EAA NEWS

Vol XIV No 7 Walter V. Laski, Editor July 1982

Electric 3-Wheelers are Coming!

Very few of us realize that the beginning of the automobile era 3-wheelers came in right at the start — Carl Benz built the very first Patent-Motorwagen having a single front wheel, back in 1886. The race in developing different variations of the 3-wheeler started then and it continued well into the 1930s. Every possible combination on engine and seat location between and around the three wheels has been tried and even today there is no finality with "one wheel in front, one behind" school as to which is best.

Of course that didn't stop the production of 3-wheelers in Europe - especially in Germany and France. England caught up with them in the '50s with a neat British Trike, the Bond Mini-car, which lasted until 1965. Other firms continued the building of the 3-wheelers and even in America - the land of big 4-wheelers - the 3-wheelers were tried now and then. Even today, the Trihawk 304, developed by Bob McKee, is being tested now. Evidently the idea is still alive - even DOE has been inundated with many ideas for 3-wheel electric commuter cars and requests for research funds for them, sensing that there must be something wrong with the idea, because not only Detroit did not build 3-wheel autos, Japan did not either. So in order to answer this question the DOE asked the NHTSA to look into it and they did, by letting out a contract for testing (8) 3-wheelers, (4) with single front wheel and (4) with single rear. The basic problem was the overturn resistance - it turned out that the test 3-wheelers had better resistance than the best 4-wheelers tested.

To top it all, State and Federal regulations seem to encourage 3-wheeler vehicles. They label them "motorcycles," allow reduced license fees and taxes, and require fewer safety features. However, all 3-wheelers mentioned above are or were ICE driven vehicles. No electrics were built and driven until lately when EVs were finally brought back by DOE and seriously considered for starting a new era in personal transportation. At the present time, however, very few efforts in building Electric 3-wheelers are being made so far. One maker has been testing the market acceptance for his 3-wheeler - the 3E VEHICLES of San Diego, California, and H-M Vehicles of Minneapolis, Minnesota, which are producing "Freeway Electric," a one-passenger 3-wheeler, licensed as a motorcycle, providing high performance with 600 pounds curbweight including batteries. The vehicle has an attractive, plastic body on a tubular steel frame with an 80 inch wheelbase; it is comfortable and costs $4,000. It is the ideal commuter car.

There are also several 3-wheel motorcycles on the market already, getting slowly popular. It appears that the acceptance of small electrics by the American motorist will take time since most of us do not know what an electric vehicle really is, and thus cannot evaluate what it really could do if EV development was left unfettered.

Electric Auto Association
1674 Merrill Drive No. 12
San Jose, CA 95124

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ORGANIZATION
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ELECTRIC CAR SUPPLIES, PARTS, ETC.

BALTIMORE ELECTRIC CAR & SUPPLY COMPANY has a full line of quality EV components at low prices. Introductory Special: 12V 95Ah Marine Batteries, List $106.95 - Sale $69.50. Call (301) 551-5400 or write to Baltimore Electric Car & Supply Co., 8236R Telegraph Road, Odenton, MD 21113.

Custom Motor Adapters and Couplings made to order. In stock 8Hp Baldor Motor with VW lightened Flywheel. Flight Systems EV Service Facility. Parts and Plans. Dal-Tech Energy Systems, 1606 Hickory Street, So. Milwaukee, WI 53172. Phone (414) 762-0907.

SES - Siskiyou Energy Systems offers the SES EV Control System as advertised in Electric Vehicle News (February '82 issue). This is an inexpensive and complete Control System which is ideal for the EV hobbyist. For details call Ric Barline (408) 356-0289.

Custom Motor-mount Adapters with motor shaft-to-wheel couplers for most cars and motors made to order. For description write or call Bill Palmer, 44 Dior Terrace, Los Altos, CA 94022 or phone (415) 948-7677.

ATTENTION: All Comuta-Car Owners!!! If you are having any problems with your Comuta-Car please CALL ME at once. Ken Gosling (805) 872-1796.

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FOR SALE

BRADLEY GT Electric
GE Motor & Controller
Make Offer - D.Gillis
(408) 225-5446

'80 Electra King - 3-Wheeler
Like New - Asking $5,500
S.Bowers (408) 358-1293

New Factory EV 600 Van
Stored in Sunnyvale - $10,900
Bob Wing - P.O. Box 277
Inverness, CA 94937

GE-EVI Motor & Controller
Lester Charger, 16-6V Batts.
Batt. Rack, Cables - $3,500
G.Concannon (415) 685-4370

Used GE-EVI Motor w/VW Adapter
SCR Controller - 96V Charger
Battery Cables - Make Offer
M.Persoff (305) 368-9455

