

**Fox Valley Electric Auto Association
PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

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March 2011 FVEAA Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

**Friday, March 18th, 2011 - 7:00PM (doors open at 6:30PM) at
Packer Engineering, 1976 N Washington St, Naperville, IL 60563**

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.

Agenda

- Call To Order
- Old Business
- Committee Reports
- New Business
- Intermission: Refreshments, Networking and EV Viewing.
- Program:
 - We will brainstorm about ideas of what to place on our promotional pieces at the upcoming Green Festival.
 -

President's Words

Rich Carroll

Several of the members of FVEAA have been actively participating in discussions about the upcoming Green Festival Chicago. We're at this Festival 'selling' EV's and 'selling' memberships in FVEAA. I think

we have a great story to tell, and we need lots of input from members to cover everything. I had planned to print a tri-fold brochure for distribution, and we have space on pillars and panels to tell our stories.

Before we put the actual wording onto the printed materials and on the signs we'll use, I would love to get the input from every member. We have a number of stories to tell, and I certainly can't think of everything to say about this club. Please contribute to what I already have. Here is what I have thought of so far:

On the **outside** of the proposed tri-fold brochure, I thought we might stress why a prospective member might need FVEAA.

Electric Vehicle drivers need:

- Regular updates on new laws that effect Electric Vehicles (EV's)
- Information about rebates, and tax credits
- Information about parking areas and charging stations
- Proposed laws about parking fines for vehicles blocking EV's from charging.
- Reviews of new charging improvements.
- Representation on city and state committees as new rules and new laws are drafted
- Input about pending 'road use taxes'
- Updates about EV use in 'bus lanes' and 'car pool' lanes, which are already planned
- and much, much more

On the **inside** of the tri-fold, I planned to use a question and answer format:

Why Electric Cars?

An electric car or truck is a sensible alternative means of transportation in today's society. The cost to operate is a small fraction of the cost to operate a gasoline powered vehicle. Much of the repair costs of a gasoline vehicle do not exist with electric vehicles. They do not have an exhaust system, or require tune-ups, etc.

An electric vehicle will be a trouble free, easy to use alternative to a gasoline or diesel car or truck. It is not a good replacement for a vehicle that may have to be used for 200 miles in a day, or for a heavy truck, or for a vehicle that primarily travels at high speeds. It makes a perfect second car in the family for many, and can be an effective first car, if combined with a gasoline-car sharing service, or use of public transportation.

Even in areas where the electric power is currently generated by coal, much less pollution is created by one smokestack with 'scrubbers' that is monitored by professionals 24/7 than by hundreds of thousands of individual tailpipes. It is estimated that well over half of the vehicles in use today in cities could not pass a tailpipe emissions test on the first try. In the Chicago area, older cars and most trucks are not even tested.

Who is the FVEAA?

The FVEAA is a broadly based group of people from all walks of life who share the common interest in electric cars and trucks. Owners and drivers need a dependable, unbiased source of information about laws, rules, regulations, parking, etc.

Is the FVEAA political?

The FVEAA is a not-for profit, 501 (c)(3) applicant, and does not align itself with political parties. We do support a greener environment for all, and many of our members and officers are active in environmental groups.

Our members are active in the Chicago Electric Vehicle Consortium, a hand-selected group given the responsibility for spending \$14.99 million dollars in Green Cities monies for charging infrastructure in Chicago. FVEAA has three members of this committee, and has been quite active in all discussions. Several members routinely present various topics at eco-fairs, green festivals, arbor day shows, village parades, etc. The FVEAA maintains a battery of literature, magnetic vehicle signs, and display pieces to help members at such shows and fairs.

The members of the FVEAA frequently work to represent the views of the membership on proposed laws and rule changes.

Can I get the same information from the media?

The media reports on much of the legal changes, but mainly after they have been enacted. With this new technology, it is important to have knowledgeable input before the legislation is voted on, before the official rules are adopted.

The FVEAA also codifies all the changes, so that you won't worry about missing something.

Are their various interests?

