

Electric Car Show: Back to the Future

Held at Rogue Federal Credit Union, Medford, Oregon, August 17, 2011

Justin Denley talks to a KDRV 12 reporter about his family's new Nissan Leaf.



Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Volt steal the show, wow crowds

Nearly 100 people attended the Rogue Valley Clean Cities electric car show held at Rogue Federal Credit Union. Four television stations and the Mail Tribune newspaper covered the event that highlighted the Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Volt, the first plug-in electric sedans to arrive in Southern Oregon. "Our plan was to take a road trip in our new electric vehicle and we may have been the first Oregon family to do so," said Justin Denley. The RFCU computer technician recounted his journey before a standing-room-only crowd. Derek DeBoer said he and his father, Alan, purchased the Chevrolet Volt to gain first-hand knowledge of the extended range sedan that's showcased on the TC Chevy lot in Ashland. "We love it," DeBoer said. "It's a completely no-compromise vehicle. This is the way we see technology heading in the future." Jim Riley of Lithia Nissan of Medford said The Leaf is a favorite with drivers because they don't have to stop at the gas station to fill up. Other speakers included Adam Hanks of the City of Ashland and Charlie Baggett of Rogue Federal Credit Union. Amy Amrhein, field rep for Sen. Jeff Merkley, and Traci Dow, field rep for Sen. Ron Wyden, stopped by to show support for alternative fuel vehicles.

— By Melissa Stiles, Marketing Director

Reps for Senators Merkley and Wyden attended the region's first plug-in electric car show.



Electric car owners don't have to give up power or comfort, said TC Chevy's Derek DeBoer.



Sponsored by Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition, www.roguevalleycleancities.org

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Have plug will travel

Mileage-minded motorists flock to a demonstration of several hybrid and all-electric cars in Medford

Photo 1 of 3 | Zoom Photo +



Ashland's Town and Country General Manager Derek DeBoer is a satisfied owner of the Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid vehicle made by General Motors. Alisha Jucevic / Mail Tribune

Alisha Jucevic

August 18, 2011

By **John Darling**
for the Mail Tribune

Seeking an up-close inspection of new gas-unfriendly cars, potential buyers flocked to a plug-in electric car showing Wednesday in Medford, where they learned grant money is arriving for placement of the all-important charging stations in the "electric corridor."

Showing off his all-electric Nissan Leaf at the event Wednesday outside Rogue Federal Credit Union, Justin Denley, an information tech worker with the credit union, said he may have made a trailblazing journey in it, taking his family to the coast with one planned overnight stop for charging in O'Brien, 65 miles away.

"I bought it mostly for city driving, around the valley," said Denley, noting he has been able to drive his Leaf at in-town speeds for as far as 116 miles without a recharge.

Denley said he received \$7,500 in federal tax credits and \$1,500 in state tax credits against the sticker price in the low \$30,000s.

Showing how his new Chevy Volt plugs into regular household current, Derek DeBoer, general manager of Town & Country in Ashland, said, "I absolutely love it; it's one of the finest automobiles I've ever driven. It's the best of both worlds."

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The Volt, he added, has a backup gasoline engine that comes on only when batteries are drained — and has all the features of mid- to high-end cars, including leather, heated seats, navigation, great sound and a computer that can identify which part of a battery needs replacing, instead of getting an entirely new one.

"I've bought only 5 gallons of gas since I got it in May, 2,400 miles ago," said DeBoer, "and that was just to show how the gas engine came on and ran."

Plugged into a household current, the Volt charges in eight hours. With 220-volt charging, it takes half that time. When driving it, you "get into playing games," said DeBoer, "so you learn how to be efficient and stretch out the charge."

In hybrid mode, the Volt can go 600 miles, he said, adding that it gets up to 42 miles per gallon.

DeBoer said he has two for sale and two more expected on the lot soon. They're \$44,000, he adds, "so it's like buying two cars."

