



# EEVC NEWSLETTER

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## As The News Spins

I thought I would fulfill my obligation to serve as president of the EEVC by providing you paying members with a newsletter... now totally electronic.

I really do not want to take on the added responsibility of having to produce a newsletter on a regular schedule. So my new approach is more in keeping with our younger generation which chooses to do "whatever" on the spur of the moment, without committing to anything that will prevent them from chilling out with whoever, whenever. Neither do I want to spend a great deal of time proofreading whatever I happen to publish. If I get fired I will cheer, shouting, "Finally at last... I don't have to do this anymore!"

In reality, nothing has changed other than I get to put my biased thoughts into Pete's official Newsletter format. But, I hope to be totally objective and provide unbiased news from the Wall Street Journal, the only modern paper in the

world that sees things as they really are, not as not as some political parties wish

they were. So... let me begin.....

WSJ...Wed May 22nd, 2019 page A3

### **Ransomware Keeps Baltimore Locked Up**

According to the article 10,000 city government computers remain locked up after a disruptive cyberattack by hackers, several weeks ago demanding an undisclosed sum to unlock them.

This is Baltimore's second cyberattack in 15 months. Home sales and water bills have been temporarily halted. Formerly their 911 system and emergency dispatch were disrupted.

Ransomeware attacks are common in both the public and private sectors. Attackers are looking to exploit the vulnerable into “extortion for money” cases.

*Editor’s comment:* I have been suggesting for quite some time now that we have greater concerns than limiting CO2 from the atmosphere. Many of us old timers wonder what will happen to us when all that we depend upon for life, security, and happiness exists within the cloud? When the internet crashes, computers lock up, and the electrical grid goes down we exist in a fearsome place.

I have a next door neighbor, who like our enterprising and self sufficient electronics expert EEVC member Al Arrison, operates a ham radio station out of his home. These “Hams” exist to provide us with some sort of help when our current communication systems are knocked out. Amen for the “Hams!”

### **WSJ Wed. May 22nd, 2019 Heard on the Street page B16; “Wall Street is Rapidly Losing Faith in Tesla’s Story”**

After years as a market darling, Tesla’s share price has tumbled nearly 40% this year. “There is a lot more sizzle than steak to Tesla’s story. Its shares still sell for more than 30 times next year’s earnings estimate of \$6.47 a share, according to Fact-Set.”

“Ludicrous speed was fun while it lasted.”

“A short term rally is certainly within the realm of possibility. For instance, Tesla could win back some wavering fans by topping Wall Street forecasts for second-

quarter vehicle deliveries. Hitting that bar seems to be a tall order.”

### **A question for the Fact Finders**

Does increased mass production of electric cars and their batteries pose a serious threat to the environment?

#### **WSJ.. Wed May 22nd..2019 page A9**

“The U.S. last year imported about \$160 million in basic rare-earth materials, mostly from China, for use in catalysts and in glass and ceramic making. That figure doesn’t include micrometers, electronics, and other products made in China that incorporate those elements.”

“The 17 elements have high-tech uses: neodymium for permanent magnets in mobile phones, terbium in LED lights and dysprosium used to cool nuclear rods, for example.”

“Though the minerals are found in abundance in many parts of the world, processing them into useful materials is often **highly polluting**, sometimes releasing radioactivity.”

“More important than its mining of the elements (is) was the ability of its factories to turn the rare earth into useful intermediate materials, including metals and magnets, *via the damaging processes that **other countries shunned.***”

*editor’s question:* I understand that the lead acid battery industry presently is capable of re-cycling almost 100 % of our used batteries. This process is demonstrated in the Reading Area by Deka Battery Co..

How capable are we of safely preserving our environment from the harmful side effects resulting from the refining of huge amounts of rare earth metals, which will come if we replaced fossil fuel transportation with electric vehicles? A few horses in New York City didn't pollute much. But when the population exploded.. horse manure became a problem. If our ICE's are replaced with electric cars the use of rare earth metals will explode.. How much will it cost to refine rare earth without polluting?