

## **Eric Ritter, DSNY Mechanic, Eclipses World Speed Record for Electric Vehicles**

By: Keith T. Kerman

In 1957, John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record, a major moment in the history of flight, and a signal to the world of the limitless potential for jet aviation.

We are now entering the age of electric transportation, and NYC public servant and Sanitation Truck Mechanic Eric Ritter is again pushing the limits, surpassing the world speed record for electric vehicles at 353 miles per hour (mph) on October 1, 2021.

In his day job, Eric is a truck mechanic for the Special Chassis unit at the DSNY Central Repair Shop (CRS) in Queens. He refurbishes sanitation trucks, replaces motors, fixes hydraulics leaks, and takes on major unit upgrades. He's helping prep the salting fleet now for the upcoming snow season. Eric is one of NYC's behind-the-scenes technical and mechanical experts, keeping our City running every day.



*Eric Ritter (center) and others standing in front of the electric vehicle used to surpass the electric vehicle speed record.*

For most, that would be enough. Eric has always had the drive for more, becoming a motorcycle racer early on and moving to California to perfect his skills. Eric returned to NYC in 2001 but continued his passion for racing.

Eric has surpassed records in liquid-fueled race cars in the past. Six months ago, he embraced a new challenge, racing in an electric unit. In partnership with *Team Vesco* of Rockville, Utah, and *reVolt Systems* of Oceanside, California, Eric smashed the electric vehicle speed record using a 1957 'Little Giant' Streamliner Chassis with an electric power drive system that included two stacked *Tesla S* motors. The record was surpassed on a five-mile course at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. You can watch the record being surpassed here:

- [Electric Vehicle Speed Record: Spectator perspective](#)
- [Electric Vehicle Speed Record: Eric's perspective](#)

Eric sang the praises of the specially designed electric car. “The acceleration never stops,” he explained. “It’s a clean vehicle, it’s the future. It’s a technology that needs to be developed further. What we are doing is taking it to its limits. This will determine what breaks, what the capacity is. We are proving what electric vehicles can do.” This high-performance and high-pressure testing of electrification will be critical as NYC pursues its cutting-edge ambition to fully electrify our City fleet including many high-performance and high-pressure emergency operations.

While we think of racing in terms of speed and risk-taking, safety is at the heart of Eric’s approach. “It’s safety first,” says Eric. “If I’m not comfortable with the preparation and safety, I’m not going out.” He did say that in racing, in the end “you have to have faith in the people you work with.”



*Driver's perspective inside the electric vehicle.*

Electric vehicles are not just clean and quiet, they are great performance vehicles and fun to drive. Eric is helping NYC make the transition to an all-electric fleet at home while proving the power of electric vehicles to the world. Congratulations!

Many thanks to Eric and June Ritter for sharing this story.

---

## NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

---

## 2021 Climate Leadership Awards



### CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

NYC Fleet and DCAS Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman were recently recognized in the 2021 Climate Leadership Awards.

The awards highlight exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in

reducing carbon pollution and addressing climate change. To learn more about the award recipients, visit [2021 Climate Leadership Award Winners](#).

---

### DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 is out now and takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



---

### COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

---

## Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 366, October 15, 2021](#): NYC Fleet Performance in Mayor's FY21 MMR

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 365, October 8, 2021](#): DCAS Pilots Biodiesel 50 Percent (B50) With Parks, NBB

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 364, October 4, 2021](#): The Sun Shines on 32nd Annual NYC Fleet Show

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 363, September 24, 2021](#): Mayor Announces New Fleet Electrification Investment

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 362, September 17, 2021](#): NYS DEC and Con Edison Support NYC Fleet Electrification

Check out the [complete archive](#).

---

// Connect with DCAS to Learn More about the City of New York's Fleet //



Visit us on the web at [nyc.gov/DCAS](https://nyc.gov/DCAS)