Think of it as an investment in the not-so-far future, says Sue Kupillas, coordinator of Rogue Valley Clean Cities, a coalition that has secured grants from the U.S. Department of Energy to study the feasibility of sites for charging stations on the electric corridor from Eugene to the California border.

Kupillas, a former Jackson County Commissioner, said that, in her role with Clean Cities, she drove a Volt on the Indianapolis Speedway.

"I absolutely love all this new technology," Kupillas said. "The prices will come down as gas goes up and competition comes in."

Driving range is "the big limitation" of plug-in cars, she said, "but in the next few years, we'll have electric corridors."

Using federal stimulus money, the Oregon Department of Transportation and state Department of Energy has hired a firm to collect data about the demand, location and pricing structure for charging stations, said Adam Hanks, project manager for the city of Ashland.

Requests for proposals on the stations have begun and a fast-charging station should be installed at Ashland's exit 14 (Ashland Street) by winter, Hanks said. The Ashland City Council has approved funding of charging stations in downtown Ashland.

There are 88 Clean Cities coalitions in the U.S. The other one in Oregon, the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities group, has secured grants and begun opening the first charging stations, she said. They extend as far south as Eugene.

John Darling is a freelance writer living in Ashland. E-mail him at jdarding@jeffnet.org.

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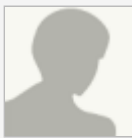
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Jefferson Exchange

MONDAY 8/15 @ 8: Did you not hear the electric car coming? Its presence in the Rogue Valley celebrated at car show: <http://roguevalleycleancities.org/events.html>



Events - RV Clean Cities

roguevalleycleancities.org

Rogue Valley Clean Cities events.



Friday at 2:40pm · Like · Comment



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MONDAY 8/15 @ 8:30: An undersea volcano erupts off Oregon, and scientists celebrate predicting the eruption: <http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2011/aug/scientists-discover-new-eruption-undersea-volcano-after-forecasting-event>



Scientists find eruption at undersea volcano - after forecasting the event | News & Research Communi

oregonstate.edu

NEWPORT, Ore. – A team of scientists just discovered a new eruption of Axial Seamount, an undersea volcano located about 250 miles off the Oregon coast – and one of the most active and intensely studied seamounts in the world.



Friday at 2:38pm · Like · Comment



Jefferson Exchange

MONDAY 8/15 @ 9: Exploring the "boy crisis" in American schools with a Linfield professor who studies the issue: <http://www.linfield.edu/linfield-news/faculty-experts/expert-biographies/amy-orr/>

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Apps for Electric Cars



August 17, 2011

By Yessenia Anderson

MEDFORD, Ore. -- With a down economy, many Americans are trying to cut cost in any way possible.

Today a local electric car show revealed new technology that is helping residents keep cash in their wallets. The car show featured a number of electric cars.

Some were hybrids, a combination of gas and electric powered vehicle, then there was the Leaf: an all-electric vehicle. The Leaf now accommodates a new iPhone app that allows electric car owner Justin Denley to confirm his charging status and control the climate inside the vehicle.

"The cost of driving the vehicle is so cheap its so convenient to have your car in your garage every night plug in not have to worry about which gas station I'm I going to go search and find the cheapest gas for," said Denley.

Denley became the first to own the Leaf in May of last year and has spent \$50 in electricity after putting 2,400 miles on their car.

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Back to the Future: Electric car show and forum

- See The Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Volt
- Hear presentations about a family coast trip in an electric car, City of Ashland charging stations and Rogue Federal Credit Union finance options for alternative fuel vehicles
- Enjoy a free pizza lunch

Sponsored by:



Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Place: Rogue Federal Credit Union

South Gateway Branch

1370 Center Drive

Medford, Oregon



Thanks to our speakers: Derek DeBoer of Town & Country Chevrolet of Ashland, Jim Riley of Lithia Nissan of Medford, Adam Hanks of the City of Ashland, and Charlie Baggett and Justin Denley of Rogue Federal Credit Union.



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