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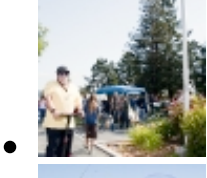
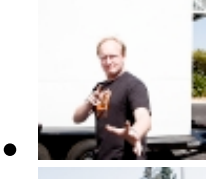
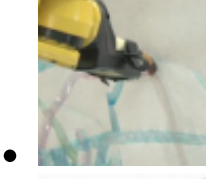
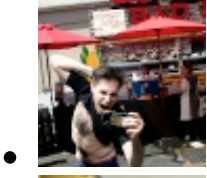
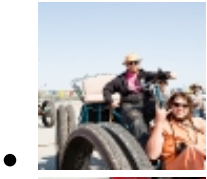
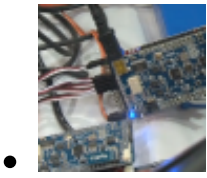
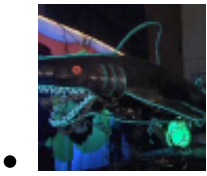
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Zombie-Defense Tech, Post-Apocalyptic Bikes Rule Maker Faire

By [Dylan Tweney](#) [✉](#) [t](#) May 25, 2011 | 7:00 am | Categories: [Hacks, Mods and DIY](#)

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Big Wheels

Skye Barnett and members of the Fun Bike Unicorn Club, or FBUC, may have started building their turn-of-the-20th-century-styled pedal-powered vehicles for Burning Man, but they're every bit as much at home among the admirers and DIYers at Maker Faire.

FBUC is a "whimsical group of builders, inventors, artists and rabble-rousers" who create large kinetic sculptures and race them on railroad tracks at an event they started: the [Handcar Regatta](#). The group also has a collective penchant for unicorns, according to their [Facebook page](#).

Barnett hails from Santa Rosa, California, and has been building his entire life.

The oldest of the four vehicles they had on display, the Hennepin Crawler, was built in 2008, and the newest, the Odd Cycle, was making its debut. The Hennepin Crawler is made of 80-to-90 percent recycled materials and found objects, including a repurposed hammock frame, drainage pipe (which were used as tires), and an old porch swing as the back seat. It's relatively lightweight for a bike that size and is easy to pedal, Barnett says. It's also his personal favorite, since it's the one he built himself. The Odd Cycle, built by [Todd Barricklow](#), is based off a trike design from 1884 called the Rudge Rotary.

Another one of FBUC's creations, the [Two Penny](#), is basically made of a pair of penny-farthings welded together (hence the name). Barnett says that although it's stable, it's the scariest FBUC creation to ride -- you're eight feet off the ground when you're sitting at the wheel, so it's "a little unnerving."

Most of their bikes have a "princess seat" in the back, so that one person pedals and drives, and two or three others can just sit and enjoy the ride. When the Hennepin Crawler was built, there were four people on the team, and this let everyone enjoy the finished product. And although their bike-based creations race on railroad tracks, they ride just fine on the road as well.

Barnett and FBUC originally decided to make the bikes after a trip to Burning Man. "It was just pure jealousy," he said, after seeing other bikes at the desert festival. So they started building their own.

This is Barnett's third year attending Maker Faire with one of his creations, and the second year for FBUC attending together as a group. --*Christina Bonnington*

Photo: Jon Snyder/Wired.com.

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Dylan Tweney is a senior editor at Wired.com and publisher of [tinywords](#), the world's smallest magazine.

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DrKnowNothing

"The bike weighs about 250 pounds, says Wagner. That's enough weight that the bike itself, plus its rider, can generate momentum, even when going uphill. "Gravity is working for you," Wagner says." Gravity does not work for you, going uphill.

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Rose

I asked him for an upgrade to the battery pack that hangs from the bottom. Would like to see it be powered by solar panels! Maybe next year.

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NV

First time at Maker Faire after reading about it for years. Truly an amazing experience.

3 hours ago

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jester demonik

really now, i want one, that beats my shotgun with door busters any day of the week....NOT!

10 hours ago

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Tomasz Moscicki

Dr. Khan from CDC wouldn't be risking his good name talking about zombie apocalypse. He is probably trying to tell us something but we don't believe it. For more see

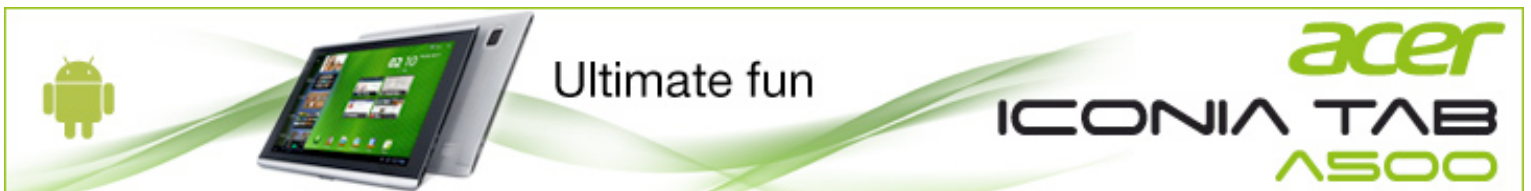
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