

THE POWER OUTLET

OCTOBER 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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- **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

Catalyst Mobility fuses the missions of West Coast EV advocates

Forth Mobility of Portland announced at its annual Roadmap Conference Sept. 13-15 in Seattle that it is merging with CALSTART of California to form Catalyst Mobility, focusing on clean transportation solutions. After 15 years leading Drive Oregon and its successor, Forth, Executive Director Jeff Allen said, "As



CATALYST
MOBILITY

Catalyst Mobility, we'll have greater capacity to advance the work we all care about and to support communities, industry, and governments in turning more good ideas into real-world progress. . . We can have more impact and move further and faster by joining forces with CALSTART." He said that Catalyst will continue the Roadmap Conference as "the cornerstone event where the clean transportation community comes together, where new ideas emerge and where lasting partnerships begin." The next Roadmap Conference will take place in Long Beach, CA, September 7-9, 2027. Read more about the merger of the two nonprofits [here](#).

State EV registrations reach new milestone level

Electric vehicle registrations reached a new milestone in July 2026, surpassing 300,000 vehicles statewide, Washington's Interagency Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council reported last month. At the average growth rate that Washington state has experienced since January 2025, an additional 11,000 vehicles may be added to the total by the end of this year. With an estimated fleet of 311,000 by the end of the year, the state would meet 79% of its revised electric vehicle population target, according to the Washington State Department of Commerce. King County accounts for more than 143,000 battery electric and plug-in electric registrations, or nearly 48 percent of the total.

EV wildfire evacuation survey deadline extended to Dec. 15

A University of Washington survey of emergency evacuation issues for battery electric vehicles has been extended until Dec. 15. UW researcher Yu-Chen Chu, who presented about her survey at a SEVA meeting last year, is looking for more respondents for her survey of EV user behavior, charging decisions, and routing dynamics during wildfire events. Seasonal or year-round residents of Asotin, Grant, Benton, Spokane, Stevens, Douglas, Lincoln, Ferry, Skamania, Yakima, Kittitas, Okanogan, Chelan, or Klickitat counties are eligible to be included in the research project. Those who complete the online survey will be entered in a drawing for gift cards. Access the survey [here](#). For more information, contact Yu-Chen at ychu24@uw.edu.

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Electric road-tripping, towing, camping, boating? This driver does it all

Matt Mortensen got hooked on electric vehicles with his Chevy Volt in 2012, and has taken his EV obsession to extremes – on-road, off-road and in the water. He founded [Revision Marine](#) of Port Townsend that converts yachts and other vessels to hybrid electric and builds battery electric recreational boats from the ground (or water?) up.



Matt Mortenson's vintage camper on his Ford Lightning truck is powered with marine grade solar panels and batteries.

“Ever since I was a kid, I wanted an electric vehicle, and an electric boat,” he told members of the SEVA at the October meeting. After starting with the Volt, he went full electric by getting a group together to get low-cost leases on Nissan LEAFs. Eventually, he moved on to a Tesla Model 3, a Rivian R1S and a Ford Lightning truck, and a life of outdoor adventures.

“I probably spend too much time online arguing with people who are anti-EV,” Matt said. To prove that EVs are not just short-range vehicles, he drove an early 60kW-battery Tesla Model S on a 5,000-mile road trip around the country. He outfitted his Lightning with an upgraded 1970s camper and drove down Highway 101 to Big Sur, using campgrounds for charging. The truck battery powers his infrared barbecue for camping. He even took the truck to run the famous Magruder Corridor, the country’s longest unpaved road, between Idaho and Montana, with a 12,000-foot elevation gain and 150 miles between charging.

Next, he set out to demonstrate that EVs can be used very effectively for towing. He loaded up a trailer behind his truck with spent marine batteries from his business to haul to recycling. Then, he installed a hot tub on the trailer and towed it, even custom-building a tight cover that keeps water from sloshing out of the tub on the road. The truck battery powers it and heats the water, using either 110v or 220v circuits. He also towed a boat with his camper on the truck to Vantage on one charge.

One time, “I had to tow one of my co-workers because he ran out of gas,” Matt said.



Matt Mortenson shared a sample of the lightweight basalt-based material he is using for his efficient solar-powered electric boats, produced by Revision Marine of Port Townsend. Photos by Grace Reamer

Matt's goal is charging independence on the road, so he added 2,800 watts of solar panels to his vintage camper. The flexible panels can unfurl like a canopy when the vehicle is parked. Along with the solar capability, he added 11.4kWh of battery storage using his solid-state marine batteries.

Solar and batteries also allow Revision Marine's electric boats to run without plugging in. The 25-percent-efficient fiberglass panels can be cut to any shape to fit curved boat surfaces, Matt said. The Townsend 21 kit boat is their newest model with 1300w of solar and a 60-mile range at 7 knots with no sun. He also is adding quiet electric motors to sailboats after repurposing the UQM motors from defunct EV maker Coda. Next, he said he is designing a 34-foot catamaran for production next year. Revision Marine will show its models at the Bell Harbor Marina boat show in February 2027.

Meanwhile, he aims to make boating more efficient, less expensive and more environmentally friendly with hybrid-electric conversions. Matt pointed out that running a diesel engine to charge your battery at anchor ends up costing about \$15.00 per kWh, but adding solar charges up the batteries for free.

