

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION NEWS (ATC eNEWS)

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NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is February 28, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Northwest Reno Library
<<http://tinyurl.com/39whwa>>.

Mike Galeoto of GSR Bikes <<http://www.gsrbikes.com>> will talk to us about biodiesel. We will also do a quick de-briefing of the January 26th event.

EVENTS CALENDAR

EARTH DAY 2008
SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008
10 AM - 5 PM
RENO IDLEWILD PARK
ADMISSION IS FREE

I have yet to confirm space for EVs. However, if you are interested in displaying your EV at this event please contact me, Bob 775 826-4514. We need an idea of how much space we'll need.

MEETING REVIEW

Our last meeting was on January 26 at the National Auto Museum. About 250 showed up to view both modern and historic EVs and learn about Altairnano's battery technology. We got a lot of TV coverage of the event but no print coverage which was disappointing. The club netted about \$700 from the event. Thanks to all who helped organize the event and to all who attended!

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.)

WATT'S UP?

NEV SPEED LAWS - THAT'S WATT!

by Bob Tregilus, ATC Chair

This month I had a chance to ask State Senator Randolph Townsend (R-Washoe Senate District #4) a couple questions. "Senator Townsend was the chief architect of Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard, one of the most aggressive in the country, and has been a consistent supporter and advocate for the Department of Energy's Rebuild America initiative which fosters public-private partnerships to reduce power consumption in buildings."*

Senator Townsend was a recent guest lecturer in an energy policy class I'm taking at UNR. Per our professor's instructions I submitted two questions for Senator Townsend to address:

1.) The 2007 Montana Legislature passed SB 185 (introduced by B. Hawks) which amended Section 61-1-101 MCA to, in part, create a new vehicle designation viz., "medium-speed electric vehicle" that has a maximum speed of 35 miles an hour and may be operated on highways posted at 45 miles an hour or less.

In the interest of incentivizing the rapid adoption of zero emissions vehicles do you believe a similar bill amending NRS 484.527 would be viable in Nevada where currently the designation is "low-speed vehicle" and the maximum speed is 25 miles per hour on roads posted at 35 miles an hour or less?

2.) To date, 19 states have joined, as interveners, a California lawsuit against the United States Environmental Protection Agency for "wrongfully and illegally" blocking the state's tailpipe greenhouse gas emission standards.

Do you think the State of Nevada should join this lawsuit?

Senator Townsend liked both questions and indicated he thought they were both worth pursuing.

It has been my experience that when a politician says they think a policy is worth pursuing it takes public pressure to get them moving.

So, if you like one or both ideas please call or write the Senator and let him know.

Senator Randolph Townsend
PO Box 20923
Reno, NV 89515
775 954-2020
775 954-2023 Fax
rtownsend@sen.state.nv.us

Simply tell the Senator that you would like to see higher speed limits allowed for neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) in the state of Nevada. And / or tell the Senator you would like to see the State of Nevada join California's lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for not allowing the state to set their

own tailpipe emissions standards.

See you at the meeting! And don't forget if you are an EV owner please let me know if you want to display it at Earth Day, 2008. Call Bob 826-4514.

* Nevada Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation Task Force
<<http://www.nevadarenewables.org/?section=leaders&id=342>>

FEATURED ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE

1.) ELECTRIC AND HYBRID CARS

Nice clean and informative website featuring green vehicles, their manufactures, history, race cars, and EV clubs.

Follow this URL to view their website:
<http://electricandhybridcars.com>

EVs IN THE NEWS

2.) A PLUG-IN MOTORCYCLE

"As one of us—the heavier one—approached the first major hill on a test ride of Brammo Motorsports' new Enertia electric motorcycle, we were doubtful that this light, elegantly designed bike could haul a 109-kilogram (240-pound) rider up the incline. We shouldn't have worried: it effortlessly propelled him to the top of Portland, Ore.'s West Hills."

Contributed by Mark Harris.

Full article here:
<http://spectrum.ieee.org/feb08/5912>

3.) CONCEPT DODGE ZEO

"No engine, just a motor and big lithium-ion batteries, thus ZEO for Zero Emissions Operation. This plug-in electric car is purported to go the distance for the sporty commuter – a claimed 250 miles. It has a semi-practical 4-door wagon shape, yet a sportingly low roofline of 50.8 in., not to mention aggressively oversized 23-in. wheels. Due to its sporting nature, seating is limited to four."

Contributed by Mike Brisbin.

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/2gkox9>

4.) RENAULT, NISSAN TO GO ELECTRIC

"Renault SA and partner Nissan Motor Co. are expected to make a major commitment to develop battery-powered cars, with an eye toward producing significant volumes within three to five years."

Full article here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ytwsvq>

5.) THE HARRINGTON BB PROTOTYPE

"It may look familiar- however this microcar is 100% brand new. It has a steel body, a steel tubular chassis, and is a 4 wheel drive electric car."

Contributed by John Peterson.

Full article here:

<http://www.groupharrington.com/ev>

6.) THE NEW DETROIT FOR ELECTRIC CARS?

"A group of electric and traditional carmakers spoke here Friday at the Joint Venture Silicon Valley conference about innovation, why alternative carmakers are attracted to the Valley, and whether nimble upstarts can overshadow the big Detroit automakers. The consensus was that Silicon Valley is commanding the attention of the auto world, whether it will dominate or not."

Full article here:

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

7.) CANADA AND NEVS

"Terry and Carol James would like to dump their gasoline-powered car. Carol has asthma and isn't keen on contributing to downtown smog, and Terry believes the future depends on cleaner transportation."

