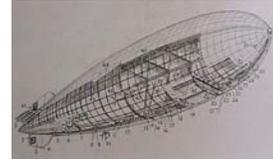


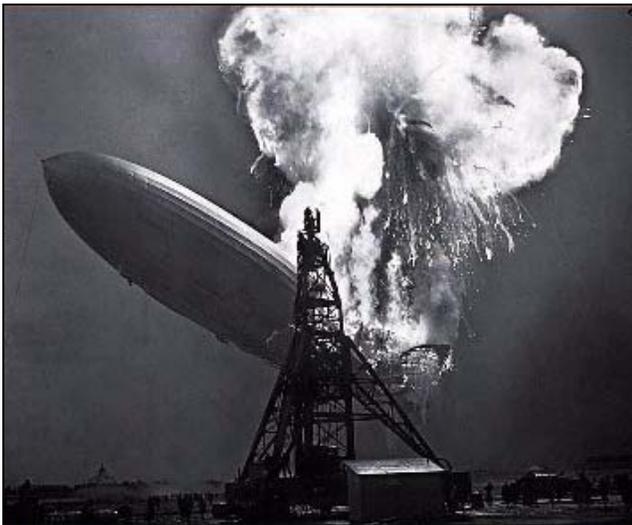
A LITTLE CAR NEWS



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

MAY 2006 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HINDENBURG DISASTER EDITION

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 11TH, 7:00 @ RUDY'S BARBEQUE ON 360.



May 6, 1937 saw one of the worst disasters to ever take place on American soil with the demise of the mammoth *Hindenburg* at the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, New Jersey. Two-thirds of the 96 people on board survived. And **Led Zeppelin** got handed a free cover for their first album. If you've never looked into this incredible German airship, you should check it out. Just like our little cars, this was an engineering marvel!

football field in under ten minutes or turn 8.7 acres of grass into lawn every hour all day.

Source: [Gizmag](#)



Wish the photographer had laid a ruler next to this micro-bike. It looks very small and very fast. It sure ain't 803 feet long like the Hindenburg but probably could keep up with its top speed of 84 miles per hour.



With summer upon us, here's something that might help you get the yard done a little faster this year: **The Dixie Chopper Xtreme is the world's fastest lawnmower.** It has a

990cc 33-hp engine with the capability to mow grass at 15mph. It can take either a 60 or 72 inch cut. That's a lawnmower capable of mowing a



It's that time again, y'all. Time for the **National Microcar & Minicar Meet**. This year, it's north of Chicago in Lake Crystal, Illinois. The dates are August 11th through the 13th. And yes, T-shirts are available for \$18.00 in advance. More info at www.microcar.org.



Micronut Warren Kodosky and his better half, Lisa, have tipped ALCN off about their new venture, **Enchanted Antique Limos**. They've got everything from a stretch Lincoln Continental to a DeLorean to an Amphicar for anyone who lusts for an aquatic confab. Check out the lineup at www.enchantedantiquelimos.com and give Warren and Lisa a call at (512) 633-0413 and make it happen.



An economical three-wheel car? What'll they think of next? Here's looking at the **Aptera**. The prototype under construction will be powered by a single-cylinder, 12-horsepower diesel engine and a 25-horsepower DC electric motor, and will have a continuously variable transmission. Power is delivered through a single rear wheel mounted on a composite swing arm. The car is expected to have an electronically limited top speed of 95 miles per hour and an estimated 0-to-60-mph acceleration of 11 seconds.

Oh yeah, under \$20K, **330 miles per gallon**. 2008? Only manufacturer Accelerated Composites knows for sure. Check out their Web site for more info at www.acceleratedcomposites.com/aptera.php



If you compare this pic to the one posted here in ALCN a few months ago, it's obvious that **Dave Major** has wasted no time in getting the *other* Aerocar spiffed up. DM mentioned that he wished it was running a little better so he could go "sledding" but you can bet he'll have it dialed in soon.



Toyota's PM (Personal Mobility, of course) concept vehicle is described as "wearable" transportation with a "lifelike posture". Among other things, designers have built in a vehicle-to-vehicle communications system so PM owners can share information with each other. Just what we've always wanted. The idea is for rolling armadas of these things to a platoon leader for such events as pit stops, best hamburger joint to stop at, all about what they got for Christmas and other compelling subjects you would want to know about while driving in a pack. (Sound of pencil tapping on desk)



As our regular readers know by now, we've been following **Richard Lewis'** progress on his rally Isetta bubble window. If you look closely above the trailer fender, you can see the trick aluminum skid plate under the motor. And those Minilites speak volumes! More to come as the blue and white unit goes back together.



We can always count on **Wayne Graefen** for an appropriate jab ...



not to mention this one he and **Firemarshal Bill Waite** tipped us off about. From a recent Autoweek back page. Looks like someone with a copy of Photoshop and too much time on their hands came up with this one. April 1, huh?



AUTOPSY UPDATE

Perry Bushong of **Perry's Motorcycles and Sidecars** up in Fort Worth has gotten his hands into **John Wallace's Isetta** big block and reports the following anomalies:

1. *Where did this rod come from?* Turns out it was some sort of homebrew deal.
2. *Whoops, where's that top piston ring!* The bottom end of the rod failed, trashing the crank and allowed the piston to travel too far up. Add the ensuing shrapnel to liven things up in the combustion chamber and the exhaust valve, too.
3. *And the survey said* Motor comes completely apart, jug gets honed, new piston, crank, bearings, rod, valves, seals, etc. Should be a thumper upon it's return to Capital City.

How To Reduce Drive Time

Although this guy got busted by the cops in Longmont, Colorado, you gotta hand it to **Jason Niccum** who successfully used his Opticon strobe gun to **change traffic signals from red to green** at will. Apparently, a traffic cop witnessed him "shooting" a red light and popped him with a \$50.00 ticket. Niccum, who is always running late, said the \$100 eBay strobe was fun to use for the two years he had it prior to getting strung up.



Time to hook up the boat and tow the Smart Car out to the lake. Thanx again to everyone for all of the pix and news you've been sending in. The mailbox is always up at brucef@austin.rr.com. See you in June with another one.