

# THE POWER OUTLET

SEPTEMBER 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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- **News** – State's biggest EV dealer opens in Enumclaw; historic trolleys keep on rolling
- **Feature of the Month** – Autonomous Tesla Cybercabs testing on local roads
- **Cars of the Month** – Nissan LEAF generations; R2 and Emerald City Rivian Club
- **Events** – Cruisin' Kent car show; National Drive Electric Month events
- **Club news** – Tesla Owners of Washington activities; SEVA's October meeting is at 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, **Oct. 13** at the Ballard Marine Building, 1526 NW 46<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle. Bring a chair and a friend!
- **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.



## State's biggest EV dealer opens in Enumclaw

The Outpost EV dealership in Enumclaw celebrated with a grand opening on Sept. 5. SEVA President Stephen Johnsen visited and reported it apparently is the largest dealer of new and used EVs in Washington, with 110 all-electric vehicles in inventory in early September. They even have four Brightdrop vans available. Customers are able to compare features and costs of many production EVs, including vehicles from Rivian, Ford, Chevy, GMC, Polestar, Cadillac and Tesla. The dealership also is focusing on a no-pressure sales model, with non-commissioned sales people. No fast chargers are located in the area though, and a plan to add a charging station did not get a grant. But the location does have four new Level 2 stations and a car wash. It is located at 205 Roosevelt Ave. E in Enumclaw in the former Gamblin Motors building.

*Photos by Stephen Johnsen*



## Historic trolleys keep on rolling

The 1925 Issaquah Valley Trolley recently resumed operation after six years in storage, SEVA Secretary Grace Reamer reported. Manufactured in Philadelphia, the trolley hauled passengers for decades in Lisbon before returning to the United States. It was acquired by the Issaquah Historical Museums and operates on weekends from the 1889 train depot



through historic downtown Issaquah until the end of September. The trolley is still powered by the two original 600-volt DC motors, which get their juice from a generator car. Read the story [here](#).

SEVA President Stephen Johnsen added an update about the historic Yakima Valley Trolley, which is applying for grants and funding to restore the tracks and replace overhead wires on the five-mile interurban line. He is working on building a battery trailer to replace their generator car.

## FEATURE OF THE MONTH

### Autonomous Tesla Cybercabs testing on local roads

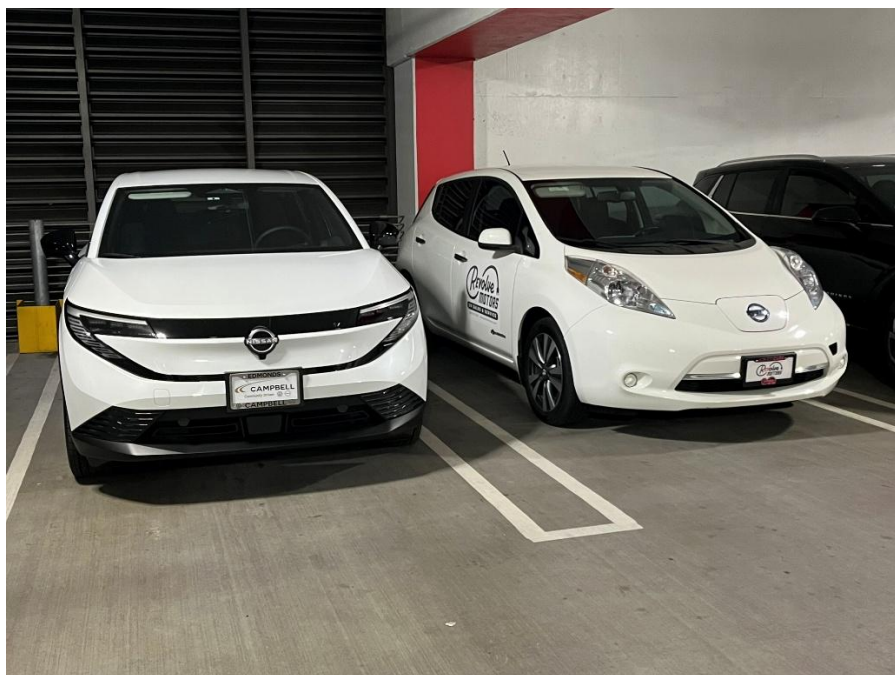
Billed by Tesla as the most efficient production car ever made, the autonomous Robotaxi “Cybercab” has been spotted testing with drivers on Seattle-area roads, and is booking rides in Texas. The car has no pedals and no steering wheel and no side view mirrors or rear window, which cuts down on weight and complexity, SEVA President Stephen Johnsen explained. The two butterfly doors open automatically as the rider approaches, and they give access to the two-seat interior. Wheels are covered with aerodynamic disks that reduce drag. All cars are the same gold color, but they have color-coded light bars that match the color that appears on the phone app used to order a ride. The vehicles also feature all-electric brakes and a large trunk space. Interior cameras provide security.

Tesla claims an efficiency of more than six miles per kWh and a drag coefficient of less than .2.



