

THE POWER OUTLET

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER of the SEATTLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

"Education, demonstration, proliferation"

Since 1980



Seattle Electric Vehicle Association

SeattleEVA.org



The Power Outlet is a monthly update about electric vehicle activities in Seattle and around the State of Washington

*The Seattle Electric Vehicle Association (SEVA) is a non-profit organization of volunteers serving the Puget Sound region in Washington State since 1979. SEVA's mission is to **educate, demonstrate and proliferate the adoption of electric vehicles**. Monthly meetings are free and open to anyone interested in electric vehicles, and paid memberships are encouraged.*

SEVA has a [Facebook](#) page, too! Please like and follow us for up-to-the-minute updates.

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NEWS

EVs still have the lowest total cost of ownership

Following the cancellation of the federal tax credit for EV purchases, Plug-In America did a new 10-year total cost of ownership comparison between EVs and internal combustion engine (ICE) cars. The study found that EVs still are less expensive to own and operate over 10 years than their gasoline counterparts, thanks to state and local incentives, lower maintenance costs and lower fuel costs. Read more about the methodology [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT



Solar electric boats of the future are built in the Northwest

With technology proven in long-distance trips to Alaska and back, a partnership of boatbuilders is producing all-electric solar-powered boats here in the Northwest. The Solar Sal 24 is available now, and the new super-efficient Townsend 34 is under construction in Port Townsend.

Partners Alex Borton, Jacob Lampe and Brendan Davis shared their solar-electric boat concepts with SEVA members at the October meeting. They said aim to compete with diesel cabin cruisers thanks to the cost savings of no fueling or oil changes.

The first boat they built in the Northwest, the Wayward Sun - was sailed to Alaska and back without plugging in to charge up even once. The boat utilized a 1,700-watt solar array on the roof and 21,000wh of battery capacity. It traveled at 5 knots using 1,300w.

During the Alaska trip, Alex said, it was mostly cloudy throughout the six-week trip. But solar cells still do produce energy without direct sunlight. They traveled at a slower pace and never needed to plug in. "The cool thing about electric is it is quiet," Alex said, "so when we were in Glacier Bay, we could hear the humpback whales."

Alex started Solar Sal Boats with his parents in 2005 on lakes in upstate New York. Their first boat was a 20-foot canoe with a roof and solar panels. In 2018, they built Solaris, the first-ever Coast Guard certified all-solar electric boat.

Based on the performance of the Wayward Sun, they have added a number of advancements to the new Townsend 34. It has 3,800w of solar on the roof and sleeps seven in a cabin with a 10-foot beam. They are aiming to make it lightweight and faster using basalt fiber, which is even stronger than fiberglass, Alex said.

Jacob and his company, Evergreen Marine, are working on the technical specs for the Townsend 34, which will use custom-made carbon fiber semi-rigid solar panels from Open Water Solar that are 24 percent efficient. The goal is to have the most efficient watts-to-displacement ratio, he said. Solid state nickel manganese cobalt marine batteries will provide energy storage because of the higher energy density and non-combustible solid electrolyte. He pointed out that the battery array will not need any temperature management system because the location low in the boat will remain naturally cool from the surrounding water, and the motors do not draw enough power to heat up the batteries. The Ocean Volt electric 48v dual-motor set up will use a liquid keel cooling heat exchange.

Jacob estimated that the boat will get about 200 miles of range running at 6 knots without sun, or 300 miles with sun. An inverter will provide onboard AC power for appliances, and can also plug into 30-amp shore power. Power use monitoring will all be on one screen. A gyro stabilizer will help keep the boat flat in rough seas.

In the future, Alex envisions boats moored in marinas producing solar power every day and providing vehicle-to-grid two-way power utilizing a smart inverter at the marina. Thanks to net metering, the boat could become carbon neutral and make up for all of its construction carbon footprint in less than 20 years, he estimated.

For more information, visit [Solarsal.solar](https://solarsal.solar)



Northwest solar electric boat builders, from left, Alex Borton, Jacob Lampe and Brendan Davis.

Photo by Grace Reamer

EVENTS

National Drive Electric Month –Presented by Plug-In America. SEVA members participated in several public events between Sept. 12 and Oct. 12 celebrating the transition to electric driving.



Everett Community College hosted a National Drive Electric Month event on Oct. 10. The exhibit showed off 12 EVs, including a Zero motorcycle and a Tesla Model Y Juniper that drove up from Oregon. The attention-getter of the show was the Charger Daytona Stage2 EV (right). Its very loud and realistic deep fake V8 engine sounds can be adjusted by the driver. This electric muscle car looks and sounds the part and runs mid-11s in the quarter mile, all while weighing more than 5,000 pounds. *Photos by Stephen Johnsen*



FEATURED EV of the MONTH



If you can't buy the electric boat you want, just build one!

