

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION NEWS (ATC eNEWS)

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Electric Auto Association of Northern Nevada

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ATC eNews ###

NEXT MEETING ###
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Thursday, September 25, 5:30 - 8:00 (talk at 7:00)
National Auto Museum (The Harrah Collection) at Lakeside Drive and Mill Street. Follow
this link for a map: <http://www.automuseum.org/visitors.html>

Electric vehicles will be on display, the museum's display will be open, and ATC co-
chair, Bob Tregilus, will give the Heritage Workshop, Electric Vehicles: Will your next
car have an electric plug, a gas cap or both? in gallery 4. Admission is \$5.00 at the
door and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the our club!

EVENTS CALENDAR ###
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Saturday, September 20, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
This year's Reno Green Summit will be held at the new Joe Crowley Student Union-Ballroom,
University of Nevada, Reno.

The ATC will have an electric transportation display in front of the student union for
this event. This will be a great opportunity for us to network with civic leaders on
alternative transportation, incentives, and infrastructure to support EVs and bikes. To
display your EV, scooter, or bicycle please RSVP with Bob by calling 775.826.4514 or
sending an email to lakeport104@yahoo.com.

See the ATC website for program information <<http://ElectricNevada.org>>.

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Sunday, September 21, 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.
International Day of Peace Fair: Growing Communities of Hope, Creating a Culture of Peace
East Wingfield Park in downtown Reno.

The ATC will have an electric vehicle booth at this event. To display your EV please RSVP
with Bob by calling 775.826.4514 or sending an email to lakeport104@yahoo.com.

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Thursday, September 25, 5:30 - 8:00 (talk at 7:00)
National Auto Museum (The Harrah Collection)
Electric vehicles will be on display and ATC co-chair, Bob Tregilus, will be giving the
Heritage Workshop, Electric Vehicles: Will your next car have an electric plug, a gas cap
or both? in the museum's auditorium. Admission is \$5.00 at the door and a portion of the
proceeds will benefit the our club!

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Saturday, October 4, 2:45 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4th. Sherry Boschert, author of Plug-in Hybrids: The Cars that will Recharge America, president of the San Francisco Electric Vehicle Association, and vice president of Plug In America will be addressing the Reno Mensa chapter at the Sliver Legacy. The ATC has been invited to display a few cars in the valet area. Tickets are \$5.00. You must RSVP with Bob by calling 775.826.4514 or sending an email to lakeport104@yahoo.com.

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Sunday, October 12, all day

The Kick-Gas Festival in San Diego, CA, will feature the NEDRA Nationals EV Drag Racing Championships with Special guest Charis Paine, writer and director of Who Killed the Electric Car? There will be EVs on display as well as a fair and EV exhibits. Visit the Kick-Gas Festival website for details <<http://www.kickgasfestival.com>> or call Paul Thomas at (619) 997-4560.

MEETING REVIEW ###
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We talked about public charging stations. The ATC will be moving forward in this area and working with local officials in an attempt to insure a policy that provides incentives for rapid adoption of plug-in vehicles and to broaden the discussion to include smart-grid and V2G technologies. If you'd like to help please contact Bob at 775.826.4514.

LISTSERVS - GET INFORMED VIA EMAIL ###
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Alternative Transportation Club (ATC) general listserv. Discuss EV news and EEvents here - <<http://tinyurl.com/3xs4jk>>.

Electric Vehicle Discussion List, founded in 1991 - <<http://www.evdl.org/>>. [Ed'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! Or, if you prefer to not receive emails you can read the list online.]

WATT'S UP? ###
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T. BOONE PICKENS & THE SIERRA CLUB - THAT'S WATT!
by Bob Tregilus, ATC co-chair

Late last month I received a note that the venerable Sierra Club had partnered with oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens on his renewable energy plan to increase wind generation in an attempt to free natural gas supplies such that they may be redeployed in the transportation sector while "alternatives" are researched and developed.

"Say what! Am I seeing a plot unfold to kill the electric car for a second time," I thought?

I shot off a quick response to a couple of Sierra Club members that I know and to a few others as well seeking clarification. In the meantime, the Sierra Club hosted a teleconference with T. Boone Pickens to which I listened. I also heard Pickens in depth on NPR's Diane Rehm show. Some other information arrived at about the same time as well. I listen to a netcast called the "Inside Renewable Energy," a truly topnotch Podcast that I suggest everyone should subscribe to. You can find it here: <http://tinyurl.com/3dmggy>. They aired an episode entitled "Pickens' Plan and California's Proposition 10".

