



# EEVC NEWSLETTER

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Peter Cleaveland, Editor

Club Address: P.O. Box 134, Valley Forge, PA 19481-0134

email: easternev@aol.com. Web site: www.eevc.info

President: Oliver Perry, 5 Old Stagecoach Turn

Shamong, NJ 08088, (609) 268-0944

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## 21st CENTURY AUTOMOTIVE CHALLENGE AWARDS PRESENTED

At Burlington County College (BCC) on June 12 EEVC president Oliver Perry presented the 21st Century Automotive Challenge NESEA George Bradford Teacher of the Year Award to physics professor Jack Braun and electronics professor Tom Houck, both from Burlington County College



EEVC president Oliver Perry presents the 21st Century Automotive Challenge NESEA George Bradford Teacher of the Year Award to physics professor Jack Braun (left) and electronics professor Tom Houck (center) both from Burlington County College, Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

(BCC), Mt Laurel, New Jersey. Jack Braun introduced an electric car club to the BCC students in the late nineties and has participated in the our de Sol competition with Cinnaminson High School, team New Jersey, and the Burlington County Electechs since 1999. Soon after Jack began the program Tom Houck joined him in participating in the American Tour de Sol with BCC students. In 2007 Tom supervised the evaluation process of the 21st

CAC student team presentations and personally won the gasoline division of the "Tour to the Shore." Both Jack and Tom have enabled BCC students to participate in electric vehicle projects and competition. They have both been instrumental in keeping the Burlington County Electech team

alive.

The George Bradford Teacher Award was established in 2000 by the NESEA Tour de Sol in honor of one of the great college teachers from Vermont who devoted many hours of service to making the American Tour de Sol a great student event.

Jack Braun and Tom Houck were selected as co-teachers of the year by the 2008 21st Century Automotive Challenge to receive this

distinguished award.

Receiving honors at the June EEVC meeting was Alan Arrison, shown below with the awards he won at the 2008 21st CAC competition. Alan was the grand champion of the electric vehicle competition.



(above): Alan Arrison displays his winning converted VW pickup Rabbit at the June meeting of the EEVC just outside of our meeting room at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Alan drove the vehicle from his home near Glassboro, New Jersey and safely returned, getting a small additional charge at the high school.

### READY FOR THE FESTIVAL?

The big alternate energy event in our area this year will be the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival, to be held in Kempton, PA (northwest of Kutztown and Allentown) the weekend of Sept 19-21. The program is filled with 73 talks about all subjects to do with alternate energy and sustainability plus a wide range of exhibits. Electric, hybrid and other alternate-energy vehicles on display (many of them from the EEVC) will include:

- The Olympian Ford Escort electric conversion done by Burlington County Technical Institute
- The Lorax Electric version of the Morgan 3-wheel roadster done by Methacton High School

- The Mars Electric historic PPL electric version of the Renault owned by Don Young
- Solar-electric personal transit vehicles from SolarTricycles.com
- Alan Arrison's VW Rabbit Pickup electric conversion
- A VW Vanagon electric conversion (before & after vehicles) done by Bucks County Renewables
- A Chevrolet S10 Natural Gas-Electric Hybrid conversion done by Paul Kydd
- A Ford Escort wagon pluggable hybrid electric with Nickel Metal Hydride batteries, hydrogen fueled generator done by Penn State
- A Honda Insight (70-122 mph, depending on how you drive it)
- An International Diesel-Electric Hybrid School Bus from Jennings Transportation, contractor for Nazareth School District
- A Toyota Camry hybrid
- A Toyota Highlander hybrid
- A Toyota Prius
- A VW Passat with a one tank vegetable oil system by Sam Yoder
- A Mercedes 300D with a one tank vegetable oil system by Sam Yoder
- A GM Equinox Fuel Cell Test Vehicle
- A Smart Car from Smart Center Devon
- A GE Electric Lawn Tractor owned by Don Young
- A New Holland biodiesel tractor
- The Solar Tractor solar-electric
- The Attack biodiesel hybrid from West Philadelphia High School

For more information on the event go to [www.paenergyfest.com/general.shtml](http://www.paenergyfest.com/general.shtml)

### LOOKING FOR ENERGY AND FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES By California Pete



The Folks in the Bay area continue their remarkable ways. On the alternate-energy front, there's a move afoot to put wind turbines on as many San Francisco rooftops as possible. The *International Herald Tribune* on September 4 reported that a company called Blue Green Pacific has

three turbines installed in the city; the problem at this point is these turbines have very little output, and their prices are still high. A clue to their possible coming popularity is revealed in the article's comment that they're a lot more visible than photovoltaic panels. If you want to be au courant (pun intended), after all, it helps to be seen.

### **Life in the trees ends**

For sheer nuttiness little can compare with the Berkeley tree sitters, who have been protesting the UC Berkeley plan to expand the university sports stadium in an area that, until a few days ago, was the site of a grove of trees. Two years ago a group of protesters opposed to cutting the trees decided to take up residence in them, at the same time filing a spate of lawsuits against the University. Every move by either side has been dutifully reported by the local media, but it has all finally come to an end. After losing their last court fight, and have seen all but one tree cut down, the protesters finally agreed to come down and surrender to the police.

