



January 2015 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

Next Meeting

January 16, 2015

Community Christian Church

1635 Emerson Lane
Naperville, IL 60544

[Google Map](#)

Agenda

- 6:30 p.m. Doors Open
- 7:00 Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
- 7:10 Committee Reports.
- 7:15 Old Business / New Business
- 7:20 Presentation: Dec. Holiday Party, Survey Results, 2014 Electric Vehicle Results
- Break
- 8:00 Presentation: Bob Baker - How to Build an Electric Car. (1st in a series of three)
- 8:30 Questions from the audience on building EVs
- 9:15 Close

President's Words

Bruce Jones

Hi EVeryone

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday! We had an excellent December meeting and holiday get together last month at Bill Jacobs BMW. The food was great, the BMW staff members were excellent hosts and provided ride-n-drives of three (3) new i3 electric cars. The technical expert, Kwecu provided overviews of the i3 and answered all of our questions. I collected six year-end FVEAA surveys and will present the findings at the next meeting. Then I will gather your thoughts on the kinds of presentations and activities we want this next year, and who might want to give a presentation as well .

Bob Baker leads us off this month with the first in a series of three presentations on "How to build an electric car." Many of the club members have been clamoring for more technical presentations on building cars, how to pick the right battery etc. so these presentations by Bob over the next few months should help fill the gap. Or start to fill the gap as the subject is extremely broad as many of you are aware.

Afterwards we'll have a question and answer session to address questions from the audience on building EVs, so start gathering your thoughts and questions.

By the way, David Zygmunt, our club Secretary, let me know that his job has him traveling so much he will

be unable to continue as Secretary. So if anyone is interested in taking notes during the meetings please let me know and I'll select a temporary replacement for the next half year. We wish David lots of luck and success on his job and he's welcome back any time to present his excellent Tesla trips.

MEMBERSHIP

Also if you are interested in "club promotions" such as putting ads in newspapers, getting the word out in social media, making phone calls to previous members, inviting other groups to meetings or sending a newsletter to someone new, let me know. Let's pump membership back up!

Sincerely,
Bruce

FVEAA is on Facebook - Like Us!

Grant Gerke

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

This Month's Presentations

- Bruce Jones will provide a round-up of how electric vehicles are doing in the market, show some photos from the December holiday party, and discuss a summary of the FVEAA survey taken in December. The attendees will get a chance to voice their opinion on what kind of presentations they want to see, and activities they want to be engaged in this year, and if you want to present.
- Bob Baker of Bob's Hillview Auto (longtime supporter of the FVEAA. . thanks Bob!) will then provide the first presentation in a series of three, on "How to build an Electric Car." January, February and March we will focus on various aspects of building EVs
- That will be followed by a question and answer period where we answer questions from the audience on their burning EV questions.

Membership Update

Ted Lowe

We currently have **83** paid-up members which is low historically for the FVEAA. 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 anytime, thanks! Howard Hansen had a **great idea**... giving an FVEAA membership as a gift!



FVEAA Membership Report

as of 2015-01-12 04:58:10

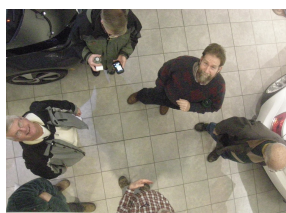
Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
BusinessCharter	1	1
BusinessPremier	1	1
BusinessStd	3	3
Family	10	10
Individual	67	66
LifetimeInd	2	2
Totals	84	83

Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.8%
Avg. Paid Up Days	225.4 days
% With Email	94.0%

Photos



FVEAA at Bill Jacobs BMW



The electric i3 on display



Hi Bruce, Here's the one picture i took. Thanks, Ted
<Great shot Ted - thanks Bruce>
FVEAAers enjoying a test drive in the BMW i3: Jeff Miller (driving), Howard Hansen, Chuck Carrington and (possibly)Scott Taylor.



FVEAA members enjoying the food and treats at Bill Jacob's BMW on Dec 19, 2014



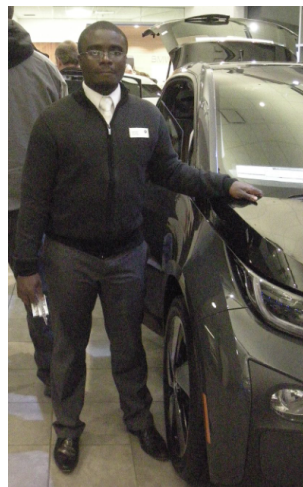
John Emde checking out the “frunk” space of the i3



Steve Grushas gets a charge out of the J-1772



Ted Lowe, Maureen Stillman and Mike Willuweit smiling after experiencing the acceleration of the i3



BMW i3 expert Kwecu (Kwee Koo) provided excellent information on the i3 and answered our technical questions. Great job!

