



Denver Electric Vehicle Council

By J David McNeil

Seven years after the formation of the Electric Auto Association in 1967, the Denver Electric Vehicle Council was founded. A few of the key founding members in 1974 were Darwin Dykes, Don Hay, and George Gless. George's wife Jean was also a strong supporter of the cause in assisting George with the DEVC meetings and newsletters for many years. The dedication of these individuals in the very beginning is the very root of inspiration which carries on the drive of the DEVC in continuing to promote electric vehicles today.



George & Jean Gless – Photo by Marcia Hoebreckx



Our two social events each year are the more well attended gatherings. The December Holiday Party & the Summer BBQ result in a group of 50 to 65 enthused EV individuals.



Most of our monthly meetings are either electric vehicle or energy related. We have toured power plants which have started to convert from coal to natural gas. This is not only cleaner but provides a faster response, than coal generation, to wind fluctuations at wind farms feeding the state's grid. We even toured the solar array at the United States Air Force Academy. It is all part of the picture of clean electricity for our EVs.

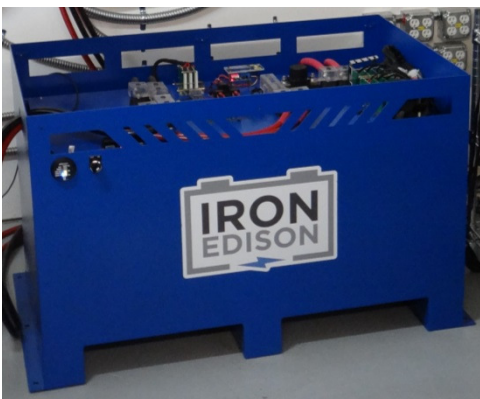
Following are a few examples of our meetings which are attended by an average of 20 to 30 members and guests. The hosting companies provide great information and tours.



UQM (Unique Mobility in the early days of the DEVC) is located in Longmont where they develop and manufacture power-dense, high-efficiency electric motors, generators and power electronic controllers for the automotive, commercial truck, bus and military markets. On the left is their all electric van. On the right of the group and the far right picture, is a 1982 "ELECTREK" which was manufactured by Unique Mobility and brought to the meeting by owner Ken Jones, third from the right in the group shot.



Held at Centennial Airport in Englewood and hosted by Aero Electric Aircraft; George Bye (pictured at the left of the group), CEO and Founder of AEAC, presented to the group the progress of the FAA certification process and the many benefits of the "Sun Flyer" Proof-of-Concept Prototype two-seat all electric trainer airplane.



Iron Edison in Lakewood hosted a meeting. This is a company where they build up battery packs for solar storage. These can either be Lithium-Ion or Nickle-Iron depending on the best application for the customer. Did you know that the long life of the nickel-iron battery is due to the oxygen exchange process during charge and discharge rather than the chemical reaction in lead acid or lithium-ion, which over time consumes the active material? They can also build up complete systems which have been used in remote locations or for off-grid and/or backup applications.



One of the most important events of the year is National Drive Electric Week. We recommend members participate in as many events as possible. Upper left is Aurora, second left is Golden, upper right is Boulder and the bottom three are Colorado Springs. We must give credit to two other participating groups in Colorado and they are the Denver Tesla Club and the Colorado Springs EV Club (mostly Tesla owners). They play a big part in the success of these events. There are several individuals who are members of all three; DEVC, DTC and CSEVC. All receive the DEVC monthly newsletter.

Another important event in our area is the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. This race, in years running, is second only to the Indy 500 and has had both electric cars and motorcycles over the last several years. In 2013 the fastest bike overall was a Lightning Electric. In 2015 the two fastest cars were both electric. This year the modified electric cars took a break and the only electric car was the Faraday Future FF91. Next year the modified electric class is hoping to return.



Since the founding of the DEVC, involvement in education has always been an objective. With the efforts of Dave Pence, our Education Outreach Coordinator, and his assistant Derek Barger, they have established an EV Club at the Horizons K-8 School in Boulder. This has been a highly successful program in giving interested students an opportunity to participate in learning EV basics and hands on experience in creating an electric trike, scooters and other similar projects. (Page 4 photos by Dave Pence)



On the left, Derek Barger is using the demo board to explain EV basics. Center, member John Stueve is helping a student with the wiring on one of the scooters. No scooter is complete without a charger, so students are working on a solar unit for that purpose.



On the final day of this year's spring session, the DEVC had an EV show at the school for the students. On the left, Sebastian Reid shows his scooter to on looking members. Center, Aidan Pence is pictured with his scooter and on the right, the EV display.