

I am John Wayland (aka Plasma Boy) and I have accepted the nomination for NEDRA President. I am excited to see that the current VP, my good friend Lowell Simmons, is uncontested and I look forward to working with him to lead NEDRA towards its original vision.

I designed and built my first EV in 1980, refusing to follow the conventional wisdom of the time - overloaded dog-slow rolling science projects. My first conversion was a hotrod style EV that exploited electric torque. It laid 20 feet of rubber, twisting the driveline and breaking the transmission - I had tasted the forbidden fruit and would never look back!

It was in 1996 while at the Phoenix APS races, that Roderick Wilde and I dreamed up NEDRA, as EVs were still not taken seriously, generally laughed at and oftentimes ejected from the 1/4 mile drag track. We got together with like-minded EV amheads and launched NEDRA in 1997.

I served as NEDRA's first president for 5 years. Under my watch and with hard work by NEDRA VP Roderick Wilde and Bill Dube, we convinced the NHRA to accept NEDRA and to adopt our well-thought-out rules and regulations, while also agreeing to mirror all applicable NHRA rules. NEDRA EVents weren't poorly named last minute get-togethers with just a handful of EVs showing up. They were planned six months to a year in advance, had meaningful titles and goals, and attracted attention from around the globe. Media descended to capture the NEDRA experience. I created and promoted grudge matches between quick EVs and various muscle car clubs to further the acceptance of the electric car through demonstrated performance and excitement. Eighteen years later, the legend of EVs trouncing the V10 Vipers still lives on!

Things have definitely changed since 1997. We now have 762hp Teslas on the road. I maintain they are here in large part, because the NEDRA I cofounded forced the issue of electric performance. Just ask Tesla's Chief Technical Officer, JB Straubel, where he used to race his EV conversions. At a recent Drive Oregon EVent held at the World of Speed Museum, the featured speaker for the history of electric performance was Chris Brune, who used to pit with team Plasma Boy. He credited me for being influential in his decision to pursue a career in EVs, ultimately becoming VP at Rinehart Motion Systems.

For the past 35 years, I have openly shared my knowledge, experience and passion with others, fostering the high performance EV movement. My enthusiastic promotion has attracted coverage by major media outlets as well as support of large corporate sponsors. It is time to bring this environment back to NEDRA.