

# TESLA OWNERS CLUB OF ONTARIO



December 2018

## Club Meeting Dates

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday December 4, 2018**

**6:30pm Q&A session for new Tesla owners and reservation holders**

**7:00pm meeting start**

**Guest Speaker:**

Mark Marmer, *Signature Electric*

Dave and Buster's Function Room

120 Interchange Way

Vaughan ON L4K 5C3

\$10 fee to attend the meeting for paid members and guests. This fee helps to pay for the room as well as appetizers.

All views, opinions, and information expressed in this communication are of the individual authors and do not represent any entity, including the Tesla Owners Club of Ontario, Tesla Canada, and Tesla, Inc.

This is a newsletter from and for the Tesla Owners Club of Ontario (TOCO).

<https://ontario.teslaownersclub.ca/>

Let us know how we can serve you.

If you want to write, proof read, and/or help with any other e-newsletter element (e.g. photos, questions, comments), let us know.

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Season's greetings, everyone!

Welcome to another edition of our Tesla Owners Club monthly newsletter.

I'd like to give you a quick report on our meeting from last month. It was record-setting. We had 81 members attend. Our guest speakers, Jeremy Theal and Joyce Lee, who are members in the club, gave us a presentation on climate change which was very well received. Hopefully we will be sending some information out to you to summarize that discussion. I would like to thank our crew again for the hard work in putting this newsletter together. I will let the rest of the letter speak for itself.

If I don't talk to you, we'll see you all in the new year.

Say goodbye!

John Dixon

We're a community of Tesla owners and reservation holders in Ontario



### More about December's meeting

#### Speaker Topic:

Mark Marmer from Signature Electric is speaking at December's meeting. He will be discussing condo charging, among other EV charger installations.

Bring your EV home/condo charging questions — and join the discussion. This month, we get "charged"!

### Fill the Frunk

Hey, did you get emails about "Fill the frunk"? TOCO is participating in a toy drive to give back to the community. Check out the details in emails sent directly to you. Gifts will be collected at the December 4 meeting. If you are unable to attend, please consider a cash donation. 'Tis the season of joy and generosity!

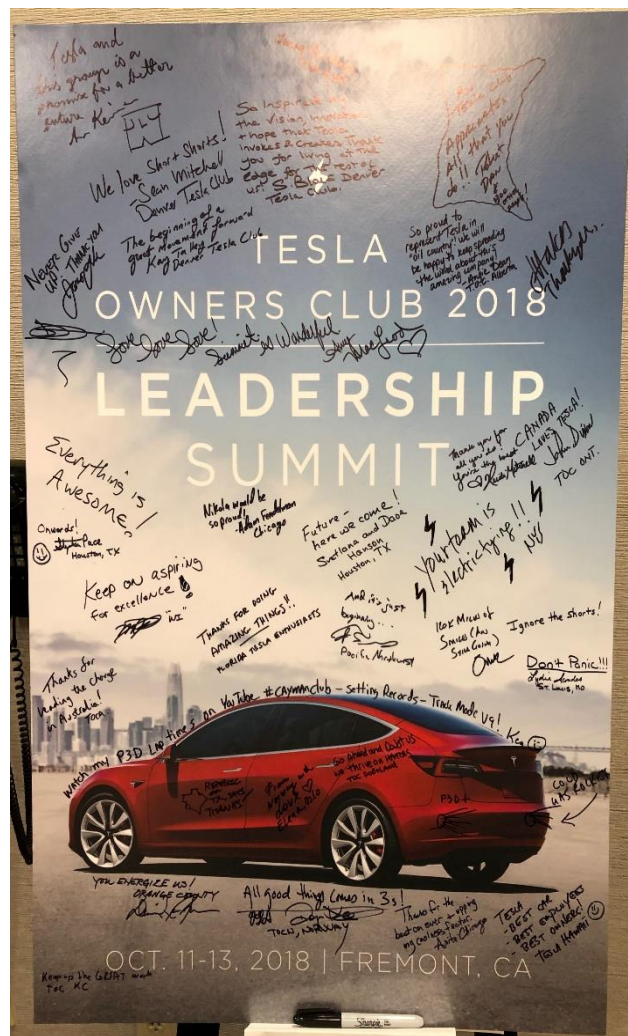
### A brief tech tip

You may already know this, but this month, I was reminded just how awesome Tesla's "over the air" updates are, having received a few. Some of us keep track in detail, some of us not so much. If you feel like you are getting behind in updates, contact Tesla, your problem may be wifi or signal strength or something else, but they can check it out and help you solve it.

