



ELECTRIC CARS – Are They Really Environmentally Friendly?

An article by Dave Searle in the February 2019 issue of Motorcycle Consumer News warns of the limitations and environmental issues of li-ion (lithium ion) batteries used in electric cars and motorcycles. He reported that a study of battery life in the Nissan Leaf—the world’s best selling all electric car—found that the batteries used in these cars lost 27.5 percent of their capacity within 1 to 2 years without aggressive driving. Presently, the battery costs around \$5499 to replace. The moral of the story—
Take range claims with a grain of salt.

Referring to environmental concerns, “With worldwide demand for lithium increasing exponentially, we need to be aware that its extraction requires massive quantities of water in extremely arid locales (the high deserts of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile contain half the Earth’s supply) leaving a vast toxic landscape in its wake. Cobalt, another toxic component of li-ion batteries is considered a conflict mineral as its production is greatest in the Congo, where no

**Are we just trading
one type of pollution
for another?**

environmental controls exist and child labor is common.” Li-ion batteries are not equivalent to gasoline, “which has roughly one hundred times their energy density by weight”.

Food for thought: have policy makers considered the environmental consequences of li-ion technology and has anybody proposed how to handle the toxic waste produced by millions of electric vehicles? Are we just trading one type of pollution for another? Remember this—it takes oil to make components to produce electric cars. So, what we are doing is using a primary energy source to convert to a different energy source, which can’t produce as much energy. I believe that electric vehicles have their place in the scheme of things, but I also believe that once electric vehicle use is established, the same environmentalists who were pushing the technology will be screaming about the pollution from lithium and cobalt mining operations. PJ

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Road Trips



Spring is upon us and with it the urge to get out and take some road trips. If you have never toured the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, you are in for a treat. Fans of Downton Abbey can really identify with this place. My whole house would easily fit into the living room. Be sure to take the audio tour, or you may not get much out of it, but some scenery.

If you like beer, Asheville is your town. It has more breweries per capita than anywhere else in the US, was first named Beer City USA in 2009 and has won the award ever since. We took one of the organized brewery tours, where they pick you up in a van and chauffeur you around to four breweries. Good thing too. You'll be in no shape to drive if you sample all of the beer. I learned more about beer on that tour than any I had been on prior.

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A different, and awesome experience, is Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. The festival grounds occupy an area of 420,000 square meters and some of the beer tents hold close to 10,000 people. It's a blast with people dressed in traditional costumes, the women in dirndls and the men in lederhosen. The locals walk around town

in period dress for the two weeks of the festival, and dirndls are becoming popular for young women at any time of the year. Over 500,000 chickens are consumed (some of the best I've ever had) and 7.5 million liters of beer. Beer is sold generally by the liter and it is a marvel watching the waitresses carry 8 liters at a time. Go early to get a seat and be prepared to be up close and personal with your table mates. And don't get inebriated. You will be asked to leave. All in all an awesome experience. **PJ**

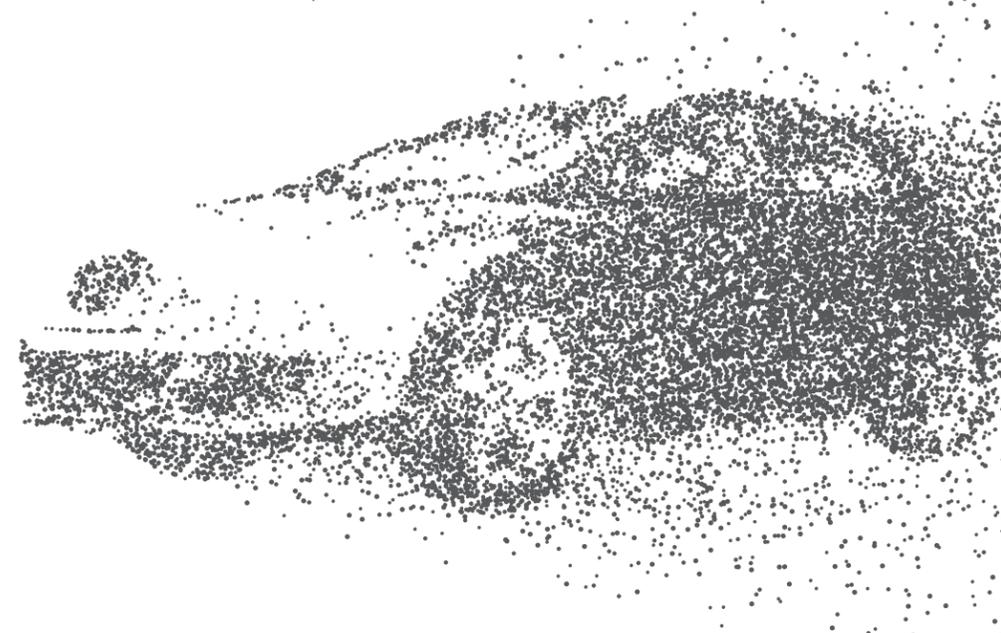
Disappearing Road Taxes Revenue

From Panorama Magazine: "The gasoline tax pays for road maintenance, so what happens if we move to wholesale electric vehicles that still use the road, but don't pay road taxes? North Dakota says that it will charge drivers of EV's an annual fee to offset the loss of fuel taxes. Right now it is just a proposal. We'll let you know if it makes it and catches on."

Disappearing Cars

According to Panorama Magazine, car models are fast disappearing. Among the models that will be dropped from production are the "Chrysler 200; Dodge Dart; Ford C-Max, Fiesta, Fusion, and Taurus; Buick Cascada and LaCrosse; Cadillac ATS, CT6, and XTS; and Chevrolet Cruz, Impala, and Volt. These models sold a collective 849,072 units in 2017, a 19% drop from 2016. For 2018, sales of these models totaled 658,274, another huge drop of 22.5%. The handwriting they say is all over the wall (Wall Street that is)."

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Top 5 Pizza Sales Days in the United States

1. Super Bowl Sunday
2. New Year's Eve
3. Halloween
4. The night before Thanksgiving
5. New Year's Day

Match the masterpiece to its artist and be entered for a drawing to win a free state inspection:

1. The Scream
 2. Water Lilies
 3. The Birth of Venus
 4. At the Moulin Rouge
 5. American Gothic
- a. Sandro Botticelli
b. Claude Monet
c. Grant Wood
d. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
e. Edvard Munch

Email your name and answers to: melissa@roberts-automotive.com

What do the following words have in common?

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Assess | Potato |
| Banana | Revive |
| Dresser | Uneven |
| Grammar | Voodoo |

Answer: When you take the first letter and move it to the rear of the word, you get the same word when read backwards.

CORN & CRAB CHOWDER

- 2 tbsp butter or margarine
- 3 tbsp flour
- 4 Cups of milk
- 1.5 cups (6 oz) of shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 can (16 oz) whole kernel corn drained, or 2 cups frozen corn
- 1 can (4 oz) chopped green chilies
- 2 tbsp yellow mustard
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp hot sauce or to taste – optional
- ½ pound canned crab

In a large sauce pan over medium heat melt butter. Add flour and cook until bubbly—do not brown. Add milk and stir constantly until thickened. Reduce heat to low, add cheese, stir until melted and smooth. Add remaining ingredients, cook over low until heated through. Do not boil.

Makes four servings

JACKIE'S KORNER KITCHEN



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