Tim Economu of Whidbey Island has been dedicated to EVs and solar for many years, but when he wanted an electric boat, he decided to build his own. It took about six months to put together this 12-foot dingy, which has a beam of 5-10. The materials cost about \$3,000. It uses a 2,200-watt motor and 14 lithium iron phosphate cells (below). He can motor at about 5.5mph for about 5-6 hours, or 8 hours at 4mph. It charges up overnight using a 110v connection. But just in case, it also has oars. Tim uses the skiff for crabbing, fishing and boating with his grandkids (and he towed it electrically to the SEVA meeting with his Tesla Model Y).



Photos by Grace Reamer

CHARGING NEWS

PSE offers Flex rewards program for EV charging

If Puget Sound Energy is your electrical provider, you can take advantage of the new Flex rewards program that pays you to reduce energy use during high-demand flex events. Most EV brands and a few charging equipment brands are compatible with the PSE program that tracks energy savings

during flex events. EV owners get a \$50 reward for registering with the program, and they earn 50 cents for every kilowatt of energy they save during flex events, usually during extreme cold or hot weather when demand for heating and cooling goes up. During flex events, PSE automatically signals home charging to cut off for two to four hours. More information about the program is available [here](#).

CLUB NEWS

Tesla Owners of Washington will be hosting an Electrified Halloween frunk & treat event on Oct. 31 at Bubble Planet, 103 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. Car decorating starts at 3 p.m., and trick-or-treating runs from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Learn more [here](#). At right, TOWA President Theresa Ramsdell's cybertruck is outfitted for Halloween as a dumpster fire.



Plug-In North Central Washington had a great line-up of vehicles at its third annual National Drive Electric Month Event. Check out their latest newsletter [here](#).

Seattle Electric Vehicle Association meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at rotating locations. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **Nov. 11** (Veteran's Day) at a NEW location, Juicer Energy in Redmond at 17625 NE 65th St., Ste. 130. Gather to share cars at 6:30 p.m. Bring a chair. Open to everyone! Video recording of the October meeting is posted [here](#).

Please share your club news as well as your personal journey into the world of electric driving, along with photos. SEVA would like to spotlight profiles of EV pioneers in our newsletter. Please send your stories and photos to gvreamer@gmail.com

SUPPORT

Please support SEVA and its outreach and advocacy activities with a donation. Your financial donation will help us reach more policymakers, funders and drivers statewide to advocate electric mobility, and will support expansion of our online resources. SEVA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and any contribution you make is fully tax-deductible. Here are four ways you can help:

1. Make a one-time online donation through PayPal at [DONATE](#).
2. You also can make a direct contribution by check. The check should be made out to SEVA and mailed to our SEVA Treasurer at: P.O. Box 92, Renton, WA 98057-0092.
3. Register and contribute annual dues as a member of SEVA at [MEMBERSHIP](#).
4. Join us! Bring yourself, your EV and your enthusiasm for driving electric to our monthly meetings, events and car shows and share your knowledge and passion.

RESOURCES

SEVA aims to maintain a comprehensive list of the EV advocacy efforts ongoing in Washington, so we count on you to keep our lists and our website updated with the most current information. Following are the organizations and efforts we have compiled so far in Washington that have a presence online and on social media:

Websites:

- Drive Electric Washington – DriveElectricWA.org
- Seattle Electric Vehicle Association - SeattleEVA.org
- Plug-In America - PlugInAmerica.org
- Electric Auto Association - ElectricAuto.org
- Forth - ForthMobility.org
- Plugshare - Plugshare.com
- National Drive Electric Week - DriveElectricWeek.org
- Drive Electric Earth Day - DriveElectricEarthDay.org
- Plug In North Central Washington - PlugInNCW.com
- Coltura – Coltura.org
- Thurston Climate Action Team - ThurstonClimateAction.org
- Tesla Owners of Washington - TeslaOwnersWA.org

Social Media:

- [Northwest Tesla Owners](#)
- [Seattle Nissan Leaf Owners](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model 3 Owners](#)
- [Seattle Electric Vehicle Association](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model Y Owners](#)
- [Pierce County Electric Vehicle Information Exchange](#)
- [Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Tesla Club](#)
- [Inland NW Tesla Owners Group](#)
- [PNW Tesla](#)
- [Central Washington University EV Club](#)
- [Seattle Chevy Bolt/Bolt EUV Owners](#)
- [San Juan Islands Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Mid-Columbia Electric Vehicle Association](#)

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