

PRESS RELEASE

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Web Link: *To learn more visit* www.neca-racing.com

Photos: 1. Instructor Bruce McClain with Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Students
2. MACTC student and driver Cody Whitten of Oakridge
3. Muskegon Area Career Tech Center electric car crosses finish line

Electric car faster than past years; power hurt performance at Berlin Raceway

MARNE: The electric car designed by Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students proved to be faster, but power shortages hurt its overall performance at the **National Electric Cart Association (NECA)** competition. Student Cody Whitten (Oakridge) raced the electric car on May 8, 2009, at the Berlin Raceway in Marne, Michigan. The race tests how many laps the car can make around the track in one hour. During the first race Whitten experienced an unexpected loss of power. Despite the students' successful efforts to repair and return the car to the track, the regained laps were not enough to place the team in one of the top spots.

During the second race, the new battery configuration of a two-pack, 24-volt configuration caused the pace of the car to slow earlier than anticipated. "The weight of the car is drawing more power than expected," commented instructor Bruce McClain. As a result, the student team plans to trade in their current steel frame for one made of aluminum next year. This year's car did, however, show an improvement in speed boasting a top speed of 53.2 miles-per-hour—over 8 miles-per-hour faster than last year.

About 30 Architectural and Mechanical Computer Aided Design (CAD) high school students from the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center used their engineering skills to redesign the front-end structure and carefully recalculate the gears for added performance of this year's electric car entry. The MACTC Auto Body Technology class provided a new paint job as well.

Last year the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center team placed third in the Open class race. This year the students qualified to compete in the Stock class. The Open class is open to any legal NECA, OPPD, IOWA Electrathon, or Electrathon America car while the Stock Class is open to NECA legal cars under \$2,500.00 only.

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