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MEETING REVIEW -

The May 10th meeting went well. The group selected a name for the club and we are now known as the Alternative Transportation Club (ATC).

The group also voted to become a chapter of the Electric Auto Association (EAA) and we elected club officers.

The following persons were elected:

- Bob Tregilus Chair
- Chuck Swackhammer Vice Chair
- Aimee Deutschendorf &
- Faye Shea Co-Secretaries
- Peter Fletcher Treasurer

Congratulations to all! And remember our next meeting - with a guest speaker - is June 14th!

Additionally, the 150 ATC members in our database - people who have attended the first two meetings or have contacted us by phone and email - are official founding members of the Alternative Transportation Club! Thanks for you interest and support!

WEBSITE LAUNCHED! -

The Alternative Transportation Club (ATC) website has been launched! I tossed up some basic information about our group and will work on it later as I get time. It's a work in progress so please be patient. And if you are a webmaster / designer and feel like volunteering to design or maintain the site please contact Bob at 775/826-4514.

So now when you talk to people about your club point them to electricnevada.org. For those of you who are not web savvy it's pronounced "Electric Nevada Dot Org."

Also, I have set up two listservs. One is for general discussion of topics about or related to sustainable transportation and the other is for club organizing purposes. Please visit the website and scroll down to the "keep in touch" part for more information.

Click here:
http://electricnevada.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

TRUCKEE GREEN HOME & BUILDING SHOW, 5/25 - 5/27 -
Truckee High School, 11725 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee, CA.
Map: http://tinyurl.com/2lpjqv

The Sierra Green Builder's Association <http://sigba.org/> has given us free booth space for this event - with plug-ins! Volunteers needed, please contact Bob at 826-4514 for more information.

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ALTAIRNANO SHAREHOLDERS MEETING, 5/30 -

Altairnano will be holding their annual shareholders meeting on Wednesday, 5/30, 9:00 - 12:00. From 9-10 a.m., ATC club members are invited to visit with company scientists, engineers, and view displays of Altairnano's innovative products. The shareholders meeting will be held from 10-11 a.m. After the meeting club members are again invited from 11 to noon to ask more questions of company representatives and to participate in a ride and drive featuring three Phoenix long-range electric vehicles powered by Altairnano lithium ion Nanosafe™ batteries!

This extraordinary opportunity is not to be missed! We are very fortunate to have a world-class innovative company like Altairnano based in the Truckee Meadows!

DUE TO LIMITED SPACE YOU MUST CONTACT ATC CHAIR, BOB TREGILUS, AT 775 826-4514 OR LAKEPORT104@YAHOO.COM TO RSVP BY THURSDAY, 5/24.

PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU WITH THE MEETING LOCATION INFORMATION BY MONDAY, 5/28.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL ALTAIRNANO! I TOLD THEM I WOULD COORDINATE ATC MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT THEIR MEETING!

Related websites:

Altairnano

<http://www.altairnano.com/>

Phoenix Motorcars

<http://www.phoenixmotorcars.com/>

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AUTOEXOTICA SHOW 'N' SHINE, JUNE 9 -
Downtown Reno, on Virginia St., from 1st to 4th Sts.

We have been given a booth for this event. Please visit <<http://autoexotica.org>> to register your EV or alternative transportation vehicle.

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TOUR DE NEZ 6/13 - 6/16 -
Wingfield Park, Downtown Reno, More information: <http://tourdenez.com/>

We will have a booth at the annual Tour de Nez bicycle race & party! The booth will be located in or near Wingfield Park on Saturday, 6/16. Volunteers needed, please contact Bob at 826-4514 for more information.

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SUSTAINABLE LIVING & RENEWABLE ENERGY ROUNDUP, 8/10 - 8/12 -
Western Nevada College, 1680 Bently Parkway South, Minden, NV.
Map: <http://tinyurl.com/38tdat>

Sunrise Sustainable Resource Group <<http://cvsustainables.org>> has given us free booth space for this event! Volunteers needed, please contact Bob at 826-4514 for more information.

WATTS UP? -

by Bob Tregilus, ATC Chair

Commencing with this edition of ATC eNews I will author the column "Watts Up!" In it I will address a broad range of topics related to alternative transportation and our club. But before I treat this month's main topics I suppose some explanation of the word play "Watts Up" is in order for the electrically challenged.

Anyone who has changed a light bulb knows something about watts. However, it is not a unit of brightness, as many may mistakenly believe, but rather of power. The watt is named for the Scottish inventor, James Watt (1736-1819), who is also well known for making key innovations to the steam engine which later powered the industrial revolution in Europe.

Understanding basic electrical theory is not difficult. Often the analogy to water flowing in a pipe is used to discuss electricity in a wire.

