

CrazyJerry's

VOLUME 13

March 2021

# - HIGH-OCTANE -

## *Edition - Feature*

### *The Amazing Centurion*



## **MPG Marvel!**



Serving the automotive community from:

# Northern NY



# -HIGH-OCTANE-

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*Brought to you from the  
"Pump House" located in  
sunny Colton, NY*



*Enjoy the Ride!*

~Crazy Jerry~

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This Editon's Bumper Music:  
[Aldo Nova - Fantasy](#)  
From the album - Aldo Nova - 1982

# Setting the Stage: What is Centurion?

Centurion is a design that emerged from a company called "Quincy-Lynn" and appeared on the cover of *Mechanix Illustrated* February 1982. The car was a joint effort in design and function by Robert Q. Riley, David L. Carey and company. Sending a check or money order for a mere \$17.95 would buy you their design plans (13 enlarged pages) an instruction manual, and monthly Centurion Newsletters. Using all of this info, you would literally create the car one piece at a time in your backyard/garage/etc.

If the plans were followed exactly, to include using a 17hp three-cylinder Kubota diesel engine, you would get up to 128 mpg! The body is completely hand-built at home using fiberglass mats and resin over a foam core. The result is a very aerodynamic, efficient, and light 1200 lb car and because you have eight forward speeds to choose from, you'll never lack for just the right gear - it's brilliant to say the least!

Below is the original Centurion as featured in *Mechanix Illustrated* February 1982:

Building Centurion is very straight-forward and adhering to the plans will get you the advertised 128mpg! The Centurion featured in this edition (as best as I can tell) is one of four known to exist. What sets this one apart is its well documented, exemplary mpg track record at the 2014, 2015, & 2016 Toyota Green Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International Raceway (Watkins Glen, NY).

Here's a quick snapshot after the 100 mile competition for each year's event:

- 2014 - 214 mpg
- 2015 - 250.64 mpg
- 2016 - 204 mpg



Driving round trip (US Rt11, I-81, I-90, etc) from Colton, NY to Watkins Glen, NY is 476 miles and "Real World Driving" = 155-172 mpg. Driving to / from the event was completed using a small 2 gallon tank.

## Sources:

- [Juha Cantori Photography](#)
- [CrazyJerry Photos](#)
- [Robert Q. Riley - rqriley.com](#)
- [Robert Gillespie Cover Artwork - glenspeed.com](#)
- [Pamela Hirschhorn - Northeastwheelsevents.com](#)
- [Toyota Green Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International Raceway](#)

- HIGH-OCTANE -  
PRESENTS:

# Centurion #3



Greetings to all wherever you are located! As promised in the [previous edition](#) of High-Octane, we take a closer look at the amazing Centurion and how it does "MPG"!

As you look at the front of the car, notice its small frontal area, tiny cooling inlet below the bumper, air-dam, and low proximity to the ground. Although everything looks proportional, it's only 41" tall, and sports very small bicycle rear-view mirrors on the doors.



Hot air from the radiator is directed out through the reverse hood scoops and the pop-up headlights aid in aerodynamics when in the down position. There's not a lot for the wind to see up front!



Moving along to the side one can get a real appreciation of the windshield's rake! Along the bottom are built-in ground effects, rear skirts, and full-wheel disc covers.

Side windows are removable, cabin airflow can be forced or passive and a rear window/hatch louver keeps the interior cooler on sunny days. The rear spoiler helps with airflow and serves as a mount for the rear view camera.



A removable truck bedliner underneath the car does a great job by helping to smooth out airflow!

**The original Centurion was advertised at 1200 lbs. On race day, this car was 1080 lbs without driver.**

Although this seems lightweight, consider that Centurion hauls a lot of weight per hp!

