

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

PO Box 214

Wheaton, IL 60187-0214

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March 2014 FVEAA Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

March 21, 2014

Community Christian Church

1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, Illinois 60540

at the intersection of Ogden and Rickert Drive in Naperville

Also called the "Yellow Box." We'll meet in the little theater west side, 1st floor

Map: [Community Christian Church](#)

DOORS OPEN 6:30 p.m. MEETING STARTS 7:00 p.m. ENDS 9:15 p.m.

Agenda

- 6:30 Doors Open
- 7:00 Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
- Committee Reports
- Old Business / New Business
- Presentation: PEV Update, Special Presentation,
Charging Stations and Multifamily Housing
- Break
- Presentation: Brian Levin - Director Strategic Accounts at Chargepoint on EVSE
- 9:15 Close

Hi EVeryone,

First, thanks again to Rich Hirschberg for coordinating meetings these last few months!

EVSE INITIATIVES!

On 3/7/2014 the FVEAA board voted 4 votes to 1 to support a local EVSE initiative that Todd Martin brought to the board at the request of the Kane County Forest Preserve District. Rich Carroll presented summarized motion to the Board, and it was subsequently passed. Our goal is to help promote electric vehicles and educate the public - which we felt would be accomplished by supporting this local effort.

Background:

Monica A. Meyers, Executive Director of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County had originally contacted Todd Martin, who handles FVEAA electric vehicle charging initiatives about the possibility of assistance. With this vote, the FVEAA authorizes payment to Forest Preserve District of Kane County for 1/2 of the actual cost of a two port charging unit, a) up to \$2,000 for a dual non-network station, or b) up to \$2,500 for a dual networked station at the FoxValley Ice Arena 1996 S Kirk Rd #110, Geneva, IL.

We requested the following:

- The unit should be in parking spaces open free to the public,
- and be free to use.

The ice arena will be an appropriate site for a charger, as patrons are usually there for an hour or two, enough to get a good charge, and it will also be seen by many young people as they come and go from the arena, which will serve to educate them on the use and power of electric vehicles.

CCC EVSE

The weather has slowed down progress but the church is checking the timing of installation of light pole and the coming warm weather to see if we can get an EVSE installed at the church's Northeast parking in the near future . . . in time to make the 4/17 incentive deadlines. Fingers crossed

DUES

Due to some questions from members, we felt it would be good to talk a little about the recent dues increase. At the end of last year a motion was presented to the FVEAA board to increase dues from \$15 to \$20 per year and the motion was passed by a majority vote of the FVEAA board. The reasons for the increase included:

- More money to fund events and charging stations initiatives
- Easier to handle a dues payment of \$20 at meetings
- It's been 30 years since the original \$15 annual dues were set

And most recently it was suggested that the increase could also provide members who pay their dues with the annual Electric Drive report (presented last meeting) which costs the club about \$3 an issue. The last suggestion still needs more input from the group.

Upcoming Events:

- Antioch Earth Day Fair: Friday, April 25th, 2014
- National Drive Electric Week (formerly "National Plug-in Day") is set for Sept 15-21 (Monday-Sunday.) Nissan is the primary sponsor. We'll aim for Sunday Sept. 21 at the Naperville test track again, unless there is a better suggestion/location from the group.
- Any Ideas are welcome on having a Spring event.

EAA Info

Our parent organization is the Electric Auto Association and they routinely present excellent information on electric vehicles. If you have not seen their web site, here are some of their flyers -please check them out!

<http://www.electrcauto.org/?page=Flyers>

- DrivingElectric.org form
- Two sided tri-fold brochure, why you should be a member of the Electric Auto Association, with instructions for joining online.
- The Truth About Auto Emissions
- Convert to Electric Vehicles
- Electric Vehicle Basics
- Plug or Pump?
- Electric Vehicle History
- Electric Vehicles Today!
- High Gas Prices Got You Down?
- Plug in

Farewell to Todd

And lets not forget to say a fond farewell to long time electric car aficionado and treasurer Todd Dore a the next meeting, as he and his wife Maribel move to Singapore on March 28.

