



U.S.

[Main](#) [The Page](#) [Politics](#) [Swampland](#) [Real Clear Politics](#) [White House Photo Blog](#) [Videos](#)

FAMILY TECH



Tricycles for Adults

By **JOSH QUITTNER**
Monday, Aug. 10, 2009

The PON-e Trikke.
[ENLARGE +](#)

Subscribe to **TIME Magazine** for just **\$1.99**

One reason I'm wary of action sports is that I'm a bit of a spaz. I first learned this 45 years ago when, while bicycling, I turned to stick out my tongue at a girl and crashed into a pole. I totaled my three-speed and nearly my body. Since then, I have broken both legs--one skiing, the other playing football. I tried mountain-biking a few years ago and took an epic spill on my first downhill.

More Family Tech

- [Spanx for Men](#)
- [iLost My Phone](#)
- [King of the Grill](#)
- [The Pre: Palm's Plot to Take on the iPhone](#)
- Sponsored Links**
- Political News Discovery**
Global reach, targeted results for any US politician on your iPhone
[politicoTracker.com](#)
- 1 Flat Stomach Rule: Obey**
I cut down 47 lbs of body fat in just 19 weeks by obeying this 1 rule.
[KristinsDiet.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

So I was understandably a little anxious recently when I climbed onto a three-wheel, electric-powered scooter capable of going 18 m.p.h. (almost 30 km/h). Trikke (pronounced trike) has been making odd-looking tricycles for two decades, but its new Tribred Pon-e (pronounced pony) has an electric motor that can help you get up hills or drag your tired butt home. Like all other Trikkes, it lets you generate momentum by simply shifting your weight on the thing's wishbone platform. The side-to-side motion, which feels similar to carving your way down a ski slope, is what propels you.

Trikkes can easily fold up and fit in the trunk of a car, but unlike the company's strictly human-powered vehicles, which start at \$250 for adults, the Pon-e is very pricey at \$1,700. While some previous Trikke models had short-lived lead-acid batteries, this is the first with a lithium-ion battery that can power the Pon-e for up to 20 miles (32 km). And that's if you don't move your legs at all. Sam Jayme, a Trikke rep, points out that if you know what you're doing, you can get 100 miles (about 160 km) from it in a day. The battery snaps out, so you can plug it into an outlet in your home or office. Trikke estimates that it takes five hours for a full charge, which would add about 7¢ to your electricity bill.

After an hour or so of training from Jayme, I started to get the hang of moving under my own steam. From a fitness perspective, the Trikke is low impact and feels a bit like an elliptical machine in the gym. It works your legs and upper body. Once you get used to it, it's an enormous amount of fun. I brought the Pon-e home for a week and got confident enough to take it for some pretty good

Most Popular »

[Full List](#) »

MOST READ MOST EMAILED

1. [In the Recession, Shoppers Are Becoming Hagglers](#)
2. [State Parks Look for Ways of Surviving the Budget Ax](#)
3. [Does the U.S. Have an Exit Strategy in Afghanistan?](#)
4. [Why Netflix Stinks: A Critic's Complaint](#)
5. [People Power's Philippine Saint: Corazon Aquino](#)
6. [Why Tall People Are Happier Than Short People](#)
7. [What's Behind Japan's Love Affair with Robots?](#)
8. [Hipsters](#)
9. [New HIV Strain Discovered in Cameroon Woman](#)
10. [Reinventing the Wheel](#)

Quotes of the Day »

Get & Share



"Iranian people have voted in favor of a fight against arrogance, to confront destitution and spread justice."

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI, Iran's Supreme Leader, formally endorsing Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the winner of June's presidential election

[More Quotes](#) »

Video

[More Videos](#) »

Earth Is Running Out of Helium

rides around town. My best moment was tailing a tiny electric car, presumably with a smug environmentalist behind the wheel, on a narrow road. I considered following him all the way home and leaving a note on his windshield: "Nice ride, volt guzzler!" But remembering the hubris of my youth, I opted instead to keep my eyes on the road.

Sponsored Links

"Unemployment is Great"
Read how I make \$150-\$300 a day working from home. As seen on TV...
DetroitJournal.com

Mom Makes \$73/Hr Online
Mom Makes \$6,000 a month! Read her story to find out how she did it
WallStreetGazetteNews.com

I Had High Blood Pressure
Now it's down to 120/75. Find out how I did it without drugs
www.resperate.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Print	Reprints	digg it	Twitter	LinkedIn
Email		Buzz up! (5)	Facebook	MORE...



Time.com on Digg

UPCOMING POPULAR TODAY


- 134 Soccer in Seattle: A New Kind of Football Team Woos Fans
- 40 What's Behind Japan's Love Affair with Robots?
- 35 Is China the New Us? Or Are We? - TIME
- 14 How Not to Save the Fish
- 5 In the Recession, Shoppers Are Becoming Hagglers

More on TIME.com »

- [Why Netflix Stinks: A Critic's Complaint](#)
- [In the Recession, Shoppers Are Becoming Hagglers](#)

Quotes of the Day »

Get & Share



"Iranian people have voted in favor of a fight against arrogance, to confront destitution and spread justice."

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI, Iran's Supreme Leader, formally endorsing Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the winner of June's presidential election

[More Quotes »](#)

Today in Pictures »



[Back Up](#)



TRY 4 ISSUES RISK FREE!

Full Name	State/Province
Address	Zip/Postal Code
City	E-mail

CLICK HERE NOW



State Parks Look for Ways of Surviving the Budget Ax

More News

from CNN

- Ford official: Company to report July sales jump
- Source: Couple's slaying was a contract hit
- At least 10 hurt as airliner hits turbulence

from Huffington Post

- Rahm Emanuel Called Media CEOs Personally To Lobby For Obama Airtime
- PBS Chief: Public TV Funding Faring Much Better Under Obama
- Ryan O'Neal: I Hit On My Daughter Tatum At Farrah's Funeral

from Rotten Tomato

- Box Office Guru Wrapup: Funny People Leads Sluggish Weekend
- Julie & Julia: Food Facts in Pictures
- Friday Harvest: TRON Legacy, A Nightmare on Elm Street, and more!

from SI.com

- Why a first-round NFL pick may fail
- Who the Red Sox may be dealing soon
- The NFL team that's poised to rebound

Stay Connected with TIME.com [Learn More »](#)

Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Sign Up for Newsletters

Add TIME Widgets

Read TIME Mobile on Your Phone

Become a Fan of TIME

Get TIME Twitter Updates



Subscribe to TIME Magazine for just \$1.99

© 2009 Time Inc. All rights reserved | [Privacy Policy](#) | [RSS](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [TIME For Kids](#) | [LIFE.com](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Reprints & Permissions](#) | [Opinion Leaders Panel](#) | [Help](#) | [Site Map](#)