

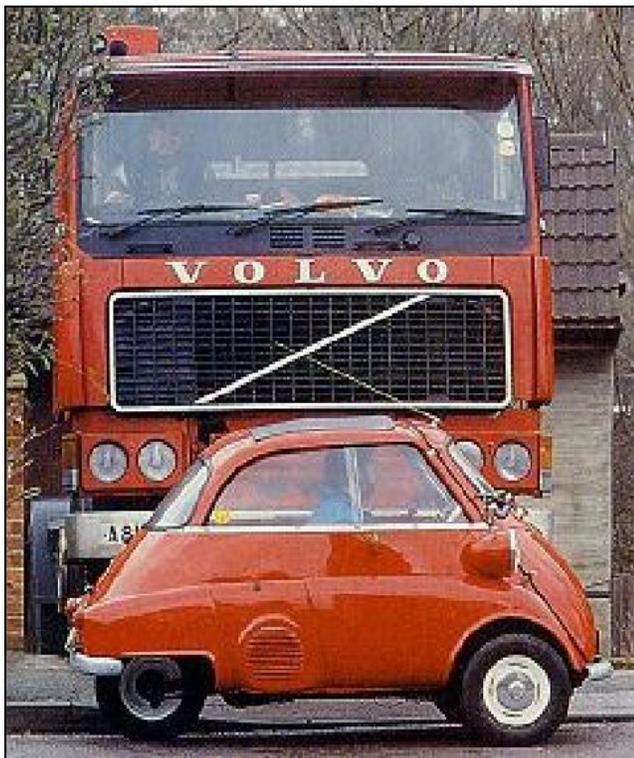


# A Little Car News

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

July 2005 Big Bottle Rocket Edition

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS THURSDAY JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00 PM, DIRTY'S. BE THERE.**



Wheeeeeee doggies! **Tom Bosano's** two pups commandeered his yellow and black Isetta after he abducted it from a barn on a tip from a friend. This car is a great resto candidate, is almost complete and in very solid shape. And that's not to mention the boxes of spare parts, extra engines, trans, etc.

Volvo pancakes, anyone? **Leonardo Correa Luna** swoops down upon us again for this month's issue with a death-defying Isetta shot. These guys from Uruguay don't let anything get in their way.



No July issue of ALCN would be acceptable without an American flag ... and a microcar to go along with it. From somewhere on the Internet.



Wonder where those two big bottle rockets touched down? **Firemarshal Bill Waite** informs us that it might have been in the

seat of his old Isetta, **Kermit**. Seems that the new owner failed to put the plastic covers back on the battery terminals, a well-fed friend sat down in the seat and next thing you know, instant hot pants. Four days later, the damage was repaired. An Isetta lesson learned the hard way.



So one day **Bruce Fullerton** is in the kitchen choppin' up some cold chicken livers for lunch and hears this engine running outside. UPS? Moving van? Haz-Mat? Heck no! It's Micronut **John Wallace** dropping by for a quick photo op. John decided to run errands in his yellow unit and decided to cruise over on his way home. An action video of John's departure is posted out on *Isetta Tech* ([www.isettatech.com](http://www.isettatech.com)) in the **Gallery** section for your viewing pleasure. Photo courtesy of *LadderCam*.

To start the July Yellow Isetta Portion of this edition, top billing goes to **Jeff Wareing of Wigan, England** who contacted *ALCN* about an acceleration problem (fuel bowl not filling completely up with gas) after his three-wheeler had been running for a while. We've heard this one before. So has Micronut **John Wallace**.

After going down the checklist of possible culprits, sure enough, the coil was caught red-handed. That is, the person who touched it was red-handed. Literally. For some strange reason, some Isetta coils like to fail in slow-motion leaving the owner scratching their heads. One tip off is that the car runs fine again after you let it cool off. File that one away if it ever happens to you. What about the fuel bowl? Didn't have any effect. As a matter of fact, this isn't all that uncommon in Isettats that run just fine.



You can't have bottle rockets without smoke, right? Well, you can't have a Lucas electrical system in your British-built car without smoke either. *ALCN* found

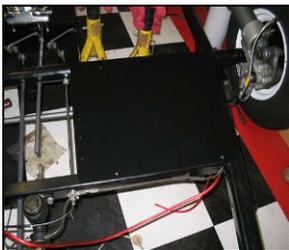
this **Lucas Replacement Wiring Harness Smoke Kit**, part number 530433, on eBay. It's a one-of-a-kind item that allows owners of Lucas-equipped cars to install the smoke back into their electrical systems once the problem(s) has/have been (temporarily) solved. A "Churchill" metering valve measures the precise amount required. It's about time the purported "**Prince Of Darkness**" electrical products got some help. The seller declined to comment on the Earth's depleted ozone layer, opting to concentrate on his affection for Lucas bullet-style connectors and something about "*those Land Rover-types are on their own*".



Isetta owner, **Richard Lewis**, has been in touch with *ALCN* about the progress on his barn-find bubble window coupe. He's wasting no time in getting everything

torn down, refurbished and posting tons of pix on his Web site. This is one of the best jobs of documenting a restoration we've seen on the Internet! If you've got any questions about how an Isetta goes together, this is for you. It's: [www.richardjlewis.com/isetta/index.html](http://www.richardjlewis.com/isetta/index.html).

Richard is taking a little different approach on his car than we've seen before. **He's building a rally-style Isetta** with a few trick features. One includes moving the battery box up front which entailed fabricating a floorboard support out of aluminum stock. Check out the pic on the left.



On the right, we've got some genuine BMW guibos (drive donuts for the rest of us) to beef up the drivetrain. Below right are the cool rally lights. On the left is a shot of a custom-machined tow/tie-down hook mounted on the chain drive. Neat!



No, this isn't Richard's car. Yet. He has taken the initiative to contact the folks at Minilite about having a set custom-made for his car. The two rears fit with room to spare. He's still working

through some front suspension issues to get the other two on there where they belong. More later.



Here's a great shot from **Kenneth Winter in Tennessee**. This mammoth military carrier is flanked by three

microtugs, a Fiat 500, Kenneth's newly restored Isetta Polizei car and a nice Peel Trident.



Been wondering "What ever happened to Carl Jensen's primo Messerschmitt?" Here it is in a car show in California sportin' the new

owner's business name "Wild Bill's Tattoos". Ouch!



One final item we have this month for your Fourth of July consideration is this **Hemi-powered barbecue pit**. Looks like Chrysler Corporation is soliciting Hemi-

power for what-have-you. This owner reports that his rig cooks several dozen hot dogs in under three minutes.



It's time to blast off. As you can probably tell from all of the different names mentioned, we get news from all over. Send yours to [brucef@austin.rr.com](mailto:brucef@austin.rr.com).