

# Atomic Zombie™ Extreme Machines

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July 26, 2011



## The TimberWolf Is Born!

*By Brad Graham, July 26, 2011*

So far the week has gone exceptionally well. The TimberWolf has already been painted! The summer furnace has cooled down enough to allow a full day of work in my temporary “garage”, and the rain has stayed away during the days I had to work outside next to my welder.

I must admit - there are some benefits to having your welder plunked right in the middle of an open field.



There are no welding fumes to worry about as there is always a slight breeze out here. Another bonus is the amazing amount of light around the work which means arc starting is always a breeze. Of course, the distance between my welder and temporary workshop makes a day a bit long, especially when the entire assembled trike has to be dragged up a long hill, 300 feet to the welder. Oh, well, I am getting as much exercise now as if I was out riding the thing!

Figure 1 - Welding in the heat of the midday sun in the open field

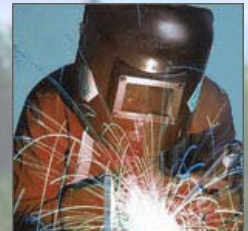
I have not started a grass fire while welding yet, but the old wooden stand I am using to weld on has been burnt in a few places. It's probably a good thing that the old rotting construction trailer that I am keeping all of my parts in does not have power for a welder, or it would have probably burned to the ground on the first day.

The completed and ready to paint TimberWolf turned out as well as any of the bikes that I have built in the new garage I left behind in the city, and I may even go as far to say that the welds may be some of my best yet. Maybe having all of that light from the sun has made a difference when running a bead? I guess I will have to install some very bright lights over the workbench in the garage I hope to have next year.

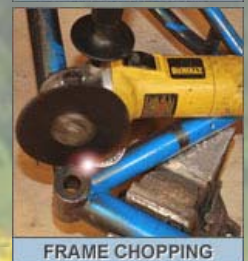
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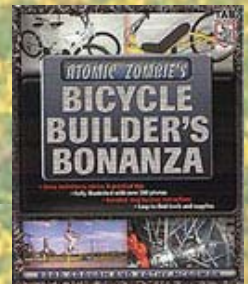
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Figure 2 - The TimberWolf just before going to the paint shop

The TimberWolf is my way of bridging the gap between a shopping style trike and a racing trike. With rear suspension, under seat steering, 26 inch real wheels, a rear cargo box and a mid level seating height, the TimberWolf can take you out to get a few groceries with both speed and style! For me, this will be good since the nearest store is a half hour ride down gravel, twisting pavement, and steep hills. I may

later add a front hub motor as well, but for the plans, I like to show a completed bike under human only power.



This delta trike would also make a great platform for a full or semi open fairing as the seating height and steering configuration would make it easy to climb in or out of a side hatch. I always wanted to make a fully faired velomobile, so I will probably keep this trike around until I have a full garage to work in with the tools needed to create a lightweight and weatherproof fairing.

Figure 3 - Gotta be creative to hang painted frame and parts!

My painting facilities are pretty much the same as they were in the city - a rope, a stand, and some cans

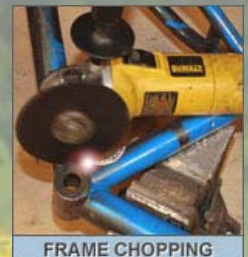
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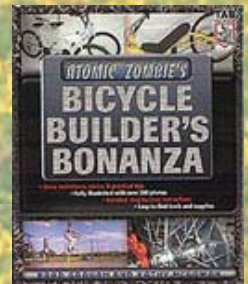
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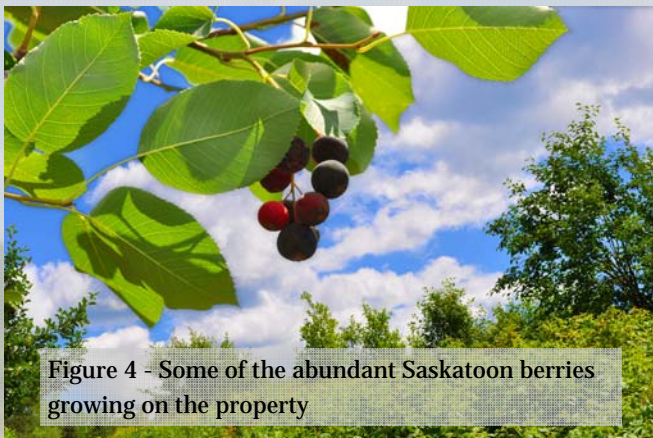


