

Flying Bikers Build "Aero-Cycles"

By John "Gunner" Gunnell

Tim Buttles and David Myers are both interested in airplanes and bicycles. So, it maybe was natural for both Waupaca County men to construct "Aero-Cycles." Tim's three-wheeled motorcycle looks like a little jet, even though it doesn't fly — at least not off the ground. David's looks more like a racing car, but is still quite aerodynamic.

Buttles, an Ogdensburg resident, says that his white Aero-Cycle was inspired by the BD5 one-man Jet that starred in a James Bond film. His three-wheeler actually started life as a Honda 600RR. Tim fabricated the front chassis using Pontiac Fiero front spindles and brakes and joining them with the motorcycle frame at the rear.

"The whole bike is in there, except for the fork," Buttles explained to Free Rider's Press. "The motorcycle originally cost me \$2,200 and my total construction cost was about \$3,500. I started the project in January 2009 and worked on it part time. I completed the vehicle in July 2009."

Tim is a creative type of person. The front fenders on his Aero-Cycle are made of polyurethane foam. He



Tim Buttles stands next to his white Aero-Cycle. Under the streamlined body is a complete Honda 600 RR motorcycle.

made the unique amber parking lights on top of the fenders from model airplane fenders and cut the bottoms off drinking glasses to use as lenses. For headlights he mounted 1939 Dodge lights on the front of the vehicle and added lenses that he bought at a Fleet Farm store.

Buttles's Aero-Cycle is not yet complete. When he's done, the canopy over the cockpit will be fully enclosed. He says the strut scoops will also be painted, he'll decorate it with stripes and a scoop will be added up front after a heater is installed. Tim is proud of his low-cost build, but says that saving money wasn't his main motivation. "It was something to fill up me time," he explained. "It's either build a motorcycle or watch TV and I'd much rather be building a bike."

David Myers, the owner of Wood Innovations in New London, built his red Aero-Cycle from scratch by combining a 1978 Kawasaki KZ400 and parts of a 1958 Volkswagen Beetle that had the front end removed. He then crafted a frame to tie the two elements together.

Myers thinks that his vehicle looks more like an Indy racing car than an airplane, though he is also an airplane buff. He used car tires up front and mounted the biggest possible motorcycle tire that would fit at the rear. "I had to put extra air in the tires to keep them hard," he advised. David says the three-wheeler is fun to drive and it gets a lot of attention wherever he takes it.



A friend on two wheels rode shotgun when Dave Myers took his Aero-Cycle out for a ride.



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