

WEIRD WHEELS

EPISODE SYNOPSES

Episode #1001 – People Power

Some folks don't care how high the price of gas goes. They peddle-power themselves right on past the petrol station. One of them has even taken to the air – in a wheelchair.

Episode #1002 - Wheels of Art

What do you call a car made from a log? A set of wheels you can play like a drum? And a four wheeled mermaid that loves car washes? Call them Art Cars.

Episode #1003 – Helmet Required

You definitely don't want to leave home without it – your helmet, that is. Not if you're riding your unicycle through the rain forest, or a street luge down a mountain.

Episode #1004 - Shocking Wheels

Meet four individuals whose extremely weird wheels were never intended to go the farthest or the fastest. They're designed to electrify us. Hop aboard and rate these vehicles for their 'shock' value.

Episode #1005 - Kinetic Wonders

Join us for the West Coast's wackiest wheeled weekend of the year. Kinetic sculptors from far and wide put their peddle-powered creations on the line. The starting line, that is – at the annual Kinetic Sculpture Race in Port Townsend, Washington.

Episode #1006 – Rust in Peace

Sad but true – our beloved jalopies don't last forever. Visit an Art Car graveyard. Then, overnight at a trailer park full of vintage classics. Would you believe a quarter mile long fence made of retired tractors?

Episode #1007 — The Future is Now

A motorcycle that resembles a Formula One racer. A car that runs on sunshine. And a one-person Electrathon. Some of these automobile creations are so far out that the designs get lost en route.

Episode #1008 — Bizarre Wheels

Meet three individuals who are as unique as their cars are strange. A showgirl in a cartoon Cabriolet, an artist in a 2-story car called 'Kaka', and a sculptor whose cars do everything from phone to fight.

Episode #1009 – Weird Racing

Wanna race? Got a barstool? No? A street luge? No? A bike that floats? A super-charged grass-munching lawnmower? No? You're the perfect spectator for this episode of Weird Wheels.

Episode #1010 – Reinventing the Wheel

Meet five guys who were born to tinker. Would you believe a 650 c.c. bathtub? A traffic buster that's as cute as a Sparrow? Then you're not going to believe the wheel that shoots rapids, or the one-wheeled motorcycle.

Episode #1011 – Easy Riders

‘Easy rider’? That’s easy for some folks to say. Folks who’ve never hung on to a Nitro Harley. Or a guitar on wheels. They sure haven’t met the roller-skating house painter.

Episode #1012 – Art Cars

So, you think you know what an Art Car is? Not until you’ve seen the Rhino Car, you haven’t. Or the car you might mistake for a salad bar. Or the wrought iron Volkswagen. These are Art Cars!

Episode #1013 – Anything Goes

This is your ticket to the World’s Smallest Museum -- on wheels. And a ride in a car with a pig co-driver. And a visit to the workshop of the King and Queen of kinetic sculpture.

Episode #2014 – Wild Inventions

Car artists transform ordinary vehicles into the extraordinary and the comical. A Camero sprouts wings and becomes the Nat-mobile. The Push-Me/Pull-You Car doesn’t know if it’s coming or going, and the big, wheeled flower is always daisy-fresh.

Episode #2015 – Kinetic Survivors

Ever wanted to know how fast a piece of art can travel through the mud? Giant lug nuts float and prehistoric monsters hit the highway during the marvelous mayhem of kinetic sculpture racing. Experience the thrill of victory and the agony of being mediocre.

Episode #2016 – Bugs On Wheels

Don’t take a fly-swatter to these roadworthy insects. The Tiki Bug and Coffee Bug are gussied-up versions of the loveable Beetle. Toronto’s Bug Man creepy-crawlers through the traffic.

Episode #2017 – Just For Kids

Wacky wheels designed by kids, made for kids, or filled with kid-like wonder. From “The Grateful Undead,” an award-winning car covered with sculptures of dead musicians to the world’s youngest bike trials champion.

Episode #2018 – Best In Show

Every April Houston, Texas, hosts the wildest collection of wheels out there during the annual World Art Car Parade. Bizarre vehicles such as the Fruitmobile or a teensy BMW that might just fly take over the streets. ‘Cathedral’ is a hearse driven by a true disciple of the art car movement.

Episode #2019 – Crazy Competitions

These are a few of the oddest contests on the roster. Cheer on the winners of a tractor demolition derby in farm country and get a glimpse at the brotherhood of urban cycle couriers in Edmonton when they test their mettle at the North American Cycle Courier Championships. In BC, bed races are the only place you can legally sleep at the wheel.

Episode #2020 – Roadworthy Recycling

What can you do with all that junk in your backyard? Make a vehicle, of course. A Texan’s recycled bike menagerie and Heavy Pedal Cyclecide, a wacky bike circus, are two versions of something-from-nothing. An Ottawa folk artist takes his passion for recycling to artistic extremes.

Episode #2021 – High-Octane Art

These wheels put the pedal to artistic metal in very different ways. Silver Space-Bugs wouldn't look out of place on the moon but they're cute in earth traffic too. It struggles for lift-off, but Leo Naugler's maritime Fish Copter has high hopes. Ride renegade and hipster-in-general Hoop has a menagerie of wild wheels at his disposal.

