

About the Author – V2G-101

Leonard J. Beck (Len or Lenny) earned an associates degree in accounting from the University of Delaware in 1977, a bachelor of science in business administration from Wilmington College in 1999 and a master of business administration in 2000 also from Wilmington College (now known as Wilmington University). He began his career as a public accountant for several dozen small gas stations and ‘Mom and Pop’ type businesses, later managed an assembly department of 50-plus employees for an office equipment manufacturer, and then worked in positions of controller and marketing management, before beginning his current 11-year employment with Delmarva Power and Light (owned by Pepco Holdings, Inc. in Washington, D.C.).

During the mid-1980’s Len founded a small importing business, financed by family funds, and was president and CEO of the corporation for two years before closing the business. The company sold ground cork products to industrial customers, including Armstrong World Industries, Gallo Wines, Corning Glass and Ebonite Corporation.

Mr. Beck’s interest in electric vehicles began in the early 1990’s while employed in the position of international marketing manager with a solar cell manufacturer. He sold photovoltaic solar cells and modules to college student engineering teams that built race cars to compete in U.S. races and those held in Australia. In 1996, he designed a 3-wheeled all-electric car, but never took the ideas from paper to prototype due to the low potential driving range.

Len began employment with Delmarva Power in 1997. In 2003, when he read about V2G for the first time, he immediately recognized that this technology would aid in launching all-electric vehicles. He communicated with Dr. Udo of Delmarva Power, which resulted in the utility providing a small grant to the University of Delaware to further the research and development on this topic. Also starting about this time, Len was assigned to track renewable-related articles and build a reference library for the company’s use. He really enjoys this daily reading and is quite knowledgeable on renewable topics including solar, wind, hydro and wave power generation.

Mr. Beck’s primary duties in his electric and gas utility work are regulatory affairs related, yet Dr. Kempton has stated he is considered one of the most knowledgeable electric utility employees in the country on the topic of vehicle-to-grid technology. Len’s work papers on the V2G topic, and others, have been shared nationally with other utilities and interested parties.

Len pursues several interests outside his electric and gas utility work and electric vehicle interests. He enjoys time with his immediate family, and with Carmela, Mike, and Matthew, his adult children. He has nine siblings, so large family gatherings are always a priority, particularly the volleyball games played during the warm months. He also plays in a weekly volleyball league September to May of each year. Len is also talented in 3-dimensional arts and carves wood and other media when time permits (which is not too often).

Len was born in Columbus, Ohio, but his family moved and settled in Wilmington Delaware when he was in 1st grade. He has lived in the New Castle County area of Delaware most of his life. He currently resides in Newark, Delaware with his wife, Irena, 7-year old son, Kenny, Squirrely (a guinea pig) and a variety of fish and seasonal overnight guests that Kenny adopts from the community pond behind their home.

Favorite music:

The Best of Mozart – Signature Series (1999) St. Claire Entertainment Group, Inc., Canada. This is the only CD I listened to while writing this book (and during all my graduate-level reading and writing), possibly listened to over 600 times in all!

“Make it Happen” by Mariah Carey, recorded by C&C Music Factory (1992) -- I have also listed to this song hundreds of times over the years; a great motivational song. (Thanks, Mariah!)

“Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield, Phonegenic Records (2005) -- To paraphrase, ‘We are just beginning, the page is blank, the ending not yet planned...’ What will we, the world, write next together?



October 2007 – The author with the eBox at an Auburn Heights open house. The other car is a restored all-electric 1916 Rauch and Lang Electric Brougham. The photo was taken by Thomas E. (Butch) Cannard, a member of the Marshall Steam Team at the Auburn Heights Preserve in Yorklyn, Delaware.