



Edison Tech Center

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Winter Newsletter 2013-2014

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*The Edison Tech Center is open from 3-7 PM on Fridays,
1-5 PM on Saturdays, and other times by appointment.*

During 2013 the Edison Tech Center

- ❖ Hosted professional development classes
 - Saturdays throughout the year we offered assistance to those searching for jobs or interested in career or skill development.
 - Hosted a week long course in Accelerated Testing, attended by professionals from four countries
- ❖ Held workshops on computers, circuit layout and circuit design software, antennas and math techniques
- ❖ Participated in conferences on engineering and liberal arts education, manufacturing in New York State, open source software, and mechanical engineering and energy
- ❖ Competed in a national electric car race
 - A major effort of the Edison Tech Center this year was the Electric City Hauler, the Edison Tech Center entry in the National Power Racing Series. The Power Racing Series is a race where adults are challenged to modify and race a child's ride-on electric vehicle for less than \$500 in materials. The competition barred drivers under 18 from driving during the race, but the Edison Tech Center allowed anyone to help build and design the car and regalia. Thank you to the 40 individuals who contributed to making the Electric City Hauler a reality. Starting with a pink Barbie Jeep, the team transformed it into a truly green electric car. Using garage sale paint, bike parts, a pump motor, and over \$200 in batteries, the team did everything it could to keep the cost within budget. Team members even learned to arc weld when the cost of nuts and bolts was found to be too expensive.

September 21, 2013 the Electric City Hauler was unloaded at the National Power Racing Series Championship Race in Queens NY. It has never been fully tested. The teams immediately discovered that the steering column welds had broken, but with help from our competitors from New Jersey, the vehicle was repaired, and went on to qualify. Out of twenty vehicles allowed in the National Championship, only 13 qualified. The Electric City Hauler was one of the slower qualifiers, but unlike other vehicles that destructed spectacularly, the Electric City Hauler survived throughout the day of racing.



Due to budgetary and time limitations, the Electric City Hauler had to return upstate after the full day of speed racing. The next day the national championship continued with an endurance race that tested the endurance (or energy efficiency) of the vehicles. Perhaps next year our team will compete both days.