

EEVC NEWSLETTER

Published by the Eastern Electric Vehicle Club

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

Copyright © 2009, Eastern Electric Vehicle Club, all rights reserved

Vol 29 No 7

JULY, 2009



Now affiliated with EAA

OIL COMPANIES GOING GREENER?

By Oliver Perry

*Maya-300
— An electric
car brought
to you in part
by ExxonMo-
bil*

Mike Manning gave me a call this morning and updated me on some interesting activities in the electric car world. He asked me to go to www.mayamobility.com and see a report of the

activities of a Canadian firm called Electrovaya that is building the highest density lithium-ion polymer batteries in the world. Mike claims that the automobile body that the company is using to test out its batteries and other electrical components is the same body from China that he used in making the electric car for BG here in Philadelphia. Mike indicated that the company is beating BG to the circus tent arena with a look alike electric



The Maya 300, being launched under a program called Altcar, a partnership between ExxonMobil, Electrovaya and the Maryland Science Center

car.

When Mike called me I just happened to be reading the *Wall Street Journal*. I informed him that I had just read an interesting advertisement in the lower right hand corner of the front page. Monday July 6, 09, "Introducing a pioneering all electric car demonstration

program using powerful lithium-ion batteries." "Get Plugged In" "ExxonMobil, Electrovaya, and the Maryland Science Center are bringing together an all electric car demonstration program to Baltimore Inner Harbor. These remarkable cars, powered by enhanced lithium-ion batteries utilizing ExxonMobil technology, can travel up to 60 or 120 miles on a single charge, depending on the battery option chosen. And these cars produce zero

vehicle emissions. For more information, go to ExxonMobil.com.”

Mike laughed and said that it was the same company and car. He hopes that the technology in it is theirs and not his. But one thing seems to be certain, BG did not have sole rights to the Chinese auto body, it is being used by the Canadian firm, and maybe others as well.

I checked out the web sites and found out that the Canadian company Electrovaya is working around the clock to develop the battery and supporting electronics that will bring electrics to the market. The company leader believes that the future is electric. The company does not wish to manufacture the full car. They have an operating prototype called the Maya-300 which Mike Manning says is the same body that he used in making the BG conversion. The vehicle uses ExxonMobil’s battery separator film produced in Nasu, Japan by an Exxon affiliate company called Tonen General, the second largest producer of lithium separator film in the world. Electrovaya is the developer and manufacturer of the ExxonMobil proprietary Lithium-Ion Super Polymer battery and the developer of advanced systems for all classes of zero emission electric vehicles (EFL). The super separator supposedly provides an increase in battery power, capacity, mechanical strength, and safety margins. Electrovaya is not interested in manufacturing the whole car but just the battery and electrical systems. They have agreements to work with the Indian car manufacturer Tata to help them launch a car called the Indica EV, which, if memory serves me correctly, will first become available to the public in Norway.

Meanwhile ExxonMobil has poured over \$1.5 billion in projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency and to reduce greenhouse gases. Part of this funding may have resulted in ExxonMobil sponsoring the all-electric car sharing and rental program, called AltCar, at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD. A dated article stated that the Science Center had five vehicle allocated, with five more to be delivered shortly. These cars will be rented to visitors to the Inner Harbor who can tour the Baltimore region and experience a true electric vehicle. In addition to the cars ExxonMobil has provided a state of the art

exhibit at the Science Center that includes hands-on activities for the children and a full scale model of a car that showcases present clean car technology.

Valero Oil Harnesses Wind to Power its oil-refinery

A few weeks ago (I forgot to date the article) I clipped out an article in the *Wall Street Journal* that stated that Valero Energy executives in Sunray, Texas, built a 33 windmill wind farm in the high planes to support their refinery and run it more economically, not to get into the wind energy business. The company hopes to lock in fluctuating electric power prices rather than relying on the grid to cut the \$1.4 million-a-month electricity bill at the 70 year old plant. The \$115 million dollar wind farm, which will be at full capacity in August, will pay for itself in ten years at current electricity prices. It hopes that this move will enable the company to produce its petroleum-based products more cleanly if Congress enacts legislation to curb greenhouse gases. According to the article the Alternative Energy Institute at West Texas A&M University, the cost of electricity from a typical wind farm in the area averages 4.5 cents per kilowatt-hour during the project’s lifetime. That includes the initial cost and the maintenance. The staff needed to maintain the windmills will be about three workers compared to the 450 to 1500 workers needed to operate the refinery itself.

Always getting in trouble with my questions, I end with the following one. How come New York State just experienced the coldest June since the early 50’

Hope you had a great 4th of July.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME DRAG RACING?

The Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington (EVA/DC) is sponsoring a three-in-one series of EEvents that will run from August 28 to 30 in Hagerstown, MD: the EVADC “East of the Mississippi” EAA Chapters Conference (EAA Chapters East), the National Electric Drag Racing Association’s 9th Annual “Power of DC” AutoCross and Drag Races, and the Launching of the X-

treme BugE on the “Fun Run in the Sun” across America. See web links: www.EVADC.org, www.PowerofDC.com, and www.FunRunintheSun.org for further more information and updates.

