

INSPIRATION OF A NEW PROJECT

What does it mean when WT says, “Never stop learning?” The mentors say, “We don’t know it all, humble yourself so that you may learn from someone else with more experience and knowledge.” Mentors Tom and Bruce set an example of that, by taking a course to stay current in the ever-changing world of automotive technology.



Several years ago, Switch Labs of Sebastopol, CA, saw a need and developed a ‘train the trainer’ program for Electric Vehicles (EVs). Their goal was to help prepare science and automotive instructors and auto and energy industry professionals who wanted to add EV knowledge and skills to their classrooms and businesses. Their popular program currently teaches at high schools and colleges around our country. Last month, Tom and I attended their 5-day workshop with the understanding we’d come back and teach what we learned to any interested young men and mentors at Walking Tall.

While at Switch Labs, we received a combination of lectures and hands-on training. In the mornings, we learned the essential components that make up an EV, basic direct current electronics, and how to wire the cars.

In the afternoons, we actually built an electric vehicle from the wheels up. Class members assembled the frame components such as the front A-arm suspension parts, rear-drive wheel, motor, sprockets and chain, shock absorbers, the complete hydraulic brake system, steering system, vehicle electronics systems, seats, and even seat belts! The ‘final exam’ was for the class to thoroughly test each system prior to taking the car out on a short drive around the block. I found the entire class to be fun and educational – and that’s what Tom and I hope to bring to Walking Tall.

Tom and I are currently fine-tuning the generic training syllabus which Switch Labs provided us, and we will present a tailored version of the class later this year. We thought it would be fun to wrap up our in-house training by having our Walking Tall class build our own prototype electric vehicle in the form of a go-cart!

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 18:15

Thank you for your support and prayers!

If you haven’t ever supported Walking Tall, please consider a one time donation or regular monthly donation to support and continue offering many skills to these young men. Thank you so much!
 Walking Tall: PO Box 3789 Central Point, OR 97502 or walkingtallso.org for online donations.