NORTH BAY CHAPTER

Electric Auto Association
Promoting Electric Vehicles Since 1967

SEPTEMBER 2012 EDITION

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UPCOMING NBEAA MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER NBEAA Meeting

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

BMW ActiveE Show & Tell by Margaret Bradley Foley. The ActiveE has been getting great reviews. Margaret will discuss her firsthand experiences driving BMW's first EV prototype available for public testing.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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October 13th: Dave Malloy discusses **Upgrading to Lithium Batteries**

November 10th: Alan Soule will do a **Tesla Model S Show & Tell**

December 8th: Using Photovoltaics to supply energy for your EV and home

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

UPDATE ON NEW CHARGING STATIONS IN THE NORTH BAY

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

(3) Level II (J1772) at the Cotati City Hall (Chargepoint-free)

(2) Level II (J1772) at the East 5th Street parking lot in Sonoma (Chargepoint)

TO BE INSTALLED WITHIN 3 WEEKS:

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

(2) Level II (J1772) at the Sonoma County Airport (Chargepoint)

Correction: The (1) Level II (J1772) at the Yosemite Village Store in Yosemite (Clipper Creek, not networked-free). It is not in Curry Village.

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

EV NEWS

CalCars is organizing EV test drives for prospective buyers:

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

City Car Share is increasing the number of EVs in its fleet:

City Car Share is a nonprofit that rents cars out by the minute. When you join, for as little as $10 per month or $50 per year, you can rent a car for as little as $5 per hour or $48 per day. Upon becoming a member, you receive a key fob that unlocks the car that you will be using. They have a goal of having 30 EVs in their fleet by the end of the year. There are over 100 City Car Share lots in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley so the service won't help people in the North Bay, but it is a good way for someone to easily drive an EV to see what they are like. You can get more info at www.citycarshare.org

Nissan makes Vehicle-To-Home Power available in Japan:

Nissan has taken the first step in allowing EVs to supply power for the home and, eventually, power in peak demand periods for the grid. It is called the Vehicle to Home EV Power Station. The device in wired into the home's electrical system and is only 2 feet wide x 1 foot deep x 2 foot 6 inches high. It can power the home from the LEAF's battery and can charge the LEAF in 4 hours, about twice as fast as through the standard LEAF charging system. With this system, the LEAF can be used as an emergency power source when the grid power is down. It can also be used to sell power back to the grid by charging at off-peak periods and supplying energy to the grid during peak periods that will not be required driving that day.

EV NEWS (cont.)

REPORT ON CHARGED 2012 MEETING

On August 23rd and 24th, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group held a meeting at SAP in Palo Alto about the current and future status of EVs. About 100 people attended from all walks of EV life, including charging suppliers, EV manufacturers, utilities and companies that are providing services for EVs. Now that there are over 30,000 EVs on the road, several studies have been done about the driving habits of EV drivers and many of the sessions dealt with the future of EVs and EV related services based on the findings of these studies. Some of the interesting information is:

- There are 39,000 EVs on the road in the U.S., now.
- EVs and the electric grid are going to be integrated to facilitate charging and utilize excess battery energy to offset the peak demand of the grid.
- NEMA is working on developing a system to integrate all networked charging so drivers can go to one website to get charging information networked chargers
- Some progressive OEMs are considering having the driver's smart phone provide the non-operation information to a screen in the dashboard rather than having built-in sources of information.
- The California PUC says that regulations are in place for EVs to supply energy to the grid, however, the CPUC also said that, currently, it is not allowable to charge stationary batteries (not in an EV) in the off peak periods and send the power to the grid during peak periods. Also, PG&E says that they are not ready to take energy from EVs.
- If all cars in the U.S. were EVs, the existing capacity of the grid could charge 73% of all cars
- Smart parking is getting established. This involves installing a sensor in each parking space and having the sensor connected to a central system that people can access via the web to determine where the available parking spaces are.
- Wireless charging has been demonstrated at up to 75 kW and 98% efficiency. There are safety issues that need to be solved before deployment.
- Networked charging will facilitate charging at workplaces and multi-unit-dwellings (MUDs)
- The CPUC no longer prohibits charging per kWh for charging an EV.
- Governor Brown is setting up a public/private partnership to promote adoption of EVs
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has a program to install 260 Level 2 chargers and 56 fast chargers. Some of those Level 2 chargers are going in Healdsburg and Cloverdale.
- The BAAQMD is considering making a regulation that MUD owners provide power to chargers that their tenants would install.
- A speaker from IBM battery research warned against charging Li-ion batteries over 90% because it would lead to decreased battery life.
- Sonoma County (Dave Head), along with San Francisco, won the award for the most EV friendly communities in the Bay Area
- Nissan has committed to installing 500 fast chargers in the U.S. in the next 2 years. They have installed 1,300 in Japan and find that LEAF sales increased as more fast chargers were installed. Nissan is going to retain the CHAdeMO standard for fast charging whether or not the U.S. and Europe adopt another standard. Thus, there could be three different types of connectors for fast charging: 1) CHAdeMO; 2) US/European combination; 3) Tesla Supercharging
- The average trip length (from when you start the car to when you shut it off) in a LEAF is 7 miles.
- Nissan has found that LEAFs can be fast charged as many times as the driver would like without degrading the batteries. However, remember to not charge it over 90%.
- Volt drivers charge an average of 1.5 times per day; LEAF drivers charge 1.1 times per day?!
- Although virtually every major auto manufacturer (OEM) is planning to produce an EV, some are doing it just to meet a requirement for EVs and are planning to make only 1,000-1,500.