

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Electric Vehicle Rally Slated for East Jackson Comprehensive High School, Commerce, GA March 15, 2008

We see higher prices at the gas pump. We feel the effects in our wallets. We hear of the need to develop alternatives to foreign oil. But what can we do about it?

Come to East Jackson Comprehensive High School in Commerce, Georgia on Saturday, March 16 for the **2008 Electric Vehicle Education Rally**. These machines, built by students from high schools around the Southeast run on electricity and the students are charged up as they develop transportation alternatives.

The Electric Vehicle Rally is an exciting and challenging mix of competitions planned to test teams' and their vehicles' abilities. The public is invited to attend the rally events, which begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15. (See attached event schedule).

The EV Program is an ongoing education program that includes students from many disciplines, including math, auto mechanics, physics, engineering, electronics, journalism and other classes. Throughout the year, students complete a variety of activities, developing presentations and taking part in a wide range of projects. The highlight of this unique project is the design and construction of electric vehicles that the students can actually drive and enter in the regional competition.

Saturday is packed with activities beginning with technical inspections and rigorous safety inspections of the student vehicles before they can compete. Next students put their vehicles through the paces testing acceleration and then handling on an autocross course. New this year, middle school students will compete in the Junior Solar Sprint Competition, racing their solar-powered vehicles.

After lunch, oral presentations by the students and troubleshooting competition test teams' abilities followed by the Quiz Bowl. Next it's back to the track to test vehicle acceleration followed by the range competition to test how far these vehicles can go on a charge. All the on-track and pit lane strategy makes this event one of the most exciting in the rally.

The schools participating in this spring's rally include teams from Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Most teams have participated in previous rallies. Vehicles include full size vehicle (gas-powered cars and trucks converted to operate on electricity), EM-TVs (go-kart sized vehicles designed as teaching tools and assembled from kits) and new Innovation Class vehicles using biofuels and hybrid systems.

"What has impressed the teachers who have participated in the electric vehicle competitions has been the diversity of interests that come together in these team efforts. We've had band members, students who excel in science math and physics as well as students who have a natural mechanical talent. The nature of this kind of project forces them to interact and work off of each other's strengths in order to solve the problems that confront them," says Teddie Lohmeier, event chairman. "But perhaps more importantly, is that this program motivates students to be excited about learning and exploring, both in an academic and in a hands-on setting. It shows how real-world applications of what is taught in the classroom can accelerate the learning process."

Sponsors for the Rally include the Electric Vehicle Education Program, Inc., Jackson County Board of Education, Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, EV Master, One World Sustainable Energy Corporation, and the EV Club of the South as well as the parents, teachers and local businesses from the communities of the competing schools.



Troubleshooting Competition



Range Competition