



A LITTLE CAR NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS MICRONUTS CAR CLUB IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

JANUARY 2006 HERE-WE-GO-AGAIN EDITION

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 7:00 @ THE TREE HOUSE.



Livio De Marchi is a master wood carver who has created all sorts of amazing stuff. This Vespa is one of them. He cruises the canals of Venice, Italy in his wooden Ferrari F50. Check out his work at www.craftsmanshipmuseum.com/DeMarchi.htm.



We couldn't kick off 2006 without a Leonardo Correa Luna sighting. This time, it would appear that Leo has snuck out of the house and cruised up to Madison, Georgia to Bruce Weiner's Microcar Museum. And as proof of the jaunt, he climbed into the real Whattadrag Isetta for a mug shot or two. Leo reports that after visiting the museum, he feels totally justified about all the car stuff he's bought and will continue his automotive procurement indefinitely.



Now, what to do with all of those left over wood shavings? Boil 'em down, whip up a batch of paper and spend the next year making a fully functional paper V-8 engine! This one

comes to us via the Yee's Job Web site. Check out more pix + videos of the big block in action at www.yeesjob.com/v8engine.htm.



Not to be outdone by a V-8 engine, the folks at funmansion.com posted several

shots of this paper Batmobile. Next?

Speeding Brick Wall Case Halted

By Dineo Matamelo
(Zanzibar Sunday Times)

Judgement in what has become known as the "speeding brick wall case of Tsitsikamma" will be handed down next year. The case in which scientific tests showed the speed trap had measured a wall "moving" at one kilometre per hour, was supposed to have been finalised last Wednesday but was postponed to February 24.

Knysna resident Dr Helen Bruwer received three speeding fines after being snapped by a camera. She challenged the fines for allegedly driving at 92km/h, 93km/h, and 97km/h in an 80km zone on the N2 in Tsitsikamma. She received two R100 fines for the alleged 92 and 93km/h and R150 for the 97km/h speed. Bruwer was one of many angry Eastern and Southern Cape motorists who complained that they had been photographed by the camera and ticketed although they were driving within the speed limit.



Try as hard as we may, we just can't seem to get an issue off the press without some sort of flying machine getting thrown in the mix. You guessed it, **Dave Major** sent us this pic of an **Isetta helicopter**. Dave had the notion to build one of these years ago but someone beat him to it.

"*Whirlbird*" is based in Oregon and is the mascot of Air Life, an emergency air ambulance service. It has been converted to electric power. The car is used for public relations visits to various groups.



In order to get those two snowed-in Isettas at the top of Page One uncovered, we've enlisted the services of this **V-8 powered snow blower**. This bad boy is based on a **big-block 454 Chevy** motor cranking 412 HP. It'll throw snow 50 feet at 3,500 RPM's. Check out all the action at www.v8snowblowers.com. Also click on the "Gas Blender" link for a sneak preview of the **high-performance blender** they're whippin' up.



Tango anyone? **Gerron Hite** called our attention to this **Tango T600** on eBay a while back. 0 - 60 mph in 4 seconds using a half ton of battery power. The "car of the future" is slimmer than a Honda Gullwing bike and runs 80 miles on a charge, recharging to 80% capacity in 10 minutes. Hmm ..



Regular readers have been following **Richard Lewis'** progress on his rally Isetta. This time, it's a full compliment of gauges. As you can see here, the layout

and installation is done. Time to wire 'em up and get the show on the road. Keep those pix and updates coming, Richard! We're hoping you have those new Minilites spun up come springtime.



So what to do with all of that Xmas cash torchin' your wallet? How about a **LIKEaBIKE** from Design Within Reach? This \$279 twice-wheeler sports a birch and stainless steel frame, alloy wheels and comfy padded seat. Pay no attention to the "Age range: 2-5 years". Doesn't apply to the *ALCN* readership. More lowdown plus other cool stuff at www.dwr.com.



Dave Major has been working overtime this month. He sent us this shot of **Jeff Hammer's**

highly modified Isetta. Jeff posted the following info about the car on the Yahoo! Isetta group BBS. "I have a '58 Isetta that been customized. It is powered by a Honda 700 Nighthawk with a 5 speed and overdrive. It was built from a stripped out body that had been used as a chicken coop. Now, it is fully roadable and I'm enjoying (very much) driving it on a regular basis. I had a stock Isetta before which I enjoyed as well but my custom is so much more roadable with it's 50 horsepower, disc brakes, rack and pinion, 14" BMW alloys, etc., etc." Gotta love the sunroof.

Judge: 128 MPH Not Reckless

(from THECARCONNECTION.COM)

Score one for the "reasonable and prudent" school of thought: a Nebraska judge says that a motorcyclist caught speeding at 128 mph was not necessarily driving recklessly. The AP reports that County Judge John Steinheider found that 20-year-old Jacob Carman was not guilty of reckless driving when he was chased and apprehended by police after hitting the top of the police cruiser's range of 128 mph. The judge commented that with no passengers and no other cars nearby the charge of reckless driving could not be supported. Carman was, however, fined \$300 for other offenses including expired license plates.

Got some post-Christmas cash laying around? Of course you don't. But go ahead and check out

Steve's Collectibles at

<http://pages.tias.com/7760/InventoryPage/1633290/2.htm>

! for some great microcar ads and patent drawings. Plus a lot of other neat stuff. Thanks to **Wayne Graefen** for this tip.



It's time to fly out of here for this month and get to work on the February edition. See you in 30.



Thanks for this one too, Dave! ... BF