



## SacEV News Flash

### SMUD Virtual EV Test Drive



Is an Electric Vehicle right for you? The SMUD Drive Electric program has just released a new video and it is available at <https://www.smud.org/driveelectric>. Click on the link & "[Take a virtual EV test drive](#)".

### SacEV Updates and Corrections from General Meeting

We have several important corrections and plus good news updates from our July meeting, which was the first in-person SacEV meeting since COVID-19. We were joined by a great crowd of 125 folks who viewed a dozen showcased PEVs. The two Tesla Model S Plaid, which provided ride-alongs, are among very few Plaid available worldwide. A [great video recording of the meeting](#) is available courtesy of Eugen Dunlap.

Some comments about the presentations:

- We were all bummed that the Pipistrel electric plane was not permitted to land at the Sacramento Executive airport. Apparently the aircraft's portable solar-powered charging station had not been certified as preventing reflections into air traffic. The good news is the flight from Fresno to Lodi still set a record for the longest flight in a production electric aircraft powered by off-grid renewable energy.
- One presentation claimed that six battery fires occurred in Mustang Mach-Es in Norway. **That information was incorrect; there were none.** Here's what was reported by numerous web-sites:
  - On six separate occasions, a Mustang Mach-E was proceeding down a particular Norwegian road that leads to a popular tourist site. Because the grade was steep, long, and maximum regeneration was being used, the batteries in the cars began to overheat. To prevent damage to the battery pack, the cars' software should have reduced the regen, allowing the battery pack to remain within its thermal limits. Instead, a software bug forced the cars to immediately stop, and they could not be restarted. A tow truck was need to transport the disabled vehicles to a Ford repair facility.
  - Ford has indicated **this problem can be fixed with a simple software update**. While the Mustang has over-the-air (OTA) update capability, its OTA system cannot currently provide this fix. Owners can either have the update performed at a dealership, or wait until later this year for an OTA update to the OTA update software, which will fix the problem.
  - **Full details at [Teslarati](#).**
- We were also incorrect when we reported that the Mustang Mach-E is a threat to home charging and poses a garage fire risk. Instead, that problem can be attributed to older Chevy Bolts. GM has taken this problem seriously and is working to resolve it. SacEV member Sandra Hall reports that GM has offered to buy back her Bolt for \$30K. It's important to remember that gas car fires are far more frequent than EV fires, with some data showing that gas car fires are ten times more likely. One SacEV member had a gas car catch fire in their garage.
- We described a poorly written article which asserted that non-Tesla DC fast charging is dramatically more expensive and time consuming than refueling a gas vehicle. The article focused on charging a battery from 85% to 100% in a state (not California) where charging fees are based on time rather than kilowatt-hours. The conditions in the study substantially raised the cost per mile and charging time. This was true for all EVs, including Teslas.

- There is **good news about fast charging for non-Tesla EVs**. The number of non-Tesla DC fast-charging sites (here in California and nationally) is now greater than the number of Tesla sites. Tesla also plans to open Tesla charging sites to all EVs. Additionally, some non-Tesla EV manufacturers are now including two to three years of free fast charging with the purchase of a new EV. Remember, although the number of fast-charging sites is increasing, you should still make a charging plan for EV road trips.

More good news to come.

Guy Hall



### The "Lightyear One" Solar Powered EV

Meet the Lightyear-one, a solar powered car slated to arrive next year. It was created by a 30-year-old engineering prodigy, while studying with engineering students at Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands. [Lightyear One website](#)

### Tesla Moon, Irreversible Warming, Dixie Fire Deniers, and Western US Drought



While on autopilot, Teslas can mistake a full moon for a yellow traffic light. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its sixth Assessment and the news is grim.

When people refuse to leave Dixie Fire locations, sheriffs asked them for information on their next-of-kin.

Lake Oroville hydroelectric plant was shut down, due to low water levels caused by the drought. Read the full article here [Sierra Magazine](#).

### Bollinger Motors and Pearce Renewables Join the California Mobility Center



The California Mobility Center (CMC) is a nonprofit, public-private entity partnering with global leaders in clean technology innovation. These partners include [EnerTech](#), a venture capital firm with a focus on electrification, autonomy, smart mobility, and connectivity; [PEM Motion](#), a consulting and engineering company that originated in Germany, with a focus on sustainable technology; and [Sacramento Municipal Utility District](#) (SMUD), a founding partner and

funder that has led the way in electric vehicle testing, development, and deployment in the Sacramento region.

[Bollinger Motors and Pearce Renewables Join the California Mobility Center](#)

### Kansas City Pilot for Streetlight-Mounted EV Chargers

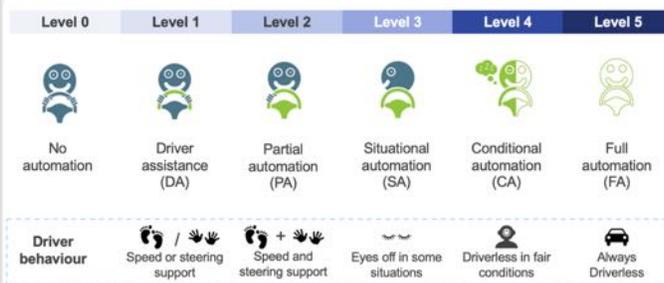


#### Aims for Equity & Accessibility

Most EV charging happens at home overnight. Kansas City's new charging project meets residents, even those without garages, where they are.

[Kansas City's Equitable Solution to an EV Charging Problem](#)

### Where Does Tesla Sit on the Scale of Vehicle Automation?



The term "Autonomous Vehicle" (AV) conjures images of cars driving around independently, devoid of human input, but this is not yet reality in the automotive industry. To provide an automation scale, the Society of Automotive Engineers has identified six levels of automation (shown to the left), ranging from no automation to full automation.

Where would you guess that Tesla Autopilot falls on this scale? Level 3? Level 4? In fact, Tesla Autopilot is a level 2 system, where a human needs to always pay attention to the road. You can read an analysis by [Dr. James Jeff, Technology Analyst at IDTechEX](#).

## GM Expands Chevrolet Bolt Recall Over Battery Fire Concern



General Motors is expanding its recall of Chevrolet Bolt EVs to newer models. Added vehicles include 2019-2022 model years, and also include the recently launched Bolt EUV. The original recall involved 2017-2019 model years. The expanded recall raises the cost by \$1 billion.

[Chevy Bolt Recall](#)

## Join the National Electric Auto Association



When you join other SacEV members as national Electric Auto Association members, you are part of the national grass-roots community advocating for EVs in the USA. The national EAA is critically important to SacEV as it handles our administrative chores (tax filings, non-profit status, banking service, insurance, legal help, etc.) and provides value, such as webinars and the two nationwide events: National Drive Electric Week and Drive Electric Earth Day.

Your SacEV leadership team relies on these services, so we encourage you to join the national organization for the small sum of \$35 annually. You will also be able to keep current with the latest developments in the rapidly changing world of electric vehicles in our regular Current Events e-blog. This blog is full-color, available 24/7 on-line from your desktop, laptop, smartphone, or however you access the internet.

Your membership provides value to you, our local SacEV chapter, and you become a member of this critical national movement. **Please join NOW.** You may also send a check payable to the Electric Auto Association, c/o Guy Hall, 8325 Walden Woods Way, Granite Bay, CA 95746.

## More SacEV Events Are Coming Up

Check the [SacEV calendar](#) for the latest EV-related activities.

If you've missed a Newsletter and for more information about the Sacramento Electric Auto Association visit our [website](#).

