

We had a smaller crowd for the July 12th meeting. Bob Tregilus and Chuck Swackhammer covered tips on purchasing used EVs. Also covered were tips on buying safely on the internet and the online auction site eBay.

Here are some resources for buying online safely:

Federal Trade Commission
<http://www.ftc.gov/onlineshopping/>

eBay buying tutorials:
<http://pages.ebay.com/education/buying.html>

eBay safety tips:
http://pages.ebay.com/help/tutorial/buyingsafely/js_tutorial.html

Here are some of the other resources discussed at the July 12th meeting:

EVfinder.com
<http://www.evfinder.com/>

EV Trading Post
<http://www.austinev.org/evtradinpost/>

Electric Auto Association
<http://www.eaaev.org/eaeevsforsale.html>

At the July 26th special conversion meeting we viewed the film Convert It! It was ninety minutes and very informative. If you would like to borrow the film, ATC treasurer, Peter Fletcher, will loan it to you. You can contact him at: (530) 448-6233 or fletchfilms'AT'hotmail.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SUSTAINABLE LIVING & RENEWABLE ENERGY ROUNDUP, 8/11 - 8/12 -
Ferris Park, 1751 Orbit Way, Minden, NV.
Map: <<http://tinyurl.com/28jwzn>>

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. Bob will be doing a presentation Electric Vehicles and the 21st Century on Sunday, August 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Gazebo at Ferris Park in Minden.

"The Transportation Exhibit will be located on the baseball diamond at Ferris Park. Coming from Reno, you stay on Hwy 395 S. as you enter Minden, then turn Left at the 2nd signal, Buckeye Rd. (It's 10th St. if you turn right - just past the Carson Valley Inn.) Follow Buckeye to the stop sign and turn Left on Orbit Way. The entry gate to the Ferris Park is at the end of the road on the right. The baseball diamond is just inside the gate and to the right, and we'll have you set up on the east side of the diamond."

LISTSERVS - GET INVOLVED AND INFORMED VIA EMAIL!

Besides the two club listservs (see the ATC website for more information) Bill Brinsmead alerted us to a national list. The Electric Vehicle Email Discussion is located at <<http://www.madkatz.com/ev/evlist.html>>.

And a new forum was started last week: DIY Electric Car Forums - <<http://www.diyelectriccar.com/forums/>>

WATTS UP? -
by Bob Tregilus, ATC Chair

In this issue I'm going to ask that ATC members write their representatives in congress about alternative transportation friendly legislation. No matter your political persuasion you can easily craft a letter that will help make your member of congress aware that you want the government to either facilitate, or get out of the way of, alternative transportation technology development.

For those of conservative sensibilities corporate welfare in the form of oil and transportation subsidies clearly erect barriers to alternative transportation technology development. "[A] UCS study, "Money Down the Pipeline: Uncovering the Hidden Subsidies to the Oil Industry" concludes that the oil industry profits from preferential treatment in tax laws and government support. While the non-oil industries are taxed at a rate of 18 percent, the oil industry is taxed at a mere 11 percent. This reduced rate equates to \$2 billion in federal corporate income tax benefits per year. They also benefit from low state and local sales tax rates on gasoline, an indirect subsidy exceeding \$4 billion a year. Direct government funding of oil and motor vehicle infrastructure and services tops off at \$45 billion a year."*

While a conservative may wish to see all taxes on industry reduced, favoring one sector of the economy over another creates an imbalance and an energy and transportation policy that favors one industry over another. "From 1991 to 1995, oil companies spent \$27.5 million and the auto industry spent \$5.4 million in lobbying and campaign donations."** Small start-up alternative transportation companies have a tuff time competing the moment they open their doors.

Additionally, both liberals and conservatives can agree that America needs to reduce it dependency on foreign oil.

For those of a liberal bent global warming and the environment would likely top your list of concerns. Subsidies to the bio-fuel industry is of major concern as well. And switching highly productive arable lands from food to fuel production will affect food costs for everyone, but especially the poor. Both the energy and farm bills of 2007 contain strong incentives for ethanol production. A more balanced approach is needed, not one fueled by lobbying dollars and special interest. For more on the ethanol problem please follow this link: <<http://tinyurl.com/2veouy>>.