As it turns out Pickens is sponsoring a \$10 billion taxpayer funded (yes, that's billion with a 'B') proposition in "as goes California, so goes the rest of the nation" that potentially could devastate automakers' efforts to go electric and, instead, go with natural gas.

In any case, below is a copy of a second and more formal response to the Sierra Club decision to back natural gas as outlined in the Pickens' Plan.

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Open memo to the Sierra Club:

RE: T. Boone Pickens / Sierra Club teleconference & the Pickens' Plan

Earlier this week I listened to the T. Boone Pickens and Sierra Club teleconference. I also recently heard Mr. Pickens on NPR's Diane Rehm show and I have reviewed the Pickens' Plan. Additionally, I have reviewed, in detail, California's Proposition 10 sponsored by Mr. Pickens' company, Clean Energy Fuels Corporation.

As we know, the Pickens' Plan advocates for the adoption of renewable energy technologies, in particular wind generation, to displace the use of natural gas in about 20 percent of our nation's electricity production. The natural gas can then be re-deployed for use in the transportation sector, thereby greatly reducing the nation's dependence on foreign oil and the resultant economic implications due to a massive trade deficit in petroleum. Additionally, according to Mr. Pickens and the Sierra Club, natural gas is a short-term solution while other technologies are developed.

It's my impression that Mr. Pickens is sincere in his statements, however, he is wrong in his assertions regarding the state of battery technology and the abilities of electric drive vehicles (EVs). And there is nearly zero consideration of biofuels or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) in the Plan. T. Boone Pickens is a petroleum geologist and has worked in the fossil fuel / finance industry his entire life. That's all he knows. On the Diane Rehm show he admitted as much when responding to a question on hydrogen fuel cell vehicle technology.

And while natural gas should be a part of the solution to America's dependence on foreign oil: I would have expected the Sierra Club to have more closely vetted this portion of the Pickens' Plan such that the focus would not favor a single solution at the expense of others that are equally, if not more, viable.

The fact that the whole focus of the Plan is on a single solution is dangerous. Especially so when conflating issues are considered such as the global outlook for natural gas and California's Proposition 10.

After thoroughly reviewing Proposition 10 (the California Alternative Fuels Initiative supported almost exclusively by Pickens' company, Clean Energy Fuels Corporation) I am somewhat neutral on whether it should pass or fail. I am waiting on a response from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding certification of equipment and dealers for repowering vehicles to either natural gas or electricity that qualify for rebates under Prop., 10.

As a former mechanic I know the difference - it's much easier, as well as cheaper, to

repower to natural gas than it is to electric, yet the rebates under Prop 10 are equal. That's a problem, and more so if there are CARB certified kits and dealers for natural gas conversions and no certified electric conversion kits and dealers. (I suspect that to be the case.)

I'm still studying the global outlook for natural gas. But what I have discovered thus far is, and as with oil, Asia is projected to become a major importer of natural gas. Most of the natural gas is in the Middle East. America doesn't have large reserves according to both the EIA & IEA. And while natural gas prices are cheaper than gasoline they closely track petroleum prices only with a couple months lag. Natural gas is a fledgling global market, meaning that, currently, domestic natural gas production is used domestically, however, the outlook projects the market to become strongly global in the very near future. Finally, the price for natural gas is expected to more than double in the next twenty years.

My concerns with the Pickens' / Sierra Club Plan are:

- * Natural gas is the low-tar cigarette equivalent for the petroleum industry.
- * Natural gas infrastructure needs to be built.
- * The automakers need to produce dedicated natural gas powered vehicles to qualify for the \$10,000 rebate under Prop., 10 (one class of many with rebates ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000 dependent mostly on vehicle weight. Also Prop., 10 nearly doubles the weight of light-duty vehicles from 4,500 pounds to 8,500 pounds. Which will only encourage the public to continue buying larger and larger cars and trucks.)
- * The global outlook for natural gas: Prices are expected to skyrocket. The globalization of the natural gas market will substantially decrease the supply projected by the Pickens' Plan to be made available for transportation.
- * The availability and type of CARB certified "repowering" kits that qualify for rebates under Proposition 10.
- * The marginalization of EVs, PHEVs, and biofuels under the Pickens' Plan.
- * The maxim that: "As goes California, so goes the rest of the nation."

If the United States ever expects to kick the fossil fuel habit it will require effort. And while the Pickens' Plan is fantastic on a number of levels the myopic focus on a single fossil fuel solution to power transportation is dangerous - especially so in the short-term.