### **Sanctuary**

Some years ago San Francisco declared itself a Sanctuary City, with a law prohibiting local authorities from cooperating in any way with federal immigration officials attempting to deport illegal aliens. The stated purpose was to allow illegal residents to report when they were the victims of crime without having to fear deportation for doing so. But, like so many well-intentioned schemes, it had some unintended consequences. It turns out that significant numbers of underage illegals from places like Honduras were being recruited by drug gangs to sell crack on the streets of the city. If caught, the kids were not turned over to the feds; instead, many of them were quietly put on planes (with a city escort) and flown back to Honduras with no charges filed. When this practice was finally made public the flights were stopped. But what to do with the drug-selling kids? The city decided to send a bunch of them to a nonsecure group home for wayward youth, from which — surprise! — many of them waled away.

When this was made public Mayor Newsom of the Mousse'd Hair declared that the

city would begin turning the kids over to the feds for deportation. Then on August 25, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "A San Francisco court set aside a drug-trafficking case Monday against a 14-year-old Honduran immigrant - a ruling that juvenile justice officials fear will undermine Mayor Gavin Newsom's new policy requiring that such offenders be held for possible deportation."

"Juvenile Court Commissioner Abby Abinanti concluded that the youth, identified only as Francisco G. because of his age, should be treated within the social welfare system, not as a criminal offender."

So now nobody seems to know what to do.

### **Recall effort**

The California budget impasse continues after 63 days, with no end in sight. The most recent development? The prison guards union has begun a move to recall governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, accusing him of lack of leadership on the issue. The union has clashed with the governor before, so this should not be a surprise, but one must remember that Arnold got into office following the recall of governor Gray Davis five years ago for — yep — lack of leadership.

We'll keep you posted.

### **NEWS UPDATE**

On September 2 AP reported that the Dutch firm Detroit Electric plans to introduce a line of inexpensive and powerful EVs, negotiating with the Malaysian firm Proton about producing the car in that country. The company's chief scientist, Frits van Breemen-Schneider, says that the car's motor, of his invention, is four to 12 times lighter than existing motors and has a much higher power-to-weight ratio, producing up to 5 kW per kg.

The intended price is 80,000 ringgit (\$24,000), and the battery is expected to have a life span of 200,000 km (125,000 mi).

Production plans are for about 30,000 vehicles worldwide within the first year, ramping up to 270,000 vehicles in the third year, according to AP. Expected range is 200 miles per charge.

### **Tata Motors planning EV?**

Tata Motors, the Indian company

attempting to build and market the world's lowest-priced car called the Nano, also plans an EV, according to a Reuters story dated September 3. The story reported that the company plans "an electric version of its Indica hatchback in Norway within a year, and will bring it to the local market at a later stage." The company claims a range of 175 km (110 miles) to 200 km, according to the article, but oddly there was no mention of it on the Tata Web site. On the other hand, the company has been facing sometimes-violent protests from farmers unwilling to give up their land to make room for building a plant to manufacture the Nano, so perhaps they have other things to think about.

### **Volt design freeze expected in mid-month**

On August 14 a Reuters story by Poornima Gupta and Soyoung Kim reported that General Motors had announced that it would finalize the design of the Chevy Volt by mid-September "and aims to have 50 prototypes with production-ready parts by the end of 2008."

The official launch date of 2010 has not changed, although with GM's current financial condition they'd better hope they'll be able to build — and sell — the planned 10,000 vehicles per year.

### **CNN discovers EV conversions**

Always up-to-the-minute, CNN reported on August 15 that increasing numbers of people are converting gasoline-powered vehicles to EVs. Since this was already going on when this publication was founded in 1980, it's nice to see CNN finally taking notice.

### **The Insight is coming back**



A September 5 AP story by Yuri Kageyama reported that Honda has decided

to revive the Insight Hybrid nameplate. Considered pioneering when it came out in 1996, the car was shunted aside by the wildly-successful Toyota Prius, and production stopped in 2006 with only 17,000 cars sold world-

wide.

Honda plans to show an Insight concept car at the Paris Motor Show in October.

### **Solar glut?**

An AP story by Richard Read, dated September 8, reports that production capacity for solar arrays has moved ahead of demand, at least in some areas, and that some companies are laying off workers. This is seen as a temporary situation, however, driven by the housing downturn, credit crunch, and expiration of some government rebate programs.

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **Pennsylvania Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival**

Sept. 19-21, Kempton, PA. For information go to [www.paenergyfest.com/general.shtml](http://www.paenergyfest.com/general.shtml)

### **Convergence 2008**

October 20-22, 2008, Detroit, MI. Go to [www.sae.org/events/convergence/](http://www.sae.org/events/convergence/) or call 626-744-5600.

### **Electric Drive Transportation Association Conference & Exposition**

Dec 2-4, Washington, DC. Go to <http://edta.orchidsuites.net/sites/conf2008/>

### **2009 SAE World Congress**

April 20-23, 2009, Detroit. For information go to [www.sae.org/congress](http://www.sae.org/congress).

### **Challenge Bibendum 2009**

April 26-29, Rio De Janeiro. For information go to [www.challengebibendum.com](http://www.challengebibendum.com).

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Meetings are held in Room 49, Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, 201 East Germantown Pike in Plymouth Meeting, PA, and begin at 7:00 p.m. As in previous years, there were no July or August meetings.

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11