17hp @ 1080 pounds

For fun let's scale the hp/weight up and try to imagine a car with these stats!:

x2 (34hp @ 2160 pounds)

x3 (51hp @ 3240 pounds)

x4 (68hp @ 4320 pounds)

Weight reduction below 1200 lbs was obtained as follows:

13" VTO alloy wheels (9lbs each vs 16lbs steelies)

680cca Lithium battery (5.1lbs vs 35lbs of lead-acid)

Aluminum bellhousing (7.5lbs vs 35lbs cast iron)

Seat cushions (11lbs vs 30lbs for seats/frames/coverings)

2ft custom exhaust (12.5lbs vs 48lbs for full-length pipes)

2-gallon fuel tank (vs 9.5 gallon - roughly 20lbs less)

Aluminum Radiator vs Brass & Steel Radiator

Cable Headlight Pop-up Control (no heavy electric motor)

All of these improvements, plus a couple others, helped propel an already good design to victory for 2014, 2015, & 2016! The 250.64 mpg for fossil fuels still stands as the mark to beat for the 100-mile track event!

The car runs with traffic, and its 88mph top speed is limited by the governor. Fuel economy will plummet at that speed/rpm due to the "fixed timing" of the engine.

Additionally, Centurion can run on the following fuels with no modifications: Diesel, Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Biodiesel, and Straight Vegetable Oil (that's filtered and heated).

It's a crazy little car - but what else would you expect!

~CrazyJerry~



Centurion's 2ft exhaust outlet.



The beginning of a Centurion build!  
[The build thread is located at ecomodder.com](http://ecomodder.com)



**Modified Fuel Injectors**  
(Approx 200 hours R&D into the fuel delivery system)

**Kubota D850cc Engine  
&  
Spitfire 4-Speed Manual Transmission with Overdrive**



**Timing Blueprinted &  
Gears Top-To-Bottom**



**- KUBOTA D850 -**  
DIESEL/FUEL OIL/KEROSENE  
Three Cylinders/855cc  
17hp & 25ft/lbs torque  
Bore = 72mm/2.83in  
Stroke = 70mm/2.76in  
Weight - 182 pounds  
Compression Ratio - 22:1  
(460 psi - actual)  
Manual Decompressor  
4-Speed Manual Transmission  
Optional 2-Speed Overdrive  
3.27:1 Rear Axle Ratio



**Captured by-  
Juha Cantori  
Photography**



**TOP PHOTO: CENTURION AT THE 2016 GREEN GRAND PRIX IN WATKINS GLENN, NY**

**TO THE LEFT IS CENTURION'S INTERIOR. NOTICE THE BUTTON IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHIFT-KNOB THAT WILL ENGAGE THE OVERDRIVE IN 1ST-4TH GEARS, AND EFFECTIVELY GIVE YOU EIGHT CLOSE-RATIO FORWARD SPEEDS!**

**THERE'S ALSO FOUR ON-BOARD CCTV CAMERAS THAT HAVE CAPTURED ALL THREE GREEN GRAND PRIX EVENTS AND THE TRIPS TO AND FROM THEM!**

**BELOW IS A FUEL MARSHALL CAREFULLY FILLING UP CENTURION'S TWO-GALLON FUEL TANK!**

**THE GREEN GRAND PRIX IS AN ANNUAL EVENT AND MORE INFO CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:  
[HTTP://WWW.GREENGRANDPRIX.COM/](http://www.greengrandprix.com/)**



**[Pamela Hirschhorn Photo](#)  
courtesy of:  
[NorthEastWheelsEvents.com](#)**

# 2021 Calendar of Events

None!

We're totally buried in snow!

~ CENTURION DURING THE 2016 GREEN GRAND PRIX ~

Team Centurion: CrazyJerry / PJ Cutler



JUHA CANTORI PHOTOGRAPHY: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JUHA-CANTORI-PHOTOGRAPHY-101325095142625/](https://www.facebook.com/JUHA-CANTORI-PHOTOGRAPHY-101325095142625/)



The pump tells all:  
250.64 MPG !!