We know from extensive experience that once automakers are nudged in a particular direction they are unwilling to change. Building natural gas powered cars and trucks is easy for them, more so than building PHEVs or EVs. As I write this, the automakers are feverishly developing suppliers, constructing battery manufacturing facilities, as well as their own production capacity to produce a variety of electric drive vehicles in less than two years. EV and PHEV technology is not, as Mr. Pickens and the Sierra Club state, "Many years off requiring a short-term solution," rather it's around the corner.

Coupled with the strong incentives under Proposition 10 the public will readily adopt natural gas vehicles. The infrastructure will be built. And in the end we will be still be addicted to a greenhouse gas producing fossil fuel at the expense of far more efficacious solutions including EVs, PHEVs, and biofuels (including ethanol which it has recently come to my attention that the "food-for-fuel" debate is yet another myth promulgated by the oil industry).

I believe the Sierra Club is making a huge mistake advocating for a single short-term policy that marginalizes viable long-term transportation solutions - which are no longer

in development but are in their infancy of production. Rather, the Sierra Club should be providing balance and broadening the discussion to include support for alternative fuels - including electricity and biofuels as well as renewable energy infrastructure support technologies, such as vehicle-to-grid (V2G) that will provide sorely needed storage for intermittent renewables - under the transportation provisions of the Pickens' Plan.

Be well,
Bob Tregilus
Co-chair -
Alternative Transportation Club &
Electric Auto Association of Northern Nevada
<http://ElectricNevada.org>
775.826.4514

How's Zap?
Bob

FEATURED ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE ###
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1) THE CALIFORNIA CARS INITIATIVE (CalCars)
<http://calcars.org>

"CalCars is a non-profit startup formed by entrepreneurs, engineers, environmentalists and consumers. Our projects tackle energy security, jobs and global warming -- at the same time.

"We promote plug-in hybrids (PHEVs). PHEVs are like regular hybrids but with larger batteries and the ability to re-charge from a standard outlet. They're the best of both worlds: local travel is electric, and you always have a gas-tank backup. They need no new fuel infrastructure.

"We built the world's first plug-in Prius. We partner in a broad campaign to show what can be done now with existing technology. Our goal: get carmakers to build PHEVs."

1a) SCIENCE DEBATE 2008
<http://www.sciencedebate2008.com>

Amazingly, the presidential candidates have refused to debate on issues of science. However, thanks to public pressure and the Science Debate 2008 committee the presidential candidates - finally - replied to a list of 14 top science questions facing the nation and the world. You can read their responses, side by side, at the Science Debate 2008 website. There you can also add your name to a list of millions who want the candidates to debate science before the November elections.

From the website:

"Imagine if the candidates had said at the start of the debate season: 'We will have debates, but we will not discuss in any detail our policies toward pollution of air and water, climate change, renewable energy research, global diseases and pandemics, bioethical issues such as stem cell research, how to use scientific innovation to stimulate economic growth, how to improve science education, and how to regain scientific integrity in government.' Had they said this, there would have been a public outcry - and yet this is what has happened. In no debate so far have any of these vital issues been discussed in depth. None. We believe the voters have a right to hear these issues

discussed, and the candidates have a responsibility to discuss them."
-Matthew Chapman, President, Science Debate 2008

Science debate 2008 is: "A concerned citizens initiative now cosponsored by the AAAS, the Council on Competitiveness, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine, and signed by over 175 leading American universities and other organizations, representing over 125 million Americans."

EVs IN THE NEWS ###
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2) UNCOMMON COMMUTE:

An electric bike makes for a sweat-free, carbon-free commute

"[ATC member] John Sagebiel slings one leg over his bike's frame and prepares for his 16.5 mile commute from his home off Mount Rose Highway to his office at the University of Nevada, Reno. He'll reach speeds of roughly 27 miles per hour and get there in about 40 minutes. He's not a complete eco-nut-well, maybe slightly-or the latest contender for the Tour de France. He just has a really cool bike."
[Contributed by Kat Kerlin Green Guide editor, Reno News & Review]

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/425wdp>

3) EV-CHARGING STATION OPENS IN ARCATA

"The station is a project of the Humboldt Electric Vehicle Association and the city of Arcata and will allow electric vehicles to get a free, quick boost of energy - with a four-hour limit - while they pass through town to their next destination."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/4b38vo>

4) ELECTRIC CARS THAT PAY

"So, you're thinking of buying one of those gas-electric hybrid cars like the Toyota Prius or Honda Insight. They're trendy, conserve fuel, and reduce pollution. But to really go "green," some entrepreneurs and academics say, you should try a Volkswagen Jetta.