### TESLA OWNERS CLUB 2018 — LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

On October 12, Tesla staff and Owners Club leaders from around the world met in Fremont, California to discuss how owners clubs could best coordinate with Tesla to help further its mission to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy. 90 attendees and guests from 36 clubs (9 countries, 17 states, and 3 provinces) met with 14 members of Tesla's staff to discuss Tesla's sales, marketing, social media, and legislative policy strategies, as well as tools clubs can use to best engage with members of their club and members of the broader Tesla community.

Representing Tesla Owners Ontario were John Dixon, Mike Knox, and Cornel Abraham.





## **TRAVEL STORY – A Cross-Country Family Adventure in a Tesla Model 3 by Carrie-Ann Timm (trip taken with Jamie Dufour and our kids Georgia & Autumn)**

We acquired our Model 3 after a 26-month wait (Day 1 deposit) in early June 2018. We had already planned to take a long trip in July but had not planned it fully because we weren't sure when we'd receive our Tesla. We were willing to take (what we then perceived as) the risk of driving an electric car almost 10,000 kilometres without knowing much about how it would perform or how we would plan such an adventure.

It was a pretty easy decision once we knew taking the Model 3 was an option for this trip. Because of our experiences road tripping in the past, the length of the journey in a car was nothing new to us. Our kids have always travelled well (they are 8 and 12) and we'd done enough research about the Tesla Supercharging network that we figured we could make it work. We knew it would add hours to the trip overall, but really felt that the fun of taking this awesome car on such a long trip was worth sacrificing maybe a half day of a 17-day trip. Also, the gas savings are immeasurable.

Using a couple of online resources to plan, we knew right away that there were not enough Superchargers along the Trans-Canada to get us from Ontario to British Columbia (our western destination) in 2018, though we will definitely take that route once the infrastructure is adequate. We mapped out a route through the northern USA using mostly the online Tesla trip planner, along with Google Maps, to calculate day-long sections and choose places to sleep.

A few people on Facebook groups/pages suggested a couple of other options for trip planning with electric vehicles, but we felt we had pretty accurate approximations of time based on Tesla navigation both in the car itself and online. Also, we weren't too worried about having unforeseen things come up — we had plenty of time, and most hotels we booked had lax cancellation policies. In the end, we didn't change a single reservation. We got to some a bit later than expected, but never past 10pm, so always had a good amount of time to sleep.

We left from Sarnia, Ontario and went directly into Michigan via the Bluewater Bridge. There is no shortage of Supercharging options through Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana (mostly along the I-90). While charging, we met people who still struggle to get from point A to point B on long trips because the network is currently only available on major travel routes. They were still willing to take their Tesla, despite going hours out of their way. Really speaks to the enjoyment of driving these cars! On the way home, we also drove through Washington, which had plenty of Superchargers.

We have driven across Canada before, but although we love our country and parts of it are breathtaking, I must say that we quite enjoyed the beauty of Wyoming, Montana, and Washington specifically. We were in awe of this area for countless hours, including a whole day in Yellowstone park — wow!

The Tesla navigation system is very accurate in its estimates of distance and time, so we simply used it to decide when to stop for short or long charges, based on necessity, and for washroom or eating breaks. Because our route had quite a few options for Supercharging, we would generally have a few 20- to 25-minute charges and two longer ones for meals each day. For the most part, that was fine. Most often we would try to have the longest charge near dinner time and have a relaxing sit-down meal. The app often alerted us halfway through the meal that our car was ready!

We never felt that we were waiting too long. Almost every charging stop had an amenity that we could use. We had brought skipping ropes, baseball gloves, and a soccer ball to occupy time during charging, and hardly made use of any of those due to lack of wait time. Instead, we hit the washroom, added water to our re-usable containers, grabbed a snack (though we had plenty in the car), or wandered a grocery store for supplies. At a few stops, we simply enjoyed conversation with other Tesla owners while the kids napped or played on their tablets in the car (or drew pictures on the Tesla screen).

On a few occasions, the estimated times were off (we think due to our heavy use of A/C, during an extremely hot two weeks), but it was easy to adjust. The car basically does all the work for you. Plugshare was also a handy app, because at a few Superchargers there was very slow charging, or one stall not working at all. Electric car owners, we have learned, love to share information — and Plugshare is a great place for that.





## A Cross-Country Family Adventure in a Tesla Model 3 *continued*

If there's a better stall, or a helpful tip about where to eat, you'll find it there. Plus it's fun to "check in" and post pics & information yourself. 10,000 km are a long way to go, which is why we made use of Plugshare and also why we had a little blog on Facebook about our trip. We felt that it might be helpful and interesting for other owners, and we also had some friends and family asking about the trip, so it seemed like a no-brainer to share info this way. To this day, we still get views on the blog, which may be found here: [www.facebook.com/model3travels](http://www.facebook.com/model3travels).

