

**Fox Valley Electric Auto Association**

**PO Box 214**

**Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

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## **November 2012 FVEAA Newsletter**

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

### **Note: Meeting Place**

#### **Next Meeting**

**November 16, 2012**

**Community Christian Church**

**1635 Emerson Lane, Naperville, Illinois 60540**

**at the intersection of Ogden and Richert Drive in Naperville**

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

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

Directions to Community Christian Church in Naperville:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1635+Emerson+Lane+Naperville+Illinois>

<Keep watch next month for December's meeting place!>

#### **Agenda**

- Call to order
- Welcome
- Committee Reports
- Old business / New Business
- Eaton Charging Stations
- Break
- Todd Dore's Trip across Texas in an electric bug!

#### **President's Words**

*Bruce Jones*

Hi EVeryone

Some people have a dim view of the electric vehicle industry of late but I'd like to shed some light on where we are and where we're headed. First a little story.

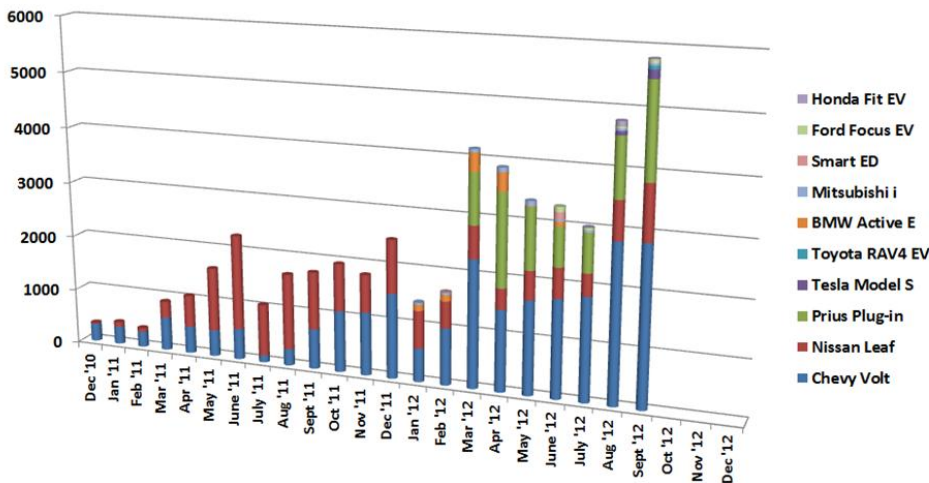
## Spinning

Back in January of 1985 I attended a networking conference in Atlanta Georgia just as an Arctic cold front swept across the south. The temperature hit a record minus 8 degrees and on late Monday afternoon when I came out of the convention hall, the roads were covered with four inches of snow. Cars were spinning, and sliding all over the streets and it was impossible to hail a taxi. Trudging back to the hotel, I came to a place where the road sloped downhill, and a front wheel drive Chevrolet Citation was spinning its wheels madly trying to make it *up* the hill. As it slipped and skidded, I noticed the driver had put chains on . . . on the *rear* wheels. True story. Eventually the car made it but not without an awful lot of sliding around. So what's that got to do with things?

## Picking up Speed

This year I've been analyzing the plug-in electric vehicle industry and many people think it's like that Chevy Citation, just spinning its wheels and not going anywhere fast. But today you can't just focus on Chevy Volt or Nissan Leaf sales anymore, as there are now around a dozen electric or plug-in electric vehicles for sale. Take a look at sales to date since December 2010 and see the trend.

October's sales results (not shown) were very good around 7,000 vehicles.



- Over 10,000 public EVSEs are installed at around 4700 locations today with another 9,000 private EVSEs. So charging stations are expanding nicely, though most were funded through government incentives. The business case is rough, but there are over 40 EVSE manufacturers
- Tesla has installed six solar powered supercharging stations in California where the higher priced Model S cars can charge for free. Tesla has sights on installing them across the U.S. over the next few years, and around 14,000 people have put down payments (not orders but pre-orders) on the Model S which sells in the \$50,000- \$110,000 range. Free fuel!
- Around 23 PEV models will be on sale by end of this year increasing to 61 models by 2015.
- Sales have been moving up, no doubt due to recent discounts from the manufacturers trying to lower inventory near the end of the year, but now there are many electric cars available.

So electric vehicles are starting to get traction and make it up the hill, so to speak.

## Presentations

Speaking of traction, and charging, this month Todd Dore will be our special speaker presenting the trip he took in his electric VW bug across Texas. To prove it can be done!

We'll also have Josh McKnight from Eaton talk about their electric vehicle supply equipment.