FOR SALE

Datsun Pickup - 14 Batteries
500A Motor - Make Offer
C.Ellers (408) 296-8532

Aztec-7 on VW Chassis
98% Complete - $5,000
C.Ellers (408) 296-8532

600A Relays-#600 Airborn Cat.
$10/ea-Forklift 36V Motor-$50
J.Garbero (916) 456-8864

'69 Renault Sedan - Hybrid
Trojan Controls - $1,500
P.O.Box 5035,Salton City, CA

'71 Vega Hatchback with
2CM77 Motor/Adapter, Not
Completed - Asking $550
B.Davidson (408) 997-2499

FOR SALE

'74 VW Baja - Kaylor Kit
Clean - Asking $1,500
R.Barline (408) 356-0289

VW Bug w/Rebuilt G-29
with Cable & Accessories
Needs Batts.-Asking $750
D.Rivest (415) 388-0838

J & H G29 Generator
w/Drive Shaft - $200
M.Gunter (916) 448-2414

Unused J&H G32 $150 -
Adapter w/Bearing,Flywheel
Clutch for Sunbeam Imp-$125
R.Senechal (714) 830-0168

(6) New Sears Die-Hard
30 mos Warranty-$76 Retail
Only $49 each
Call (408) 266-8795

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ATTENTION: EVC NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

The EVC Newsletter, published monthly by the Electric Vehicle Council, has been subscribed by our members at a special rate of $10/year (regular rate is $30) but now the Electric Vehicle Council had to raise our rate to $20/year. This is the month to renew the subscription - so please start sending in those checks to EAA News Office, pronto.

We Have Lost a Champion.

For those of you not yet aware, we are grieved to announce that Keith Crock passed away from a heart attack on March 29, 1982. Keith had been a very active member of the EAA since 1975, when he performed his conversion of a Nash Metropolitan. A veteran of seven consecutive Annual EAA Rallies, his "Metro" was widely recognized as being "one of the best," having received several endurance awards as well as Most Beautiful Electric. Besides serving one term as President and one as Educational Vice President of the Santa Clara Chapter, Keith frequently spoke out for The Electric Vehicle cause to California Legislatures, Public Utility Commission, radio and television stations. Keith was always willing to "take time off from his daily Ford Aerospace job" to display his car to the public in order to further the cause of Electric Vehicles. Yes, Keith has gone from our presence now, but he will always remain in our hearts as we continue to build, drive and display our Electric Vehicles, working for the cause in which he believed so very much. Goodbye EV Champion. We ALL will miss you!!!

Bill Williams

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Phoenix Chapter - recently organized, elected the following officers: Greg Whitney for President, George Auer for Vice-President, and Ron Jackson for Secretary-Treasurer. Chapter meetings will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the First Federal Savings, Los Arcos Office, 7201 East McDowell Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. For information contact Ron Jackson at 1357 W. Escapa, Mesa, AZ 85201 or call 969-7258.

Southern Arizona Chapter - held its first meeting on June 5 and the members elected the following officers: George Balfe for President, Howard Shapiro for Vice-President, and George Hardin for Secretary-Treasurer. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tucson Library Dept. 4350 East 22nd Street. For information call Howard Shapiro at (602) 888-1107.

Seattle Chapter - members elected recently new chapter officers: Steven S. Lough for President and Carl Welsh for Vice-President. The chapter will hold the Second Annual Electric Vehicle Long Distance Rally on Sunday, August 1st, starting at 10:00 a.m. from North-North-Lake Way, across from Gas Works Park. Anyone owning an EV is invited to participate - it's free - and is lots of fun. For information call S. Lough (206) 325-2600. Through the help of the Chapter Vice-President, Carl Welsh, a Boeing employee, and the Boeing Automobile Club, the Company has set up a Pilot Program for their employees providing special stalls with power for charging electrics at a daily cost of 50¢. This is really an important advancement for EVs in the Northwest.

Sacramento Chapter - is planning a July Picnic and Mini-Rally on Sunday after the Fourth of July. For further information contact Weldon Martell (916) 726-1676.

Peninsula Chapter - has finally come up with a monthly Newsletter - The San Bruno Gazette. Congratulations Ivan Marts - you did it! Let's hope that your chapter members will help you to keep it up, and we will help too.

San Jose Chapter - will hold the July meeting on the 17th this time only. The August meeting will be as usual on the second Saturday. Those missing the meetings, please come over and help us - the Chapter is shrinking because too many San Jose residents would rather go to Santa Clara Chapter meetings, and thanks to those the San Jose Chapter will have to be soon dissolved.

