

# A LITTLE CAR NEWS

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

MAY 2007 ONE-HUNDRED-MILES-PER-GALLON EDITION

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 @ FUDDRUCKERS / ANDERSON LANE**



We need more signs like we need another hole in the head, right? RIGHT! Check out the **USA Traffic Signs** site at <http://signs.safeshopper.com/index.htm?740>.

These guys have over 700 signs of all types, poles, those spring-loaded stands designed for windy days not to mention a staggering percentage of people who drive late-model Buick sedans, a roll-your-own offering for custom designs and a plain old blank those for those non-creative types.

## Oregon Man Puts Kids in Car Trunk

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - An Oregon man on vacation with his family is accused of putting two of his four children in a car trunk because *the vehicle was too small* to hold all of them.

Douglas Willy, 40, was arrested Saturday after police received a tip from a person who saw the family at a gas station, authorities said. He was charged with two counts of reckless endangerment.

Willy, his fiancée and their four children were taking a trip but the vehicle did not fit all six passengers. So, police said, he decided two of the children would ride in the trunk to avoid taking a second vehicle.

Police said a 12-year-old and 13-year-old were in the trunk, and had been riding inside for about 20 miles.

The woman took the children home on Saturday. Authorities said Willy was released without bail Sunday.

A telephone message left Sunday at the Willy's home was not immediately returned.



With clothes ...



or without, this is one neat ride! **Scott Isensee** sent us the above pix and article on the **NARO** concept vehicle. It's designed for city use as a personal commuter, a taxi or a delivery vehicle, is intended to return over **100 miles per gallon** from a 400 cc, single-cylinder, 4-valve gasoline engine with a maximum of 20 HP.



Now here's a fresh idea. Make a car based on a motorcycle engine that gets **100 MPG**. This variant is known as the **Moonbeam** and is shown here with it's creator, Jory Squibb. Says Squibb, "I hope the big car companies are paying attention. Using two Mopeds, \$2000 and a little ingenuity, good Samaritan Jory Squibb built a cozy 2 or "1.5" passenger car that can get 100mpg highway and 85mpg city. Sure, top speed is only about 50mph, but that's plenty fast for cruzin' the strip for babes...**ecobabes**. The moral of the story comes from Squibb himself: "Isn't it sad that such a simple vehicle, which could be mass produced for \$5000 or so, which awaits no fancy fuel cells nor high-tech breakthroughs, isn't available to the public?"

Follow this link for complete instructions on how to build your very own Moonbeam along with some related links:

[mysite.verizon.net/vze6omtd/jorysquibb/id1.html](http://mysite.verizon.net/vze6omtd/jorysquibb/id1.html)



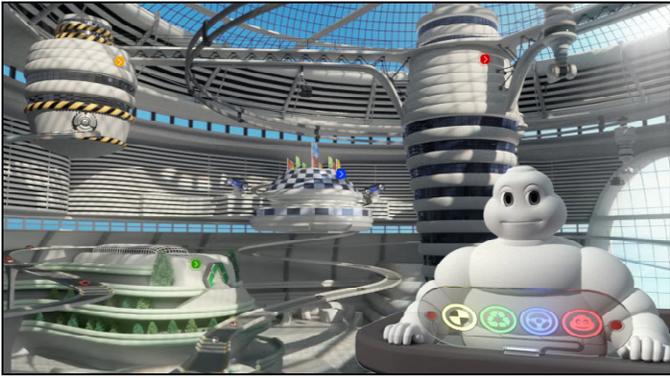
Five years ago, **Volkswagen** took the wraps off its "**1-Liter Car**" concept that could get **222 mpg** out of a meager 8.5-hp diesel engine. Now, they're rethinking the concept, as the cost of parts are now substantially less than it was in 2002. Don't hold your breath but ...



Here are two shots of **Leonardo Correa Luna's** newly restored Isetta cabrio. A LOT of work has been put into this car which is flawless in every department.



And there's Leo's bubble window on the back of that flatbed truck when it first arrived. Leo's sliding window Isetta is there to supervise unloading and meet it's new family member.



Want to see an outstanding exercise in animated graphics? Cruise over to Michelin's Web site at: <http://www.michelinman.com/forward/> When you're on this screen, don't do anything for a minute or two and watch Bibendum tap his fingers waiting for you to make up your mind and do something, for cryin' out loud.



What's this uninspired picture of an uninspired car doing in *ALCNP*? Read on. And steer clear of Streatham next time you're in the UK ...

## ***'Our car was crushed because we spent too long on holiday'***

A couple's car was towed away, impounded and crushed while they were on holiday in Australia. Emily Droy and Bryan Magee returned from the three-week break to find their Mitsubishi Colt had disappeared from outside their Streatham home. They contacted Lambeth council and were told that - despite the car having an MOT, tax and insurance - officials had towed it away after thieves broke into the hatchback and left it with a smashed rear window.

When they arrived, staff searched the pound by torchlight - only to draw a blank. Miss Droy, 29, who works as a manager at Tate Modern, said: "Forty-five minutes later one of the pound employees at

(Crushed Colt continued) Camberwell informed us by phone that our car had been demolished that morning - only 12 days after it was impounded.

Lambeth council recently crushed a £30,000 classic car after mistakenly thinking it was untaxed.



Wrapping things up for May, **Scott Isensee** sends us one more concept car. This may be the coolest thing you see all day long. The **SNAP Multicar** features the following revolutionary items: "Behold the most flexible family car ever devised. It's not just one car—it's two, or three or four. Imagine you're driving to the shore. Your daughter wants to see her friends, your son wants to surf, and you and your wife want to hit the boardwalk. No need to play taxi. This groundbreaking new sedan is made from four independently drivable pods. When attached as a single car, the side windows rotate open to allow for side-to-side interaction, with a high-fidelity microphone system for clear front-to-back conversation, as well. If the passengers want to split up, each driver enjoys either hand controls or, particularly for younger, not-yet-road-legal children, the latest in fully autonomous driving capabilities."

Click the following link for more:

<http://www.time4.com/time4/microsites/popsci/futureofcars/>

**Pop Quiz** > What kind of car are you? Click here:

<http://www.tomorrowland.us/sportscar>

That does it for May. We'll see you again in 30 with more must-know info. Thanks for the unprecedented amount of content you've been sending in! It's much appreciated by a lot of folks ... BF