[Editor's note: Canada is sure backwards on this issue. It's sad.]

Full article here:

<http://www.thestar.com/Business/article/306200>

8.) MY ELECTRIC CAR? A LITTLE RAY OF SUNSHINE!

"Since my new electric car appeared in The Age ("Electric car uses sun to show watts driving the future", 15/2), letters to the editor have taken different views of its consequences. One writer claims people like me are not being "honest"; the second urges diesel fuel and the third highlights the real dangers of nuclear."

Full article here:

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

9.) LOREMO PLANS E-LOREMO ELECTRIC CAR

"German car start-up Loremo made a big splash back in 2006 with the unveiling of their ultra-efficient 157MPG Diesel powered car called Loremo.

"Now the company says that along side the Diesel Loremo they also will release an electric Loremo dubbed E-Loremo at launch in 2010."

Full article here:

<http://www.i4u.com/article15004.html>

EV VIDEO CLIPS

10.) ZENN ON THE RICK MERCER REPORT

Contributed by John Peterson.

Video here:

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

11.) TEAM BUILDS "DREAM CAR" EV PROTOTYPE

"Let's face it: the pyramid-shaped "Dream Car" isn't likely to win any design competitions - the Tesla Roadster it ain't. But what it lacks in looks, it more than makes up for in sheer grit and ingenuity. Oh, and did we mention its creators are a father-son trio working from home?"

Contributed by Neal Peters.

[Editor's note: This is how not to build an EV, but it might make a nice street sweeper. ;>]

Video here:

<http://tinyurl.com/38yahx>

ENERGY NEWS

12.) PHEV ENERGY BILL

Plug-in Partners write: "We've had the people in our shop go over the new energy bill with an eye for Plug Ins and electric transportation in general. Here is the outline of what the bill intends to do."

Full article here:

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

13.) PEUKERT EFFECT

The Peukert Effect is a very important concept and explains the limitations of certain battery chemistries.

Dan Frederiksen writes: "Do lead cars really only discharge half the way? I thought they emptied them almost as much as Peukert allows. Otherwise, they would never get any range."

Lee Hart writes: "Let me try to explain the Peukert effect graphically. All batteries have some basic characteristics."

Contributed by Neal Peters.

Full article here:

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

14.) EUROPE MAY BAN SOME BIOFUEL CROPS

"PARIS – In a sign of growing concern about the impact of supposedly "green" policies, European Union officials will propose a ban on imports of certain biofuels, according to a draft law to be unveiled next week."

Contributed by Ken Wright.

Full article here:

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

15.) BIOFUELS: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

"The [Royal] Society convened a working group of leading experts to consider the science and technology prospects of delivering efficient biofuels for transport in the broader context of the environmental protection and sustainability."

Contributed by Ken Wright.

Full article here:

<http://royalsociety.org/document.asp?latest=1&id=7366>

16.) RECYCLE COFFEE GROUNDS, CURB GLOBAL WARMING

"In the not-too-distant future, University researcher Manoranjan Misra can envision a day when customers might pull into the drive-through at Starbucks for a cup of coffee ... and then fill their cars with biodiesel made from the same coffee grounds that produced their tasty latte."

Contributed by Stefani Mewes.

Full article here:

<http://www.unr.edu/news/detail.aspx?id=2498>

17.) SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE

"Solar power is often offered as one of the most promising forms of renewable energy. While the public often focuses its attention on solar photovoltaics -- the solar panels that change solar energy directly into electricity, as in a pocket calculator -- solar thermal technologies are making great strides. In its simplest forms, solar thermal techniques can heat water for a swimming pool or a shower. High performance, high temperature solar thermal devices can be used to drive a turbine and generate electricity. We'll get an update on where the technology -- and the industry -- stands. How effective can solar power be, and how close is the solar power industry to being able to deliver on the promise of the technology?"

Audio report here:

<http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/200802013>

18.) BIOFUELS UPDATE

"When US politicians talk about biofuels, most of the time they are talking about ethanol made from fermenting corn. However, there are many other types of biofuels, including biodiesel from algae and cellulosic ethanol technology. In this hour, Ira and guests talk about various approaches to biofuels and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Two new studies published this week in the journal Science suggest that growing additional biofuel crops might actually increase the amount of carbon entering the atmosphere, especially if existing forests or grasslands need to be cleared for biofuel farming. Do the fuels make sense from an environmental -- and economic -- standpoint?"

Audio report here:

<http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/200802081>

19.) DEAFENING SILENCE ON ENERGY

"Let me see if I have this straight: With crude oil prices hovering near a record, two of the three people with the best shot at becoming our next president went to the capital of Texas last week to debate and uttered not a word about energy policy."

[Editor's note: The presidential race has offered Americans near silence on energy policy. Given everything we do in America is dependent on energy it's amazing we are hearing nothing about it. Really, it's unbelievable. I would urge you to contact your favorite candidate and ask them what their 10, 20, and 30 year energy policy is?]

Full article here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2a2z mh>

CLASSIFIEDS

Solectria Force 1993 Rebuilt EV

The Solectria Force was originally converted by Solectria Corporation based on a Geo Metro Body. This Is a fully Electric Car 144 volt system. The Controller and Charger have both been upgraded. Other upgrades have also been done to the car. Top Speed 55 MPH. The Heater Works. Regenerative Braking also works. Car has a used battery Optima pack in right now. 5 of the 12 Batteries are charging very well. New owner would find it best to purchase 6-7 new batteries. With a New pack the car should get 50-60 Miles on a charge. Price \$9995 OBO.

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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'DOT'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'DOT'org.

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