The four basic terms associated with electricity are: ampere or amps (André-Marie Ampère (1775-1836)), ohms (Georg Ohm (1789-1854)), volts (Alessandro Volta (1745-1827)), & watts.

If we use the water in a pipe example, amps can loosely be considered the water, volts is the pressure pushing the water, ohms is the size of the pipe (resistance) which determines the amount of water delivered to the tap, and finally, watts is the amount of water delivered from the tap.

That's a super basic way to think of electricity. For more detailed - and accurate - explanations please visit these websites: <http://www.thebugshop.org/bsfgelec.htm> & <http://www.powerupco.com/faq/23.php> & <http://science.howstuffworks.com/question501.htm>

Also, a technical and comprehensive, yet easily digestible, explanation of electricity and electrical terms is at the Electric Auto Association's (EAA) website: <http://eaaev.org/Info/electricity.html>

So Watt is Up?

Lots - and I'm so excited that I can barely contain myself!

I talked to the fine folks at Altairnano <<http://www.altairnano.com/>> last week and they have agreed to do a presentation for our club. So, I'm shooting for July's meeting for the seminar. They also said they may be able to bring along a Phoenix 'long range' electric SUV for us to look at if it is available. Currently, I'm looking for a larger venue for the meeting as well. Under consideration is the National Auto Museum among others. Of course, cost for the venue is a major concern.

Do you belong to, or know someone who belongs to, a fraternal organization who may be willing to see if you/they can secure us a meeting room? I think we need space for at least two hundred. I'm planning to heavily promote the Altairnano event as well. Based on recent media interest in our club we should get wide coverage.

Media -

Speaking of media I could use help updating my media lists. If you are interested in helping please give me a call - 826-4514.

Meeting space -

We could also use some permanent digs for our regular meetings. The Northwest Reno Library is nice but I think it's a bit out of the way, a little on the small side, and we can't always be assured of its availability. A room that will accommodate around seventy should work fine. So if you have any leads please let me know!

Picnic -

I haven't had a chance to work on a picnic. Anyone care to try and organize one? The group said a Saturday for a couple hours in the afternoon would be nice. Maybe 3:00 - 6:00 or something like that? Please step forward if you want to organize it. Likely one of the Saturdays in June would be good except for the 9th or 16th.

Questionnaires -

ATC co-Secretary, Aimee Deutschendorf, reported back with a preliminary summary of the questionnaires that were filled out at the last meeting. It looks like promotion of alternative transportation and public education topped the list of responses. Other high rated responses were socializing, the club as an information resource, civic action, networking, and the big one - conversion projects.

These are all really great ideas and certainly issues and actions the club should be addressing. But to move these ideas forward I think need to consider setting up standing committees. Some of the committees I can envision are: research, outreach, media, projects and conversions, legal, events, &c. Hopefully, some of you will consider volunteering for one or more of these committees. Each committee will need a coordinator as well. So whether you are an experienced organizer or are entirely new to this type of activity you are encouraged to step forward. And you can contribute at any level, even if you only have a half hour a week I'm sure we can fine something for you to do.

It really is fun as well as highly addicting. The sense of accomplishment after seeing something you helped put together become reality and make a difference in our community beats watching TV any day!

"A nation, as a society, forms a moral person, and every member of it is personally responsible for his [or her] society."

--Thomas Jefferson to George Hammond, 1792

EVs IN THE NEWS -

US SET FOR ELECTRIC CAR HYPE -

"While others hammer away at battery technology to make all-electric cars go further and cost less, ZAP (as in zero air pollution) believes it has the formula in its tiny Xebra cars made in China: Plug it in at home and go up to 40 miles (65 km) per hour for up to 25 miles (40 km)."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2rsr53>

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CULTURAL DIFFERENCES INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE INNOVATION -

"Cultural differences between countries run right to the heart of government, thereby influencing technological innovation. This is reported in a comparative study by David

Calef and Robert Goble published recently in the journal Policy Sciences(1). The authors outline efforts taken throughout the 1990s by both the US and French governments to adopt legislation fostering technological innovation to improve urban air quality by promoting clean vehicles, specifically electric vehicles (EVs). The study highlights the differences in approach and policy-making style by both governments and how this might have affected the final outcome."

Full story here:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/05/070514123808.htm>

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THIS DYNASTY LIVES ON -

"Of course, this "perfect storm" also presents a perfect opportunity to sell lots of cars, but that takes lots of money, so the company is also on the prowl for another infusion of a couple million in fresh capital. While the market for a 25 mph vehicle might seem somewhat limited -- and in Illinois they just effectively banned all vehicles in the NEV category -- the market is large enough at the moment to absorb all the company can build. And if any other states follow Montana's lead and enact Medium Speed Electric Vehicle laws (MSEV) that up the top speed to 35, the market could become a lot bigger."

