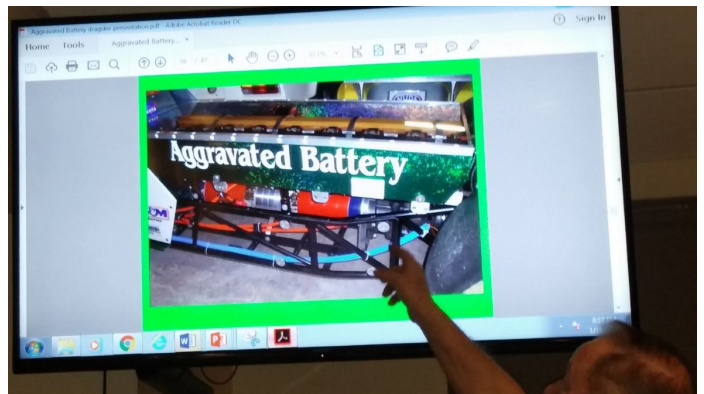
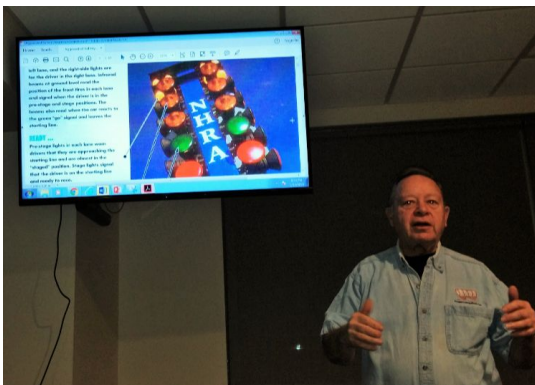
John Emde presents Bruce with a couple of 1960 era Rat Finks! No doubt due to John's affinity for working on Bruce's 1930 Plug in Hybrid Hot Rod



John Emde recalls great details of the build of his electric dragster from years ago, the "Aggravated Battery"



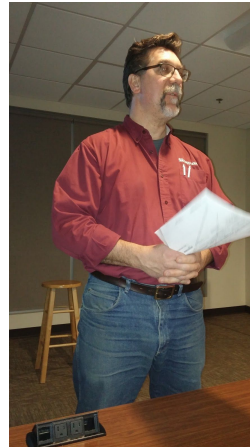
BII Becker gives a fitting tribute to big Jim Schmidt "the token boat guy"



John's "Aggravated Battery" electric dragster



What John Emde presented to Bruce



Rich Hirschberg promoted this year's outreach events like Earth Day on April 21st at Peck Farm Park, the Carpentersville Home Depot National Drive Electric Week event, and Schaumburg Home Depot car show. Stay tuned and let's try to get Mike to get his Porsche operational so he can attend!

Rich's Ramblings

Rich Carroll

Over the years, I have been aware of new car feature creep. In this situation, new cars for just simple transportation have become more difficult to find. Several years ago, when Toyota introduced the Camry Hybrid, they followed the same guidelines that they used in other model lines that had hybrids and non-hybrids in the same body. If you wanted a Camry Hybrid, you had to opt for the XLE trim, and had to pay for the more expensive LED taillights, the leather seats, an upscale sound system with separate amplifier, alloy wheels, 16 inch tires, more trim accents, etc. But market forces did not let this continue. Commercial interests, lead by taxicab companies demanded a LX or CE version of the Camry Hybrid, without the leather and extra trim.

If you want a basic Chevy Cruze, price a 2018 Cruze manual transmission. Most dealers will point you toward the L model as the cheapest. It isn't. Most will suggest models costing more, making more dealer profit, and seldom models with the highest energy efficiency. Comparing L, LS, LT and Limited models shows a dizzying array of features, some are only available if you upgrade the base model by one or two trim levels. For example, those wanting heated front seats (a desirable option in Illinois) can't get them in the base L trim. Upgrade once to the LS trim and you still can't get them. Upgrade the trim all the way to the LT trim (about \$4,000 more than the L trim, and you can get heated seats. Notice that \$4,000 two trim upgrade doesn't pay for the heated seats, it only pays to upgrade the model to a level where Chevrolet **could** put them on. By the way, a good half hour's internet time failed to find the price premium to ADD the heated front seats to a Cruze LT.

One of the most interesting problems is the grouping of options. Some are in trim levels some in option groups (like the convenience group, the lighting group, etc.) When someone is shopping for a car, and they indicate that heated seats are important, the dealer representative knows to start with the LT trim package. If you want a real spare tire, the dealer knows which trims and which option group can have that. And you will need to buy the full trim or option package to get the one or two pieces you want.