Diversity seems to be our forte. We do have members with low speed vehicles, and several with Tesla Roadsters with a top speed in excess of 120 MPH. Some members are proud of their plug-in hybrids, some have battery only power, Some show at car shows, some at green fairs, and some of them race.

Don't you need a quarter mile cord to race?

Not at all. In fact, we are very aware of a completely street legal Nissan/Datsun on the west coast that is in the ten second bracket. One dragster, from one of our members, can do 0 – 60 MPH in 1.1 seconds.

How else is FVEAA active?

We have been active in putting charging stations into the Chicago area. We actively submit locations to national mapping services, so that EV drivers can see where charging stations are.

We are working with the folks who are writing the legislation to set aside special spaces for EV charging and to establish state wide fines for parking and blocking a charging place with a non-EV.

What other resources does FVEAA have?

A well established library, and an inventory of promotional material, available to all members. Over the years, the FVEAA has helped several members with construction of their electric vehicle conversions, with advice, with tools, and with labor.

We have a very active computer forum, where members help other members, whether the object is to get information about a kind of battery, where to find a car to convert, what events are coming up.

Each FVEAA member has a blog, and can describe their interests there. Some describe their projects, some describe their cars.

Program

Todd Martin and Rich Carroll

Mariana Gerzanych has agreed to talk to us. She is the CEO of 350Green, the winner of the contract to install charging stations in Chicago. Mariana and Tim Mason captured the Chicago EV Consortium bid with a very progressive thought process which brought several million dollars of additional capitalization to the project. Mariana has eight years of experience in automotive and petroleum sectors. As a statistical analyst for Department of Commerce, Mariana spearheaded survey method integration with online media. She brings environmental transportation industry experience as a founder, President and CEO of EnviroRide, an Eco-friendly sedan service operating in MD, VA, and Washington, DC.

Meeting Minutes - February 2011

Bruce Jones

President Rich Carroll opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and first time visitors introduced themselves, all with a variety of renewable energy and electric car interests.

CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

One of the annual highlights in the automotive industry is the Chicago Auto Show. Rich mentioned several electric or hybrid vehicles were there on display like Ford's new fusion electric, and a small 2-seater truck, the Transit Connect. Ford is moving down two separate paths regarding electric propulsion systems. The Ford Fusion uses DC batteries and a traditional DC motor system but the Transit Connect features an electric AC motor. That's right Alternating Current.

AZURE

The Transit Connect electric van is a first generation 2-seater truck with batteries where the back seat would normally be. It uses an AC motor system from Azure Dynamics, based on the technology that produced the Solectria Force electric car featuring AC propulsion first introduced back in 1991. As a converted Geo Metro, the Force was one of the top electric vehicles produced at the time . . . though a bit pricey. Solectria suffered a downturn in business and Azure Dynamics of Ontario Canada acquired them in January 2005. But they still use the same "Force Drive" motto used by Solectria.

At the auto show, Rich Carroll was fortunate enough to talk with the Vice President of Azure, Mike Elwood. Mike gave Rich a couple of lapel pins for Todd Martin, our Vice President, since Todd still drives and loves his Solectria Force.

MITSUBISHI, SMART CAR

Other electric vehicles were on display at the auto show including the Nissan Leaf, and the Mitsubishi I MIEV which won't be available here in Chicago until the end of the year. Chevy Volt had a display and test track. Smart Car was promoting their car which costs in the neighborhood of mid \$40ks or can be leased for around \$600/mo.

350GREEN

Rich was very busy at the show and also chatted with Tim Mason, who runs 350Green, the company that recently won the electric vehicle charging station contract for the city of Chicago. They plan to install over 200 stations in the 1st phase and 280 overall. Two kinds of charging stations will be installed including 146 Level 2 stations featuring both a J-1772 plug and a standard 115 Volt plug next to it, plus 73, 480 Volt DC rapid chargers which would recharge cars in 15 - 30 minutes. The high speed chargers use the large JARI (Japanese Automobile Research Institute) connector and the CHADEMO protocol for direct DC charging. Currently only the Nissan Leaf and I MIEV have the JARI connector and are able to use such fast charging systems.

