

## A STRANGE CAR NAMED DINO

The black 1994 Honda Civic has what looks like white teeth in the front and a funny-looking plastic wing or tail in the back. But the owner has his reasons for his car's odd appearance.

"I've had people approach me in the city (Dunkirk, Maryland) when I'm stopped at a red light," said Joe Cline, the car's owner. "They want to ask me what the car's about."



And the car has a name: Dino. "Since it's so old ... it's basically our dinosaur," he laughed.

Michelle Basch with WTOP Radio tells his story. Cline, you see, is a hypermiler, which means he tries to squeeze as many miles as he can out of every gallon of gas during his commute between Calvert County and the District of Columbia.

The homemade plastic roof extension in back, called a kammback, looks a bit like a cape and is meant to reduce drag. He also installed smaller-than-normal side mirrors for the same reason. And to reduce the weight of the car, he's taken out the back seats.

Cline over-inflated his tires, although that's something AAA advises against. "The factory recommends 33 pounds at each corner, and I do 40," he said.

Cline said the way you drive makes a difference, too. For instance, speeding doesn't help: "The higher you go, the more gas it takes to keep your vehicle at speed. My particular car does really well at 60. If I go 65, I start to reduce my miles per gallon, but if I go 55, I'm actually reducing, too."

If there's a red light ahead, Cline slows down far in advance. "It actually makes more sense to slow down before you approach the light, so that when you get to the light it turns green and you're already rolling," he said.

What's the lesson in this story for us?

When you have a clear goal and you are committed to it, you become mindful of all the little things that must be done to reach that goal.



(more)

That describes the Apostle Paul. He was the original hypermiler. No one else traveled so far, or comported themselves so efficiently, or lived with more purpose – all in an effort to reach his goal of spreading the gospel message of grace.

What about you? What is your goal? And what sacrifices have you made to reach it?

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter