



# March 2024 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

This month's meeting is on Friday **March 15, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m. and will be IN-PERSON and on-line**

## Location:

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva  
102 S 2nd St, Geneva, IL 60134

MAP:  Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Meeting starts at 7pm and will run until about 9pm.

Topic: FVEAA Monthly Meeting

Time: Fri March 15, 2024 6:45 PM CT (pre-meeting setup check), Meeting  
7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Dial-in for audio-only users: Call: 312-626-6799

Enter Meeting ID when prompted: 95901481473#

Participant ID: (blank, just #) \*6 mutes/unmutes

## Agenda

- 6:45 Virtual Meeting Starts (to test connections)
- 7:00 Introductions
- 7:40 Ken Johnson tested Tesla Model S modules, shares results
- 8:20 Break
- 8:30 Christopher Sharp and the history of the FVEAA
- 9:00 Close

## February Meeting

Thanks to Kyle for presenting his plans for his house. I suspect he will be presenting a few more times as he works through the various elements of his home electrification project. There might even be an air sealing element to it! Might be a blower door test presentation coming up too.

## March Meeting

Ken Johnson has been testing the Model S modules he purchased for his Corvair conversion project, and is going to discuss his thoughts on the process, and the results of the testing. After the break Christopher Sharp is going to present his findings after months of research. He has contacted previous members, and past presidents. Read all the newsletters in the archive, which is no small task by itself, and dug through old newspaper articles. It should be interesting to hear his thoughts on where we came from, and maybe some ideas on how to celebrate what we have accomplished.

## Ford Is officially on the Tesla Supercharger network!

For those that haven't heard yet, Ford is giving all EV owners a free Tesla to CCS adapter! On top of that, if your car is configured for plug n charge in the Ford app, it should plug and charge at the Tesla Supercharging stations!

<https://www.ford.com/support/how-tos/electric-vehicles/public-charging/how-do-i-get-a-fast-charging-adapter-nacs/>

So that is a pretty amazing development, all because the CEO of Ford was grilled by his own kids as to why they couldn't charge at the Tesla station.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/21/1194972820/fords-ceo-hopes-major-deal-with-tesla-will-help-fix-charging-station-shortage>

I could argue that conversation might kill Electrify America. When you consider where EA was when the ID.4 was launched, and how they were viewed as a bit rough around the edges, but at least they had the most important locations covered. Everyone knew they were behind Tesla, but we were all optimistic they were trying to catch up, and then we go to today where they clearly aren't catching up, and aren't even maintaining the equipment they have at an acceptable level. I personally believe that part of the problem is that they buy their equipment from vendors, and don't have robust service agreements. If you treat the stations like the critical infrastructure that they are, and build the service agreements with that in mind, then you can get service to move a bit quicker. However if you try to save money, and do some variant of self service repair, and just parts support, it isn't going to result in speedy repair as the diagnosis and parts transit time can get pretty ugly. Tesla is vertically integrated which means there isn't a third party contract or warranty to consider, the techs just replace the parts and go forward. If the parts fail more often than they like, they redesign them and start deploying the new design. The longer term benefit of this is they can deploy changes to existing stations too, like Magic Dock.

<https://www.motortrend.com/features/tesla-supercharger-magic-dock-hands-on-review-charging-other-evs/>

Which brings me to the topic of parking, it's going to stink for most of the Tesla stations as the vehicles don't have their charging ports in the right spots for the standard Tesla station. If you look at that first link on the Ford website, I can't help but notice that Tesla seems to have a new design.

<https://electrek.co/2024/03/08/tesla-nacs-extension-cable-fix-supercharging-issues-different-port-locations/>

An extension cable is going to be an interesting challenge. Plenty of heat, probably not water cooled, and I hope they build sensors into the cable to make it work and not melt things. Sounds really expensive actually.

Last but not least, there are new, longer cable stations being deployed. I hope they retrofit those cables onto older stations around the country.

<https://insideevs.com/news/657539/tesla-v4-supercharging-session-experience/>

## Blower Door

I have taken delivery of a Blower Door and a variety of other components for doing home efficiency testing. The first purpose for this is to make sure my heating and cooling load calculations are more accurate by accounting for leakage, but I suspect the uses for it will expand quite a bit.

### Vice President's Words

Tracey McFadden

Greetings EV fans.

Last week I watched the reveal of the Rivian R2 and was extremely impressed. This midsize electric SUV appears to have all the makings of a standout electric vehicle.

The R2 specs are great, over 300 miles of range, NACS charge port, and 0 to 60 in under 3 seconds. The R2 uses the taller 4695 battery cells that have a high amp-hour rating. This allows them to charge and discharge at higher rates and makes better use of regenerative braking. The starting price of the R2 is \$45,000, and it is eligible for the \$7,500 federal EV tax credit. On top of this, it will be built right here in Normal Illinois!

The only downside I see is deliveries of the R2 won't start until 2026. A surprise at the Rivian event was the revealing of two additional models, the R3 and R3X, which are smaller versions of the R2 and expected to be priced less. And yes, I (along with 68,000 others), put down the \$100 fully refundable deposit. This is exciting to say the least.

Stay charged!

Tracey

Rivian R2



Rivian R3

Rivian R3X

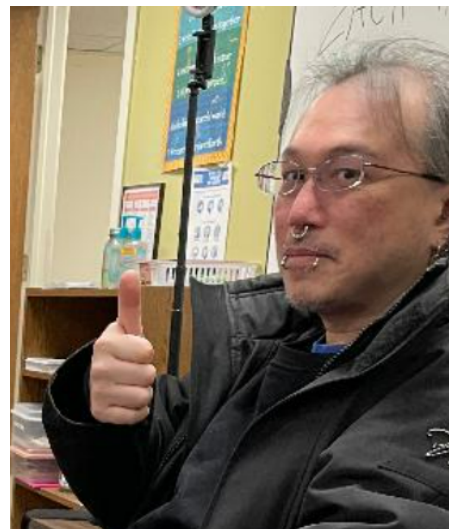


**PHOTOS OF Feb. 16, 2024 MEETING**

Bruce Jones



Kyle Platt reviewed his plans to rebuild his



Ted Liu gives his thumbs up on the

electrical system to support an all electric home.



Fred Kitsch and Rob Schwartz enjoying the conversation.

presentation!



Tracey McFadden and Simon Gibson having a great night!

## Moving!

Some of you may already know, but the plan is to move back to the UK to be near my wife's parents. We've been away for something like 34 years.

So consequently the garage will be emptying... I have some parts that folks may be interested in such as a Tesla NACS inlet connector, cables and a first generation High Voltage Junction Box. This may be of interest to someone who is building an EV and wishes it to have a J3400 connector and potentially incorporate CCS over the elegant J3400 / NACS connector!

There may be some tools up for sale, mostly left handed, oh wait that's discrimination! The RAV4 EV will be sold since the steering wheel is on the wrong side. Not that it bothers me much, I'm a middle of the road guy! First order of business after moving will be getting a 200 mile + range EV!

## Upcoming EVents -

Rich Hirschberg

\*\*\*If you know of upcoming car shows, cruise nights, parades, or get-togethers, please shoot me an email - [GoAFVs@yahoo.com](mailto:GoAFVs@yahoo.com)

## 1. Highland Park EV Show & Arbor Day Celebration

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4128>

Ravinia Festival - west parking lot - 301 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park, IL 60035  
Saturday, Apr 27, 2024, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

VEHICLES	REGISTERED	VEHICLES	REGISTERED
Chevrolet Bolt	2	Chevrolet Bolt EUV	1
Fisker Ocean	1	Ford Mustang Mach-E	1
Lucid Air	1	Nissan Leaf (2018+)	1
Rivian R1S	1	Subaru Solterra	1
Tesla Model 3	1	Tesla Model S	1
Volvo XC40 Recharge twin	1		
<b>11 Models</b>	<b>12</b>		

## 2. Green Drives Conference and Expo

<https://il-act.org/green-drives-2024/>

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation is excited to present the annual **Green Drives Conference & Expo on Thursday, May 9, 2024, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

Hosted by [Powering Chicago](#) at the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute in Alsip, Illinois.

Green Drives – one of the largest clean-transportation conferences held in the Midwest – is a must-attend event for government officials, commercial and municipal fleet managers, corporate sustainability officers, and clean-tech and clean-energy professionals who want to learn how to use cleaner, lower emissions fuels and technologies, while saving money.

Advanced vehicle technologies, electric vehicles, and alternative fuels were showcased, including dozens of green vehicles and exhibitors. Attendees will not only have a chance to network with experts from throughout the nation and the region, but will learn of first-hand experiences from fleets currently using alternative fuels and electric vehicles.

**Fleet managers can attend Green Drives for free!** The offer is for commercial or government fleet managers or other fleet operations decision makers, such as directors, city managers, mayors or county officials.

This offer is for a limited time only - To receive a complimentary pass, **send your request by March 29 at 5PM CT** to Bethany at [bethany@il-act.org](mailto:bethany@il-act.org) with your name, title, organization, and contact information. Upon approval, a special registration link will be sent to you to redeem your ticket. Only one free pass is available per organization. Additional tickets may be purchased.

Location: **Powering Chicago** - IBEW/NECA Technical Institute  
6201 W. 115th Street, Alsip, IL 60803

## 3. EV Charging Infrastructure Midwest 3rd Annual Conference

<https://web.cvent.com/event/CA59F508-9940-4745-A592-8B062D3EFD62/summary>

Hilton Hotel - Chicago, Magnificent Mile Suites  
May 15-16, 2024

The Midwest is experiencing a surge in EV adoption. Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota are leading the way by implementing supportive legislation and authorizing grant programs. With a rich automotive manufacturing heritage and progressive regulatory and political framework, the Midwest is well-positioned to adapt to the demands of the evolving EV landscape. The region must establish an efficient charging infrastructure while actively addressing equity and resilience challenges. This will ensure the continued expansion of EV adoption and play a pivotal role in fostering the overall socio-economic growth of the Midwest region.

The electrification of the transportation sector in the Midwest offers distinctive opportunities for establishing a robust charging network. To address the challenges and explore solutions for advancing important issues in Midwest's charging infrastructure, **Global Transmission Report** is hosting its **3rd annual conference on EV Charging Infrastructure Midwest.**

Our Charter Business member has broadened their focus to all of Illinois!

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) (formerly known as Chicago Area Clean Cities) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit working to promote the use of clean fuels for clean air throughout Illinois.

Our alliance includes people from private business, academia, government, scientific research and energy and environmental services. Our main goal is to help with the adoption of cleaner transportation options.

<https://il-act.org/>

**FVEAA business cards available!**

See one of the officers to get some cards to hand out to people at various Events and daily life to promote EVs and our organization!



**Fox Valley Electric Auto Association**  
PO Box 214  
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214  
630-260-0424  
contactfveaa@fveaa.org

---

Free Yourself From The Pump<sup>fm</sup>



Join Us and Discover How!

Check [fveaa.org](http://fveaa.org) for details about our **monthly meetings!**



**fveaa.org**

**Login to our FVEAA website for access to lots of member-only tools!**

You can use the many membership-only tools on our website after you login! If you haven't logged in to our website already, please check your email for instructions and login to check it out! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!





# FVEAA Web Report

as of 2024-03-13 04:58:11

## Website Registered User Statistics

Statistic	Value
Total Users	110
Users Never Logged In	38
% Active Users	65.5%
Ave. Days Since Last Visit	720.3 days

**FVEAA On Facebook - Join Us! Like Us!**

Ted Lowe

The **FVEAA Facebook group** has 135 members as of 1/17/24! 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 supplements 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/>

Here is the **FVEAA's Facebook Page**. Like Us!

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

**FVEAA On YouTube - Check out our videos!**

Ted Lowe

The **Fox Valley Electric Auto Association** has a YouTube channel! Subscribe to us and check out our videos! We've had this channel for many years but we're going to start using it more to attract new members and promote EVs. Please let me know if you have some FVEAA-related videos to post.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg\\_Pgp6q-HEuMICWMO2akPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg_Pgp6q-HEuMICWMO2akPw)

**Membership Update**

Ted Lowe

Keep an eye on the **active paid-up** members count! Many members have taken advantage of the multi-year renewals offered by the new website! **Please renew & recruit new folks!!!**



## FVEAA Membership Report

as of 2024-03-13 04:58:11

### Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
Charter Business	1	1
Family	3	3
Individual	62	61
Lifetime	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>67</b>

### Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.5%
Avg. Paid Up Days	403.9 days
% With Email	97.1%

### Encouraging Our Membership To Grow and Some History

Ted Lowe

**We are growing!** 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 any time, 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 255 members in October 2008 when gas was nearing \$5 per gallon. We were also attending lots more invitational Events with our converted EVs. The first Tesla Roadster was just coming into being. **Let's get out there and grow the FVEAA!!!**

## FVEAA Paid Up Members as of March 13, 2024 7:50am



### Monthly Treasurer Reports

Ted Lowe

As Treasurer, I am publishing a brief Treasurer's Report to our forums around the time our monthly newsletter is published.

I am publishing our various cash balances (Money Market, Checking, PayPal) to this location:  
[FVEAA Committees](#) > [Finance](#) > [Treasurer Reports](#)

This area of the forums can only be seen by FVEAA members. As an IL Non-Profit corporation, we have no requirement to publish our assets or financial statements publicly.

Feel free to contact me if you have any FVEAA financial matters to discuss.

### 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):

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

**THANK YOU** for your continued support of the FVEAA!

- **President Jeff Miller opened the meeting at 7:07 and held introductions all around, for those at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Geneva and attendees on-line via Zoom. 50 minutes**
- **Kyle Platt - Electrification Planning for His Home**
  - **Kyle gave his presentation on the purchase and updating his new house to all electric.**
  - **He wants to get 400 amp service, because he is removing the furnace and hot water heater and going all-in on heat pumps.**
  - **He will be ripping out his heat ducting in the house and basement floor tile.**
  - **He showed pictures of some pretty poor wiring in the house so he bought in-wall sockets etc.**
  - **He is not living there yet. A lot of discussion ensued regarding wiring etc among the group that was prompted by his presentation.**
- **The meeting adjourned around 9:00 p.m.**

**FVEAA Membership Application Form - Version 2023-12-04**

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 (1 year), \$38 (2 years), \$56 (3 years)
Business	\$100
Premier Business	\$250
Charter Business	\$500
Youth (21 or younger)	\$10

**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 Charter Business Members

### Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT)

Samantha Bingham  
2 N LaSalle St #950  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Email: [info@il-act.org](mailto:info@il-act.org)  
Web: <https://il-act.org>



Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) (formerly known as Chicago Area Clean Cities) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit working to promote the use of clean fuels for clean air throughout Illinois. Our alliance includes people from private business, academia, government, scientific research and energy and environmental services. Our main goal is to help with the adoption of cleaner transportation options.