We'll miss you Todd!

Jeff Miller has graciously agreed to take over the role as treasurer and has been meeting with Todd to transition the position.

Thanks, see y'all on March 21

Bruce

FVEAA is now on Facebook thanks to member Grant Gerke. Check it out and **Like** us at:

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

facebook

Email or Phone Password

Keep me logged in Forgot your password? Log In

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Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

★★★★★ (6 ratings)

104 likes · 13 talking about this

Automotive

We are the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association (FVEAA). We are the northern Ill. chapter of the Electric Auto Association.

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This Month's Presenters

Bruce Jones - PEV Update, Special Presentation, Charging Stations and Multifamily Housing
Brian Levin - Director Strategic Accounts at Chargepoint on EVSE

Rich's Ramblings

Rich Carroll

There are times when I can see the future, and it frightens me.

For the 2013 cars, several of the upscale manufacturers announced complete digital dashboards. We're not talking LED 8 segment digital numbers here. They are putting full width TFT monitors in front of the driver, and able to change or reconfigure the arrangement at will. I first saw this in a Jaguar my friend, Paul, was driving. The dash had nice white on black instruments for tach and speedo. When you started the car all the speedo numbers dimmed except for the zero MPH area. As you accelerated past ten, the number 20 began to become more intense and the zero began to fade. The '20' was bright as the needle passed it, and immediately '40' began to become brighter. At 65 MPH, the '60' was nice and bright, but the '80' was also partially bright. And there were no metric markings at all, but a switch would simply change the TFT display to look like you were suddenly at 105 KPH and the '100' bright and the '120' beginning to brighten. The needle never moved, staying in exactly the same position. Other gauges featured this 'soft highlighting.'

For 2015, Audi has displayed a full width dashboard that reconfigures to your task. Drive normally and you get a nice tach and speedo. Drive very aggressively, and the 'distance to empty' meter changes to a boost gauge, and the other gauges change. Push the nav button, and the gauges diminish in size and a 3D color map appears in the middle, large and easy to read, right in the middle of the driver's dash. Ask for turn by turn directions and the map is shrunk, and a set of directions with arrows appear. Stop and turn the ignition off, and the dash in front of the driver changes to a full entertainment center, even offering to show you the lyrics of the tune playing. If your cell phone rings, it can display the face and contact information of the caller, including the last time you met with them, before you have to answer. All this information is displayed right in front of the driver, where the speedometer was a few moments ago. Unfortunately, the amount of really incredible graphics is designed to sell the cars, not to keep you safe.

And the new gesture controlled dashboards take inputs from several feeds. The controls will interpret a side to side swipe differently at 20 MPH than they would at 55 MPH, and differently if you're cornering with gusto than if you are simply driving carefully on a winding road.

We are developing new safety standards to match these distractions, but I am just as leery of the standards as the displays. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) proposed almost a year ago (voluntary guidelines, not mandated) that each task should only take the driver's eyes off the road for 12 seconds, and each subtask should require no more than two seconds of driver's eyes off the road. At 68 MPH (an extremely common speed on today's interstates) you move 200 feet in 2 seconds.

Some car makers will voluntarily limit what can be adjusted at different speeds. Audi says it is limiting "visually consuming" features on its cars. Even with those limitations, Brad Stertz of Audi mentions that at a stop light, the driver will be able to peruse their album art for new tunes.

The former CEO of General Motors, Dan Akerson, recently indicated that new models may have in-dash advertising, modeled by your own location, speed, buying habits, past history, etc. That translates into dashboard popups for upcoming merchants. And you thought the signs along the interstate for Stuckeys were

excessive?

And it keeps getting more complicated. Mercedes Benz has a dash in planning that tracks your destinations, phone calls, music selections and other preferences by time and day of week. It will save this info to the cloud, and it will auto download to any other Mercedes you drive. If it senses that you seem to like hard rock after work on Fridays, before you go out clubbing, it will automatically switch to hard rock on your Friday afternoons, if the time is correct and you are on your route home. Mercedes claims it takes at least two and a half weeks to learn your habits, which again is terrifying.