And if you want something that is not in the dealer's list, be prepared for two additional problems. So if you want real winter tires, the dealer can get you a set of Contis or Michelins or Goodyear winter tires or even Hakkapeliittas, the dealer will get you a price. They will default to near a full retail price, and most dealers will but them on at standard mounting prices, but quietly keep the original tires. If you don't specify that you intend to keep the original tires when you purchase the car, the dealer will assume you are trading in the tires, but they won't give you money for them. If you insist on adding the tires to the initial sale, they will try to sell you another set of wheels (usually at full list price) + mounting and balancing. You want a Kenwood stereo? Ask the dealer for full costs first, as they may have to choose the model correctly to get the needed speaker bezels in the car doors, or the wiring.

Can you get to build exactly what you want? Usually not, but you can come close. Just be aware of the actual costs of building your way.

FVEAA Facebook Page - Like Us!

Grant Gerke

<https://www.facebook.com/FoxValleyElectricAutoAssociation>

FVEAA Facebook Group - Join Us!

Ted Lowe

In October 2015, i created a Facebook group for the FVEAA and invited all the past and current FVEAA members i know that are on Facebook. There are 69 members as of 8/15/17. If you're on Facebook but not in the group, yet please join us! If you're not on Facebook yet, please consider joining so you can join our group there! This group will help to replace our forums because it is much easier to use, read, post pictures and videos and get notifications. Please let me know if you have any questions/comments/suggestions. Hope to see you there! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/889497691136309/>

Membership Update

Ted Lowe

We currently have **68 active paid-up** members, down one from last month! Please renew and recruit new folks!



FVEAA Membership Report

as of 2018-02-12 04:58:04

Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
BusinessStd	1	1
Family	6	6
Individual	59	58
LifetimeInd	3	3
Totals	69	68

Other Statistics

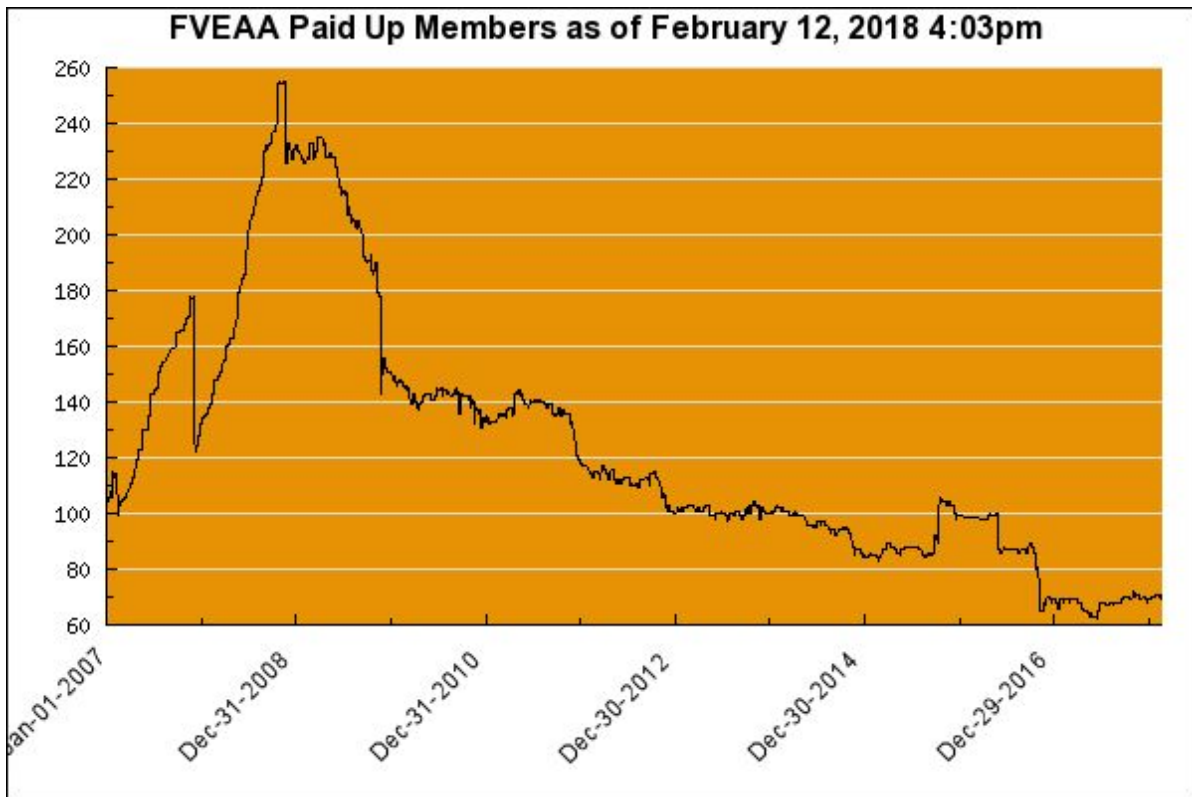
Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.6%
Avg. Paid Up Days	214.6 days
% With Email	95.7%

Encouraging Our Membership To Grow in 2018 and Some History

Ted Lowe

We live in a large metro area with 8 million people and EVs are the latest buzz so we should be able to grow the FVEAA! **Please invite your friends, neighbors, family, colleagues**, etc. to FVEAA meetings and EVents. Volunteer to attend EVents on behalf of the FVEAA (with or without an EV)! Your ideas on how to help grow the FVEAA are welcomed at anytime, thanks! Howard Hansen had a **great idea**... giving an FVEAA membership as a gift!

