



Dan Robertson of Prescott and his son William with their custom '66 Chevy pickup.

Hottest Hot Wheels

LARGEST HOT WHEELS TRAVELING CAR SHOW VISITS ARIZONA

The Hot Wheels Legends Tour—in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the legendary first Hot Wheels cars (known to collectors as the “Sweet 16”)—visited the Valley this fall, giving fans a chance to meet the original Hot Wheels designer and to show off their car or truck, as the Tour—free to the public—searched for a custom car worthy of becoming a Hot Wheels model itself.

A panel of expert judges would be casting their votes for vehicles that will become a new “Sweet 16,” to be sold at stores around the globe. Participants could also enter their cars or trucks to win a trip to 2018 SEMA Show in Las Vegas—and could even drive through a life-size blister pack.

Held at the Walmart Supercenter on W Ranch

Santa Fe Blvd in Avondale, the show was a chance to get up close and personal with both a huge Hot Wheels die-cast car display and a fleet of Hot Wheels life-size vehicles travelling around the country from the Hot Wheels Garage.

Judges included Hot Wheels designers Phil Riehlman and Mark Jones; hot rod icon Del Uschenko; car builder Phill F80; and representatives of the Headturners Car Club.

Dan Robertson of Prescott and his custom 1966 Chevy pickup emerged from the pack at the Phoenix stop, earning the chance to compete against 15 other tour stop winners for that magical chance to have his truck made into a Hot Wheels die-cast ready to be lapped up by a new

generation of collectors worldwide.

Dan’s truck was a father/son build. He and his son found the chassis, and built the truck just for fun. The Robertsons are a full family of Arizona drag racers, who have been building and drag racing cars for a long time—it’s a part of their family tradition. In fact, Robertson and his late wife used to race together.

Dan’s complete remake of this pickup includes a tube chassis; 2000-hp Rodeck 530 engine; 3-disc Crower clutch; 3-speed Lenco transmission; air shift; 9.5-inch Ford full floater rear end; 4-link rear suspension; and 17.5-inch-wide top fuel tires. On the dragstrip, the truck runs 152 mph in 9.55 seconds at quarter throttle.

The winner, announced at the SEMA Show, was Luis Rodriguez of Hope, NJ, whose hand-crafted “2JetZ” car will now be the lucky one recreated as a 1:64 Hot Wheels die-cast collectible. ■

