

I am sure that all who peruse the board will agree that Electrathon is a great experience for the students and advisors involved. It is an idea that has sprouted well in Wisconsin and is growing each year. The next step, I believe, is to get more schools around the state involved.

In participating in the Electrathon workshop this past weekend (thanks to all involved!), the geography of participating schools was discussed. The primary clusters are in the eastern and central parts of the state. There are not many schools in the other areas of the state that take advantage of this opportunity. It is an excellent way for students to learn about new energy sources, engineering and design, and teamwork, among other topics.

My question is, how do we sell Electrathon (and Supermileage, for that matter) to get other schools involved?

I believe that one of the things that is deterring other schools from participating in Electrathon or Supermileage is the fact that most of the competitions are held on this side of the state with the exception of Stout and they only do Supermileage. I think we need to find another venue for the competitions in the west/north area of the state. I know that will possibly cut numbers at other competitions, but are we worried about numbers at one specific competition or numbers overall competing? Just my thoughts.

Jay

That's why I was hoping to get an event at Conserve School - for the northern part of the state. I've also been working on local schools. WITC Ashland was interested last year.

Conserve would be good for us. They're in our conference for sports. It's a wonderful campus and they seem to be a pretty progressive school.

Pat Lowery

Wabeno High School

conference/event/meeting you go to with other Tech Ed teachers?" If you are not personally pushing this event, it will not grow. We all know personal connections is what builds our world in everything! (other than lots of money)

Next with more venues. I disagree that more events will bring numbers down at existing events. At one time there was only one event in Wisconsin, Stout, and there were 40 participants a year at their peak attending. Now with three events in the state we have 40+ schools and 70+ cars !!!!!!! WE GREW!! So add more events and watch the state continue to grow to someday having qualifying events and a state event someday going for a national event!!!! (That's the dream)

BUT, my caution on extra events... In my opinion, they NEED to be at closed courses/tracks that are NOT suburban streets!!! ALSO, most school parking lots are not big enough to get these cars up to speed without ripping rubber off in 10 laps... With closed courses/tracks, you also have less liability concerns with insurance!

Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing a north western and south western event pop up someday!

Jesse Domer, Watertown. High School

Concerning Conserve School: The Headmaster, Stefan Anderson seems to be very interested in the future of power generation, and is very approachable. They have two complete pv arrays installed by the athletic field with grid intertie. One is fixed on a roof and the other is on a 2 axis tracker. He said the students will be analyzing the two data streams to look at relative efficiencies. They are also looking at erecting two types of grid intertie wind turbines for the same thing. As far as disadvantages at Conserve, it isn't centrally located to population centers

and can be quite a hike. But they have nice campus roads with rolling hills and access is controlled by a check-in station.

-Bill Bayerl

Nebraska is a public power state,(electricity), OPPD, (eastern 1/3), NPPD, (western 2/3), together they sponsor & administer our entire Electrathon program, (Powerdrive). Together they put considerable time & money into the program & it shows. They will furnish a starter kit worth \$900 to any school starting a new program. I believe pay fees to Electrathon for all school programs. At any time there 60 to 70 schools on the team roster. Around 100 cars being built or modified. I don't think Powerdrive is as strongly integrated into the educational system as some other states. In a few schools it is a curriculum course but for most it is an after school club. Most schools furnish a room or shop for team use, but not all. Teams generally have to do their own fund raising. Some teams have restrictions on how much fund raising they can do. At least 1 school has it as a letter sport. We have 8 rallies in April & may. 2 are road courses over 2 miles long, 6 are either parking lots or streets. So what's my point? We have a great program due to our sponsors & volunteers & that makes it so enjoyable. Stan

Has anybody been in contact with those at Stout responsible for Supermileage, and whether they are considering Electrathon? I'm wondering what's the chicken and what's the egg, more teams vs. more events. I have to say living on the west end of the state, it makes the logistics look daunting to take a team to the east end.

I do not want to speak for Stout and would be happy to have Stout pipe in here, but being on the WEEVA Board, I can tell you UW-Stout is likely not going Electrathon for a while. They picked up a new course this year that is paved and a closed track, however they will be limiting Supermileage Numbers on the course at one time due to it's size. Likely not sufficient for Electrathon speeds for that same reason.

Jesse Domer, Watertown High School

I think there are many technology teachers who don't know about the Electrathon or better yet they don't know enough about it at this point. I would think that sending out an e-mail or two to the tech. teachers state-wide with links to some of the video clips like we saw in in the recent Electrathon weekend class in Ashwaubanon or like some of you have posted in this forum would help the cause. Look at some of the discussion generated to some from the questions that teachers post this way from time to time.

I just want to welcome the following teams to the Wisconsin Electrathon this year:

Ashwaubenon
Brookwood (Ontario)
Palmyra-Eagle

There may be a few more new teams to announce soon!