"Not just any Jetta. A dark blue one that a California electric-car company has modified so that it not only uses electricity but generates it for other purposes. So, once it's parked, you plug it in and sell excess electricity to a utility."

[Ed's note: the article is a little dated but is a nice introduction to vehicle-to-grid technology and how your new EV or PHEV may earn you money!]

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/3t5lrs>

5) GM & UTILITIES TO ADVANCE PLUG-IN HYBRIDS

"SAN JOSE, Calif.--General Motors is teaming up with 30 utilities in 37 states and with the Electric Power Research Institute to develop a charging infrastructure for electric cars."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/5adrro>

6) YUASA MAY BUILD CAR LITHIUM-ION BATTERY PLANT

"As one of India's key technology hubs, the city of Bangalore boasts its share of firsts: the first Indian city to get electricity and the first to see a car. It is also the first and only Indian city to manufacture an electric car. The problem is, not many people are buying them. But industry analysts predict that situation is bound to change, especially with surging oil prices. Raymond Thibodeaux reports from Bangalore in southern India."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/43ntou>

7) FROM ICE TO EV IN 36 HRS

"A 1978 Triumph Spitfire convertible is doing a little sunbathing on the Santa Monica pier on a late Friday morning, the kind of day real estate boosters call "sun-splashed." But this is not a story about a car. It's about a man called "Gadget," aka Greg Abbott, though no one ever uses his name. Gadget owns this Spitfire, one of some 50 vehicles parked on the pier and the only one that runs purely on gas. The vehicles are about to line up for a parade that will mark the start of the first Alternative Car and Transportation Expo held in Los Angeles."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/6myxe3>

8) TESLA TO BUILD EV FACTORY IN SAN JOSE

"Tesla Motors and San Jose announced Wednesday that the city has been tapped as the future home for the electric-car maker's factory and new headquarters."

"

Full article here:
http://www.mercurynews.com/bizreports/ci_10481210

9) ZAP BREAKS GROUND ON EV FACTORY

"The State of Kentucky has suddenly jumped into the world of electric cars. First in early August Governor Steve Beshear signed an executive order that allowed low speed vehicles on Kentucky roads with speed limits of 45 mph or less. Soon thereafter the state developed a \$48 million incentive package to encourage ZAP to build an electric car manufacturing plant in Kentucky.

"ZAP's vehicles are currently manufactured in China, but according to the company's CEO Steve Schneider, the costs of logistics for ZAP have risen in recent years, particularly to ship vehicles from California to the East Coast. A Kentucky manufacturing plant would help reduce that cost, he said."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/4eyqlf>

10) ELECTRIC DIRT BIKE READY TO RIDE

"When the Zero X wheeled onto the dirt track at Lake Elsinore, the Colgate-white motocross bike looked positively virginal next to the belching, candy-colored models that leaped from mound to mound around it."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/6a6sqe>

11) CHEVY VOLT'S UNVEILING SPARKS QUESTIONS

"DETROIT -- Tuesday's unveiling of the Chevrolet Volt electric hybrid car was supposed to be a celebration of new technology, the birth of a new class of automobile. Instead, the crowd at General Motors Corp.'s Renaissance Center was buzzing over who was going to pay for it: GM or American taxpayers?"

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/3tth7s>

12) EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VOLT

"GM unveiled the production version of the Chevy Volt, the first extended-range electric vehicle, and lit up the Internet with opinions from car lovers and tree-huggers everywhere. Here's a quick guide to everything you need to know about the car of the not-so-distant future."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/45t21k>

EV VIDEO CLIPS ###
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13) CHEVY VOLT IS FINALLY REVEALED

"Just a few weeks ago we got a look at a Chevy Volt production model as it was being driven around on the set of Transformers 2. But now, Chevy has revealed the car officially and we've got the pictures to prove it."
[Ed's note: includes nice video of interior.]

Video here:
<http://tinyurl.com/5gbpk4>

14) MY FIRST EV VIDEO

"My friend Pete dropped by for lunch today with his video camera and we captured a four-

minute video of the electric car in action as well as a description of the various parts. This is rather unrefined, so enjoy..."

[Ed's note: This is really a nice walk around of a converted ICE to EV 914.]

