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# ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION NEWS (ATC eNEWS)  
#  
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# by the Alternative Transportation Club &  
# Electric Auto Association of Northern Nevada  
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# On the web: <http://ElectricNevada.org>  
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### NEXT MEETING ###

THE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CLUB, EAA &  
ALTAIRNANO, INC., INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008 FROM 1:30 - 3:30 PM AT  
THE NATIONAL AUTO MUSEUM (HARRAH COLLECTION)  
10 SOUTH LAKE STREET, RENO, NEVADA

Enjoy speakers, EV displays including the 2007 Phoenix Motorcars SUV and a 1914 Detroit Electric 46 Gentleman's Roadster, education on Altairnano's Lithium-Titanate batteries, a day at the museum, and a chance to win an electric bike! (Bicycle raffle tickets available at the door only.)

Tickets are \$5.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door.

Visit our website <<http://ElectricNevada.org>> to purchase your tickets now using PayPal or call 775 826-4514 for details.

If you want to help organize this event please contact Bob at 775 826-4514.

Official event fliers and handbills are posted at our website <<http://ElectricNevada.org>>. Please download a few and post at your office or favorite store!

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### EVENTS CALENDAR ###

SIERRA CLUB - GREAT BASIN GROUP MEETING, January 10 (Thursday)  
GB Group general meeting. "Who Killed the Electric Car?" This movie, narrated by Martin Sheen, will be an eye-opener for anyone who hasn't seen it. From the jacket: "Running solely on electricity, General Motors' fleet of EV-1 electric vehicles were so efficient they were on the brink of altering the future of driving in America—perhaps even the world. Those lucky enough to drive one gave it glowing reviews. So why were they all destroyed?" Running time is 1.5 hr, so we will start announcements at 7:00 and the movie at 7:15. Location: Bartley Ranch (South on Lakeside Dr., just before Windy Hill). Time: 7:00 Social, 7:15 Announcements, 7:30 - 8:30 Program. Info: Larry (786-8564)

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### MEETING REVIEW ###

No meetings were held in November or December. We did hold a short organizing meeting in December to work on the National Auto Museum event.

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### LISTSERVS - GET INFORMED VIA EMAIL ###

Alternative Transportation Club (ATC) general listserv -  
<<http://tinyurl.com/3xs4jk>>.

Alternative Transportation Club (ATC) organizing listserv -  
<<http://tinyurl.com/32kgbm>>.

Electric Vehicle Discussion List, founded in 1991 -  
<<http://lists.sjsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/ev>>. (Editor's note: Be sure to select the "digest" option instead of individual emails as this is a very busy list and will fill up your inbox quickly.)

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### WATT'S UP? ###

GREENWASHING - THAT'S WATT!

by Bob Tregilus, ATC Chair

From the perspective of zero emissions electric vehicle (EV) owners there was nothing to cheer about in the Energy Bill of 2007. Widely trumpeted as sweeping legislation addressing the crisis of foreign oil dependence and climate change, the Bill failed miserably on both accounts. What the Bill does guarantee is continued reliance on fossil fuel energy, corporate welfare for hyper-profitable petroleum companies, windfall incentives for farmers to shift from food to fuel production (exacerbating shortages while raising costs), billions wasted on euphemistically labeled clean coal and carbon sequestration technologies - in short, the Bill was a triumph for an oligarchy of rich industry groups over national security needs and the health of the planet. The only response to organized money are informed and organized people. As we enter the 2008 election cycle it is critically important for Nevadans to watch for greenwashing.

Biofuels, for example, are touted as clean "green" renewable energy, however, a United Nations food supply expert labeled biofuel production as a "crime against humanity," noting it requires 511 pounds of corn to produce 13 gallons of ethanol. Additionally, a recent Stanford University report stated, "Ethanol poses an equal or greater risk to public health than gasoline."

Corporations saw a green marketing opportunity after the Hummer driving Governor Schwarzenegger urged environmentalists to get "hip and sexy." Many gas hybrid vehicles are purpose-designed utilizing the electric assist for increased performance rather than economy. Another example of greenwashing are advertisements featuring a biodegradable Prius melting into the Earth. To an EV driver, however, the tailpipe still marks a Prius as a "stinker."

As polar sea ice shrinks at an unprecedented rate (2007 saw a loss of ice equivalent to the combined areas of the states of Alaska and Texas) industrialized nations were seen dispatching a flotilla of research and war vessels to claim the once fabled Northwest Passage and an estimated 25% of the world's undiscovered oil reserves - the very stuff that caused the arctic meltdown in the first place!

Going forward we need a diversified energy portfolio, one that is sustainable and meets demand. With Peak Oil inevitable (the point where petroleum demand outstrips production) all energy options must be considered equally. Their efficacies evaluated scientifically, not politically. And not by constituencies that stand to profit, but by what's best for generations to come. It is time for American's to think outside of the pump.

