

International Zero Race stops in Rogue Valley

By Melissa Stiles

Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition

The international Zero Race that started in Geneva, Switzerland Aug. 16 made a pit stop in Medford Nov. 14. Exhausted but triumphant German and Australian team drivers of electric concept vehicles arrived at the US Cellular Community Park at about 8 pm, two hours behind schedule. The teams drove onto the artificial turf at the stadium to the cheers of a patient and eager crowd. Patrick Box of Plug In Rides escorted the racers from the Interstate 5 and Wayne Buck of Brammo met them at the football field. Mike Grubbs, electrical inspector for the City of Medford, and Mike Quilty of Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition officially welcomed the teams competing in the 80-day, around-the-world race. Melissa Brandao of Ambiente Motors and Christy West of the City of Medford helped organize the event, along with Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition and Oregon Electric Vehicle Association. The City of Medford, Plug-In Rides and Commercial Sign and Design in Phoenix provided charging stations, Medford Parks and Recreation provided the venue and Hersey House of Ashland provided meals and lodging.

By the time the teams reached Medford, they had covered 25,884 miles. Drivers battled tough weather, bad roads and fatigue doing 500 to 800 miles daily. In Oregon, the adventures included dodging deer on the I-5 and slowing to 45 mph over the Sexton Summit. Only two teams made it to the Medford event. The Swiss team ZeroTracer was delayed in Vancouver, British Columbia after a collision with a bicycle in the Olympic village on Nov. 12. There were no serious injuries but the electric vehicle needed repairs. Zero Race Director Louis Palmer made the difficult

decision to continue without them. The German and Australian teams raced on to Seattle, Portland and Medford. Finally in San Francisco on Nov. 17, the Swiss team caught up by driving 1,000 miles in 48-hours. Together again, the three teams will continue

The Zero Race is not about speed but about vehicle reliability, energy efficiency, utility to daily life, design and safety. The teams also earn points for a daily challenge. See page 3 for photos of the winning team in the Medford challenge.



Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition Board Member Mike Quilty welcomed Zero Race to the US Cellular Community Park in Medford.

ZERO RACE WORLD ROUTE



Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition Board of Directors

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the journey to Los Angeles, Austin, Texas, Mexico City and Cancun. The vehicles will be shipped to Lisbon and Zero Race will end in Geneva. Follow the Zero Race at <http://www.zero-race.com/en/follow-zero-race-online/> or visit the website www.zero-race.com

Zero Race Teams

- ZeroTracer Switzerland** Tobias Wuelser and Frank Loacker
- Vectrix Germany** Sven Lehmann and Meendert Buurman
- Trev Australia** Nick Jones and Andrew Reynolds



Race Director Louis Palmer with ZeroTracer team.

OIT at the Zero Race

Four Oregon Institute of Technology students crossed a mountain pass to see the Zero Race. They met the international drivers and connected with local electric vehicle enthusiasts, including Wayne



OIT students Spencer Cooper, Corbyn Jahn, Gerald Davis and Brian Cooper surround the German Vectrix vehicle.

Buck of Brammo in Ashland and Patrick Box of Plug-In Rides in Phoenix. "We thought it was really inspiring," said renewable energy engineering student Spencer Cooper. "We have been talking about what it would take for us to get a model together for a senior project. I believe it's important to promote alternative fuels to prevent a potential economic fallout from increasing oil prices."

The Zero Race Medford pit stop was made possible by:

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Zero Race Comes to Medford, Oregon

US Cellular Community Park, November 14, 2010



Renewable energy students Spencer Cooper, Corbyn Jahn and Brian Cooper and mechanical engineering student Gerald Davis, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls.



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Medford Challenge: Race Director Louis Palmer instructed the Zero Race teams to push their scooters 30 feet to determine which vehicle was the lighter. The winners would gain extra points for the day.



The crowd enjoys the interaction of Germans Meendert Burman and Sven Lehmann with John Bartell of KDRV Channel 12, Jamie Lusch and Damian Mann of the Mail Tribune.



2

Medford Challenge: After reviewing the film, Louis Palmer and Mike Grubbs determined the Germans the winner. The audience awarded consolation points to the Australian team.



Wayne Buck drove an escort vehicle, a Brammo Enertia electric motorcycle manufactured in Ashland.



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Find more online: www.roguevalleycleancities.org

Zero Race Comes to Ashland, November 15, 2010



Melissa Brandao of Ambiente Motors worked with Adam Hanks of the City of Ashland to provide a Zero Race send off from the Ashland Plaza on Monday November 15. Fourth-grade teacher Matt Damon walked with his students from Helman Elementary School to meet the drivers and admire the vehicles. The class is following the Zero Race journey on the internet.



Christy West of the City of Medford coordinated lodging for the Zero Race at Hersey House in Ashland. Owner Lorraine Peterson had a gourmet meal waiting when the Zero Race team arrived late Sunday night. They reached the bed and breakfast later than scheduled due to an unplanned charging stop in Canyonville. Team members in photo include drivers from Germany and Australia, a film crew from Switzerland and Race Director Louis Palmer.



Patrick Box of Plug-In Rides played an important role in bringing the Zero Race to Southern Oregon. He worked with Mike Grubbs of the City of Medford and Chris Henry of Commercial Sign and Design in Phoenix to arrange for charging stations. He escorted the Zero Race vehicles with his Nissan pickup that he converted to electricity. Another vehicle escort was Wayne Buck of Brammo driving an Enertia electric motorcycle manufactured in Ashland.

Find more on the web

See more photos on the Zero Race blog <http://www.zero-race.com/en/follow-zero-race-online/> or learn more about the Zero Race from the website www.zero-race.com. View a slideshow and read the Mail Tribune article about the Medford event at www.roguevalleycleancities.org.