

THE POWER OUTLET

MAY 2026 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 1980. 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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- **Club news** – Tesla Owners WA, Plug-In North Central Washington, SEVA's June meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **June 9** at the University Village West Parking Garage.
- **Support** – Four ways to support SEVA's efforts to transition to electric transportation
- **Resources** and links to Washington EV clubs, associations, charging networks and everything you need for the best electric driving experience and for the future of sustainable transportation.

NEWS



Gas prices encourage EV adoption

Continued rising gasoline prices are boosting interest in electric vehicles. California gas prices are ranging from \$7 to more than \$9 for diesel this month. Price comparison tools such as [this one](#) from Coltura help drivers determine how much they can save on the cost of fuel by switching to EVs. Older short-range EVs can pay for themselves quickly in gasoline savings because they are inexpensive. Coltura also has an online [car-finder tool](#) to search for new and used EVs available now in your area. Plug-In America's [EV Buyers guide](#) is a great place to find out about new EV models that are available now and compare their costs, range and performance.

FEATURE of the MONTH

Cobrajet 2200 races to records thanks to SEVA members

Thanks to EV technology advances, electric drag racing now has new records. Ford's custom, Seattle-built Mustang Cobrajet 2200 is now the fastest – and quickest – electric car in the quarter mile in the world.



On April 24, the car debuted at zMAX

Dragway in North Carolina and ran a record 6.76-second quarter-mile, with Pat McCue of MLe Racecars behind the wheel. The car also posted a top speed of 222 mph in another quarter-mile run, the fastest speed ever recorded for an electric vehicle in the quarter-mile.

SEVA President Stephen Johnsen worked on the build, a collaboration among Ford Racing, MLe Racecars and Phil Mandella Racing, and he shared details and photos of the record-setting project. Some of the specs for the Cobrajet 2200 include:

- Two Helix motors putting out 2200hp at the rear wheels
- Rear-wheel drive
- Battery pack of 900 volts with about 32kWh capacity
- Five-speed Liberty transmission



Stephen recalled that he was personally inspired by Roderick Wilde's Maniac Mazda, John Wayland's White Zombie conversion and Otmar Ebenhoech's CA Poppy Porsche conversions. This led to Stephen's own dual-motor Fiero and SEVA Treasurer Charlie Tsai's BMW Z3. Following those were Pat McCue's student-built, 800-volt, 8-second Shock and Awe race car, then the Current Technology Dragster, the eCOPO Camaro for Chevrolet in 2018, and the ever-faster electric Ford Mustangs - the Cobrajets 1400, the Cobrajets 1800 and the Super Cobrajets 1800.

For the first time, the 2200 Mustang was purpose-built ground up as electric, instead of converted, with a lot of impressive engineering from Ford Racing and PMR, Stephen said. The five-speed automatic transmission is lightweight and air-shifted and designed for drag racing. Titanium bolts and carbon fiber doors were used to reduce weight. Stephen and Charlie worked on installation of all the high voltage wiring. Pyrotechnic fuses allow the motors to safely draw max amps, and in the event of an overload, an explosive device in the pyrofuse instantly severs the electrical connection.

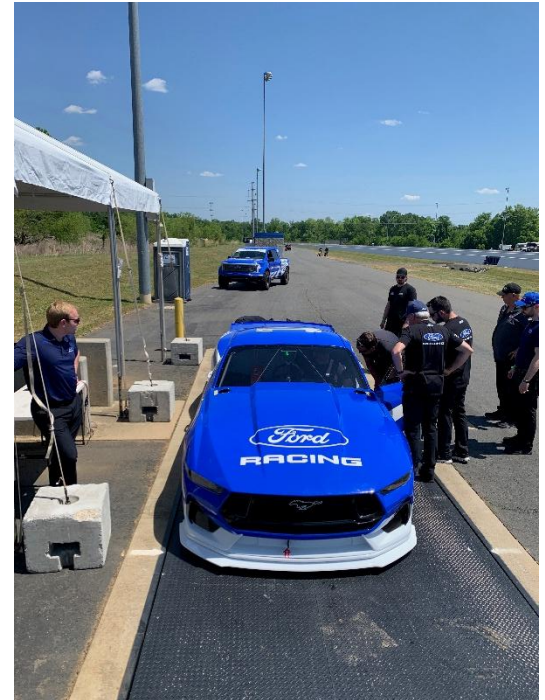
Early tests with the 2200 got speeds down below 7 seconds in the quarter mile. It uses about 3kWh to make one quarter-mile run. Because of its high speed capability, the 2200 uses two parachutes to slow the car after the quarter-mile run. The race trailer has three 11kW chargers for quick turnaround time between runs.

Also at the April race event was the Ford F100 Eliminator that SEVA members worked on converting. The vintage truck was used to haul the Cobrajets 2200 to the starting line. Ford also



showed off the F-150 Lightning that set records at the Pikes Peak race.

