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WHEN HOGS FLY!

## Inventor Plans to Get His Motor Runnin', Soar Above the Highway

By [Rick Rousos](#)

The Ledger

LAKELAND

Wouldn't this be nice? Think about driving along Interstate 4, running into a major traffic jam, then flying over it. If Larry Neal has his way, motorcycles and cars will fly -- and soon. He's showing off some of his labor this week at Sun 'n Fun and says his flying three-wheeled motorcycle will get off the ground.

The version that Neal brought to Sun 'n Fun isn't quite ready yet, but he says it will make its flying debut at the AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in in June.

"It's gonna work," Neal said. "There's no doubt about it."

He owns a company called The Butterfly, in Bridgeport, Texas, and plans to mass-produce flying bikes for \$24,995 and flying cars for \$39,995.

Neal, 53, says he first became hooked on the idea of a flying motor vehicle in the early 1960s when PLEASE SEE INVENTOR, PAGE B2

watching the "Supercar" television program, featuring marionettes and an indestructible car that could travel on air, land and sea.

Neal has been working on the idea for years. The motorcycleplane in the picture accompanying this story is minus its rudder and 26-foot overhead rotor, which folds. The rotor folds to three feet in two minutes, for when the bike is on the road.

Neal said he's found it easier to make a gyroplane that drives instead of a car or motorcycle that flies. So most of his creations look like they would be more at home in the air than on the ground.

"Right now we're in the Model-T business," Neal said. "The future is unlimited."

Kerry Cartier, who writes assembly manuals for the company, said a flying motorcycle or car has been a longtime dream for a lot of people.

"Somebody finally figured out a way to do it," Cartier said.

We'll see.

DAVID MILLS/THE LEDGER  
Larry Neal displays his not-yet-ready motorcycle gyroplane at the Sun 'n Fun Fly-In in Lakeland on Wednesday. Neal plans to introduce a flying prototype at another air show in June.

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