Meeting Minutes - November 21, 2014

Jeff Miller

The December holiday meeting started at 6:30 at Bill Jacob's BMW in Naperville in a large second floor conference room. Bruce Jones opened up the meeting with introductions and a quick overview of the meeting agenda. BMW staff handed out information and a short quiz on the i3, and served refreshments. Bruce showed a presentation summarizing the entire year of events and handed out the yearly survey to capture opinions on past and future activities and list presentations the group wants to see next year.

Thanks to Nancy Chafin at BMW who coordinated the event, and who treated the group to excellent pizza, refreshments and a free gift (hand powered flashlight.)

Kwecu the BMW i3 expert then provided small groups with overviews of the BMW i3 and walk through of the features. He patiently answered technical questions as a group and on a one-on-one basis.

Simultaneously, while technical discussions were occurring with hands-on discussions with one i3, two other BMW i3s were made available for test drives. Most if not all attendees who wanted to drive an i3 were given that opportunity, and they had surprisingly good acceleration.

After the food, presentations, and ride-n-drives the meeting adjourned at 8:30

The FVEAA really appreciated the hospitality of Bill Jacobs BMW as one of our Premier Business Sponsors!

Rich's Ramblings

Rich Carroll

From the silly "You have to make some compromises to drive an EV" bin.

With help from several Chinese manufacturing firms, Ballard Company, Ltd has started pilot production of their three wheeled, single occupant vehicle, named Spira. This is the brainchild of Lon Ballard, who grew up here, and graduated University of Illinois with a BS and an MS in Engineering. Currently living in Carrollton, IL, he had spent a significant time in China, exploring ways of bringing a low cost, lightweight vehicle to manufacture. The Spira is one of four finalists for the U.S. Progressive Insurance X-Prize, last offered in 2010.

It is obvious that a three wheeled vehicle is much easier to import, the safety and emission standards for 'motorcycles' are much less restrictive than 'automobiles' with four wheels. His Spira vehicle is the result of creating a low cost vehicle, and designing it to meet american laws. That being said, it is missing one essential element for the US market. It really needs to be attractive. Either graceful in design, or cute will work, but downright UGLY is a difficult bridge to cross.

Here are some specs to show you the good pieces. The Pilot run will have some vehicles made with gasoline propulsion, and some made with pure electric propulsion. Here are some specs:

- 420 pounds (190 kg) Net Weight with recyclable light foam, fiberglass, and plastics
- Three wheel vehicle with a 150 cc automatic engine for 53 mph (85kph)
- Patented honey comb composite chassis
- Foot brake to 3 disc brakes and foot gas pedal
- 57" wide x 49" tall x 107" long (1450 x 1250 x 2700mm)
- Millions of small air bags in foam offer crash protection for both passengers and pedestrians
- the front is light enough to be picked up, and a special pad is built into the back for upright parking, which allows 8 Spiras in a single parking space.

The gasoline version will have:

- \$5,000 projected sale price
- 150 cc engine, Wangye motorcycle engine, fuel injected, automatic transmission
- 2.5 gallon tank for a 220 mile range
- 53 mph top speed, with 80 mpg
- No reverse gear

The electric version will have:

- \$9,000 projected sale price
- a 10 kw 72 V motor
- a second 10 kw 72V motor is optional (Additional \$1,500)
- 140 mile range with 144 amp batteries
- second battery pack available, doubles the range to 280 miles. (Additional \$3,500)
- 60 mph top speed, 300 mpgE (single motor version)
- standard with a reverse gear and backup camera.

Here is the first important line. **This vehicle has finished US EPA testing, and crash testing, and final approval for sale is expected within a month.**

Here is the second important part:



Nothing personal, but the looks don't fit into either the 'graceful' or 'cute' description. I simply think the looks, size, powertrain choices are not a viable vehicle in the U.S. market.

Here is a reason why you need to watch this. The car's bodywork (an integral part of the chassis) is made from a lightweight reinforced foam. Company literature says these millions of air cells act like tiny airbags during collisions. (?) (No airbags are needed for US certification for motorcycles.) **The car's foam can be made from soybeans.**

Watch the upcoming North American International Auto Show in Detroit where it will be formally introduced, and read more at:

<http://www.gizmag.com/spira4u-production-begins/35482/>

<http://spira4u.com/spirahistory.html>

Can Spira sell these inexpensive and ugly vehicles in the US? I don't think this is their best market. Likely overseas, but not here.

Membership Form

Ted Lowe

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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Bill Jacobs

Bill Jacobs BMW

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