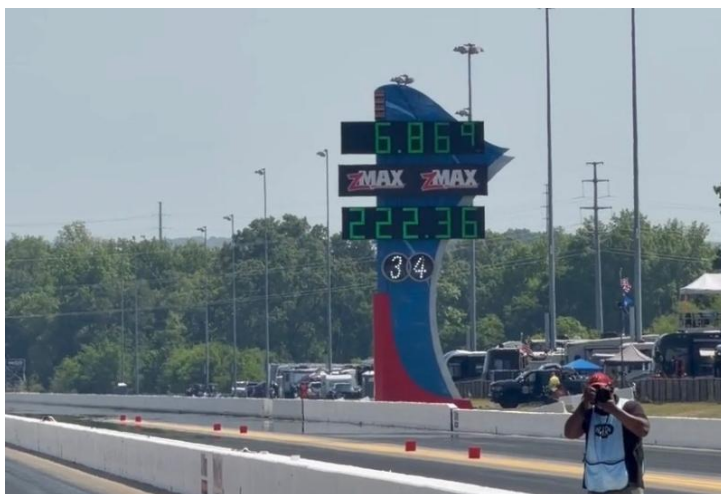
Stephen said he experienced drag racing fans who said negative things about EVs, until they witnessed the Cobrajets 2200 record-setting runs and said, "But that's really cool!"



Record-making and record-breaking

Ford's Mustang Cobrajet 2200 debuted on April 24 at the zMAX Dragway in North Carolina, where it set new EV 1/4-mile records. Above left: charging the 32kWh battery. Above: prepping for the next run. Left: the team that worked on building and racing the Cobrajet 2200. Below left: Top speed record. Below: cockpit of the racecar.

Photos by Stephen Johnsen.



SPOTLIGHT on CHINA

Chinese EVs boast new tech, but not available in U.S.

The news from overseas is full of new models and huge sales numbers for Chinese-built EVs. But most are not available at all in the United States. That's because U.S. tariffs on Chinese EVs have prevented them from being sold here, although some are now sold in Canada and Mexico, SEVA President Stephen Johnsen explained. He shared insights that his brother, Greg, recently brought back from a visit to Shenzhen in China.



He said that many inexpensive as well as luxury EV models are now available in China. He estimated at



least 85 percent of vehicles in Shenzhen are electric, including scooters. One SUV can raise itself to change

tires. Some models have a projection screen that drops from the roof in back seat, and headlights that can project movies up to 100 inches wide. Many models have lidar and some have cameras instead of side view mirrors.

In addition to cars, VTOL passenger drones are on display and may be for sale soon. EVSEs have their own stores where customers can design their own home charging stations with custom colors and features. Large parking lots are filled with Level 2 EVSEs. Electric robot street sweepers keep roadways clean in Shenzhen. Maglev trains and electric double decker buses transport passengers in Hong Kong.

Photos by Greg Johnsen



UPDATES



Revolve Motors service offers battery upgrades and motor repairs

Former SEVA President Jay Donnaway now is working as a tech in the service department at Revolve Motors in Renton. He has started offering Tesla large drive unit repairs, and he is looking at other options besides the coolant delete process. He's also working on a Leaf battery swap and focusing on Tesla Model 3 and Model Y suspension rebuilds. He gave SEVA members a tour of the shop during the May meeting. Revolve, previously known as Eco Auto Northwest, recently decided to go independent and cut ties with Eco Auto. Revolve is hosting a Community night at 6:30 p.m. on May 21 at 805 SW 10th St. in Renton.



EVENTS

Burien Father's Day Car Show – SEVA will get space to exhibit this year at the annual Burien Father's Day Car Show on Sunday, **June 21**. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the annual Strawberry Festival on SW 152nd St. and always draws a big crowd. To register for the event, send your name, email address, phone number and vehicle make, model and year to Grace Reamer at secretary@seattleeva.org.

Electric Vehicle Symposium – EVS 39, the 39th annual Electric Vehicle Symposium, comes to North America June 21-24, 2026 in Long Beach, California. <https://evs39.com/>

Greenwood Car Show – June 27 - save the date! SEVA once again will be exhibiting at the Greenwood Car Show, the biggest car show in the Northwest. The show is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the last Saturday in June on Greenwood Avenue. SEVA once again will be covering registration costs for members exhibiting, but donations toward the fees also are gratefully accepted. Once again, Charlie Tsai is coordinating the show for SEVA. To register, send your name, street address, email address, cell phone number, and the vehicle make and model and year to Charlie at treasurer@seattleeva.org.

Forth Roadmap 2026 – Save the dates! Forth in Portland will be bringing its national Roadmap conference to Seattle for the first time on Sept. 13-15. The annual conference brings together policymakers, engineers, utilities, advocates and industry leaders to tackle the biggest challenges in clean transportation. More than 130 speakers from across green transportation sectors will cover topics ranging from charging infrastructure and funding strategies to equitable deployment and emerging technologies. Forth aims to turn ideas into action and connect people who are shaping the future of transportation. Find more information and register [here](#). Volunteer opportunities now are available [here](#)! You can get a full-conference ticket for \$100 with a volunteer shift of four to five hours.

CLUB NEWS

Tesla Owners Washington is presenting several events this spring, Lunch & Libations on May 23 at Wild Fin in Vancouver. Find more information about events and joining TOWA [here](#).

Plug-In North Central Washington has photos and updates from its Drive Electric Earth Month events, the wildfire evacuation survey and more news from Central Washington in its digital [newsletter](#).

Seattle Electric Vehicle Association meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at rotating locations. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **June 9, 2026** at the University Village west parking garage, Level D. Gather to share cars at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend. Open to everyone!

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 secretary@seattleeva.org.



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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