**Brooks Middle School STEM program thanks FVEAA for electric vehicle efforts!**

Many thanks to Rich Carroll and John Emde for educating, inspiring and teaching electric vehicles over 1200 kids at the Brooks Middle School in Bolingbrook at the request of Congresswoman Judy Biggert. This is the STEM program that A.J. Jones and Marlon James spoke about at our last meeting. Nice job guys! We'll also need some help from volunteers each week to help these kids with their electric vehicle competition with the goal of helping inspire them to bring up their math and science scores. Thanks!  
Bruce

**Photos**

**Marlon James and A. J. Jones talk about the educational needs at Brooks Middle School**



**John Emde presents his electric dragster**



**Kevin Zak's jacket**



**John's Electric dragster**



Another new website has sprung up, also with a “map” of the charging stations in the area. Unfortunately, I don’t believe we need another map showing “some” of the stations, and not all. It also doesn’t show charger status, or give really detailed locations, and I could not find any chargers on the new map that are not on the existing maps. The website is an effort by the American Lung Association (BTW, this group is a really good charity, doing wonderful things) and seems to be slanted toward EV manufacturers. See: <http://www.driveelectricillinois.org/> the site has good information about the new EV offerings from the manufacturers, but no information about conversion (even on their Illinois Rebate page, they only list the rebate for new cars) or companies that do conversions, or even any mention of the FVEAA. It is a fairly professional looking website obviously funded by the American Lung Assoc. in Illinois and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Their charging station map (<http://www.driveelectricillinois.org/ILstations.cfm> ) obviously ignores any private stations, but also ignores all the FVEAA installs, and some of the major distributors. I wrote and asked about conversions and detailed the FVEAA efforts, but I have had no response to date.

I now know of at least a half dozen maps of the Chicago or Illinois charging stations, and none of them are complete. Only the best have detailed descriptions of exactly where the charging stations are. For example, most list the charging stations at the Orland Square Mall at 151st and LaGrange Road, when they are around the back and in a parking area not visible from the perimeter, and certainly not visible from 151st and LaGrange Road. The new map from the American Lung Assoc. lists the charger at: At 151st Street and 45, near JC Penny. (sic) It is near JCPenney, but the Google Map overlay puts it inside the mall. The Google Maps API provided to anyone developing overlays for Google Maps allows for much, much greater accuracy than that. At best, they are using “Address Level” accuracy from the Google Maps API, and there is a greater level of accuracy available. (Premise level)

The best maps detail whether the charge is in use, not working, etc. Most of these half dozen maps can be read on a smartphone map, or through an app.

I have no doubt that one of the competitors in the Map App area will add the extra effort to make their map very complete, and be the winner when it comes to customers making a choice for what they use to find charging when away from their normal areas. I suspect this will all shake out in the next few months, but for now, I am just not excited about one more incomplete charging station map.

President Bruce Jones opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and had newcomers introduce themselves. One of the visitors mentioned an issue cropping up at Illinois vehicle emission testing stations. Sometimes electric vehicle owners show up there, and the station workers are not sure what to do since the electric cars have no tailpipe! According to our expert members, if the PEV owner received a notice, then their PEV was not properly categorized when it was purchased. The PEV owner needs to contact the Secretary of State office and request that they change the designation to an electric vehicle. That should solve the problem.

### **Review of recent activities and past months events.**

Sept. 23rd National plug in day event was a big success with very good participation from members, vendors and visitors. Sponsored by the EAA, Sierra Club and Plug-in America. Several ideas were suggested to improve the promotion and prepare for this event next year including having handouts that show the large number and location of EV charging stations in the Chicago area. Photos from event were shown next.

### **In the News**

ABC news interviewed Rich Carroll, John Emde, and John Jeide at Pioneer Conversions

Rich Carroll was interviewed by Paul Brian of WLS radio

Oct. 6th the Elburn car show was well attended and several photos were shown of the event.

The Lemont newspaper had an article on Pioneer conversions and electric cars

### **Brooks Middle School**

FVEAA will be assisting Brooks Middle School after HR Representative Judy Biggert's office called Bruce asking for some assistance. Marlon James and A.J. Jones of The Church of Hope discussed the electric car program that they are helping coordinate with the FVEAA and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) for Brooks Middle School. Rich Carroll is the point person, and he talked about the electric car contest, various elements and rules.

On Nov. 2nd the FVEAA will have a kick-off event to help the kids, inspire them and the school will provide the laboratory. They need 1 hour a week after that for our assistance. Hopefully the students will be motivated to do well in math and science while taking on the challenge.

### **Short Break - then Dragster Presentation**

John Emde provided a presentation on his "Aggravated Battery" electric dragster. Some of the components that go in the dragster include a 1999 Spitzer chassis, and it originally held a 13" Warp motor from Netgain with powerglide transmission with a total drivetrain weight of around 435 lbs. Since then, John has converted to a combined dual 7' TransWarp, and a 7" Warp dual drive to make the system much lighter and faster rpms.

John then fielded several questions from the audience. He used a competition dragster frame. The dragster hits around 150 miles per hour in roughly 10 seconds. Up to 60mph in 1 second. Short wiring cables are not necessarily as thick as one might expect them to be, since they don't get HOT. This is due to the very short period of time the car is running.

The car may be racing again next spring depending on whether they get the right racing batteries. John hasn't had any high electric current events or issues.

THanks John, awesome dragster!  
 Bruce closed the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

**Membership Form**

*Ted Lowe*

**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 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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**Plug-In Vehicle Solutions, Inc.**

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Email: [mpiscitelli@getplugging.com](mailto:mpiscitelli@getplugging.com)  
Web: [www.getplugging.com](http://www.getplugging.com)

**For Sell**

I am selling my eRX-7. It is a fun peppy convertible and has been a great daily drive for more than two summers. The car has been stored in doors for much of its life and is very solid. I hope to be able to sell it to another club member. A few of the specs are: Advanced DC 4001 motor, New Max-Forcer 1000 Amp. controller, Zivan k2 charger, 144 Volts (12) Trojan T-1275, 30-40 mile range with new batteries. Please contact Nathan Stowe for more details . (773) 456-6322

