

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

**PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214**

Return Service Requested

February 2013 FVEAA Newsletter

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

Note: Meeting Date and Place This Month

Next Meeting

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 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:

[Community Christian Church](#)

Agenda

- Call to order - Welcome
- Committee Reports
- Old business / New Business
- Liz Appold - Energy Impact Illinois "How to Lower Your Electric Bills"
- Bruce Jones - "Electric Vehicles at the Chicago Auto Show"
- Break
- Guest Speaker - Sam Carnavacciolo - A Technical Review of the Tesla Roadster

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Hi EVeryone,

Thanks to Hunter Hamstra for two presentations last month, on DC Brushless Motors, and the Electric Vehicle Conversion Convention. And thanks to Rich Carroll for his "How to care for Lithium Battery presentation." Excellence as usual from our knowledgeable members.

Chicago Auto Show

I had the unique opportunity to attend "media day" events at the **Chicago Auto Show** on Thursday, Feb. 7th before the main show opened to the public. Media day is where newspaper reporters, film crews, and magazine writers are allowed to interview the car executives, engineers, marketing reps and sales personnel about the vehicles on display. Then they publish highlights Thursday night and on Friday to further entice the frenzied crowds to arrive en masse on the weekend.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, without the crush of the crowds, which allowed me to locate all of the plug-in electric vehicles on display. Here is my abbreviated review . . . with more to come at the meeting on Friday Feb. 15th.

Overall, as I sought the electric vehicles I was struck by several things.

Growing ICE - On the one hand car companies are saying they are environmentally conscious. On the other hand they are pushing out more powerful internal combustion engines with brute force. Huge pickup trucks and muscle car horsepower is on display in the Dodge RAM Chrysler camp including a monster 8.4 liter, 640 hp, V-10 cylinder engine for the Viper SRT. I suspect it also gets about 10 miles per gallon, but at least it can get you to the next gas station faster than the other cars. (Gorgeous Viper design but environmentally rough. A fuel hog in snake's clothing?)

More efficient but still unsustainable - Other fossil fuel based engines are becoming more efficient. The brand new Chevy Cruze "clean" diesel getting lots of press, will get around 42 miles per gallon, but diesel still costs more than regular gasoline, and it's still not a sustainable/renewable fuel.

PEVs in Hiding? Unfortunately most of the car companies downplayed or hid their plug-in electric vehicles. The exceptions included Ford and GM/Cadillac as described next. Otherwise, one had to do some hunting to locate all the plug-in electrics at the show.

Ford - had several PEVs on site including the Focus, and the Ford Fusion Energi along with a Leviton electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) on display. Nice job, and the models were in the middle of their display. Here's the Ford Focus



Chevy - had their Volt and two new Sparks plus a cutaway Spark for technical examination. But they were in the back corner of the mammoth display area requiring a compass to locate them. . . or, at least a good set of directions. One Spark was light blue and the other one was an odd light pink. They're made in South Korea. And Spark was the only PEV that featured the new J-1772 combo connector for AC and DC charging. It sells at around \$32k before rebates with some saying it was built only so Chevy could pass the California EV sales requirement. That state and some others are requiring OEMs to sell a BEV model in order to do business within their state borders.

Chevy Spark (Cutaway)



J-1772 Combo Connector!



Toyota - Zero. They displayed no PHEVs on site at all. Zip. They had hybrid Prius (Prii?) but nary a Prius plug-in hybrid or RAV4 EV. Bummer.

Fiat - will complete their merger with **Chrysler** next year, and they were showing off their little 500e which was the only Chrysler product on the floor with a plug. At some point in the next couple years Chrysler may have a plug-in minivan, but at the show, Fiat was their only vehicle in electric mode. Like the Spark, Chrysler is selling this vehicle so they can do business in California. For those of you who were unaware, California put their foot down and require car companies to sell a pure battery car, or they can't do business in California. Other states have signed up for the program as well which should help EV sales.

Here is some information on the California electric vehicle sales mandates

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323894704578115153704768888.html>



Flat 500e

Cadillac - is coming out with a beautiful ELR model later this year. It's basically built around the Volt's chassis and hybrid dual electric motor with gasoline engine for extended range but it has been tuned to squeeze out even more power than the Volt. Same 16kWh battery capacity. This is a nicely styled luxury electric with extended range. Pricing was not revealed but the whisper cost was somewhere in the \$70,000 range. Their ELR brochures and marketing displays however are careful not to highlight the word "electric," which is buried in the text, and can be found if you look hard enough. I met Chris, Cadillac's head designer of the ELR and felt honored that he spent a few minutes with me. I'll show some photos at the meeting.

Honda - At first the Honda sales staff told me they had no plug-in electrics like the Honda Fit at the show. Darn. Then on the way out of their booth I nearly tripped over the EV-STER concept car. WHooahh. Cool and low slung electric sports car which is not yet for sale, but a great looking drop top speedster. Chuck Carrington will be drooling over this little pocket rocket . . if it ever gets to market.