Figure 4 - Some of the abundant Saskatoon berries growing on the property

as I write this blog, the TimberWolf is curing in the old construction trailer. The weather seems to be holding out for me today, so in an hour or two, I will head back down the hill to apply the first coat of paint. I am going with a nice bright orange to help with visibility and because the rear cargo box that I choose (a cooler) is also bright orange. Around here orange is good, especially come hunting season. This wolf is NOT on the menu!

Between my temporary garage and the welder up the hill, the land is riddled with massive Saskatoon berries, raspberries, and apple trees so I always have something to snack on will welds are cooling. This place is a delight for those who like to pick berries as just one of the several hundred large Saskatoon trees has enough grape-sized berries to easily fill a large tub. I find that the berries along with a good supply of fresh water can keep my energy levels high as the temperatures blast into the +40C (+104F) mark for days at a time. The apple trees have a few months to go before they are ready for picking, but the harvest is really looking good there as well.

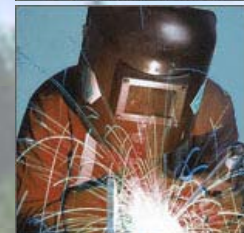
Yes, indeed, I can bake a swell apple pie as well as handling an angle grinder! (*very true!* ~ KoolKat)

It will be interesting to see what types of animals come around for the harvest come fall time. The neighbors tell stories of massive bears, moose, and several lynx in this area, so I may have to share some of the apples this year. Our property is 120 acres and has been vacant for a number of years, so no doubt, the bears will be in for a surprise in September when the last berries are falling. We might

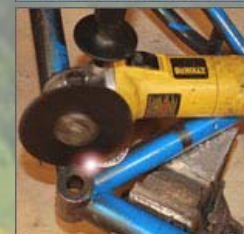
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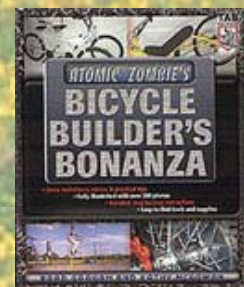
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be in for a surprise as well!



Figure 5 - Nothing like a solar shower after a hard day of garage hacking.

Living in a camper and a few tents way out in the boonies for four months certainly may seem like “roughing it” to some, but we love it!

This little tent-like building is a makeshift shower that uses a sun heated bag of water, gravity fed from a pole I made out of old conduit and bike tubing.

I actually think this shower is the best shower I have ever had, and may actually keep it up even when we are living in our new house. Having the fresh country air flow through the open screen as you get clean under a shower of sun heated water is just amazing, and it is the perfect end to a hard day’s work “on the ranch”.

Well, I have to cut this short and go paint the TimberWolf frame before the sun sets. It does stay light out here on the mountain until 11:30 pm, but I don’t want too many mosquitoes stuck in my paint, so I am going to finish up before they come out. See you next time with a completed trike!

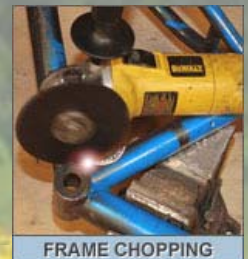
~ RadicalBrad



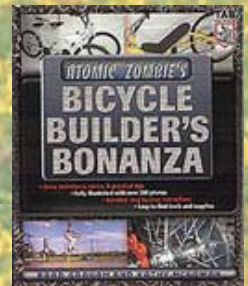
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