Here is a time-varying graph of our membership size from 2007 to now. Note that we peaked at about 255 members in the Summer of 2008 when gas was nearing \$5 per gallon. We were also attending lots more invitational EVents with our EVs. **Let's get out there and grow the FVEAA in 2018!!!**



Membership Renewals

Ted Lowe

Our membership system sends out “renewal reminder emails” before your membership is due. You will receive up to 3 before being marked “not renewed” (inactive). The sooner you renew, the fewer emails you will receive :)

So please pay attention to your email from the FVEAA and renew online using this link (for the easiest approach for all of us):

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

THANK YOU for your continued support of the FVEAA!

Meeting Minutes - January 19, 2018

Bruce Jones

Opening, Welcome, Introductions

The meeting was opened by president Mike Willuweit at 7:05 p.m.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

We are all very glad that Rich Carroll was at the meeting as he has made it through a very difficult past few weeks .

Kevin Zak made a presentation dedicated to the great State of Illinois.

7:35 Mike Willuweit described some EV related news including a female in the greater Chicago / Northwest Indiana group whose Nissan Leaf ran in Turtle mode during recent extreme cold weather.

Tribute

Bil Becker provided a tribute to the late Jim Schmidt who passed away a few weeks ago. Jim was the self-proclaimed “token goat guy,” who had been building a wooden boat with electric motor.

50% of lakes in Minnesota deny gasoline engine boats, 80% in Europe, which is a growing trend.

Jim was a student at the University of Illinois, Chicago when he met Bil his teacher

Bil kept in touch with Jim for nearly 40 years, and Jim was in process of building an electric boat
If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of Jim Schmidt's blood relatives please let Bil Becker know.

Break 8:00 p.m. to 8:20

EV News

Mike added a few more EV related news including Batavia recently opened a 2-port Chargepoint electric car-charging station. Mike had met with the Environmental commission in Batavia a while back and was pleased one evening to see the charger up and operational.

Prairie state campus sell Mw power bought 30 year deal

NDEW

Rich Hirschberg lined up NDEW on Saturday Sept. 8 at the Carpentersville home depot
And again is working to set up a late July Summer celebration at the Schaumburg home depot

Car Show Volunteers

Midwest evolve is a consortium of Midwest states and clean cities organizations looking for electric vehicle experts to volunteer at the Chicago auto show booth this year. The volunteers will work to get surveys completed by the participants in the Ride and Drive which will feature cars from four EV manufacturers. According to Rich Carroll, Samantha Bigham will pay for parking and transportation in full and we're hoping she can waive the \$70 annual membership fee to be a clean cities member. Volunteers will be talking facts not fiction.

Times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. from Feb. 10 to 19

Four volunteers are needed on the weekend shifts, and 3 volunteers on weekday shifts.

Electric Dragster Presentation by John Emde

Presented Bruce w two cool 1960 era Ratfink models no doubt due to John's affinity for working on Bruce's 1930 all steel plug-in hybrid hot rod :)

John Emde, recently dubbed a "Product Improvement Specialist" gave his talk on his electric dragster back 7 or 8 years ago named "Aggravated Battery"

The vehicle was built on a 1999 230" wheelbase spritzer frame and had originally a Warp13" motor connected to a powerglide 2 speed transmission. That package weighed 475 lbs. for motor and tranny

He subsequently replaced the motor with two 7" Warp motors for more horsepower and approximately equivalent torque.

John described all the components of the electric dragster and how it was designed including Motor, batteries, drive train, wheelie bar, tow connection, brush connections, heat concerns, wire sizes, air flow, associated modified golf cart, trailer and numerous other components.

Wrap up

John also has some photos of EV license plates and can show them at one of the upcoming meetings.

Special shout out to Tim Moore a club member with two Ford focus electric cars, who made a nice donation to the club.

Jeff Miller mentioned that the prices of Tesla Model S sedans are keeping their value, and not dropping like an ICE car would over time.

Meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

FVEAA Membership Application Form - Version 2014-01-01

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Phone Type: Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Email: _____

Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____

How did you hear about the FVEAA ? _____

Membership Types and Annual Dues (please circle one):

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

Newsletter Delivery Type (please circle one): No Newsletter Electronic

Please make checks payable to "FVEAA" and postal mail it with this membership application form to:

FVEAA

PO Box 214

Wheaton, IL 60187-0214

Attn: Membership



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