

NORTH BAY CHAPTER



Electric Auto Association
Promoting Electric Vehicles Since 1967

OCTOBER 2012 EDITION

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UPCOMING NBEAA MEETINGS

OCTOBER NBEAA Meeting

Saturday, October 13, 10 AM – Noon; the Blue Sky Center, 6791 Sebastopol Ave, Sebastopol

Upgrading to Lithium Batteries by Dave Malloy. Lithium batteries will significantly increase the range of an EV. Learn what issues need to be considered to have a successful upgrade.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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November 10th: Photovoltaics to supply energy for your EV and home by Jason Dunham of Solar Sonoma County

December 8th: Tesla Model S Show & Tell by Alan Soule

EV NEWS

Zipcar adds Honda Fit EVs to it fleet in San Francisco

Zipcar, an international carsharing company, has added several Honda Fit EVs to its fleet in San Francisco. The Fit EVs will be stationed at four locations which includes City Hall and three hotels in the City. The cost is \$8.00 per hour to rent. The Fit EV has a 20 kWh battery that gives it 82 miles of driving range, but because the majority of Zipcar trips are under 25 miles, in most cases range will not be an issue. Zipcar already has Chevy Volts in their fleet so they are a good source to use for trying out an EV or for getting around the City in a zero emissions vehicle.

UPDATE ON NEW CHARGING STATIONS IN THE NORTH BAY

The updated information about the new charging stations that are being installed in the County is:

(2) Level II (J1772) in parking lot in Sonoma behind Prevost Pottery at 142 E Napa St (Chargepoint)

New, operating charging stations:

(2) Level II (J1772) at the Sonoma County Airport in the passenger pick-up parking area (Chargepoint)

Not yet installed, but soon??:

(3) Level II (J1772) at the Cinema in Sebastopol (Chargepoint)

Note: The City of Santa Rosa charging stations are now pay stations and require a Chargepoint card.

EV NEWS (CONT.)

National Plug In Day was a Huge Success

On Sunday, September 23rd, the Electric Auto Association, Plug In America and the Sierra Club, sponsored the 2nd annual National Plug In Day. More than 25,000 people attended events in 65 cities. There were more than 1,500 electric vehicles on display, and more than 1,600 people took test-drives. And we got more than 135 media hits including the Press Democrat.

Locally, Mike Newell did a great job of organizing the NBEAA-hosted Plug In Day event in the parking lot at Coddington Mall. There was one Nissan Leaf, two Chevrolet Volts, one Toyota RAV4 and one Toyota plug-in Prius available for test drives. All of these were constantly out for test drives. We didn't keep an accurate count of how many test drives were given, but it was probably close to 80 or 100. The Nissan dealer said that he gave more test drives that day than he had in the last two weeks. Additionally, electric scooters and bicycles were available for test drives.

Along with the test drives, ten NBEAA members had their EVs on hand for a show & tell. There were Leafs, the original electric RAV4, Tesla Model S, Tesla Roadster, Ford Ranger EVs, John Palmerlee's Toyota truck conversion and Steve Ruppelt's Karman Ghia conversion. These members were answering questions from the EV curious all day.



CalCars is organizing EV test drives for prospective buyers:

This is a repeat of an article from last month, but I think that it is worth repeating and encouraging you to participate in this program based on the success of National Plug In Day.

Now that there are several factory EVs available to purchase or lease and there more and more charging stations are being installed, the key to the success of electric vehicles is getting people to buy them. CalCars, an EV advocacy group, is organizing a program called Driving Electric where people who are thinking about buying or leasing an EV can drive one that is owned by an EV advocate that is registered in the program. It is felt that prospective buyers would trust that endorsements of a regular person who has been driving an EV more than an advertisement or a salesman. You can get more information at this website: www.drivingelectric.org

Nissan Announces a Second Generation Battery for the LEAF.

Carlos Ghosn of Nissan announced “There is a second generation of battery coming (online) now...which is less costly than the previous one,” in a recent interview. “We are in a race in which you reduce the costs and adapt the price.” This should bring the purchase price of the LEAF closer to the equivalent ICE car.

New Idea for Extending the Range of an EV

A group of Germans is developing small range-extending battery trailers that could be towed behind electric cars, providing power to the vehicles on longer trips. When a user’s trailer started getting low on juice, they could just pull over at a roadside exchange station and swap it for one that was fully charged. Users would start by hitching an ebuggy to their car when leaving their home city. They would pick that trailer up at an exchange station, on their way out of town. Of course, the EV has to be set up for accepting the energy from the trailer.