350 Green has not announced the location for all of the charging stations yet but they are installing high speed chargers at all the Chicago tollway oases circling Chicago. Through their nationwide deal with Albertsons it is also possible that Jewell food stores will have charging stations in the future.

CHARGING STATION LEVELS

Rich then reviewed basic charging station specifications. Level 2 chargers operate at 32, 60, or 70 amps, 240 volts AC using the 5 pin J-1772 connector. Level 1 chargers operate at 16 amps 117-120 Volts AC, which is your basic household current.

Keith Baubkus noted that Nissan bulletin IEC 60309 describes a high speed charging plug with different specifications. (*This is a 690 V DC or AC industrial connector handling up to 250 Amp according to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEC_60309*). Such a connector has not yet been approved for cars that we know of.

STATE INITIATIVES

Governor Pat Quinn is attending the 1st Annual Chicago Green Business Summit and has been a leader in green and sustainable initiatives. Rich's impression of Governor Quinn is that he really "gets" EVs and knows what it means. He is aware of the EV charging station rollout from Green Cities plus the state's Department of Commerce providing funding.

CHICAGO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONSORTIUM (CEVC)

Rich provided many tidbits From the CEVC meeting today including updates on legislation, tax credits established for green jobs, training money from clean cities for installers, Ford Motor's intentions to use Best Buy for charger installations, Illinois Green Fleet's 10% first-come first-serve rebates up to \$4000, for people converting or buying new full size electric cars, \$7,500 federal tax credit, attempts to use portions of sales tax for rebates on chargers. He also mentioned that in the city of Chicago the incentives committee is pushing strongly to allow electric cars the ability to park in any zone without a zone parking permit.

LAWS

According to Howard Hansen, in the northwest U.S. there are rumblings of discontent from those who believe Electric Vehicles do not pay their fair share of road maintenance. Road maintenance is funded through taxes on gasoline. Since EVs don't use gasoline, they don't pay road maintenance. We will have to see where this issue ends up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

George Vergara - who, according to Rich has been "laboring assiduously in the vineyards of electric vehicles," talked about ideas to raise money. Rich presented George with a grant writing book in thanks for all the work he has put in. George provided a handout, one a list of ideas for money making and the other a sample letter regarding technical training courses we could provide for electric autos.

Dave Aarvold mentioned he would be willing to help others set up training courses and any literature could be used in our booth at the upcoming Green Festival in March.

MARKETING AND EDUCATION

Rich explained that there are no training courses on charging stations for EV technicians in the IBEW 134. The ASE Automotive Society of Engineers has a training course and alternative fuels but EV courses are coming. The ASE is recognized by car manufacturers as the training source for automotive maintenance technicians.

FINANCES

Treasurer Todd Dore announced that 2 milestones were just reached. Gas hit \$100/barrel last week, and we have a total of \$22,429 in the FVEAA coffers. And it's time to spend a little of it on electric vehicle promotion.

OUTREACH

Rich Hirshberg, who gathers, coordinates and announces outreach events mentioned the "Go Green Environmental Fair" March 5th Saturday from 11:00 - 4:00 in Yorkville (See <http://yorkville.patch.com/events/go-green-environmental-fair>)
And the "St. Charles St. Patricks Day Parade: on Saturday March 12th at 3:00 p.m. (See http://www.dtown.org/events/st_patrick.asp)

We'd like to show some EV support at these events so talk to Rich if you can make it.

EV INFRASTRUCTURE

Todd Martin noted that the 501c3 forms will be received from Tedd Lowe shortly with plans to complete them by next month. He is also working on a charging station presentation to help educate condo associations etc. and other organizations who might not be fully informed of the benefits provided by electric charging stations.

