

A LITTLE CAR NEWS

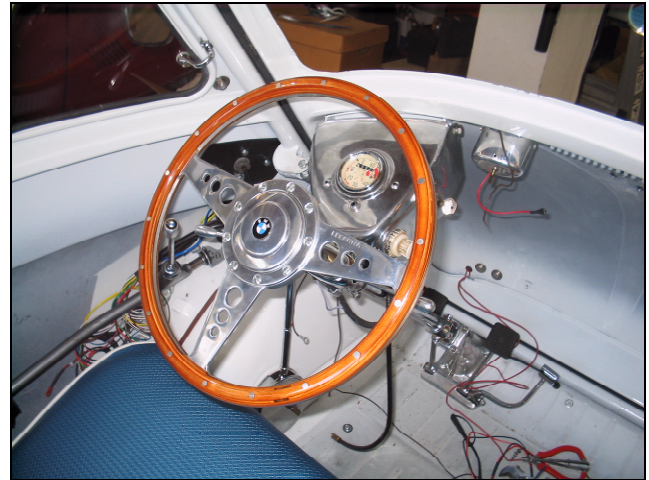
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS MICRONUTS CAR CLUB IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

MARCH 2007 BUS AND GARBAGE TRUCK EDITION

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH, 7:00 @ FUDDRUCKERS / ANDERSON LANE




Yep, **Wayne Graefen** is at it again. This installment provides yet more proof that folks will tweak anything that rolls. In this case, it's a **garbage truck** that's been retrofitted to serve as a mobile bachelor pad. Check the pix below:



Richard Lewis keeps a steady stream of Rally Isetta updates coming our way. Looks like the **French LeCarra wheel** has found its way onto the steering column where it belongs. This picture doesn't do the extensive polishing job justice but it would appear that Mr. Lewis has gone through a 55 drum of jeweler's rouge in the process of tweaking all that aluminum. By the way, all of Richard's resto pix can now be found at www.rallyisetta.com.

NEW LICENSE PLATES DON'T MEASURE UP

DETROIT - There's something a little screwy with some of Michigan's new license plates. A faulty die used to cut the plates and stamp the holes has made it so two of the holes on some of the new plates don't line up with the mounting holes in vehicles. Officials at the **Parr Highway Correctional Facility** where Michigan's plates are made, have since corrected the mistake. A spokesman for the Secretary of State's office, said it's difficult to pinpoint how many plates were affected, but *there's no need for customers to panic* ... Thanks again Detroit!




SUBARU 360 Drivers' Club
2341 S. CIRCLE X PL. TUCSON, AZ 85713

VISIT OUR NEW CLUB WEBSITE: www.subaru360club.org
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THE LATEST ON MALCOLM BRICKLIN - According to a story on AOL on Jan. 9, Malcolm Bricklin, who brought our Favorite Vehicles to these shores, has broken off negotiations with Chery in China. His "Visionary Vehicles" franchises were supposed to have the cars this year. Now it seems Daimler-Chrysler will import them instead. Now Bricklin says he will import a 100mpg plug-in Hybrid from China in 2009. I wonder how many who invested in the ZMM (which was supposed to be here in 2005) or "Visionary Vehicles" will also be buying franchises for this latest venture. I just wish Subaru of America would import the R-1 and R-2.

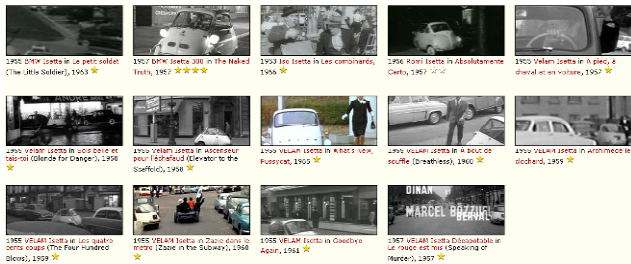
SPEAKING OF UNCLE MALCOLM, I had not lived in our present home long when I saw a neighbor at the community pool, driving his E V WARRIOR - the electric bicycle which was one of the many items our Favorite Entrepreneur sold franchises for. I informed the owner that his bike was a cousin of my van and Fastrack II., and we introduced our vehicles to each other. Finally I took a pic of it:



THANKS TO WHOEVER SENT ME A CLIPPING FROM THE N Y TIMES, 8/20/06, Sec. 8, P. 11 entitled "FOR MICROCAR FANS, IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL". The article included a photo of JEFF LANE driving his Subaru 360 pickup with his Ford F-50 on the pickup bed (we ran this pic in color in our 12/05 issue) and mentioned members JEFF & SUSAN LANE and the LANE MOTOR MUSEUM in Nashville TN. I doubt we can get permission to reprint the article, but if your local library has microfilm archives of the N Y TIMES you can look it up and read it there.

I HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF YOU AND YOUR 360s AT THE 27th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST UNIQUE LITTLE CAR MEET, April 20-22 in West Covina CA - see your December 2006 issue for full details, and register early. WE'LL ALSO RUN CONTACT INFO FOR AS MANY SUMMER MINICAR EVENTS AS POSSIBLE IN OUR JUNE ISSUE - DEADLINE 15 MARCH 15, 2007, mailing date about 4/15/07.

Ed "Subaru360nut" Parsil sent us a copy of the Subaru 360 Drivers' Club newsletter. It's jam-packed with all sorts of 360 info and worth checking out. You can find it on the Web at: www.subaru360club.org. Very well done!



Need a handy-dandy online source for just about every kind of car that was ever in the movies? Wayne Graefen suggests that you check this out: <http://www.imcdb.org/>. And yes, the ZIL and the Savien are on the list.

Wanna check out one of the coolest Isetta videos to date? Americo posted this link on the Isetta bulletin board from, you guessed it, YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMB2QsL6kdQ>

PS: Run a search on "Isetta" on YouTube. They've got lots of neat stuff to watch.



Ever heard an F1 car sing "My Country 'Tis Of Thee". You will if you click on this link. Unreal:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRXwWbo_mXO



While we're on the subject of making a lot of racket, how about a new air horn for that microcar? The Nautilus Compact Twin-Tone Air Horn is a 139dB squawker you could hear going off at a Black Sabbath concert. It's small and sans all that clear plastic tubing that makes other ones look more like a chemistry experiment than a horn. Check out Thompson Automotive Products on the Web at www.thompson-automotive.com and click on the "Air Horn" link. \$42 USD.



Then there's Horntones, an accessory that ties into your regular car horn system, but allows you to play any standard audio file loudly at nearby drivers and pedestrians. The unit holds up to eight audio files at once and can be loaded from any USB flash drive. The Horntones FX-550 will cost \$149.99 when it's released in April. Some bozo cut you off? Just smack the horn button and give 'em an earful of "Dead Man's Curve" or "Last Kiss".



John Wallace sent us the link to the **GM Futureliner** Web site. Designed to be the centerpiece of the Parade Of Progress program in the 40's and 50's (they stopped here in Austin in May of 1955), there were only 12 of these ever built and only a few remain in existence. Tons more pix and info at www.futurliner.org.



This one is a Canadian restoration on its way to Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale this past January. Selling price? How about \$4M, a record.

Tune up your Cell Phone with our new high performance ringtones! If you like the sound of rumbling big blocks & the roar of small blocks then you'll love our custom engine ringtones for your Cell Phone, only \$1.50 ea. and you can easily download 'em right to your phone and start enjoying the sounds of Horsepower today!

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Big Block at Startup	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Big Block V8 Rumble 1	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Big Block V8 Rumble 2	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Big Horsepower V8 Firepower	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Chainsaw	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Import Turbo Screamer	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Lumpy Cam Big V8	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Revved Up Modified	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Small Block V8 Thunder 1	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Small Block V8 Thunder 2	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
V8 Race Motor	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>
Wide Open Throttle	<input type="button" value="Buy Now"/>

Wanna 86 that cheeseball factory ring tone on your cell phone? Cruise out to **Unusual Automotive Online** at www.unusualauto.com and check out the

"Products" section. You find a selection of sounds ranging from an engine starting, big block and small block racket with a trendy chain saw thrown in for good measure. For a really good time, be sure and click on several sounds in quick succession and listen to the mayhem with everything running full blast at one time.



Wayne Graefen forwarded a link to a pretty good report on a two year driving study of Smart cars. It's a straight up look at one long-term driver's observations. All the lowdown is on Autoweek's Web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/2jnvpc>

Hey, wait a minute! Wasn't there a little car that people used to park sideways back in the 50's and '60's? Seems like the door was in the front though.



Carl Jensen sent us this incredible barn find in Portugal. There were 180 classic cars sitting in this warehouse that had the door welded shut. Check these links for more pix:

<http://www.intuh.net/barnfinds/index.htm> and

<http://jalopnik.com/cars/retro/open-sesame-warehouse-opening-in-portugal-reveals-forgotten-collection-231918.php>

Wow! See you next month ... BF