“Tesla challenged their engineers to make it as simple and cost-effective as possible,” Johnsen said. “The Cybercab has fully electric four-wheel disk brakes!” The design builds on the efficiency improvements pioneered by the GM EV1, with its revolutionary rear electric brakes and heat pump, he said. Other aerodynamic innovations were introduced by Volvo’s 3CC concept car with a teardrop shape, as well as the Honda Insight and Volkswagen XL1, he said. How the cars are charged with no driver to plug them in is still in question, but it is possible they could use inductive charging, or only do DC fast charging, Johnsen added.

## CARS OF THE MONTH



### Nissan LEAF generations

Over the years since it was first introduced in 2011, the Nissan LEAF has evolved through several generations of batteries and exterior designs. SEVA members demonstrated some of the progression with two newly acquired vehicles - Jay Donnaway’s 2017 model from Revolve Motors is on the right (the last model year with the bulging headlights), and Billy Kreuter’s new 2026 model from Campbell Nissan is on the left. Congratulations to both!

### Rivian R2 comes to the Northwest featuring Emerald City Club

Rivian’s new R2 vehicle is starting to show up in Washington. Karen Whitworth, vice president of the Emerald City Rivian Club, shared her story and was featured in Rivian’s national promotional materials. [R2 Owner Adventures: Karen | Rivian](#)



# EVENTS



**Cruisin' Kent** – SEVA members Jay and Ruby Donnaway won the distinction of Best EV at the annual Cruisin' Kent Car Show on Aug. 23. Also exhibiting and doing outreach at the show were SEVA President Stephen Johnsen, Mark Yormark, Brian Hughes, Chad Schwitters, Revolve Motors and others. The full variety of EVs on display at Kent Station included EVerYthing from a converted vintage 6-ton truck to an ultra-modern all-wheel drive electric Brightdrop recreational vehicle, plus a Tesla Model X and Cybertruck, a Lucid Air, a converted Scion XB and Jay's recent addition to his fleet, the bright yellow EV OTTO Karmann Ghia (above).

## **September is National Drive Electric Month - [National Drive Electric Month](#)**

- **Sept. 11**, electric transportation fair in Moscow, ID.
- **Sept. 19**, 10-3, Sustainability Fair in Milwaukee, OR.
- **Sept. 29**, fleet truck event in Portland, OR.
- **Oct. 4** - Plug-In North Central Washington hosts its fourth annual EV line-up 7:30-10 a.m. at the Pybus Public Market in Wenatchee.



## COMING SOON:

- [Sustainable Ballard](#) is on Saturday, **Sept. 26** at the Loyal Heights Community Center, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and they would like to have 3-4 electric vehicles there.
- **Oct. 4**, event at [Revolve Motors](#) in Renton.
- **Oct. 10**, EV Guest Drive with Puget Sound Energy at Dru Bru in Cle Elum will pay owners to share their cars. The event is looking for another participant with a Kia EV6, Chevrolet Bolt, Ford Mustang Mach E, Rivian R1S, Chevrolet Silverado/GMC Denali or BMW. Contact Chris Allen to sign up at [chris@electric-car-insider.com](mailto:chris@electric-car-insider.com). Learn more about the event [here](#).
- **Oct. 17**, [Tesla Owners Washington](#) fall foliage drive.

## CLUB NEWS

**Tesla Owners of Washington** invites owners to join a Fall Foliage Tour around the Olympic Peninsula on Oct. 17. More events are in the planning stages for this fall. Get more details and register at [Tesla Owners Washington - Event calendar](#).

**Seattle Electric Vehicle Association** meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at rotating locations. SEVA's October 2026 meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **Oct. 13** at the Ballard Marine Building, 1526 NW 46<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle. Bring a chair and a friend. Open to everyone! Thanks very much to Kent Bakke for hosting!

*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](mailto: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:

- Seattle Electric Vehicle Association - [SeattleEVA.org](http://SeattleEVA.org)
- Plug-In America - [PlugInAmerica.org](http://PlugInAmerica.org)
- Electric Vehicle Association - [Electric Vehicle Association \(EVA\)](http://Electric Vehicle Association (EVA))
- Forth - [ForthMobility.org](http://ForthMobility.org)
- Plugshare - [Plugshare.com](http://Plugshare.com)
- National Drive Electric Month - [National Drive Electric Month](http://National Drive Electric Month)
- Drive Electric Earth Month - [Drive Electric Earth Month](http://Drive Electric Earth Month)
- Plug In North Central Washington - [PlugInNCW.com](http://PlugInNCW.com)
- Coltura – [Coltura.org](http://Coltura.org)
- Thurston Climate Action Team - [ThurstonClimateAction.org](http://ThurstonClimateAction.org)
- Tesla Owners of Washington - [TeslaOwnersWA.org](http://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](#)
- [Emerald City Rivian Club](#)
- [Rivian Owners Eastside \(WA\)](#)
- [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](#)

Please share and distribute this newsletter widely within your EV networks and contacts. And please contribute your events, activities and stories, and SIGN UP to receive this free monthly newsletter by sending us an e-mail with your name, city, any affiliation and e-mail address to [secretary@seattleeva.org](mailto:secretary@seattleeva.org). You can unsubscribe at any time with an e-mail to the same address. Thank you for your support of sustainable electric transportation!