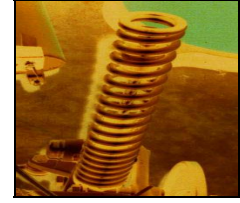


A Little Car News



The Monthly Newsletter of the Central Texas Micronuts Car Club in Austin, Texas

April 2004 Double-Secret Special Edition

Seriously, the next Micronuts meeting is **Thursday, April 8th** at Rudy's Barbeque on Loop 360 @ 7:00 PM. Bring a hungry friend with you.

BMW TO RE-INTRODUCE ISETTA, 600

IN THE NEWS!



Munich (Reuters) - The automotive world was both shocked and elated at the rumored re-

introduction of BMW's quirky '50's hit, the Isetta, and its big brother, the 600. Project teams have been operating under the moniker **Kode Stünorkim**. Competing auto design pundits microseismd at the tip-off. One was heard to quip, "Refrigerator door latch? Do what?" Early reports place the Isetta and 600 on BMW sales floors for an **April 1st** kickoff in the US, BMW's largest market for the reincarnated and fast-selling MINI.

Perhaps BMW has finally gotten the message that buyers like small cars, *really* small cars, and have decided to run with it. Pulling the gas-stingy, uni-door Isetta out of mothballs and giving it a "this millennium" motif makes it a perfect companion to the MINI. And adding the 600 "Limo" to the lineup belches a Richter scale-rattling salvo that small and roomy can coexist, thumbing its nose at the beached-whale Hummer lemmings. While details were sketchy, an alleged aggressive advertising campaign is expected to spank the H2's size and deplorable gas mileage, specifically noting its insatiable appetite for "motion lotion". Jingle singers, reportedly including **Little Eva**, have already delivered demo tracks to BMW for marketing-brass rubber stampage.

Although remaining suppository on specific amenities, one leakster dribbled out the following features buyers can probably expect to find on both models:

- Heaters that actually produce heat.
- Carburetors that actually don't leak.
- Actual jack and tools. Jack *handle* only available in optional "convenience package" in Q4 or eBay, whichever comes first.
- ONSTAR satellite uplink for timely location by tow trucks.
- Automatic enrollment in comprehensive troubleshooting classes covering all 37 things to look for when it won't start.
- Those wacky spinning wheel covers so owner can potentially feel better when car isn't running.
- Bing dartboard. Bull's eye starts motor.
- Information sheets included with each car that can be handed out to total strangers so owner doesn't have to verbally explain what kind of car it is and that it has a top speed of 52 mph when planets are in perfect alignment.

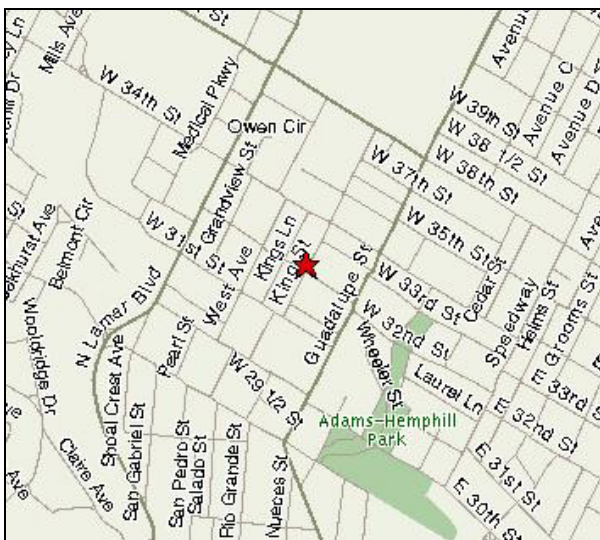


ALCN was able to obtain this clandestine, night time telephoto shot just before press time, proof-positive that BMW is serious about **keeping Kode Stünorkim models under-wraps** until the April 1 bare-all.



Chow Time!

