

# Alternate Power Initiative News Letter

ISSUE 04 JUNE 2011



The Alternate Power Initiative is a committee of the Whiting-Robertsdale Community Improvement Corporation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) entity

[www.alternatepowerinitiative.com](http://www.alternatepowerinitiative.com)

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## Remarks from the Chairman

In a recent speech at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Vice President Joe Biden said "Now, more than ever, America's future competitiveness depends on our ability to innovate and our capacity to live up to our rich history of technological advancement.". The Alternate Power Initiative and the City of Whiting, Indiana have established the *RACE FOR THE FUTURE* as a challenge to the creative minds of America to answer that call to innovation, and to invent the future of transportation, here on the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

It is our goal is to encourage, inspire and promote the development of self propelled vehicles powered by nontraditional or renewable power sources by encouraging inventors in the practice of their craft and to honor the attempt no matter the outcome. We have established prizes to encourage participation and to help defray expenses, with an eye toward continued research and future competitions.

To this end, the following are the prizes will be awarded at our August 27th event;

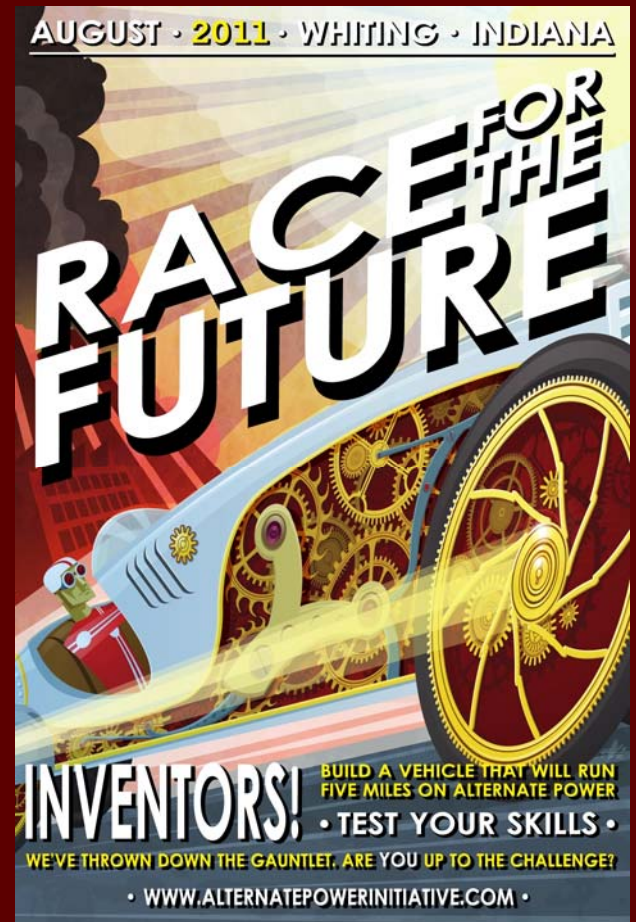
1. If the five mile course is completed the winners of the speed competition will be awarded as follows;

First Prize \$3,000.00

Second Prize \$2,000.000

Third Place \$1,000.000

Fourth Place \$ 750.00



2. If no contestant can complete the five mile course prizes will be awarded according to distance travelled for the five contestants achieving the greatest distances:

The prizes awarded will be \$20.00 per 1/10 mile travelled up to a \$500.00 Max. per contestant.

3. The following prizes will be awarded in addition to the above prizes:

Prize for Most Innovative Team \$500.00

Prize for Most Innovative Individual Contestant \$500.00

(individual not part of a team)

Prize for Popular choice \$200.00

(The audience present at race will be asked to vote on this)

In addition to the above prizes each inventor will receive a plaque commemorating their participation in the event.

If you have an idea for a vehicle but are unsure if it can run the course come out and join the fun anyway. Who knows; you may win a prize and just think of what you might learn.

There is no failure except in not trying!!

Bill Halliar

Chairman; Alternate Power Initiative Advisory Board

# Race Contestant Interview

## Tom Kimmel

President of the Steam Automobile Club of America

My vehicle is basically a VW dune buggy frame and running gear. The power comes from a wood fired steam generator that has at various times been a monotube, a LaMont, and is now a Field tube steam generator. We do not use the word boiler because of the negative implications of things blowing up and killing people. The engine is a 2" diameter cylinder double acting V-2 with a 2" stroke running at about 1,200 rpm to produce 25 hp. The engine was built by Strath Steam in Australia and Rod Muller, the builder, says that he has gotten over 75 hp out of this engine for short periods of time when he had a similar engine in a race boat.



I became interested in the race as soon as I heard about it because I already had the vehicle and had been working on developing a wood fired steam powered vehicle for years.