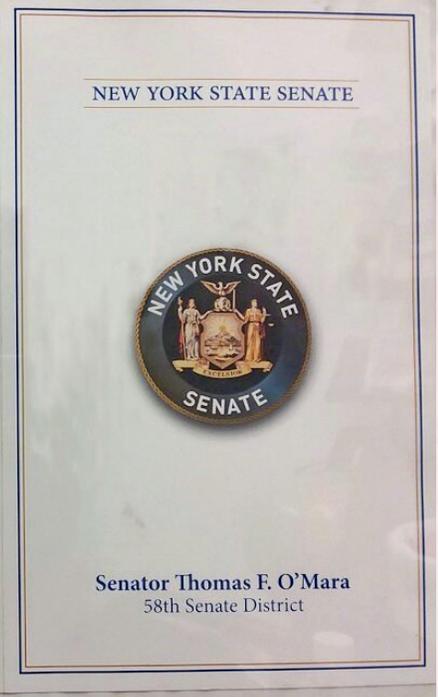
2016 Awards  
Most Innovative Vehicle  
Most Fuel Efficient Vehicle



2015 Limited Edition  
Racing History Calendar  
by Artist Robert Gillespie



Cake from all my friends  
at work!



## About High-Octane Magazine

Brought to you by CrazyJerry's off-grid "Pump-House" located in Colton, NY  
(a small town nestled in St. Lawrence County)



THE "PUMP-HOUSE" IS HOME TO THE "CHANGZUKI" DIESEL MOTORCYCLE", WHITE "TRIMAGNUM", A VERY SLICK "GO-ONE3 LITHIUM POWERED ROCKET TRIKE", "BON APPETIT", THREE OF FOUR KNOWN "URBA CENTURIONS", A SUPERCHARGED 1978 GL1000 GOLDWING (AUGUST 2020 HIGH-OCTANE FEATURE!), AND NOW, THE 1950 PLYMOUTH COUNTY HIGHWAY PATROL!



# **Editor's note:**

**High-Octane celebrates / highlights St. Lawrence County's Automobile & Motorcyclist community!**

The newsletter is available online at:  
<https://www.diesel-bike.com/High-Octane>  
**Enjoy the ride!**

~ **CRAZYJERRY** ~



**Facebook: CrazyJerry**



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*In the next issue of:*

## -HIGH-OCTANE-

**There's nothing on deck, so it looks like we  
will be reaching into the goodie bag!**

**Stay Tuned - should be fun!**

**With the temperatures going up and down, the little  
critters will be moving around.**

**Give your rides a look over to make sure they don't  
have any new tenants!**

email: [high-octane@diesel-bike.com](mailto:high-octane@diesel-bike.com)  
Newsletter Archives:  
<https://www.diesel-bike.com/High-Octane/>

Although Hi-Octane Newsletter is focusing locally within St Lawrence County, we offer the following huge resource for those outside of the area:

[NorthEastWheelsEvents.com](http://NorthEastWheelsEvents.com)

[\(Click to visit website\)](#)

[NorthEastWheelsEvents - Facebook](#)

[\(Click to visit facebook page\)](#)

The above website and facebook page are continually updated with out-of-the-area show info, photos, and [exclusive youtube videos](#).

I had the privilege of personally meeting:

“Pam Hirschhorn, Proud Site Manager and Gearhead”  
at the 2015 Green Grand Prix.

Pam is seen in the photo below (red jacket) and was a passenger in the Kubota Turbo Diesel MG Midget that is parked alongside Centurion. Pam covered that event and so much more! You wanna talk cars - be ready - she’s really, really, good, and a fantastic person too!

Love ya Pam!

~CrazyJerry~



# -HIGH-OCTANE-



***High-Octane would like to thank Robert Q. Riley and the folks at Quincy-Lynn Inc for their vision and creation of the world's first Centurion in 1982.***

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***Having been through the process of building and testing one, I now realize how those plans laid the historic groundwork for mine!***

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***Thank you sir and I hope to meet you someday!***

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***CrazyJerry Editor/High-Octane***

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