It's time for the **First Annual Micronuts Spring Bleach Burnout and Weenie Roast** at Robert Mace and Wendy Wiess's joint. Pencil in **Saturday, May 22, 2004**. Festivities get under way at 5:00 and go until 10:00 PM. The address is **3208 King Street**. If you're driving, take Lamar Blvd to West 34th Street. Head east on 34th towards Guadalupe, go four short blocks and hang a right onto King Street. Party headquarters is the second house on your right, the **purple** one. Right next door to the **pink** one. If you're flying, the map shown below will give you an idea of where their house is from the air. More info in the May issue.



Looks like a workday over at **John Wallace's** place. John just got through jacking the body up a tad to slip a shiny new body/frame seal in his Isetta. John's been all over his recently acquired

yellow car installing upgrades such as a grab handle, mirrors, rewiring brake lights, repainting knobs and switches, installing the door piston correctly and on and on. Oh yeah, the interior pieces were taken to Cecil's Auto Trim for new threads, too. Now if the dudes at the chrome shop will get on the stick, it'll *really* be lookin' good. John's immaculate turquoise and white **Metro** looks on in the background.



Land No! Warren Kodosky reminds *ALCN* that the **Austin Amphicar Swim-In** is **Saturday, April 24th**. Launch site is **Walsh Boat Landing** at the intersection of Enfield Road and Lake Austin Boulevard, just north of the Hula Hut. Plan on driving you cars over there around 10:00 AM and be on hand when the tidal wave hits Lake Austin. Warren is planning on 5 or 6 A-Cars to be on hand for the festivities. Just seeing one go in is worth the trip. Great fun and the price is right.

By the way, if that artwork looks familiar, our associate **Jeff Loughridge** of **Boogerball's** cranked this one out from pix of Warren's car, **FLOATS** Texas plate and all.



Guess who's going to be featured in the Spring issue of *Minutia*? And this is no joke. If you guessed "**The Central Texas Micronuts**", you're right! Apparently, we're doing something right

because editor **Ernie Freestone** has requested a **tell-all exposé** on the 'Nuts so we're gonna give him one. Topics include the club's conception, longevity, car shows, Chuy's parade involvement, newsletter, pix and, of course, a recap of the visit to McDade to check out **Andy & Janie Amescua's piglets**. If all goes well at the printer's, the Spring issue of *Minutia* should be in your mailbox sometime around the first of May.

By the way, **Ernie has busted his backside** giving *Minutia* a makeover in the appearance department. He tells *ALCN* that **Phase Two** of the improvements is coming with the Spring Issue. Send him an email at erf123@aol.com and let him know you appreciate his efforts.



Wanna see something beautiful? Check out this Isetta that Werner Schwark just bought from its second owner in Oregon. And the second owner bought it from the first owner in 1958! Original everything, tool kit, registration stickers, owners manual, even German Metzler tires ... a dream come true. With the exception of the wheels having a new white paint job, this car has not been restored, just washed and waxed.



This graphic ought to make **Ray Morey** happy. Looks a lot like his **Bianchina**. And thanx one more time to **Jeff Loughridge** for allowing us to showcase some of his fine microcar graphic work. There's a lot more where this came from. You can check it out 24/7 at <http://home.comcast.net/~lokrij/boogerball1.htm>.



It appears that one of, if not *the* most, popular microcar books known to modern man, **John Jensen's Isetta Restoration Guide**, may be published by Veloce

Press later this year. Veloce's site, www.velocepress.com, has an interesting assortment of automotive books including a reprint of the **BMW Isetta Factory Service Manual**. *ALCN* has been in contact with Mr. JJ himself who is currently updating his book, first released in 1991. Once the legal mumbo-jumbo gets worked out, this will be a great deal for folks who missed the first edition and aren't willing to pony up the overblown prices (\$175-\$200) that have been bid up on eBay. **Keep us posted John!**



For cryin' out loud, what's a **map of Spain** doing in this already ridiculous issue anyway? Well, Micronuts friend and Isetta owner, **Claudi Etcheverry**, over in

Barcelona (teeny red star on right) has graciously offered to translate *ALCN* into Spanish for distribution to his microcar friends in Spain and South America ... that's what. ZZ Top was only bad and nationwide. *Gracias Claud!*

Send your microcar news and pictures care of brucef@austin.rr.com. See you again in May.