



California Hydrogen Car Owners Association Proton Monthly – May 2023

Welcome to the California Hydrogen Car Owners Assn (aka CHCOA, pronounced *cha-koa*)

May 10, 2023

When we retired three years ago, we agreed that for the good of our children and grandchildren we would do what we could to help mitigate climate change. As a part of that goal, we decided to purchase an FCEV, mostly because it was a zero emissions vehicle, but also because the refueling time is about five minutes.

Last September, we [traveled](#) to the nine California national parks in our hydrogen car. During the trip, we talked to numerous hydrogen car drivers before, during and after this trip. To a person, each of these drivers expressed frustration at the lack of reliable fueling stations.

In an effort to do our small part to help, we started CHCOA. The paperwork is nearly complete, and we are now a 501(c)(6) nonprofit mutual benefit corporation formed to “diligently and courteously” advocate for hydrogen cars and hydrogen car drivers in California. If you have thoughts on how we can do this better, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Membership is free, [join us!](#)

- Greg and Bobbie Cane

Contact Us

Greg: greg@h2tonps.org
Bobbie: bobbie@h2tonps.org

Intrepid Protoner of the Month



Tadashi Ogitsu

Bobbie and I first came to know of the FCEV travels of Tadashi Ogitsu in a 2018 *CH2ange* article. What really grabbed our attention, however, was an opening quote from Ogitsu, “My original training was in condensed matter physics, which is an intellectually stimulating field. However, I wanted to do something more practical that might make an impact in my lifetime.”

Now, that’s our kind of person!

...And he is working to fulfill his goal. For the last 22 years Ogitsu has worked as a physicist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory doing research in photoelectrochemical hydrogen production and hydrogen storage.

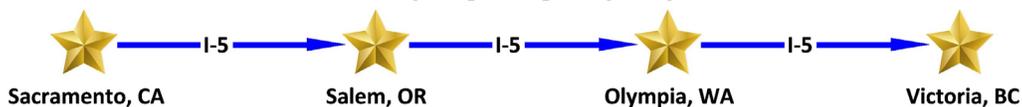
In much of his spare time he travels to interesting places in California, pushing the range limits of his fuel cell car (😊), promoting FCEVs and taking splendid photographs.



With H2AWSM at Yosemite in 2018

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Join us on the Hydrogen Highway - September 2025





A Thank You to the Hydrogen Car Owners Facebook Page

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the work that has preceded us. We truly “Stand on the Shoulders” of the Administrators and many users of the Hydrogen Car Owners Facebook page. Our hope is to add advocacy to the fine work that you are already doing.



Legislative Corner

The critically important Senate Bill 501 will require the California Energy Commission to develop a plan to improve reliability, service quality, and operational uptime of hydrogen fueling stations. CHCOA spoke in support of the Bill at the April 18 Senate Energy Committee hearing. The hearing video is well worth [watching](#).

We received a note from Brandon Wong, Legislative Aide to Senator Newman about Senate Bill 425. This bill, which is working its way through the legislative process, will expand consumer rebates for light and medium-duty hydrogen fuel cell pickup trucks. It is also worthy of our strong support.

What Can You Do?



- Contact your State Senate and Assembly Representatives to express your support for reliable H₂ refueling infrastructure.
- Contribute articles or ideas for future Proton Monthly newsletters including nominations for the next “Little Station That Could.”
- Most of all, stay active!

2022

Platinum

Proton

Award



Newman – Left
Cane - Right

The annual Platinum Proton Award is given to the person, company, or nonprofit organization that has done the most to promote the use of hydrogen cars in California in the previous year.

CHCOA is proud to announce that State Senator Josh Newman was selected as the 2022 Award recipient. Newman, an FCEV driver himself, authored and supported numerous bills to help secure a larger and more reliable hydrogen fueling network. The award was presented to Newman on April 18, prior to a hearing on Senate Bill 501 .

What’s Up in the Next Proton Monthly?

On deck for next month:

- We will interview an influencer in the world of light duty FCEVs.
- We will see what we can find out about why station permitting takes so long and if there is anything that can be done to shorten the review and approval time.
- Look for our future webpage about “Contacting Your Representatives, Made Easy”.
- We will be contacting Senator Newman’s Office and the Governor’s Go-Biz Office to learn more about the status of the virtual H₂ Driver’s Town Hall.
- We will add a, “By the Numbers” section.

The Little Station That Could



A big thanks to the Iwatani station in West Sacramento! Recently, it has often been the only source of H₂ in the Sacramento area.