But you don't have to be concise in your letter to your representative. Simply asking what they are doing with regard to alternative transportation is sufficient to communicate that the public is interested in this issue.

A letter could be this brief:

August 4, 2007

Your address
Town, NV 89XXX

The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

I am very concerned about (climate change) -OR- (corporate welfare).

(I understand that if I changed to driving a battery powered electric vehicle (BEV) my total personal carbon footprint could be reduced by up to a third.) -OR- (I find oil industry subsidies offensive and counter productive to the adoption of alternative forms of transportation such as battery powered electric vehicles (BEV).)

What are you doing as my representative to smooth the path for the commercial and public adoption BEVs in the United States?

What is your party doing to smooth the path for the commercial and public adoption BEVs in the United States?

Sincerely,
Bob Tregilus

Here's where to write:
The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (866) 736-7343 toll free
Fax: (202) 224-7327

The Honorable John Ensign
119 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (775) 686-5770
Fax: (202) 228-2193

Representative Dean Heller
1023 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (775) 686-5760
Fax: (202) 225-5679

Finally, it is best to write or fax your letter to your representative's office. Phone calls work as well. However, email is the least effective way to contact your member of congress. Each contact is weighted based on the effort it took to send it. Therefore, form letters generated from political websites tend to be given little weight when compared to a signed original letter received in the mail or via fax.

But - no matter - what is important is that you write! Use the letter above or create your own. Remember - if YOU don't write, who will?

* Albion Monitor / News <<http://www.albionmonitor.net/10-9-95/oilsubsidy.html>>.
** Ibid.

Featured Alternative Transportation website

VANCOUVER ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

<http://www.veva.bc.ca/home/>

Great site and tons of information! Given Vancouver Canada is not known for its warm and dry weather the apparent size of the VEVA debunks the myth that EVs are not particular in cold and wet climates. They have a great summary of the all important well-to-wheel energy usage located here <<http://www.veva.bc.ca/wtw/index.htm>>.

EVs IN THE NEWS -

THOSE MUSCLE CARS ON THE DRAG STRIP ARE REALLY ELECTRIC

"On a recent Friday night at the Portland International Raceway, John Wayland scanned the dragsters, looking for an opponent for his geeky looking 1972 Datsun sedan. Finally, he challenged the owner of a souped-up 2005 Corvette, the hottest-looking car at the track, to a quarter-mile race."

Full story + video here:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118593442187584293.html>

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PLUG-IN HYBRIDS SEEN AS VEHICLES FOR CHANGE

"The widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles - which could be driven up to 40 miles on electric power alone - would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States without overloading the nation's power grid, according to a new study."

Full story here:

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

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CHARGE OF THE E-BRIGADE

"BANGALORE: In all the hullabaloo of alternate fuel run vehicles, electric vehicles haven't really caught on in the country. Even though home grown Reva is one of the few e-vehicle makers and the only electric car manufacturer in India, it is still a small niche market."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/32xkyc>

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CHANGE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE ELECTRIC VEHICLES

"No, they won't call it Electric Avenue. Owners of electric vehicles in Thurston County, however, will soon get a charge out of a pending road project next to City Hall."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2u2cuq>

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GOOGLE PLUGS V2G TECHNOLOGY

"Pacific Gas and Electric Company recently showcased Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology at Google's Mountain View, Calif., campus."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/3xujg2>

EV VIDEO CLIPS -

PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES

"A video by Plug-in Partners promoting the many benefits of Plugin Hybrids Electric Vehicles."

Video here:

<http://tinyurl.com/33brdd>

ENERGY NEWS

NEW ENERGY LEGISLATION PASSES IN SENATE

Talk of the Nation, June 22, 2007 · The Senate passed a new energy bill late Thursday night that aims to boost the nation's use of renewable energy and promote energy efficiency. Also, guests and callers discuss the future of coal – a new report says coal will continue to be in demand, but mining it will get more difficult.

Listen to the story here:

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

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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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If you are receiving this eNewsletter in error, or wish to be removed from this list,
simply hit reply and ask!

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