



# A LITTLE CAR NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2007 75MM CANNON EDITION

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 7:00 @ **FUDDRUCKER'S / ANDERSON LANE**



**Chuck Kichline** shoots us these pix of a seriously empowered scooter. Believe it or not, the French came up with this urban renewal machine. The text in the accompanying article goes something like this:

"Deployed with their airborne forces, **this was essentially a militarized Vespa scooter** outfitted with a 75mm recoilless rifle. Five parachutes would carry the two-man gun crew, weapon, ammunition, and two scooters safely to earth, and the men would load the weapon on one scooter and the ammo on the other, then ride away. More impressively, the recoilless rifle could be fired effectively on the move by the best of the gun crews. Total cost? About \$500 for the scooter and the recoilless rifle was war surplus."



Need a fire engine but you're on a budget? How about this **1962 Ape Pentaro**. It was actively used up until 2002.



Apparently, the folks at **Piaggio** were always coming up with new frames for their Vespa scooters. Here's a shot of one of them (circa 1951) that was taken at the Vespa Museum in Pontedera, Italy. Finally, here's one that was made specifically for the 1967 James Bond-like movie ...



"**Dick Smart, Agent 2.007**". Dick gets around.



What does this have in common ...

Austin, Texas, boasting the magic combination of being a haven for thousands of bicycle riders and basically clueless motorists, would be the perfect place for the **Thrustpac**. It's the best of both worlds. Now you too can strap this gasoline-powered engine on your back, slip on the "glove" and cruise around town at up to 80mph (150 miles per gallon). The glove controls acceleration and slowing with the simple movement of the index finger. (One could see how this might prove to be a really bad design flaw under "certain circumstances") There's a Michael Jackson joke in here somewhere but .....



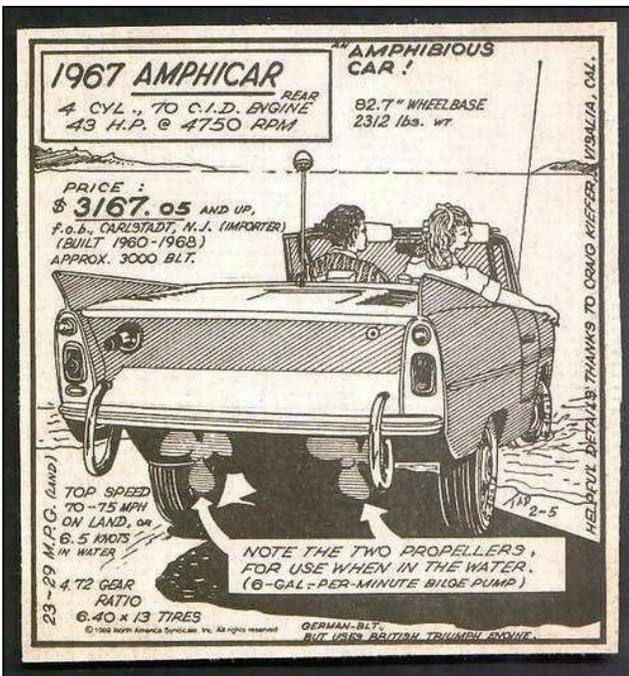
with this? If you said **"they're both Bushpigs"**, you're right.

Think of a very small motorcycle with hubless wheels. The absence of hubs allows you to stick your feet in through the wheels and use your balance to steer it. Speed and braking is controlled with a hand-held throttle.

**From their website:** "Bushpig's sideways stance is similar to surfboards, skateboards and snowboards with the center mounted high-performance 43 cc two stroke engine delivering a smooth surf-like ride and top speeds of over 20 mph. The slender mid-engine chassis uses two large hub-less ten-inch off-road knobby tires, which surround each foot making the rider's feet the axis of the wheel. This unique feature makes the rider literally part of the machine, giving the rider an unparalleled level of stability and control."