Despite our politicians unwillingness to incentivize real transportation solutions many Americans are already doing rather than thinking. This month the Alternative Transportation Club is hosting Altairnano, Inc., a local company that manufactures high-tech EV batteries, at the National Auto Museum in Reno. A presentation and display will feature the Phoenix Motorcars, Inc., "no compromise" long-range / quick-charge electric SUV juxtaposed to a historic 1914 Detroit Electric Roadster. Even when charged with power generated from fossil fuels EVs are 90% cleaner than other forms of transportation. EV owners wake up each morning with a "full tank" and we never stop at a gas station. To learn more join us on Saturday, January 26th at 1:30pm. Details are at our website: <http://ElectricNevada.org> or call 755.826.4514.

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### FEATURED ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION WEBSITES ###

#### 1) GAV'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONVERSION

The following was taken from Gav's "Why" page (edited for length). For those of you looking to do your own conversion this is perhaps the best website - for both information as well as inspiration - to get you started with your own EV conversion project. There are seventeen short (and free) step by step videos documenting Gav's experience converting a 1987 Mitsubishi Tredia to an EV.

"Why Man, Why?! Well why not? People always seem surprised when I tell them I'm converting a car to run on electricity. My neighbor laughed, thinking I was joking! Many see it as unnecessary, and that could very well be true - if it was still 1986 . . . when oil flowed faster than tap water, and didn't cost much more. Now I'm not a green-freak, I certainly don't wear sandals and I have no beard. I just like looking out the window and seeing New Zealand as it should always be; naturally beautiful.

"I've secretly wanted an electric car for around ten years and I've become more determined to convert one every year. I remember I got my first dose of "EV fever" back in the 80's when I pestered mum & dad for an electric go-kart, when all the other kids wanted gas powered ones! The recent film Who Killed the Electric Car encouraged me to finally begin researching the project and the experience of waiting in a nearby BP service station recently for 15 minutes was the final straw.

"I know it was a Saturday, but having to wait for fifteen long minutes for \$30 worth of something I didn't want in the first place? Ugh, give me strength!

"For those (like me) who think it sounds really complicated - RELAX! If I can do it then anyone can. And I'm not just being modest - I can only just change my own motor oil! You'll be surprised how much help and support there is out there for people just like me (and maybe you) who don't have a lot of automotive or technical knowledge but still want to convert a car to electric. The amount of support and

information I've been given from total strangers is amazing. Sites such as [www.evconvert.com](http://www.evconvert.com) and [www.diyelectriccar.com](http://www.diyelectriccar.com) have been an enormous help.

"Now there are many more reasons for wanting to convert a car to run on simple clean electricity but don't get too caught up in the why's and why-nots, just find an old car, have a go and see what happens. I can't wait to be liberated from the high petrol prices, petrol tax and the oil industry. It just sounds right. Ok, that's enough of the deep & meaningful stuff, let's get back to creating that EV!"

Visit the website here:  
<http://www.kiwiev.com>

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## 2) ELECTRIC CAR WEBLOG

"Welcome to the Electric Car Weblog. In addition to links, news, and tips about electric cars and other forms of alternative transportation we are publishing an on-line diary of our current EV project. Started in August 2005 the chronicle follows the conversion of a gas powered Ford Probe into an Electric Car."

Visit the website here:  
<http://www.evconvert.com>

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## 3) WILDERNESS ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Now that you have been inspired by the informational sites here's a site that appears to have great deals on conversion kits for your EV project!

"Home of the True EV Car Kits, and completed electric cars! We specialize in electric car conversions, converting inefficient [sic], polluting gasoline cars to clean, efficient electric vehicles that can be charged with renewable fuels in a hybrid fashion or off-the-grid via solar charging stations at home. Your Vehicle then becomes a truly [sic] clean renewable mode of transportation, and YOU then become PART OF THE SOLUTION instead of part of the problem!"

Visit the website here:  
<http://www.e-volks.com>

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## ### EVs IN THE NEWS ###

### 4) V2G TEST DRIVE

"DENVER - Six plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) will be on the road by the end of 2007 as part of a demonstration test of vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology by Xcel Energy. The goal is to determine how consumers can use the vehicles to significantly lower greenhouse gases, shore up electricity grid reliability and prove PHEVs are a viable alternative to today's carbon-emitting cars."

Full story here:

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

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#### 5) READY FOR JETSON-LIKE ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

"OK, it doesn't fly, but if George Jetson had to stay grounded on Earth this is the car - er motorcycle - that he'd use. Question is: Will real humans want it? It is the Typ-1, a three-wheeled machine made by a company called Aptera, Greek for "wingless flight."

