



Fish house is powered by a snowmobile engine. It has a top speed of 40 mph.

Self-Propelled Fish House Makes Ice Fishing Easy

If you love ice fishing but hate the chore of moving your fish house, you'll like this self-propelled rig.

"It's got all the comforts of home," says Robert Pittrich of rural West Rutland, Vt., who built the rig with his friend Joe Wilk. "It'll get you to new fishing holes in a jiffy because it moves along at speeds up to 40 mph."

The 2,000-lb. fish house is powered by a two-cycle, 55 hp, 350 cc engine out of an old Polaris snowmobile. The engine drives a three-speed manual transmission out of a Mercedes-Benz car.

The shanty's front drive axle came off a 4-WD Dodge pickup. It has 15-in. tires, hydraulic brakes, and locking hubs that are disengaged for road transport and engaged for fishing or moving around a lake.

The removable rear axle is fitted with 13-in. wheels and mounts on a trailer hitch so it can be quickly and easily hooked up to a car or pickup for over-the-road transport.

Two 12-volt deep cycle batteries provide power for two 25-watt incandescent fog lights on front, red tail lights on back, an

outside floodlight, and electric lights inside.

The floor of the shanty has four 14-in. dia. fishing holes with sleeves that run from the bottom of the fish house floor to the ice. Heat is supplied by a 30,000 Btu propane heater.

Both the framework and skin of the 6-ft. wide by 8-ft. long by 7-ft. high house are built out of aluminum. It's fully insulated with Styrofoam - 1/2 in. in walls, 1 in. in ceiling, and 2 in. in the floor. Inside walls are wood paneled and there are curtains on side windows; mini blinds on front windows.

Along with a fish locator, the house is complete with a musical horn mounted above the driver's seat on the outside. "It comes in handy to attract a little attention when we're touring the ice," Pittrich notes.

Besides Wilk and Pittrich, Bob Lewis, Roger Smith, and John Ellis helped build the \$600 shanty.

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Ed Walley's "nosedive" tractor can be towed from site to site with a chain.

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Need A Hobby? How About Wood Collecting?

People collect just about everything but we never thought of collecting wood - until we came upon The International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS), a nonprofit organization "dedicated to the advancement of information regarding wood". It's headquartered in Greencastle, Ind.

William Cockrell, secretary/treasurer, says the IWCS has about 1,700 members in 25 countries. "The only requirement for membership is a love of wood for all its beauty and variety. However, most of our members are not only wood collectors but also woodworkers who carve their various wood samples into wooden eggs, bowls, vases, furniture, or any number of different objects. Some individual collections exceed 5,000 different types of wood.

"Some members have no collection at all but enjoy the opportunity to get unusual species of wood from around the world, information about woods and woodworking, and the chance to meet other wood lovers."

Members can add new species to their collections with purchases made at IWCS auctions. For anyone needing a little help getting started, the IWCS sells a starter kit of 30 species, along with information about each of the woods.

The organization publishes a journal that keeps members up to date on wood sources, information on rare species, new information about more common woods, plans for upcoming meetings, etc. Annual meetings are held where members can see demonstrations on various forms of woodworking, hear programs on how to get the best out of



International Wood Collectors Society president Bill Perkins made this 365-ft. long chain that contains 186 different wood species. It weighs about 65 lbs.

a particular piece of wood, take tours to interesting forests or wood-related factories, trade samples, choose from hundreds of species of wood at auctions, display their own woodworking, and get inspiration from the work of others.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William and Myrtle Cockrell, The International Wood Collectors Society, 2300 W. Range Line Rd., Greencastle, Ind. 46135 (ph 317 653-6483).

"Nosedive" Tractor Draws A Crowd

When people see this "nosedive" tractor in Ed Walley's field, they often stop and run up to the machine to see if they can help the farmer whose tractor looks like it fell out of a tree. But there's nothing to fear since it's just a joke.

Ed Walley is a farmer in England who got the idea for his crashed tractor after reading a story from FARM SHOW about a farmer who planted a bunch of Cadillacs and other gas guzzlers in the ground nose

first to make a "sculpture" that looks like Stonehenge.

Ed cut off the front of his Ford tractor and welded the frame of the tractor to a heavy steel plate which sits on the grass. He can tow the whole thing from site to site with a chain.

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