EVENTS



Roadmap 2026

SEVA President Stephen Johnsen (left) and former SEVA President Jay Donnaway attended Forth Roadmap conference Sept. 13-15 in Seattle. They learned about the merger of Forth, based in Portland, with CALSTART in California and the new Catalyst name for the organization promoting electric transportation. They said they also heard debate among advocates from around the country about allowing Chinese EVs into United States.



Custom R1S celebrates arrival of smaller Rivian R2

Rivian recently started deliveries of the R2, and SEVA member Chad Schwitters got one of the first in the state. To celebrate the R2 arrival, Rivian hosted an event featuring a customized R1S that is being used for filming videos and commercials. The vehicle has a massive boom and camera gimbal mounted on the roof, as well as a drone in the frunk. SEVA President Stephen Johnsen attended the event and learned that tire companies like to film in Washington because of wet weather, compelling scenery and tax incentives. A video company wanted to replace their high-performance Porsche Cayenne with a quieter vehicle, so Rivian modified the R1S to handle high-tech equipment.



Photos by Stephen Johnsen



Guest drives in Cle Elum

On Oct. 10, SEVA members Stephen Johnsen, Paul Kahle and Chad Schwitters took their cars to Cle Elum for a ride-and-drive event. Puget Sound Energy brought a trailer with a charging exhibit, pulled by a Cybertruck.



EV1 reunion recognizes 30th anniversary of modern EVs

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the landmark EV1 program, GM hosted a reunion of engineering alumni at Kettering University in Flint, Mich., on Sept. 17. SEVA members Stephen Johnsen and Micah Peterson attended and got to meet EV1 program manager Bob Purcell (*below*), and Kettering University showed their EV1. Stephen delivered a donated, original EV1 nickel metal hydride battery to the team, but reported it was a tricky experience to get it onto the plane. He packed the 40-pound



battery in his carry-on bag, and he even brought a voltmeter to show the battery

was fully discharged. He said he got strip searched, and all his things were run through X-ray twice. He finally got approval to transport the battery from the fourth supervisor.

Chelsea Sexton and Billy Caruso (VIN212 team)



Micah said the VIN212 team that he has been assisting with restoration of the only privately owned EV1 was there making videos that should be on their Patreon site soon. Guests also brought photos and mementos to the university.

Photos by Stephen Johnsen





Green River College show

Green River College's EV tech program in Auburn hosted an all-EV show on Oct. 5. SEVA members brought a good mix of 15 vehicles, including conversions, and talked to

lots of students and faculty about electric driving. The day started out foggy before the sun arrived!

Photos by Stephen Johnsen



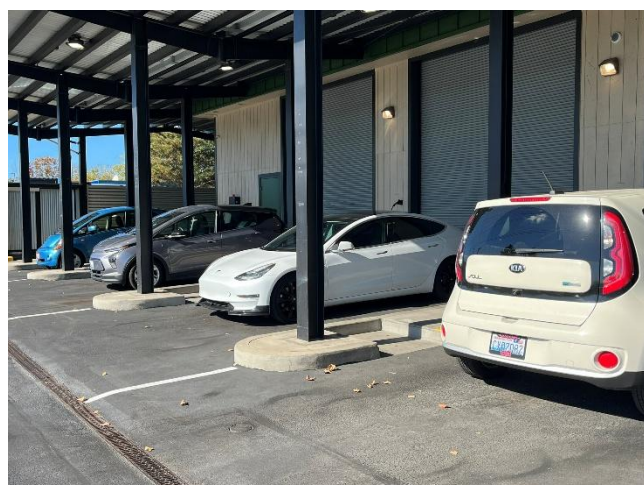
Renton Drives Electric

Revolve Motors in Renton hosted a two-day Renton Drives Electric event Oct. 10-11 for National Drive Electric Month. The event included a wide variety of vehicles on display and for test drives. Partners shared information about charging, insurance, batteries, solar, bikes and scooters. Tesla and Kia dealers and Puget Sound Energy all participated, in partnership with the City of Renton.

Kent Bakke's coffee set-up was powered partially by plugging into his Rivian R1T.



Photos by Grace Reamer and Rudy Ziemba



CLUB NEWS

Plug-In North Central Washington gathered 15 vehicles – including a brand new Chevy Bolt and a 2012 Tesla Model S with 153,000 miles on the odometer – for a Cars and Coffee National Drive Electric Month event on Oct. 4 in Wenatchee. Plug-In North Central Washington shares new charging station news, electric driving fuel cost comparisons and photos from their NDEM gathering in



Wenatchee in the October newsletter. Read more [here](#).



Tesla Owners of Washington heads to Vancouver, WA this month for an Electric Summon event including frunk & treat and costume contest at 4 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Tesla service center, and another frunk & treat plus cars & coffee event at 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Vancouver Mall. A number of other 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 November 2026 meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **Nov. 10** at the Ballard Marine Building, 1526 NW 46th St., Seattle. Bring a chair and a friend. Open to everyone! Thanks very much to Kent Bakke for hosting! **Subscribe** to the SEVA Google Groups email list by sending an email message to: SEVA_list+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

Please share your club news as well as your personal journey into the world of electric driving, along with photos. 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:

- Seattle Electric Vehicle Association - SeattleEVA.org
- Plug-In America - PlugInAmerica.org
- Electric Vehicle Association - [Electric Vehicle Association \(EVA\)](http://Electric Vehicle Association (EVA))
- Forth - ForthMobility.org
- Plugshare - Plugshare.com
- National Drive Electric Month - National Drive Electric Month
- Drive Electric Earth Month - Drive Electric Earth Month
- 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](#)
- [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](#)

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