And if you think the speedometer is off by 6%, it is only one CanBUS command from a correction.

I am especially frightened when some programmer wants to impress me by anticipating what I want and feeding it to me, with the displays they KNOW I will like. That doesn't impress me at all, unless the primary concern is my safety and the safety of others. I am afraid we are losing sight of the real goals.

Membership Update

Ted Lowe

Let's GROW the FVEAA in 2014!

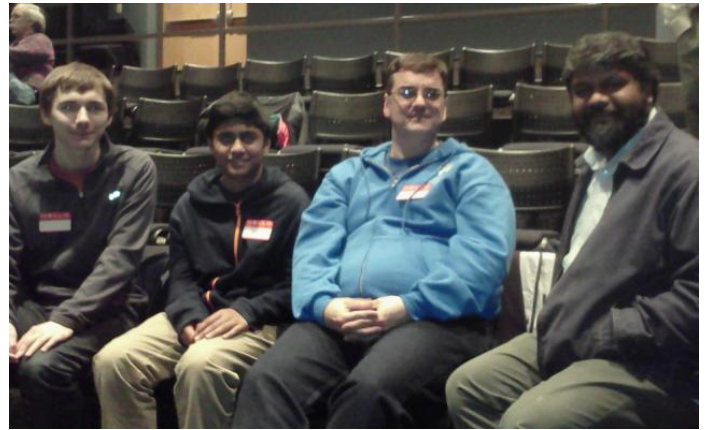
Pictures



VP Rich Hirschberg leads the Feb. 21 meeting



Matt Remec on his Multi-fuel combustion engine



New members!



Ted Lowe on the future of transportation, comparing 3 ways to travel to Chicago, and a possible project - the homebrew recumbent electric bike



Meeting Minutes

Grant Gerke

Meeting minutes:

The meeting kicked off with the introduction of new attendees and Bruce referenced PEV sales per the Electric Drive Transportation Association at: <http://electricdrive.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/20952/pid/20952> or another good site: <http://insideevs.com/monthly-plug-in-sales-scorecard/> Car sales which were down considerably. But the down numbers were pervasive [for all auto categories](#), due to extreme winter weather.

Malcolm Bricklin was a name suggested as a possible upcoming speaker via a member and the Fox Valley Facebook page is highlighting members' vehicles. So, if you have a converted ICE that you want to post to the group's page, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FoxValleyElectricAutoAssociation>

Ted Lowe reported 102 paid members and Rich Hirschberg mentioned there was an alternative fuels event at the Antioch high school, Friday April 25, 2014, from 9:30 to 1:30 pm. Email stephen.rose@chsd117.org for more information or ask for Meghan Petrowski Member, ACHS Environmental Club.

The featured speaker was Matt Remec and he talked about thermo efficient ICEs. He has worked at RC Limited for the

past ten years, specifically, thermo-efficiencies for engine projects.

He talked about study in the early process that looks at multiple fuel internal combustion engines that burn any fuel: gasoline, natural gas, diesel, bio-diesel, synthetic gas--they want it to be a low pollution fuel.

His group is studying the heat equation for engines and it has not been solved, preliminary steps have taken. He's part of process that is assembling a consortium and are producing a prototype for demo and reliability. \$100 million is needed up front costs for the plants (from the consortium)

Ted Lowe provided a presentation on the future of transportation and it included an examination of 3 ways to get to Chicago.

1. 25 mpg current ICE engine
2. Tesla Model S
3. E-Bike

From the presentation, he suggested a e-Project idea for the group and it includes:

- Homebrew, recumbent electric eBike
- convertible to snow/ice mode for winter
- affordable - \$1000-2000 vs. \$12000
- fun and useful
- got most of electronics worked out
- Need help on mechanical designs!
- Let's design and make something good!!

The presentation was taped and will be available soon.

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

FVEAA Business Members

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