

Fehan's Custom Camaro 1-LE Inspires Brand Confidence

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which he cites as "By far the most affordable and best from the dealer to the track pony car available today."

Builder: Bob Fehan Motorsports Inc.; **Driver:** Bob Fehan; **Vehicle Sponsor:** GM Chevrolet Chevrolet Performance - Vehicles-Parts-Racing; **Show, Race Tires and Vehicle Sponsor:** Continental Tire; **Racing Brakes and Rotors by:** Brembo Race Technologies; **Suspension:** Bob Fehan Inc.; **Camera, in Vehicle:** GoPro be a Hero, HD HERO2 Motorsport Edition;

Engine: 569 hp Billy Briggs Racing Engine; **Racing Seats by:** Recaro; **Racing Headers and Exhaust by:** Boria Exhaust; **Motorsport Wheels by:** BBS; **Roll Cage by:** RPM Engineering; **Racing Gauges by:** Auto Meter; **Air Induction System by:** K&N Engineering; **High Performance Body Parts** utilizing the World's lightest fiber (Carbon Fiber/Innegra-S) by: Bob Fehan - Hood, Under Hood Trim, Interior Trim, Front Splitter Blade, Rear Spoiler Extension, Truck Floor.

Fehan couldn't be happier about contributing to the brand's success.

"Even as a child, I truly believed in keeping Detroit alive, and the way you do that is by designing the most interesting vehicles in the country," Fehan said in an interview.

Warming quickly to his favorite topic, Fehan exuded the youthful excitement and enthusiasm of someone who's spent his career doing what he loves, starting when he got his early training in working on cars at his father's body shop in downtown Birmingham, Mich.

He explained that his grandfather, George Schultz, opened up a DeSoto Chrysler Plymouth dealership in downtown Birmingham in 1955 when Fehan was 3.

"I've always been around cars from the time I could walk. My dad always dabbled in race cars, so we were always working on unique, performance-type vehicles and it has continued throughout my entire life," he said.

When his grandfather sold the dealership, his father, Robert Fehan, kept the body shop portion of the business.

"The body shop was always

building race cars . . . At a young age, I was helping out any way I could, till I got to the point where I started building my own hot rods and race cars," said Fehan. "I got behind the wheel of a 1975 (hot rod) and never stopped."

Over the years, Fehan has won 12 road race championships. And, at SEMA, he has captured the Design Excellence Award five times and won eight other associated awards for his custom cars, a total of 13 major awards.

Now, as then, Fehan is constantly drawing, designing, envisioning future-oriented vehicles and automotive body styles. He has been contracted many times over the years to construct his one-of-a-kind vehicles, and has won multiple awards.

For example, right around 2002, when the PT Cruiser first came out, Fehan made a 500-horsepower Chrysler PT/10 pickup.

"Obviously, over the years, I try to create new packages that are so unique it catches the judges' attention," he said. "In 2002, when the PT Cruiser first came out, I made it into a little pickup truck."

He outfitted it with a Viper V10 engine and an all-Viper suspension. This required a handmade chassis. The odd-looking but unique vehicle won a Design Excellence award at SEMA that year.

"I had to make it into a pickup because you couldn't put that into a normal four-door PT Cruiser," he said.

Fehan has been a SEMA regular for nearly three decades and continues to garner praise from automotive enthusiasts for his unique vision and style.

"I turned an Impala into an El Camino one year . . . The El Camino is a car with a pickup box on the back, in the '60s and '70s. They were really popular . . . performance Camaros, Firebirds, Monte Carlos, Grand Prix, Ram pickups, Dakotas, Vipers . . . so, after 35 years of building specialty vehicles, I've pretty much touched everything that's out there. . . It's been a great career, you know, and once you're a gearhead, you're always a gearhead."

He still loves to race when given the opportunity, while continuing to design and build cars.



With sketchpad always handy, Bob Fehan works on a suspension system for the Quadski amphibious vehicle in his Gibbs office in Auburn Hills.

"I'm 60 years old and I'm still racing, and I don't see any time when I'm ready to let off the throttle - I'm always looking to go faster," said Fehan.

Fehan summed up the challenges and duties of someone in charge of a campaign vehicle.

"You build it. You take it to SEMA, you get it into publications, and you race it - that's how you're awarded the vehicle," said Fehan. "You've got to be very creative to be awarded one of these vehicles."

"When I submitted my proposal last year to build the red Camaro, I sent a 165-page presentation that had all the vehicles (I have built) in it, and they could not believe it. They called it 'Volume-itious.' They could not believe I had built that many vehicles, but it's been a great career."

Fehan explained Chevrolet's objective is for that car to go to track events and be the dominant vehicle.

"So the goal is to basically get it out there, get public awareness, and when you're at the track, you're proving to consumers that you're the king of pony cars," he said.

The campaign's goal is to let consumers feel confident the stock package they can buy will perform for them.

"Their (GM's) intent is for you to be able to drive it right off the showroom floor and take it right to the race track, with the exception of some of the safety equipment. They've done the suspension just right in setting it up for the race track."

Chamber to Hold Business Lunch

The Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce will hold its second in its "Business by the Bay" series at noon Thursday, July 18, at the Waterfront Pavilion in downtown New Baltimore's Walter and Mary Burke Park.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Fee to attend includes lunch and a view of Anchor Bay. Scheduled guest speakers are State Rep. Andrea LaFontaine and Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Flynn. Call the ABCC at 586-725-5148 to make a reservation or for additional information.

Michigan Works! Helps Youths Join Work World

There is help out there for those just starting out who are looking for a job.

The Michigan Works! Youth program is designed to help young adults reach their potential. With funding through the Workforce Investment Act, income-eligible Macomb County residents between the ages of 16 and 21 can receive assistance with employment and career development.

Young adults enrolled will work closely with a youth advocate who can help them turn dreams into reality. One-on-one assistance, as well as group training and activities, are offered. Services include education and training to help improve basic skills, as well as prepare for the GED.

On the training side, short-term occupational skills and college certificate programs are offered.

That's one side of the coin. Programs are also available to help people get jobs. These efforts include help with resumé development as well as job search assistance, paid work experience programs and interview preparation classes.

The Michigan Works! Youth program operates within three Michigan Works! Service Centers in Macomb County. To learn more information, call Clinton Township at 586-469-7725, Mount Clemens at 586-783-8716 or Roseville at 586-447-9246.

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