PITTSBURGH CLUB HOSTS EVENT

Jonathan Belak, president of the Three Rivers EVA, the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the EAA, writes to let us know about their “Driving America Green - Charity Festival and Car Show” - Friday, July 17, 2009 in Export, PA, which is being planned around the visit of a Tesla Roadster with the Renew America Roadtrip. A flyer for the event is available at www.threeriverseva.org/tesla-festival.pdf and at the club Web site, www.threeriverseva.org.

NEWS UPDATE

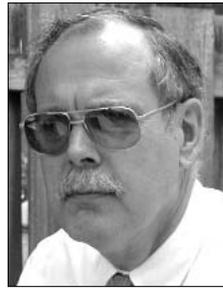
Nissan sets EV production for 2012

On June 23 AP reported an announcement by Nissan that it would unveil its new EV on August 2 in Japan, “and begin sales next year.” Sales are to begin in Japan, with the U.S. following after April, 2010; global mass production is planned for 2012. This will, says the story, include manufacturing in the company’s plant in Smyrna, TN, “with initial output capacity of more than 100,000 units per year.”

Ethanol from algae pilot plant set

Algenol Biofuels has announced plans to work with Dow Chemical, Georgia Tech, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Membrane Technology & Research, Inc. on a pilot-scale algae-based integrated biorefinery that will convert CO₂ to Ethanol. The company’s process yields not biodiesel but ethanol, and it does it without harvesting anything; the algae in the system lives for up to a year. Yields are pretty impressive: 6000 gallons per year per acre, compared to 400 for corn.

WHERE DO WE GET CABLE CARS? By California Pete



The city of San Francisco has a brand new cable car, but you couldn’t tell it from an old one — and that’s on purpose. On June 21 Cable Car 15 rolled out, hand-built over five years by nearly 30 employees of the Municipal Transportation Agency using century-



old plans. Cable cars are electric vehicles, after all; the power comes from four 510 hp

electric motors in the powerhouse, one for each cable. And despite the \$823,000 cost it’s a good value, since cable cars last the better part of a century. This is the 12th one done in the past 20 years.

Tesla gets Federal \$\$

General Motors and Chrysler aren’t the only car companies getting federal money. San Carlos-based Tesla Motors has received approval for about \$465 million in low-interest loans from the Department of Energy.

Tesla will use \$365 million for production engineering and assembly of the Model S family sedan, which has an anticipated base price of \$49,900 after a \$7500 US federal tax credit. The company will use \$100 million for a powertrain manufacturing plant to supply all-electric powertrains to other automakers.

Is this the end of NUMMI?

General Motors has announced that it is pulling out of its long-running joint venture with Toyota. After being unable to reach an agreement with Toyota about product plans, says AP, GM is ending its involvement with New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI), which has been building both Toyotas and GM cars on the same assembly lines in Fremont for 25 years.

GM went into the venture with an eye towards learning about the famous Toyota method of manufacturing. An interesting side-

light is that, at the beginning, half the cars that went down the line were given GM nameplates and half Toyota. The Toyota-branded cars sold, while the GM ones did not — even though they were essentially identical.

COMING EVENTS

Driving America Green charity festival & car show

July 17, Export, PA. For information go to www.threeriverseva.org/tesla-festival.pdf.

Plug-In 2009

August 10-13, Long Beach, CA. For info go to www.plugin2009.com/

One Gallon Challenge

August 19-20, Greenfield, MA. For information go to www.moonbeamplans.com.

Power of DC drag race, EVADC “East of the Mississippi” Chapters Conference and Launching of the Xtreme BugE “Fun Run in the Sun”

August 28-30, Hagerstown, MD. For information go to www.EVADC.org, www.PowerofDC.com, and www.FunRunintheSun.org.

Fifth IEEE Vehicle Power and Propulsion Conference

September 7-11, Dearborn, MI. For information go to www.vppc09.org/

Energy Conversion Congress and Expo

September 20-24, 2009. San Jose, CA. Go to www.ece2009.org/

AltWheels Fleet Day 2009

October 5, Framingham, MA. For information contact Alison Sander, 617-868-1582 or go to www.altwheels.org

eCarTech 2009 1st International Fair for Electric Mobility

October 13-15, Munich. For info go to www.ecartec.eu/index.html

The Business of Plugging In

October 19-21, Detroit. For info go to www.pev2009.com or or contact Center for Automotive Research, 734-662-1287, CAR_EVENTS@cargroup.org

Battery Power 2009

October 20-21, Denver, CO. For information go to www.batterypoweronline.com/bppt-conf09/bp09_index.php

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 will be no July or August meetings.

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

*** FOR SALE ***



Pedalpower Electroped 100 two-piece 12 volt electric assist bicycle \$50.00

Pedalpower Electroped 150 two-piece 24 volt electric assist bicycle \$50.00

Pedalpower Electroped conversion, 12 volts \$35.00



Surplus aircraft generators & regulators
 30 volt 300 amp \$100.00
 30 volt 400 amp \$100.00

Contact Edward F. Kreibick, 215-396-8341, ekreibick@verizon.net