The FVEAA has an old 2001 Avcon car charger that can be converted to use new J-1772 plug and Jon Emde will present on this a little later tonight. Todd also discussed some difficulty in finding the right web sites that show EV charging stations. (Note: One site is the Department of Energy web site: http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/fuels/electricity_locations.html)

A motion was tabled to discuss purchasing cables and modifying existing AVCON charging stations until we had additional information.

GREEN FESTIVAL COMMITTEES

NEW GREEN FESTIVALS

Todd Dore, the head of the new Green Festivals Committee, mentioned there are 10 people on the committee and we've already purchased booth space for the May 14 - 15th festival. The booth is located on the East side of McCormick place in the Green Transportation section with Zipcar and other green vehicles. Our cost will be roughly \$3k-\$4k overall but there will be roughly 20k-30k people in attendance so the FVEAA will have great exposure and may be able to attract and sign up new members. Dio Vesselinov suggested creating advertising handouts and will help with that. The FVEAA forums will hold everything regarding the booth and planning.

OLD BUSINESS - none

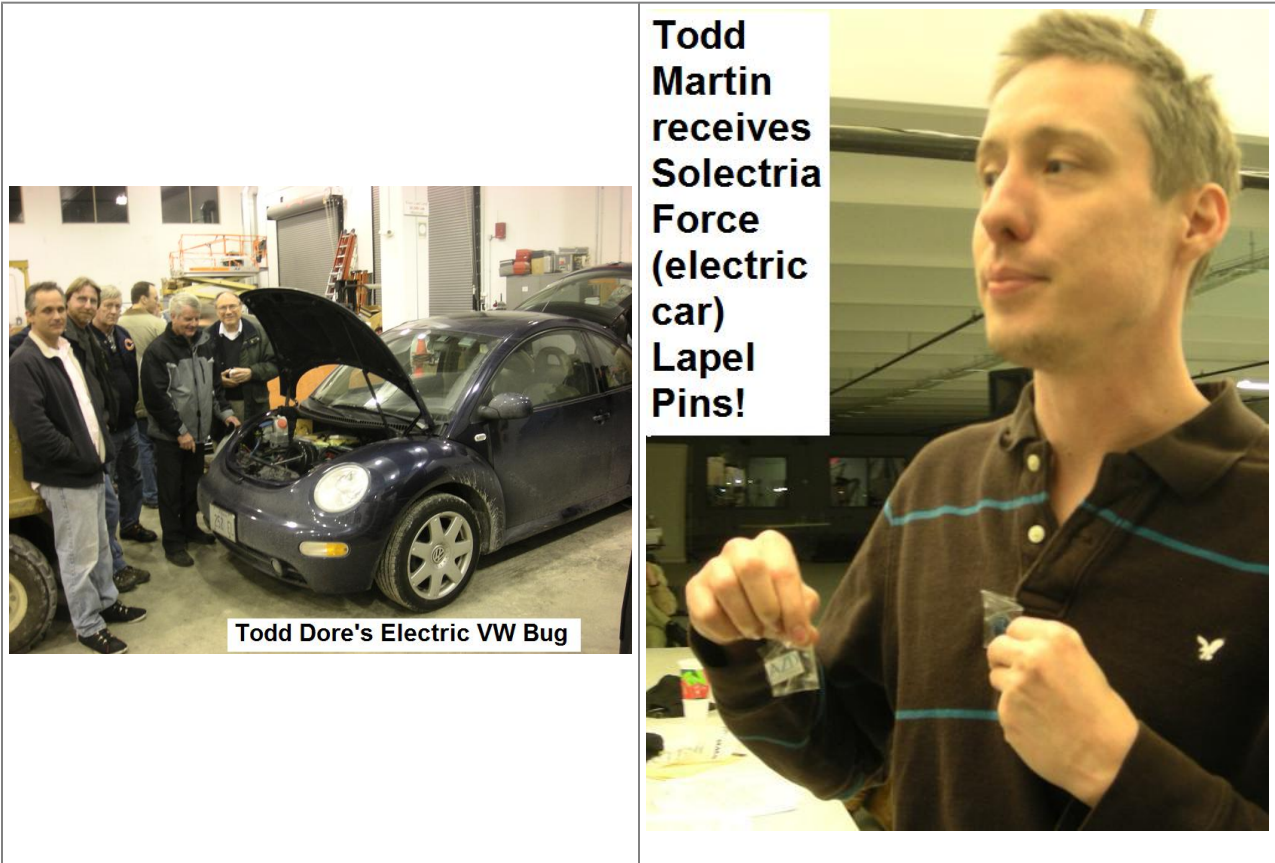
NEW BUSINESS

Ted Lowe is donating to the club his various magazines on cars, etc.. He is also trying to get permission to keep a permanent cabinet at Packer to hold brochures, magazines etc. for our monthly meetings. Ted also turned over FVEAA shirts to Marty B.

BREAK

CARS AT THE BREAK - **BUG & VOLT**

There were several cars to see at the break including Todd Dore's electric VW bug and a brand new Chevy Volt driven by Joe Wiesenfelder, the Senior Editor of Cars.com who came to visit. Joe also showed one of the thin lithium battery modules that powers the Volt and said they may even have a Nissan Leaf for the next meeting. Fingers crossed. (Check out the article <http://www.cars.com/go/crp/buyingGuides/green/article.jsp?channel=green&id=greenElectricpower>)



J-1772 PRESENTATION

At 9:00 p.m. John Emde gave an excellent technical presentation on the J-1772 connector which is the standard for Level 1 and 2 electric charging stations. John has been with the FVEAA for 30 years and is one of the founding members, with a tremendous amount of EV experience constructing and wiring electric vehicles. He works for Pioneer Conversions in Lemont.

