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Chicago World of Wheels features Midwest Hot Rods custom high-end builds

(Editor's Note: From time to time we feature car stories from our customers and our partners. This month we're excited to showcase one of our favorite partners, Midwest Hot Rods, Plainfield, Illinois. Midwest Hot Rods assists us in complete top installation, including upholstery and side curtains.)

Greetings from the front lines! The first weekend in March marked the 49th year for the World of Wheels indoor car show in the Chicago area. This is the premier "hometown" show for the guys at Midwest Hot Rods, Plainfield, Illinois. Midwest always tries to have something special to show. This was probably our best year yet! Midwest was nearing completion on three different high-end builds over the last year, so we decided to shoot for unveiling all three at World of Wheels.

The judges at World of Wheels picked their Top 20 cars early in the weekend. All three of our entries made Top 20. Two of the three were chosen "Best in Class." The third one was 2nd in class. Near the end of the weekend the judges announced their picks for the "Select Six" vying for the prestigious "Legend Cup," awarded to "Best in Show," and requiring meeting many stringent judging criteria. One of our entries made Top Six, but didn't take the Cup. The Legend Cup went to a '56 Chrysler 300 built by Rad Rods by Troy, reported to have a build cost of over \$1.5 million.

Let me tell you about the wheels we brought to the show. The "Select Six" finalist was a '57 Thunderbird, customized for a local TV sports anchor. Modifications included stretching the wheel base 6 inches to locate the rear wheel opening in a more visually pleasing place in the rear quarter. The car has a twin-turbo, injected 5.0 small block Ford engine with an AOD trans and Ford 9-inch rear axle. It has huge Baer 4-wheel disc brakes.



By Terry McGinnis, Superior Car Parts sales director

The second fresh vehicle we showed was a 1949 Ford F-1 pickup. It features many custom body mods, including Mercedes Benz headlights. The bumpers were narrowed and tucked into the body. This truck was picked "Best Truck" at the show by the judges.



The third car was a black with flames '57 Chevy, chosen as a "Top 20." It received a 2nd place award in its class. This beast sports a 640-cubic inch big-block engine from Hardcore. It has a Lenco six-speed trans and a Ford 9-inch rear end. It also received many extensive mods, but the most apparent is the polished Moon tank molded into the front bumper.



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