Full story here:

<http://www.evworld.com/article.cfm?storyid=1254>

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CHEVY MAY GET A CHARGE OUT OF VOLT CONCEPT -

By George Spaulding, Saturday, May 19, 2007

<http://tinyurl.com/2sft4e>

The Chevrolet Volt, a concept sedan with an electric propulsion system first shown at the Detroit Auto Show in January, already has been approved for production.

The Volt is a battery-powered, four-passenger electric vehicle that uses a gasoline engine to create additional electricity to extend its range. The Wall Street Journal explains it this way:

"Instead of using a small gas engine to propel the car in tandem with a small gas-powered electric motor, as in the Toyota Prius, the Volt would use a small gas engine solely to recharge a lithium-ion battery pack. Electricity from those batteries, the same type that power laptop computers, would power the vehicle. The batteries also could be recharged by plugging in to the power grid, perhaps through a normal wall socket. Thus, GM got points for taking seriously the concept of a plug-in hybrid, which is all the rage in certain circles."

Larry Burns, General Motor's vice president for research and planning, further explains, "The DNA of the automobile has not changed in more than 100 years. Vehicles still operate in pretty much the same fashion as when Karl Benz introduced the 'horseless carriage' in 1886.

"While mechanical propulsion will be with us for many decades to come, GM sees a market for various forms of electric vehicles including fuel cells and electric vehicles using gas and diesel engines to extend the range. With our new E-flex concept, we can produce electricity from gasoline, ethanol, bio-diesel or hydrogen."

In support of the Volt, Chevrolet says, "More than half of all Americans live within 20 miles of where they work (40 miles round trip). In that case, you might never burn a drop of gas during the life of the car."

Csaba Csere, writing in Car and Driver, adds, "If your trip is longer than 40 miles, the Volt's generator fires up. The volt has a three-cylinder turbocharged 1.0-liter engine that develops 85 hp coupled to a 53-KW generator. This unit can provide enough juice to keep the car running while recharging the onboard battery in about half an hour.

"In fact, the generator is powerful enough to provide electricity for the car to cruise at 100 mph. With a good charge in the battery, the volt could hit 120 mph and accelerate to 60 mph in eight seconds, so it would have no trouble keeping up with traffic. In normal driving, it would achieve roughly 50 miles per gallon for an overall range of 640 miles."

In addition, the Chevrolet Volt is designed to run on E85, a fuel blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

Although Chevrolet has not announced a specific start-of-production date for the Volt, it usually takes three years to bring vehicles to the sales floor, which means 2010 could be a realistic target date. By that time, GM's fifth generation of fuel cells could be ready, just in time for installation in the Chevy Volt.

George Spaulding is a retired General Motors executive and distinguished executive-in-residence emeritus at the School of Business and Economics at the College of Charleston.

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ELECTRIC VEHICLE ONLINE VIDEOS -

TAKE A TEST DRIVE IN THE TESLA ROADSTER -

CNET News.com's Michael Kanellos was on hand for the public unveiling of the Tesla Roadster in Santa Monica, Calif. Hear from one of the designers about the look and feel of the car, and strap in for test drive. Hitting 60 mph in four seconds never sounded like this before.

Watch video here:

<http://news.com.com/1606-2-6102127.html>

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THE X1 ELECTRIC SPORTS CAR -

The Wrightspeed X1 can outdo most cars on the market. CNET News.com's Michael Kanellos goes on a ride with founder/creator Ian Wright.

Watch video here:

http://news.com.com/1606-2_3-6119180.html

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A LOW-COST VEHICLE THAT WILL TURN HEADS -

CNET News.com's Michael Kanellos talks to ZAP CEO Stephen Schneider about his company's egg-shaped electric three-wheeler and how it can be charged in any 110-volt outlet.

Watch video here:
<http://news.com.com/1606-2-6108950.html>

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DOCUMENTARY: BUILDERS BECAME CRUSHERS -

"Who Killed the Electric Car?" is a documentary set to hit theatres this summer. The film's makers trace the rise and disappearance of electric cars in California. Here's one man who owned General Motors' EV1.

Listen to the show here:
<http://news.com.com/1606-2-6067099.html>

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ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGAL STUFF -

CONTRIBUTIONS -

Your article contributions and letters to the editor are welcome! Please submit original articles to Bob Tregilus: lakeport104@yahoo.com. In the interest of accuracy you are requested to provide citations for any facts stated in your article(s). This is a "plain text" eNewsletter and as such no photographs can be published. All contributions maybe edited for length and clarity. They may be messed up by mistake as well. Warning: dyslexic editor at work!

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COMMENTS -

Please call 775 826-4514 or email your comments to Bob Tregilus at <lakeport104@yahoo.com>.

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