John covered all aspects of the J-1772, including how to convert an older Avcon charging station by retrofitting it with a J-1772 cable head. He described in detail the J-1772 plug itself, and the function of each pin. He also discussed the various vendors where they can be purchased and rough costs. Thanks John, great job!

A motion from Ted Lowe was seconded and passed to purchase two connectors for the Avcon conversion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

FVEAA Membership Application Form

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 ? _____

Member Types and Annual Dues (Please circle one)		Newsletter Delivery Types (Please circle one)	
Individual	\$15	No Newsletter	\$0
Family	\$20	Electronic Only	\$0
Business	\$100	Postal Mailed	\$15
Premier Business	\$250	Postal Mailed and Electronic	\$15
Charter Business	\$500		
Total Due from Both Columns:			

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





FVEAA

PO Box 214

Wheaton, IL 60187-0214

Attn: Membership

FVEAA Business Members

<p style="text-align: center;">Netgain Motors, Inc.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">NetGain Motors, Inc.</p> <p>Exclusive worldwide distributor of WarP™, ImPulse™, and TransWarP™ electric motors for use in electric vehicles and electric vehicle conversions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">900 N State St, Suite 101 Lockport, IL 60441 630-243-9100 Fax: 630-685-4054</p> <p>www.go-ev.com</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Good Service For A Long Time"</i> Gas · Hybrid · Electric 847-842-9543</p> <p>4c Hillview Dr. Lake Barrington, IL 60010 bobshillviewauto@gmail.com Bob Baker Owner</p>
<p>Ecological Products Company, Inc. Glenn Hunter 739 N Elmwood Oak Park, IL 60302 Phone: 708-445-0341 Email: info@illinoiselectricvehicles.com Web: www.illinoiselectricvehicles.com</p>	<p>Plug-In Vehicle Solutions, Inc. Mike Piscitelli 1104 Coventry Circle Glendale Heights, IL 60139 Cell: 630-248-8810 Email: mpiscitelli@getplugging.com Web: www.getplugging.com</p>
 <p>Harris Precision Tools, Inc. Robert Harris 10081 Anderson Ave Chicago Ridge, IL 60415 Phone: 708-422-5808 Email: harrisprecision@comcast.net</p>	<p>Carbon Day and Carbon Day Automotive Brian Levin Cell 847 903 6652</p>  <p>Email: brianl@carboday.com Web: carbodayautomotive.com</p>