

NORTH BAY CHAPTER



Electric Auto Association
Promoting Electric Vehicles Since 1967

JULY 2012 EDITION

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UPCOMING NBEAA MEETINGS

July NBEAA Meeting

Saturday, July 14, 10 AM – Noon; the Blue Sky Center, 6791 Sebastopol Ave, Sebastopol
PG&E rate structures. Andrew Au of PG&E will explain the rate structures and how to best determine what rate structure is best for you. He will include a discussion about the new EV rate structure as well as how residential solar arrays can affect your rates.

August NBEAA Meeting

Saturday, August 11, 10 AM – Noon; the Blue Sky Center, 6791 Sebastopol Ave, Sebastopol
NBEAA member Mike Newell will discuss driving a Leaf after driving his for more than a year. Mike will talk about what he has learned during the last year and will have a horn upgrade after his talk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 8th: eBMW Show & Tell; 10 AM – noon; Blue Sky Center

October 13th: Tesla Mo. S or Ford eFocus: 10 AM – noon; location TBD

Topics for November and December meetings could be Battery Management, Chris Jones' Mustang upgrades and/or either the Tesla Mo. S or Ford eFocus

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

Bay Leaf Meeting

The next Bay Leaf meeting will be on Sunday August 5th at the Luscious Garage, 475 9th Street in San Francisco.

"Holstein 100" Show & Tell

On Saturday, August 18, at Petaluma Junior High School (700 Bantam Way Petaluma) some 800 people will ride and walk in the charity event, Holstein 100 benefiting West Marin Senior Services. There will be organic food and other educational displays. It is likely that the participants would be interested in learning about EVs. Please let me know if you can show your EV.

National Plug In Day

National Plug In Day has been set for Sunday, September 23, 2012. The NBEAA will have a Show & Tell. Mike Newell will be organizing the event, here in the North Bay. This will be a big national event and we want to make a big showing, here in the North Bay. Mike will be sending out information about how you can volunteer and participate. Please mark September 23rd in your calendar for National Plug In Day. I believe that this is the best way to inform the public about EVs.

EV NEWS

PG & E Response to EV Rate Revision Protests

On June 5th, PG&E responded to the protests that were submitted in regards to their proposed new EV rate schedule (see attachment to the June NBEAA Newsletter). The response is attached to the email with this newsletter. I quickly read it and noticed that they are justifying the rate increase on the relative cost of gasoline for ICE vehicles. I could not find an avenue to submit additional protests. If anyone can find a way to submit an additional protest, please let me know and I will pass it along to everyone.

Report on Route 66 Roadtrip

Two days ago, I returned from my Route 66 roadtrip in the Tesla. A friend and I drove Interstate 80 from Sebastopol to Dyersville, Iowa, the hometown of the Field of Dreams and another friend who would do the Route 66 trip with me. We headed into Chicago and picked up Route 66 at Adams and Michigan, the very beginning of Route 66. We followed the 1942-1977 Route because it seemed to be the most travelled. While there are dozens of non-EV stories, the bottom line is that it isn't difficult to travel long distances in an EV with 200 mile range thanks to RV Parks. The friend that I travelled with insisted that we not make reservations so we figured out where to stop, as we drove, using a list of RV parks and the KOA directory (before leaving, I made sure that there were enough RV parks for charging). Every RV park that we stopped at had 240 volt/50 amp outlets so as long as you have a NEMA 14-50 adapter, you can get a 9 kw charge. Of the 30+ RV parks where we stopped, only one knew how handle charging an EV for a charge. We paid anywhere from \$2 to \$25 for a midday charge. The nice thing about RV parks is that they have restrooms, showers, laundries and wifi so you always have something to do while charging. I only had range anxiety in one leg of the trip and that was between Needles and Barstow. The distance is about 160 miles on Route 66 but we had a stiff head wind and there were two 3,500 foot summits to climb and because it was 105 degrees, we had the air

conditioner on. I didn't plan for the two summits so we arrived in Barstow with about 10% charge. We had only one problem and that was in Salt Lake City, heading east. My "mobile connector" or portable charging cord that has a switch in it, stopped functioning. After receiving a non-functioning replacement from Tesla, the second replacement worked fine the rest of the trip. The car worked flawlessly for the entire trip. Considering it was fully loaded (even had a luggage rack) and 18 out of the 19 driving days it was 100 or more degrees, I was very pleased. With these temperatures, the air conditioner, which cools the batteries as well as the cabin, was running pretty much 24 hours a day. I can't wait until the roads are lined with fast chargers so it is easy to travel in your EV. I, highly recommend travelling Route 66 in any kind of vehicle because of all of the sights, views and restaurants along the way.

LOCAL EV ISSUES

Free Coulomb Charging Stations

Coulomb is accepting applications from qualified EV drivers in additional CPA (ChargePoint America) regions including Boston, NY/NJ and Southern Michigan (Including Detroit).

Check your eligibility at <http://chargepointamerica.com/search-zip-code.php>

p.s. Our first stop heading east on the Route 66 trip was at the Coulomb facility in Auburn to get a charge before going over the Sierras and they couldn't have been nicer. I met Will Barrett who said that they could help arrange getting a grant for a charging station.