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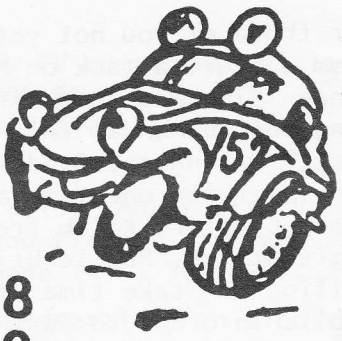
RALLY CHAIRMAN , Clarence Ellers (408) 296-8532 P. O. Box 2781 Santa Clara, Ca. 95055

EAA 1982 TENTH ANNUAL



Rally Saturday Sunday SEPTEMBER 18 19

SYMPOSIUM

REGISTRATION STARTS 7;30 A.M. FEE $ 5.00 INNSBRUCK & MOFFETT PARK, S.V.

START OF RALLY 9:30 A.M. to 12: LUNCH RE-START 1: P.M. 3:30

PARTICIPATION PLAQUES WITH REGISTRATION: AWARDS AND DRAWING AT BRUNCH

SPECTATORS WELCOME - COME FOR A RIDE

REWARD

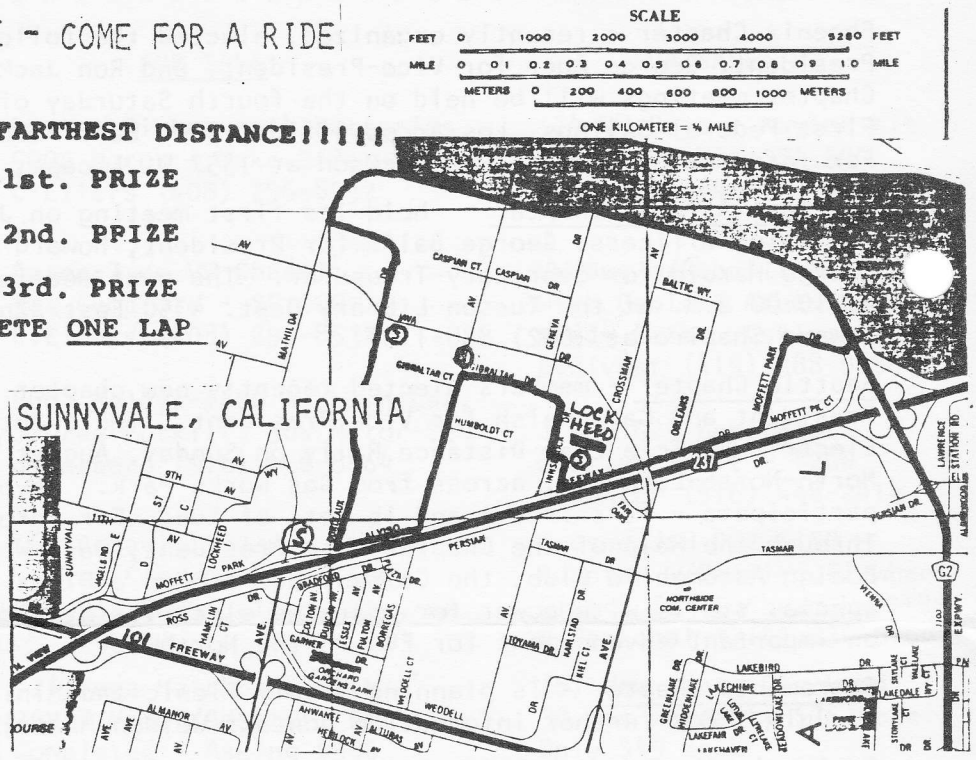
FOR THE CAR FROM THE FARTHEST DISTANCE!!!!!

$100.00----------1st. PRIZE

$75.00----------2nd. PRIZE

$50.00----------3rd. PRIZE

REGISTER AND COMPLETE ONE LAP TO QUALITY.



FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT
BY
SHERIL WILLIAMS
AND
FRIENDS

AWARDS BRUNCH

Sheraton-Sunnyvale

SHERATON HOTELS & INNS, WORLDWIDE
1100 NORTH MATHILDA AVENUE, SUNNYVALE CA 94086 408/745-6000

PLAN TO ATTEND --GET YOUR RESERVATIONS INTO PAT HARTAGE 1085 Tasman Dr. # 732 Sunnyvale Ca. 94086, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT WILL HELP HER. Sorry prices are not available but they will probably be in the $10.00 bracket. MORE INFORMATION LATER.

SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION -- Dave Hall (408) 742-0654

NOTICE ALL ENTRANTS: Please send a short discription of your car, occupation or company. WE NEED THIS INFORMATION FOR OUR PRINTED PROGRAM. SEND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, not later than Sept. 10th to LEONARD GOODELL 10538 CHASE DR. LOS ALTOS, CA. 94022 (408) 738-1310