BILLET CHASSIS DESIGN TEAM

The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark.

Michelangelo
Chris Cindrich is a gifted industrial designer and Solidworks CAD jockey extraordinaire. Chris accompanied me on my first trip to Poland in 1995 to investigate the MiG fighter factory. He worked for over ten years as an industrial designer for Becton Dickinson. He is expert in ergonomics, aesthetics, and designing for manufacturability. In the above photo, Chris is working out the hub, axle, and constant velocity (CV) packaging. On the desk are an F1 CV, Porsche 930 axle assembly, and Viper CV. When we started, I asked him if he wanted to do a “little” CAD modeling.
David “Sandwich” Cindrich is one of the most talented, dedicated programmers and machinists on earth. He made every machined part on Larry’s car. More than one part with errors of less than 0.005” ended up in the reject pile. There is over one ton of aluminum chips in the above box, and “Sandwich” probably made every one. We emptied it every week at the height of this project.
THOMAS KIRKHAM Jr.

mechanical engineer, VP Kirkham Motorsports

Thomas Kirkham Jr. is a mechanical engineer and VP of Kirkham Motorsports. He spent seven years as a flight-test engineer in the Air Force in charge of instrumentation on experimental aircraft. Thomas conceived of the entire suspension, based on his intimate knowledge of automotive theory and design. He is an extraordinary mechanical engineer who has an unbelievable natural grasp of automobile technology. In the above picture, he is using a laser to check for “bump-steer” in the front suspension.
A rare look inside the silent Polish aircraft factory when we arrived in March of 1995. Photography was strictly banned though I was able to obtain special permission to take a few photos. For scale, notice the man walking down the aisle. Aluminum forming dies for MiG fighters and other aircraft fill the dusty shelves. Other men stood behind silent machines. The lights were off.
I started Kirkham Motorsports in the fall of 1994 during my senior year at Brigham Young University where I studied Spanish Interpretation, Manufacturing Engineering, and Pre-Med. One day my brother and I found ourselves looking at a relic of the Cold War—an old jet fighter airplane made at a factory in Poland that was desperate for work. My brother turned to me and said, “These guys could make an aluminum-bodied Cobra!” Captivated by this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I packed my bags and left BYU and my dreams of medical school behind. I landed in Poland with a toy model of a 1965 Ford Cobra, a Polish-English dictionary, and a new dream. In the above picture, I am sitting by our electric super car 1/5 scale model.