

The Gas Line

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Welcome to Winter!

President's Corner

Hello, and thanks to those who were able to attend our Christmas party/meeting at the Nice Spot. The folks at the Nice Spot did an excellent job of feeding everyone and providing a nice spot for the party. Joy entertained us with a mystery game, and everyone had to take on a different identity. We enjoyed having several members of the Eastern Idaho Early Iron Organization (EIEIO) car club join us again. Don't forget, our January meeting is at Dixie's Diner in Idaho Falls on Channing at 6:00 PM on January 4, 2024.

Have a happy 2024 and hope to see you at Dixie's Diner.

Bob Thompson



CHAPTER EVENTS

Jan 4 – Chapter meeting at Dixie's Diner, 2150 Channing Way, Idaho Falls 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. We will each order from the menu and pay for ourselves.

MEETING TREATS

Jan Dixie's Diner

NATIONAL EVENTS

Feb 8-12 – 2024 VMCCA Annual Meeting – Radiance of the Seas Cruise

Apr 8-12 – VMCCA Orphan 2024 North Texas Tour, Decatur, TX. Bill and Betty Shores, Hosts. 817-688-7022 or b.shores@sbcglobal.net

Apr 28-May 3 – VMCCA Chrome Glidden Tour, Clarksville, AR. Raymond & Sammie Sue Harrill, Hosts. raymond.harrill@att.net or 501-223-3158 Ray and Carol Maxfield, Co-Hosts and Registrars 970-667-7182.

May 12-17 – Part II Old Santa Fe Trail Regional Tour, Grand Junction, CO to St. George, UT. Steve Fitzgerald, Chairperson studebakersteve@bresnan.net

Letter from Carl Worstell, Chairperson, VMCCA Nominating Committee

Dear fellow VMCCA member,

I hope this note finds you well.

As you well know, any organization, like the VMCCA, depends upon the generous contributions of its members.

One very important contribution that can be made is serving as one of the national officers that help make the organization run. Since its inception in 1938, the VMCCA has operated with an outstanding group of individuals serving in various capacities. The VMCCA relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill our mission of promoting touring and enjoying vintage vehicles.

I would like to encourage you to seriously consider being a nominee for one of these positions in 2025. These positions include President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Activities Vice President, Publications Vice President, and Technical Vice President. You can read the description of duties at <https://vmcca.org/resources/VMCCA-Officers-Handbook.pdf>.

In a couple of months, you should receive a more formal request thru your Regional and/or Chapter president, asking for you to consider becoming a nominee for one of these positions or nominating someone else.

If there are any questions, please email Carl Worstell, Chairperson, VMCCA Nominating Committee at carleworstell@aol.com.

Thanks in advance for thinking about becoming a national officer for The Touring Club.

Carl



Rich and Joy Eagle all dressed up at the Rainbow Ranch November 2022

Truck Stops Upgrade to Recharge Electric Vehicles (and Their Drivers)

Highway travel centers are adding amenities like restaurants and dog parks to accommodate the expanded dwell time of electric vehicle owners. Joe Gose, The New York Times, September 26, 2023

Planning a long road trip? Now you can nibble on crudités and shop for home furnishings at a roadside service plaza while you wait for your electric vehicle to recharge.



The truck stops that keep Americans fueled, fed, and refreshed along major highways are spending billions overhauling their stores to keep up with changing consumer behavior, particularly the growing popularity of electric vehicles.

Along with the addition of charging stations, these travel centers are being redesigned to accommodate longer stays, with renovated restrooms and showers, quick-serve kitchens, full-service and fast-food restaurants, and dog parks.

The changes continue to transform the modern truck stop, a slice of

Americana that took off in the 1960s amid the expansion of the Interstate Highway System. Over the years, truck stops were often perceived as grimy — and occasionally seedy. But today, they are more akin to a mini-Walmart, filled with energy drinks, iced coffee, and healthy snacks like sliced fruit and veggies. Across the aisle, you're likely to find purses and puzzles, as well as phone chargers and birdhouses. The changes better position truck stops to serve the growing number of electric vehicles on the road, said Jim Hurless, a managing director in Dallas for CBRE, a real estate services firm.

"Truck stops are trying to get electric car owners to spend as much of that time as possible inside their stores," he said. "So, they're trying to differentiate themselves by providing amenities that will be more appealing to that consumer."

Exactly how the charging networks will come together remains unclear, say truck stop operators, who face numerous challenges, including growing demand, byzantine utility rules that differ from state to state and the need for sufficient power to operate fast chargers, which can provide up to 350 kilowatts versus the 1.8 to 22 kilowatts delivered by standard chargers.

Additionally, peak-demand charges from utilities pose potential surprises for operators, said Aaron Luque, chief executive of EnviroSpark, a designer and installer of electric car charging



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Send me your car photos for
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Truck Stops... (continued)

stations in Atlanta.

“Electric vehicle charging presents a unique set of challenges,” he said. “But what’s encouraging is that traditional fuel providers are coming around.”

To foster development of a cross-country charging network along major highways, Congress in 2021 passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included \$5 billion to pay for up to 80 percent of the cost of installing fast chargers. Truck stop operators and others are petitioning states for the grants, which are targeting locations along major highway interchanges that are least 50 miles apart.



Pilot, a fuel provider and travel center operator based in Knoxville, Tenn., has so far secured \$9.6 million from Ohio and \$2.3 million from Pennsylvania in fast-charger funding for a total of 17 locations, said Brad Jenkins, president of PFJ Energy, Pilot’s fuel supply division.

The company also has teamed up with General Motors and EVgo, an owner and operator of fast- charging networks in the United States, to expand the infrastructure.

“This is such a new business that you’re not only trying to figure out who will show up, but when will they show up — will it be at a time of peak or low electrical demand?” Mr. Jenkins said. “We’re working with regulators, utilities and states and others to come up with creative solutions to make this work.”

Pilot, which operates more than 870 Pilot and Flying J locations in the United States and Canada, started a \$1 billion initiative last year to remodel 400 of its travel centers and upgrade others over three years. The effort is Pilot’s largest investment in store modernization since its founding in 1958.

“We take care of 1.5 million guests per day, and we realize they all have different tastes and that their needs are changing,” said Allison Cornish, vice president of store modernization for Pilot. “We want to be a place for all travelers”.