(Editor's note: There's a more detailed report on the Aptera in the video section of this eNewsletter.)

Full story here:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21883886/>

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#### 6) TESLA MOTORS FOUNDER OUSTED

"For Tesla Motors founder Martin Eberhard, getting news of his ouster was like glancing at the review mirror and seeing one of his electric Roadster supercars approaching at 130 miles an hour without a sound. In other words, he was blindsided."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yt4d2c>

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#### 7) CHINA'S CYCLISTS TAKE CHARGE

"For the cars and trucks crammed together on the elevated highway cutting through downtown, it's a slow crawl. On the smaller roads below, traffic is rolling at a steady 10 to 15 kilometers per hour in what looks like a more traditional Chinese street scene. Vying with the cars and trucks for the same strip of pavement are a motley assortment of two- and three-wheeled vehicles—everything from simple steel-frame bikes and heavily laden pedal-powered carts to motorized scooters. Hidden within this stream is an entirely novel, homegrown class of commuter vehicle: electric bikes and scooters."

Article contribution by Neal Peters

Full story here:

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/print/1213>

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#### 8) THE TRANSITION TO ELECTRIC BIKES IN CHINA: HISTORY AND KEY REASONS FOR RAPID GROWTH

"Annual electric bike (e-bike) sales in China grew from 40,000 in 1998 to 10 million in 2005. This rapid transition from human-powered bicycles and gasoline-powered scooters to an all-electric vehicle/fuel technology system is special in the evolution of transportation technology and, thus far, unique to China. We

examine how and why e-bikes developed so quickly in China with particular focus on the key technical, economic, and political factors involved. This case study provides important insights to policy makers in China and abroad on how timely regulatory policy can change the purchase choice of millions and create a new mode of transportation. These lessons are especially important to China as it embarks on a large-scale transition to personal vehicles, but also to other countries seeking more sustainable forms of transportation."

Article contribution by Mike Galeoto

Full report here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2vxd4b>

(Requires a PDF reader)

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#### 9) "CURRENT ELIMINATOR V" SETS NEW EV DRAG RECORD

"Whitman, AZ -- December 17, 2007 -- Altair Nanotechnologies Inc. (NASDAQ: ALTI), a leading manufacturer of safe, high-performance lithium-titanate battery pack products and energy storage products announced today that Dennis "Kilowatt" Berube has set the National Electric Drag Racing Association's (NEDRA) D.R. class world speed record for electric dragsters driving an electric vehicle powered by Altairnano battery packs."

Read about it here:

<http://tinyurl.com/24o7jl> &

<http://tinyurl.com/27thsa> &

<http://tinyurl.com/2q72h7>

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#### 10) E-JET (IS THE ATC EDITOR'S IDIOT OF THE MONTH)

This project gets my un-official "Idiot of the Month Award." Installing a jet turbine into an EV-1 has got to be one of the most ridiculous modifications ever. It not only is offensive from an aesthetic point of view but does (did) damage to the EV movement by fueling the publics concern that electric vehicles are slow and feeble requiring a boost. Thankfully, it was a short lived project that was terminated when GM recalled their EV-1s. Good grief.

Read about it here:

<http://ev1-club.power.net/archive/990220/ejet.htm>

See a video of it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAKfMEPUsV0&NR=1>

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#### ### EV VIDEO CLIPS ###

#### 11) RENO, NV PLUG-IN PRIUS

"EV" Jerry Asher (EAA Chapter Relations East) stops in Reno Nevada to Demo the Prius Plug in with ATC Treasurer and videographer, Peter Fletcher.

Contributed and filmed by Peter Fletcher.

Watch video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aTRJnfwJL0>

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#### 12) POWER YOUR ELECTRIC CAR WITH SOLAR OR WIND

Short video surveying the public's attitude toward EVs. Also features Santa Monica's efforts to go green.

Video contribution by Neal Peters.

Watch video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLcYgtd1Yw8>

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#### 13) JAY LENO'S GARAGE FORD'S PHEV

The Tonight Show's Jay Leno and a Ford executive discuss the Ford Escape plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV).

Watch video here:

<http://tinyurl.com/39mknx>

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#### 14) APTERA'S SUPER-MPG ELECTRIC TYP-1 E

"Three hundred miles per gallon and a Jetsons-style look are enough to get anyone excited. But ever since the word got out on it last month, Aptera's innovative Typ-1 three-wheeler has been the target of relentless theorizing and conjecture across the Web. Is it real? Does it have what it takes to be a practical vehicle for daily transport? Is it stable enough to drive? Does it even actually drive? Well we wondered some of those things, too, so we scouted out if a drivable prototype really exists."

Article contribution by Mike Brisban, Chuck Swackhammer, & Neal Peters

Watch video and read article here:

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

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#### 15) COULD THE ELECTRIC CAR SAVE US?

