



# A Little Car News



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

January 2005 "It's New To Me" Edition

**THE MICRONUTS NEXT CLAMBAKE 'N CATTLE CALL IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 7:00 AT CASITA JORGE'S ON HANCOCK DRIVE.**

**IN THE NEWS!**



## Smart Cars Ramped Up To Invade US!

(AP) A California company planning to import 60-mpg cars popular in Europe said Monday that it had cleared the final government hurdle: a certificate of compliance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We're legal now," ZAP CEO Steve Schneider told MSNBC.com. "We're going to start filling consumer orders right after the first of the year."

Priority will be given to people who placed \$1,000 deposits, Schneider said, and then to those who have signed up for one without a deposit.

The cars are made by DaimlerChrysler in Europe and go by the brand name 'Smart'. Smart USA has plans to sell a small SUV smart in 2006 but not the two-door versions that get 60 miles on a tank of gas.

ZAP last May signed an exclusive distribution contract with an importer, smart-automobile, for the rights to sell 15,000 of the cars a year in the United States.

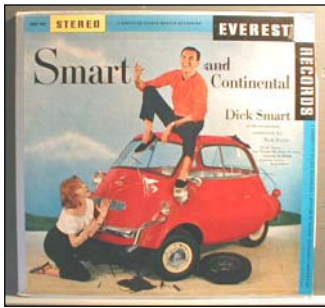
Since then, nearly 6,000 people have placed orders, ZAP says.



Need to get someone a late Christmas present? How about another toy for yourself? **Floating Ideas** has this cool magnetic gadget that suspends objects in mid air, like this Mini Cooper. They also have globes (included with unit), picture frames and airplanes. Looks like

something straight out of "War Of The Worlds". Check out the action at [www.floatingideas.com](http://www.floatingideas.com). By the way, they have an office here in the Capital City. Give Taryn a buzz at 617-1127 and ask her to put one aside for you and save the freight charges. **\$99.00 USD.**

Hmmmm ... wonder if those diecast Isettas will work in this thing? We'll have a full report from our research laboratories in the February issue.



Here's *another* Smart car, so to speak. This is one of those hokey '60's-style album covers that was too good to pass up. It would appear that **Dick Smart's Isetta has gone buns-up** so he's sitting on top of the car yukkin' it up and doing some finger poppin' while the clueless babe wallows in a pile of wrenches, jack and spare tire.



On the second album cover, we find the same babe (no longer clueless) who's apparently letting Dick know that *she ain't workin' on his Isetta anymore!* The .38 is self-explanatory but that lit cig hangin' off her lip with the one-inch ash really says it all. Very nice!



This just in from a member of the **Yahoo microcar-minicar group**:

"I just received a call from someone whose brother was at the set

of **Monster Garage**. Seems **Jesse James** has stooped to a new low, as in build team. **This group of builders are all midgets**. And their project? A supercharged, Japanese-powered Messerschmitt. I figure the influence of attending the National Microcar Meet in California must have had Jesse thinking the last couple of months. Flattery or mockery toward our group is yet to be seen. **Show date is set for Feb"**.

We don't make this stuff up y'all, just report it. We'll try to have the air date in the next issue. You can always go to [www.discoverychannel.com](http://www.discoverychannel.com) and check out the air dates for future shows around a month out.

Rounding out this month's extravaganza, we have **Tim Cage** from our newly established **Coinjock, North Carolina office**. Tim's no stranger to Austin. He's been here for the **Republic Of Texas Biker Rally** and *highly* recommends the Saturday night hoe-down at the Texas Expo Center. We'll just leave it at that. Here are a couple of shots of his convertible, the second one showing that he's wasting no time getting it primped 'n sassed.



See everyone next month as we continue to sink to new depths. The improved-for-2005 mailbox awaits your stuff as does [brucef@austin.rr.com](mailto:brucef@austin.rr.com).

**P.S. to Robert Mace:**

Thanx for letting me rip your Web site off for the Isetta wind tunnel pix at the top of the first page. Also, please accept my pre-order for a copy of *"Balls of Yarn"*. ... BF