Nissan - Many nice new upgrades coming to the Leaf! There are two models now, the basic "S" at

\$28,800 and the “SL” at \$35,000+. The SL has a lot of very nice features including leather seats, a new “all-around” video surveillance system with 5 cameras showing the driver every outside corner of the car for improved visibility. They moved the inverter from behind the back seat to the front motor area, adding more room to the rear cargo bay. The car is lighter and has an ultra light Bose sound system. I liked the new styling too, and at \$28,800 the basic model S price drops to around \$20k after Federal \$7,500 tax credit and 10% Illinois EPA Green Fleets rebate. Not bad!



Nissan Leaf Inverter moved from trunk to top of motor providing more trunk space.



Newly styled Nissan Leaf with lots of features and a lower starting price

Wheego and DTI. In Atlanta, on January 24, 2013 Wheego Electric Cars, a U.S. manufacturer of all-electric cars, announced that Green Wheels, LTD would represent the Wheego line of electric vehicles in the Chicago, area. I met Doug Snower of Green Wheels and he will be coming out to our March meeting to present the little Wheego electric, along with Bruno Armand from DTI a manufacturer of EVSE who are jointly promoting their electric vehicle and charging stations



Henrik Fisker

The CEO and lead designer of Fisker Automotive, maker of the sleek Fisker Karma presented the corporate overview, marketing niche, and described his design aspirations from a young age. Fisker did not have a car at the show and I am hoping the company is successful.



Henrik Fisker

February Meeting

The next FVEAA meeting on Friday February 15 will be at Community Christian Church, same time as usual.

1. **Lower Your Electric Costs!** We will have Liz Appold a representative from **Energy Impact Illinois** who will talk about how to get a home energy analysis, cut your home energy electrical consumption and reduce utility costs if you are in the Comed, Ameren and Nicor territories. As requested by our recent surveys
2. I'll present on electric vehicles at the **Chicago Auto Show** as summarized above and
3. Sam Carnavacciolo, an early Tesla Roadster pioneer will discuss his driving experiences on a more technical level.

Looking forward to it !

See you Friday. Thanks!

Bruce

Photos



Hunter Hamstra



Rich Carroll



Break time



Rich's Ramblings *Rich Carroll*

(Rich took a break for February and will be back next month)

Meeting Minutes 12/14/2012 *Dave Aarvold (filling in for Dio Vesselinov)*

Welcome

President Bruce Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Visitors and those who drove plug-in electric vehicles to the meeting were then asked to introduce themselves and say a few words about their interest in PEVs. A reminder was made that dues are only \$15 for those who are looking to join. And note that name tags are available at the door for attendees to wear so people can get to know one another.

Old Business

The holiday party last month was a lot of fun, and a few remaining mini “electric vehicles” were handed out by Bruce to the leadership team.

Survey results were discussed. The overwhelming desire of those who filled out a survey is to have instructions and presentations on how to convert a car to electric from start to finish. Discussion was held on how best to do that, as the information is probably already out there.

New Business

Grant will get with Ted Lowe to discuss getting links between the FVEAA web site and Facebook.

George Hamstra has a friend who can provide information on DC Power lines in Illinois, and his presentation on History of PEVs that he provided to the group a couple years ago.

Jim Schmidt will, at some point this summer have an open house to show his electric boat to the group. It was suggested we have a media event there and Jim will talk with WGN.

Other electric vehicle events were suggested in Yorktown public library

Committee Reports

Electronic Communications and Membership - Ted Lowe - no news

Newsletter - Keith Baubkus - no news

Treasurer Todd Dore provided a finance report after the break and the club is in good financial shape.

Care for your Lithium Battery

Rich Carroll (stepping in for Marty Belovitz who couldn't make it to the meeting) provided a presentation on “The Care and Feeding of your New Lithium Battery” which he prepared for the National Science Bowl Coaches introductory meeting at Argonne National Labs upcoming on Monday the 21st ->Great presentation Rich, and thanks for volunteering so much of your time to help the kids!

PEV Sales Growth and Notes

Bruce Jones provided an updated set of presentation charts showing continued growth in PEV sales and other tidbits from the electric vehicle world.

Those interested in selling or finding electric vehicle products and services should check out <http://www.Autoharvest.org> where they can post their companies' information, or search for electric vehicle products and services

Dennis Doney - will provide a summary of laws relevant to electric bicycles

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing minimum sound standards for hybrids and electric vehicles to warn pedestrians, under 3 conditions:

1. When the vehicle is travelling up to 18 miles an hour
2. When idling
3. In reverse

Other good suggestions for meeting presentations were also discussed.

Break

A few hardy souls stepped outside in the cold to take a look at the electric vehicles, like Dennis Doney's Zap truck, although most everyone else stayed inside to discuss PEV topics of interest. Thanks to George Hamstra of NetGain Motors for some excellent door prizes, including a nice multipurpose gym/tote bag, license plate holders, pens and other goodies that were handed out.

Featured Speaker Hunter Hamstra

Hunter Hamstra, son of George Hamstra, gave a fine technical presentation on brushless DC Motors and then described additional events from the EVCCON - Electric Vehicle Conversion Convention, Sept 26-30, 2012 held at Camp Girardo, Missouri at Jack Richert's 5000 square foot hangar.

The meeting was ended at 9:15 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)
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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

FVEAA Business Members

Netgain Motors, Inc.



Exclusive worldwide distributor of WarP™, ImPulse™, and TransWarP™ electric motors for use in electric vehicles and electric vehicle conversions

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