**Check out the video** and see how you can break your neck in style for around \$800 plus massive medical expenses:

<http://www.a2xtreme.com/wheelmanweb.html>



Want to check out a cool Amphicar site? **Wayne Graefen** recommends that you click this link:  
<http://oldcarandtruckpictures.com/Amphicar/>

# Rent An Isetta!

## BMW Isetta, 1959, Red

	Points	
Weekday	260	Best Value: <b>Weekend-long</b>
Weekend-Day	325	▶ Pickup after 3pm Friday
Weekend-Long	780	▶ Return by Noon on Monday
Miles Included	130	▶ Maximize your points and time with the vehicle
Points per Extra Mile	1	<input type="button" value="Reserve Now"/>

MSRP	Color	Transmission	Drive	Horsepower & Torque	0-60 Time	Convertible
-	Red	Manual	2wd	10 hp & - tq	-	Yes

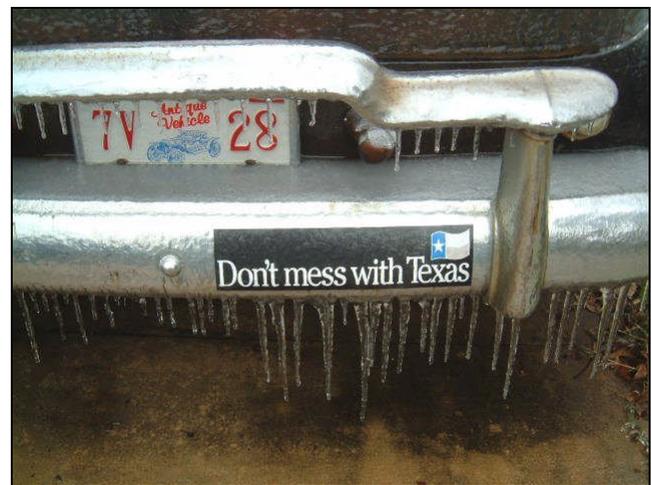
## BMW Isetta conv., 1959, White

	Points	
Weekday	325	Best Value: <b>Weekend-long</b>
Weekend-Day	390	▶ Pickup after 3pm Friday
Weekend-Long	936	▶ Return by Noon on Monday
Miles Included	130	▶ Maximize your points and time with the vehicle
Points per Extra Mile	1	<input type="button" value="Reserve Now"/>

MSRP	Color	Transmission	Drive	Horsepower & Torque	0-60 Time	Convertible
-	White	Manual	2wd	10 hp & - tq	-	Yes

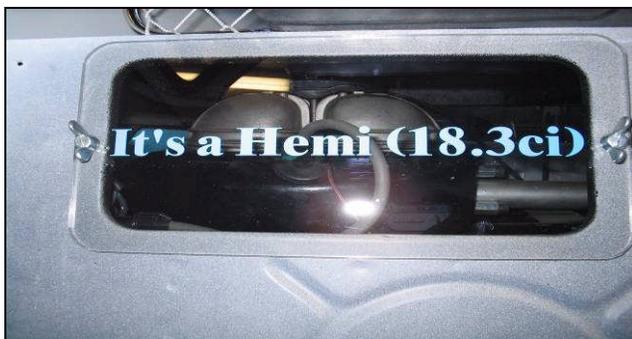
What?!? Sure enough, **Wayne Graefen** sent along the link to the **DFW Elite Car Club's** Web site at [http://www.dfwelitecarclub.com/garage\\_all.html](http://www.dfwelitecarclub.com/garage_all.html). Next time you're in the Metroplex and need to stand out in a crowd, here's your ticket. The catch is that you have to be a member of the club to have access to their 50+ stable of cool cars. All the inside dope is on the above mentioned site.



Of course, by the time you get this it will probably be 90 degrees in February around here but **Chuck Kichline** sent this reminder of what a wonderful middle-of-January we've been having.



Sometimes, things that are macro in size suddenly become micro. Like the bulldozer up there in the yellow circle. This 42,000 ton German digging machine has been featured here before, sans Caterpillar.



**Richard Lewis** keeps pluggin' away at the details on the rally Isetta. This time, it's a new Lexan interior access cover with a subtle message (top) and a new switch panel for the custom dash that will hold all of the gauges. Check out the START button.



We're still working on a caption for this one. Until then, it's back to the drawing board for the March edition. From the slight bulge in the old mailbox, it's looking like a few folks are getting things together for post-thaw motoring action. Keep us informed at [brucef@austin.rr.com](mailto:brucef@austin.rr.com).