Video here:

<http://tinyurl.com/4u39hz>

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### ENERGY NEWS ###  
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15) GOOGLE & GE TEAM UP ON CLEAN-ENERGY POLICY

"General Electric and Google on Wednesday announced a collaboration to lobby for renewable energy policies and to jointly develop clean technologies. During the Google Zeitgeist conference in Mountain View, Calif., Google CEO Eric Schmidt interviewed GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt onstage about the maturity of renewable energy technologies and current policies. Schmidt said that the two companies will push for government programs to modernize the electrical grid, which would enable broader use of renewable energy.

"GE and Google will be advocating in Washington for the new and smarter grid," Schmidt said."

Full article here:

http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-10044239-54.html

16) COMMUNITY-SCALED RENEWABLE ENERGY

"Diseconomies of Scale: Perhaps the biggest single diseconomy of scale in wind projects arises from transmission costs associated with large projects. Small wind projects can use the power generated to meet on-site loads or can offset retail purchases via net metering. Large wind projects almost always exceed on-site needs and net metering limits - only eight states allow net metering over 100kW. Moving power to distant customers often means constructing new high voltage transmission lines. Because many projects are located in rural areas with little local demand, concentrated wind projects will often require substantial upgrades to the existing transmission system to get the power to market."

[Ed's note: This report offers an interesting perspective of whether large scale renewable energy projects are more or less economical than small scale community based projects.]

Full article here:

<http://www.newrules.org/de/ruralpower.html>

17) FARE Calling for Feed-in Tariffs

"Tradable credits are the renewable equivalent of the Alaskan bridge to nowhere says a recent filing made with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). The Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy (FARE) filed comments with the Public PSC on August 26, 2008 suggesting that the state move towards a system of feed-in tariffs rather than going down its present path.

"The Alliance is a coalition of leading Florida solar companies and the Alliance for Renewable Energy, a group formed to promote Renewable Energy Payments (feed-in tariffs)

in North America."

[Ed's note: This article introduces the concept of feed-in tariffs, or what is called in North America, Renewable Energy Payments. Feed-in tariffs are the program that caused Germany to become a dominate country in renewable energy.]

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/429apv>

18) RELIANCE ON RUSSIAN GAS THREATENS GB'S SECURITY

"The country has been left vulnerable to "political blackmail", while "the health and security of the British economy is dependent on factors over which Britain has comparatively little influence," according to the Chatham House think-tank.

'Households should expect "significantly higher bills" as a thirty-year era of energy self-sufficiency rapidly draws to a close due to diminishing North Sea Oil reserves, it says."

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/4whc5b>

19) NEXT PRESIDENT MUST LEAVE SCIENCE TO THE SCIENTISTS

"As the November election grows ever closer, both candidates are undoubtedly on the receiving end of no end of unsolicited advice. As they have for the previous three elections, the National Academies of Science has weighed in with a single document that provides advice on handling science and technology issues, containing advice it deems equally valuable to both parties. The report, which has been made available online, suggests that the candidates focus on getting qualified science advisors in place quickly, and makes a series of recommendations to ensure that happens."

[Ed's note: Given they refuse to debate the topic (see website of the month 1a above) this seems like a logical step.]

Full article here:
<http://tinyurl.com/4qbx8x>

CLASSIFIEDS ###
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2006 Zap Xebra PK (eBay item #280268177292): This vehicle is located in Reno and is on the auction site eBay. Auction ends on 9/22/08 at 8:47 p.m. Here's the link if you want to read more about it or wish to bid: <http://tinyurl.com/3pwpza>
[Contributed by Neal Peters.]

Altrax AXE 4844 24-48vdc 400 amp programmable controller for series wound or permanent magnet motors. More info here <http://www.alltraxinc.com/Products_AXE.html> Brand new. \$350.00 obo. Call Bob 775 826-4514.

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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 very informative EAA publication, Current EVents.

Alternative Transportation Club, EAA officers are:

- Bob Tregilus - Co-chair / ATC web & eNews editor
- Chuck Swackhammer - Co-chair
- Peter Fletcher - Treasurer
- Secretary - vacant

SUBMISSIONS

Your article contributions and letters to the editor are welcome! Please submit original articles to Bob Tregilus: atc@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 although we can certainly link to them at another location. 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@electricnevada.org.

LEGAL

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This eNewletter was created using Openoffice on a computer running the GNU/Linux operating system. There are better alternatives in the computing world as well!

TO UNSUBSCRIBE

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

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