I am not an engineer and that is because I flunked calculus at two different universities. My professional past is a degree in modern European history and a law degree and a career owning a plant propagation nursery. We produce over 15 million plants from vegetative cuttings a year. My intellectual interest in the last 15 years has been collecting information on modern steam power. I now have the most complete steam library in the country with over 600 book titles, 100 SAE steam related technical papers, and many other reports, patents, and technical papers on steam power. I have over 100 steam engines and steam generators, most of them homemade and modern. I have most of the modern steam automobiles and to list: 1953 Kaiser Manhattan, 1963 Keen Steamliner, Charlie Briar Doble-Simplex, MSS VW conversion, 1960 Williams steam car, 1969 Chevelle Besler conversion, McNeir Pinto wagon, Jim Jones' Thing, John Wetz's pickup truck and garden tractor, Richard Smith mini-bike, and a few lesser known vehicles.

My exposure to the horticultural and agricultural industry has encouraged me to develop steam powered farm equipment. Every farmer has already biomass that can be burned, or can very easily work a biomass production program into the existing farm schedule.

As for family, my wife works and tolerates the steam collecting business. My son has an MFA in movies and is looking for work as a producer.

My passion for alternative fuels comes from steam power to start with. Because steam is an external combustion system it can burn anything and that is the advantage. It needs this advantage; of multiple fuel sources so that cheap fuel or carbon neutral fuel, or any by-product fuel can be used, because steam power is intrinsically very difficult to engineer.

The inspiration for making a wood fired vehicle comes from the Steam Automobile Club of America annual Time Trials and the Shipyard Labs sponsored "Escape from Berkeley" held a couple of years ago.

# Advisory Board Member

## Adam Madison

I recently spoke with Board Member Adam Madison. Adam is both an introspective and knowledgeable person in many venues, as well as a talented communicator. Adam is a technical writer, and says, "I spent seven or eight years covering the rock mining and the construction materials industry. I focused heavily on the production of crushed stone for building materials. I'm not an engineer, but I have talked to a lot of them. "



"I rode the train with Bill Halliar, and always see him around town. My interest in the race was, in part, because of my pride for Whiting. I like to help out with these things when I can. It's good for the community but also draws attention to a very real problem. So when Bill asked that I be the "communications chair," I agreed to do what I could. I'm not sure if I am worthy of such a title, but I did send out 800+ press releases with some success. This was for the first year, and I am trying to catch up for this year, but my time has been more limited." "I spend most of my time writing and taking photos. This month, I am a second-time contributor to Studio 659 ([www.Studio659.org](http://www.Studio659.org)) for a "Transportation Gallery." I was recently published in [Everydayotherthings.com](http://Everydayotherthings.com). I also host [AdamMadison.Net](http://AdamMadison.Net), where you can learn about all of my good and bad eccentricities."

Right now Adam is straight freelance; he juggles multiple writing, teaching and photography jobs and makes money helping deliver other people's good ideas, "so I hope something cool shows up at API this year", Adam says.

"I am very fortunate to be married to wonderful woman that is a rock star at work and in the community. I work at home, so I am privileged to spend a lot of time with my kids. I focus a lot of my time trying to develop them in one way or the other. Usually this is finding creative ways to build their smarts,

which is often just letting them play." "One kid is a model student at Nathan Hale. The other is nearing preschool-age; and I am proud to say that she's pretty darn smart too."

"I'm a writer, not an inventor. But working on this project did inspire me to write the short story "Zorcom," which can be found at [AdamMadison.Net](http://AdamMadison.Net). It's a fun story about harvesting fat from zombies to use as fuel. Hey, it's renewable!"

"I hate driving in general. It was a bad idea from the start. It's allowed man to sprawl far away from our urban centers into lonely suburbs; dividing us into minuscule segments. It's helped destroy Main Streets." Adam says: " There is no magic fuel, the only answer is to consume less of everything". Harsh words that no one wants to hear.

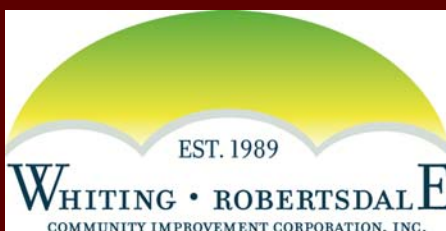
Invention, as with all creative activity, is a messy business fraught with danger.  
All is experimentation and the outcome is often a  
completely unexpected surprise.

Bill Halliar

The impossible is often the untried.

"Now, more than ever, America's future competitiveness depends on our ability to  
innovate and our capacity to live up to our rich history of technological advancement,"

Joe Biden



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