

A Little Car News

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

September 2005 The Long And Short Of It Edition

NEW MEETING PLACE! BURGER TEX ON AIRPORT BLVD, BETWEEN NORTH LOOP AND 290. THAT'LL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH @ 7:00.



No secret where this month's edition got its name. **Firemarshal Bill Waite** swoops down one more time with Seattle-area car show antics. So this guy cruises into a Mini car show in Washington state in his black, stretch Hummer. Following a brief discussion, he parked it at the far edge of the parking lot. FB jumped on the photo op for us.



Color-coordinated **Gunnar and Brunhilde** decided to park it in the middle of the road for this shot. If you look closely, there's a woman's head on the rear parcel shelf. It's 10 PM, Carl. Do you know where Monique is?



John Wallace has produced photographic evidence that **BMW did, in fact, manufacture a four passenger Isetta.** The pic shows four of

the scads of kids that had to climb in John's Isetta and have their pictures taken at the River Place Fourth of July Parade.

"Car Crashes Into Car Crash"

Santiago, Chile - A newly opened restaurant called **Car Crash** had to close down after a car crashed into the building. The car lost control in wet weather and smashed into the entrance of the restaurant.

Owner Nancy Araya says she named the restaurant Car Crash because the area was an accident black spot. **"The restaurant is now a joke,"** she told *Las Ultimas Noticias*. Nobody was hurt in the accident. The restaurant is expected to reopen within a week.

The Knitting Machine is Dave Cole's performance art piece that uses construction equipment and 20-foot long knitting needles to construct large-scale objects. Starting yesterday June 30th and throughout the weekend, the artist will use a pair of John Deere excavators to hold the needles and a Genie to wrap the yarn, creating an oversize American flag at **MASS MoCA**. The flag will then be folded military-style, housed in a display case about the size of a Volkswagen Bug, and become part of an exhibit in the museum along with other work by Cole. Something about the mix of domestic craft and construction seems like a fitting way to celebrate the 4th.



Speaking of previous editions of *ALCN* and swerving way off-topic again, you may remember that Micronut **Robert Mace** and a partner-in-crime are working on a knitting book for men, "**Balls Of Yarn**". "**B-O-Y**" is still in its embryonic stages but **Dave Cole** has a **monster knitting machine** up and running. Rather than try to describe this thing, just run over to www.theknittingmachine.com and check the teddy bears, some made out of lead, some out of pink insulation and about the size of a **VW Beetle**. The pink machine guns are worth checkin' out too.



Here's some **BIG** car news. How about a **737 limo**? This ride was recently offered on eBay with an opening bid of \$935,000.



Elvis would have been proud of this one. Someone took a defunct 737 fuselage and pimped it out with every imaginable amenity in the books, right down the the mirrors on the ceiling. A search failed to bring up bid results.



Here's a shot of what's left of a Honda bike and the VW GTI it **broad-sided at 160 mph**. The bike rider and two passengers in the car did not survive the event. The car is shown on display at the Stockholm Motorcycle Fair as part of the Swedish Police and Road Safety Department as a stark reminder to motorcycle riders to slow it down.



This one comes to us via the Isetta Owners Club Of Great Britain bulletin board. **Phil "The Bomb Guy"** posted this shot of his red and white unit shadowing an F-16 at an undisclosed location.



ALCN scooped some more great Isetta digital graphics. Solids and wireframes can be had at [http://forums.cgsociety.org/showthread.php?thr](http://forums.cgsociety.org/showthread.php?threadid=113874)

[threadid=113874](http://forums.cgsociety.org/showthread.php?threadid=113874). Snoop around, there's all kinds of interesting stuff on this site.

Vintage Car With A Digital Twist

Here we have an updated Fiat 500 with a multimedia high tech soul. First, the car opens only if you send it an SMS (by keying in the registration number on your mobile); it replies by flashing its headlights and sending a message of acknowledgement from the owner, with comments such as: "Good evening, welcome back! By the way, I'm thirsty, I'm out of fuel..."



Its sun visors feature make-up mirrors on the back, with TV cameras to film and photograph the crew, while the rear windows are screens on which you can draw or write e-mails and text messages to be sent in real time. "Through wireless networks and with GPRS connections, messages, sketches and images are stored on the car's Web site."

When hooked up to a fuel pump to fill up with petrol, the vehicle can download mp3 files from a jukebox inside the pump. And when the Fiat is parked, a device installed between the two headlights projects its memories to the outside - films and images stored during its daily trips.



Somewhere, probably Tokyo, '57 or thereabouts.



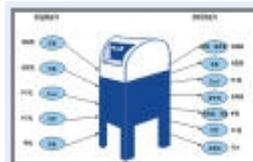
From our Kerrville office, Texas Hill Country correspondent **Wayne Graefen** sent us this update from Fiat. After vaporizing \$10 billion dollars over the past four years, looks like someone out on the loading dock must have slipped a great idea in the suggestion box. **Why not bring back the 500?** This proto suggests that someone upstairs was paying attention. Naturally, the top brass aren't talking but this is a pic of a real car.

THE BULWER-LYTTON FICTION CONTEST

WHERE WWW MEANS
"WRETCHED WRITERS WELCOME"

If you're a regular reader of *ALCN*, then you're sure to appreciate the **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest**. Prestigious awards are handed out every year for outstanding butchery of the English language and generally bad writing skills. Here's an example from this year's contest: "*Max thought the night-time burglary at the California surfing museum would be a safe caper, but that was before he spotted the security cop riding a bull mastiff, blond hair blowing in the wind, and noticed the blue-and-white sign wired to the cyclone fence, "Guard dude on doggy."*"

It's a natural chaser for this month's edition and can be found at www.bulwer-lytton.com.



Better git while the gittin's good. Your news, pix 'n email, are always welcome at brucef@austin.rr.com.

You're the ones that make this happen every month. See everyone around the first of October with another installation of *A Little Car News*.