Episode #2022 – Wheel Heroes

Some rides push the notion of 'out-there' just a little bit further. Like Ken Kesey and his legendary magic bus, appropriately named 'Further.' Stand too close to Satan's Calliope and you're bound to get burned...by the flame-thrower. In Ottawa, visionary Rheal Ranger puts a 'spin' on recycling.

Episode #2023 – Wheels of Dreams

Have a look at some vehicles that go a step beyond utilitarian. Bubble Man's Bubble Van blows bubbles of joy, the Canaloupe car promotes can-do spirit and the Feel Good Cars in Ontario are feeling electric in their second lifetime.

Episode #2024 – Movers & Shakers

Pull into the high-occupancy lane with car owners who want to take you for a wild ride. Jan Loe is jazzed up about taking music to the streets of New Jersey. Self-proclaimed 'King of Art' Joe Kro-Art wants to sell the world on creativity and art teacher Greg Ball lets his students loose on an unusual canvas; his car.

Episode #2025 – Need For Speed

The top is down and the wind is in your hair. Whether it's a speedy custom-built Indycycle (also useful for slower trips to the grocery store), amped-up electric racers in Portland or a Streamliner chasing the sound barrier in the desert, it all comes down to revving up.

Episode #2026 – On The Right Track

The iron horse changed human history and now these people are riding the rails their own way. Railbikers in Oregon take in the scenery under pedal-power and some regular guys hold not-so-regular contests in a Washington railway garden. Meanwhile, handcar racers in BC have to put their backs into it.

Episode #2027 – Water Wheels

Sail down the highway in some nautically themed vehicles. Bob in Texas plies the asphalt channels of Austin with his Toyboata, Bob in Seattle likes land and sea in his Amphicar and David in Nova Scotia goes bobbing along the road in an art car all about the ocean.

Episode #2028 – Musical Rides

Sometimes your car is so cool you have to blow your own horn. California's Bluegrass Bus is a mobile museum of soulful sounds. The Horn Cars hit the highways of Georgia at full tootle and musician Vic Cassis is a three-wheelin' Brother of the Third Wheel.

Episode #2029 – Wheels To Die For

Some folks don't want to rest in peace – they'd rather be roadworthy forever. Meet the gothic members of a Denver hearse club, the owner of a Joker's hearse, and coffin racers in Colorado – who must be in a hurry to reach the end.

Episode #2030 – Rough Riders

No such thing as easy riders here. Former Hollywood stuntman Vaughn Schafer has broken world speed records on his motorized skateboard. Extreme mountain biker Ryan Leech blasts down BC's mountainsides and speed freak Terry Nish raises the 'bar' with his high-speed electric bar stool.

Episode #2031 – Off To The Races

Win or lose, it's all about the race for these folks. However, they might be breaking the tape the weird way – by hand-built soap-box, by chariot (lacking only for gladiators) or by outhouse...for when you really have to go.

Episode #2032 – Salt Fever

When speedy people head to Bonneville, Utah, they really are the salt of the earth. Here on the hard-packed, see-for-miles salt flats vehicles from all over North America (streamliners, roadsters, train cars, bikes and barstools) set record speeds.

Episode #2033 – Born To Be Weird

Does the driver make the car weird or does the car make the driver weird? The Leopard Lady of Seattle and the owner of the Cow Car in Maryland might be able to answer that question. And the Saskatchewan couple with the collection of strange cars is trying, without success, to help their daughter connect with her inner weirdo.

Episode #2034 – Swamp Buggies

Every year in Naples, Florida, the Everglades come alive with strange swamp buggies. These beasts, evolved from vintage contraptions designed to keep people dry on their drive home, race each other across the swamp in a water-flingin,' mud-slingin' charge to the finish line.

Episode #2035 – Patent Pending

Find a need and fill it. That's what these inventive folks have done: a lifeguard in Florida has designed a surf chair to give disabled sun-bunnies access to the beach; a Canadian businessman built a tour bus designed for highways and waterways; and a bike enthusiast in Ontario created the 'Wike'-- an electric bicycle for clean, efficient transportation.

Episode #2036 – Road Shows

These eye-poppin' creations are enough to make you drive off the road. A travelling museum called the 'Mechalodeon' is a treasure trove of hand-built satirical toys. Mike Watson's custom bikes turn pedals and heads on the streets of Ottawa. One chef's interactive Toastermobile is a real traffic-stopper.

Episode #2037 – Down 'n Dirty

Two Canadian farm boys strike out in new directions, leaving creative tracks in the dust. Jeff Fulton decided that mowing with his tractor wasn't enough – he wanted to race it too. And Joe Bedford is a long way from Ontario farm country when he hits Daytona Beach in his uni-motorcycle.

Episode #2038 – Get Crankin'

If you want to change gears in your bike habits, don't miss these innovators, re-creators and cycle nuts. In British Columbia's Gulf Islands, a visionary pushes two wheels to new speeds. A Saskatchewan farmer creates strange bikes for his friends – weird spokes for nice folks. In Florida, penny-farthing makers take their inspiration from the past.

Episode #2039 – Ideas In Collision

Oil and vinegar don't mix but they make good salad dressing – just one example of two strange elements combining to make something great. Like the Victoria pastor who drives like a demon in his Denomination Derby. Or the man in Saskatchewan who likes to take Sunday drives – in his easy chair. Don't forget the motorized office building in Texas.