"Let's face it: Gasoline-powered cars are a gigantic problem. They pollute, they keep us dependent on foreign oil, and when gas prices go up, they cost a fortune to drive. But what's the alternative?"

Video contribution by Neal Peters

Watch video here:

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

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### ENERGY NEWS ###

16) HOW CLEAN IS THE ELECTRICITY I USE?

From the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) comes an interesting webtool enabling the user to learn about the power company that supplies electricity to your home. Data on fuel mix used to generate your electricity and emission rate comparisons based on national averages are available.

Article contribution by Neal Peters

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ytyftz>

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17) ODE TO JOYLESSNESS: HOLD THAT YULE LOG

"Being green is not so easy, unless you're a Martian or something. It seems everything you do to try to save the planet has unforeseen effects."

Article contribution by Neal Peters

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ytajq8>

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18) BUCK A WATT SOLAR!

"For Nanosolar of San Jose, California - and perhaps the rest of us - December 18, 2007 was an historic day. It was the day the company shipped the world's lowest-cost solar panel. The company believes it can be the first solar manufacturer capable of profitably selling solar panels at 99 cents per watt."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/25asgx>

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19) POWER PLANS

"In this rebroadcast, Earthbeat host Daphne Wysham talks to two groups who are planning for America's powerful future.

"The United States could eliminate almost all of its carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2050, without using nuclear power -- that's the conclusion of a groundbreaking new report. Author Dr. Arjun Makhijani says that recent technological breakthroughs mean that it won't cost an arm and a leg to eliminate both carbon dioxide emissions and nuclear power. Makhijani is the president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. His report, Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for US Energy Policy <<http://www.ieer.org/carbonfree>> is a joint project of IEER <<http://www.ieer.org>> and the Nuclear Policy Research Institute <<http://www.nuclearpolicy.org>>.

"One way to refocus America's energy policies is to take the project on with the verve and commitment the nation gave to the war effort in the 1940s. In their new report 'Rosie Revisited,' David Merrill, executive director of GlobalWarmingSolution.org <<http://www.globalwarmingsolution.org>> and Dr. Charles Hall, of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry <<http://www.esf.edu/EFB/hall>>, provide a way for America to lead the battle against global warming."

Listen to program here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2p3cb8>  
Website: <http://www.earthbeatradio.org/2008/01/>

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### CLASSIFIEDS ###

I have a 70s vintage GE 36 volt Elec-Trak lawn tractor I would like to sell. It is in need of a fair bit of restoration and a set of batteries I have the complete factory service manual also. This site has some good info:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2qe456>  
For more information contact Bill Brinsmead - 775 784-1502

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I will have a 95 dodge avenger for sale to club member it still has a great 4 cylinder gas engine which could be sold for \$ And the car converted. Body is Good needs clutch repair sometime soon but I still would put 5,000 miles on it before I repaired Clutch. It's deep forest Green. Great Style and Looks 1995 4 cylinder 5 spd. Price \$850 great deal Great Stereo beautiful car. High miles but strong car rebuilt engine 40,000 ago.  
Call Randell for more information - 760 709-1706

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Can you tell me what shops in this area can convert a car to electric? I have a car with a cracked engine block, beyond repair, so it maybe an ideal candidate for conversion.  
Call Marty at 775-841-1553

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### WHO WE ARE, SUBMISSIONS, & LEGAL ###  
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###ELECTRIC AUTO ASSOCIATION (EAA) ###  
The Alternative Transportation Club (ATC) is a chapter of the Electric Auto Association whose mission, in part, is "to act as a public source of information about developments in electric vehicle technology, to encourage experimentation in the building of electric vehicles, and to organize public exhibits and events of

electric vehicles to educate the public on the progress and benefits of electric vehicle technology."

Please support the Electric Auto Association (EAA)! You may join by visiting the national EAA website <<http://www.eaaev.org/eaamembership.html>> or by sending \$39.00 (\$25.00 seniors) to:

Electric Auto Association  
Membership Renewals  
323 Los Altos Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003-5248

Your donations are tax deductible. The Electric Auto Association (EAA) is a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] for the promotion of Electric Vehicles. You will receive the informative EAA publication, Current Events.

Alternative Transportation Club, EAA officers are:

Bob Tregilus - Chair  
Chuck Swackhammer - Vice Chair  
Peter Fletcher - Treasurer  
Aimee Deutschendorf - Secretary

### SUBMISSIONS ###

Your article contributions and letters to the editor are welcome! Please submit original articles to Bob Tregilus: [atc@AT.electricnevada.org](mailto:atc@AT.electricnevada.org). 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!

### COMMENTS ###

Please call 775.826.4514 or email your comments to Bob Tregilus at [atc@AT.electricnevada.org](mailto:atc@AT.electricnevada.org).

### LEGAL ###

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