Only two glitches occurred in our entire adventure. Neither was affected the trip much. The first happened when we arrived in British Columbia. It took extra time and planning to be sure we could get to our Airbnb with enough charge left. The area of BC we were visiting (Nelson/Kaslo) has zero Superchargers. There are a couple of level 2 chargers, though, so we knew that if we got low, we might have to spend a few hours charging at those. With about 35 km left, we stopped at a level 2 charger for about 20 minutes. It worked out fine but was a bit scary getting down so low! When we left that area, we were fine getting across the province to Vancouver Island — enough Superchargers on the Trans-Canada in BC — so no range anxiety.

The second small glitch happened on the way home. We had an error message pop up stating that we had lost access to auto-pilot, regenerative braking, and one other thing, I believe. We couldn't imagine not using auto-pilot, so this was bad news. We quickly posted in our Facebook group and immediately had a few responses with helpful advice. When we stopped 20 minutes later to charge, we called Tesla Customer Service. After a hard reset and them doing something on their end, the message was cleared and we had auto-pilot again. Phew! How many car companies can fix your car over the air in less than half an hour? Amazing.

We had a fantastic, trouble-free trip — a perfect way to "break in" the car, and not worry a bit about how much mileage we were putting on it. It was fun to learn all the neat features while we actually had time to enjoy them. It should also be mentioned how relaxing it was to know how safe this car would be if we had an accident. We talked to so many people about Tesla and EVs in general, both owners and non-owners, and are quite sure a few non-owners we spoke to looked into buying one afterwards.

What a blast this car was on the trip and continues to be every single day! We will continue to use it for long trips (Florida in December and hopefully eastern Canada in Summer 2019), and we are also anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Model Y, so we can ditch our gas SUV and never rely on gas again. It's amazing to us to know with near certainty that our kids will never use gas vehicles and that many of our friends and family will seriously consider electric for their next vehicle purchase.

I read Elon's biography by Ashlee Vance during this trip as well (what a perfect time to read it!) and highly recommend it. It's an exciting time, living on a planet with Elon at the helm of so many major technological breakthroughs. We are honoured and blessed to own a Tesla and be part of history...and the future.

THANKS for sharing! You can contact Carrie-Ann Timm and Jamie Dufour by email: [carjam@cogeco.ca](mailto:carjam@cogeco.ca)

PHOTOS: Photos courtesy of the Dufour family, taken on their trip





### Tesla Test Drive Event

Remember when — you took your Tesla for the first ride/drive?

Tesla held a test drive event in Toronto November 9–11. They showcased the performance models, including the newest — Model 3 — as an option. Those interested could test drive all models — 3, S, and X. Unlike previous Tesla test drive events, some of us (Tesla Owners Club of Ontario members) joined the action!

John Dixon got a schedule organized to make sure there were three owners (each with experience with at least one of the Tesla Models) per shift so as not to overwhelm the Tesla guests with our enthusiasm! We chatted with people in the lounge area while guests waited for their test drive and answered lots of questions from our perspective as owners. Conversations covered everything from charging to the luxury feel of the cars and the driving experience. People had travelled from within and outside the GTA, definitely with great anticipation for their first opportunity to drive a Tesla!

Brrr...the weather was cold, but the excitement of the test drives did not deter. The thrill of the drive wowed many — and they headed home with the Tesla grin, and hopefully an eye for joining the Tesla Owners Club of Ontario!

### Looking for someone familiar with Blackvue dashcams

A familiar sight: sitting at a Supercharger (in Hamilton), I saw a Model S several spots over. I was preoccupied, so didn't think much of it. But I grinned as a gentleman approached my car waving the Tesla Owners Club of Ontario business card. I chuckled, got out (carrying my TOCO lanyard and nametag), and the conversation began...Murray said Oh, you must know John Dixon. (I think that's code for "in the know.") And so I met Murray and his Model S, Tim Tesla; and Murray met me (Jill) and my Model 3, Nellie.

Murray isn't able to make many meetings, but has a question about his new Blackvue dashcam. If you could help Murray out with using his new Blackvue dashcam, it would be appreciated. Contact Murray through one of this newsletter's editors (addresses on the first page).

### Membership Benefits

The value of being a Tesla Owners Club of Ontario member continues to evolve. Be a part of this growing community!

This group is unique in its connection to Tesla — a direct connection through the club for owner issues or concerns. Our executive committee works to strengthen our connections with Ontario businesses interested in our Teslas. Our growing sponsor list and benefits are indicative of the work happening behind the scenes.

We have great networking opportunities and many social events, and are working to develop more membership benefits. Let us know what you'd like to see and how we may serve a broader Ontario-wide Tesla Owners community. Share your ideas with any of the executive committee members, or write to [info@teslaownersclub.ca](mailto:info@teslaownersclub.ca).



Tesla Owners Club of Ontario



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