



The Pony Express

February 2009

Endangered Species?

One would have to be living under a rock not to notice the slight decline in the robustness of our global economy. This has had a ripple effect through our favorite passion. The American automotive industry is hurting, along with all their suppliers. Of the Big 3, at least Ford seems to be in the soundest condition. In fact, just last week, Craig Kinsel was pictured in an article in the Beaumont Enterprise (another business in decline) next to a 2009 Shelby GT500 letting folks know this is a good time to strike a deal on a new ride. The various Mustang mags have been touting the new 2010 models quite heavily over the last few issues. Ford is bringing back some more of the Grabber colors for '10. My favorite is the Grabber Blue. If they couple it to a white interior on a GT500, I may not be able to resist. 2010's should be available later this year.

I have not had much opportunity to catch any of the big auctions, but I hear that some of the classic pricing has declined also. If got the itch for a new toy, this could be an excellent opportunity to add to your stable.

Ford has redesigned the Taurus nameplate for 2010, and is also reviving the SHO version for some real sleeper performance. It will have a twin turbo, 3.5L mill pumping out 365 horses! For the more utilitarian minded, the '09 F-150 has a host of new features added since '08. Ford has finally upgraded to a 6 speed automatic tranny and coupled with new aerodynamics is achieving 20+ mpg with better horsepower. The integrated trailer brake controls migrated down from the F-250 really makes for a safer, more efficient tow rig. It could keep you from having to upgrade into the 250 and buy diesel fuel. At least gas prices have backed way off from where they were last year.

We really do not want to see the domestic auto industry go away. If Ford were to go under, it would take our beloved Mustang nameplate with it. The Mustang has been with us since 1964, and we would like to keep it around for a lot longer yet. There are a lot of new and exciting vehicles in the Ford lineup. Help save a horse, buy a Ford!

WHMC February Driving Event

The club will be holding its first driving event of the year coming up on February 28th. The club will take a meandering jaunt through the countryside and pull in to pit at the Pickett House in Woodville. Once there, everyone will roll up their sleeves and chow down on some tasty fried chicken with all the trimmings. If it is too "humid" to drive your Pony, saddle up something else and come on out anyway. Good food, good fun, & good company. That's what it is all about anyway. Plan is to meet up in the Lumberton Wal-Mart parking lot on Hwy 69. **Departure** time for Woodville is 4pm.

Club Car Show

The club has established a show committee for our upcoming spring show. But there is still time for you to join in the fun. They will be meeting next week to iron out

preliminary details. We will have an update for the membership at the March 5th club meeting.

NASCAR Update

There was a lot of activity in the off season and speculation as to how the economy would affect the racing world, but the 2009 NASCAR season has finally gotten underway. Matt Kenseth, Roush-Fenway driver of the #17 DeWalt Fusion has pulled off back to back victories in the Daytona 500 and the Auto Club 500. This was the 1st victory for Jack Roush in the Daytona 500. Matt has a new crew chief this year in Drew Blickensderfer. Drew was brought up from the Nationwide series after last season where he sat on the pit box for Carl Edwards.

After a winless year in Cup last season, Matt Kenseth has come out of the gates strong. He has a chance to make history at Las Vegas if he can threeppeat. All his Roushketeer teammates have been running well also. (Carl Edwards, #99 Aflac – 9th place, Greg Biffle, #16 3M-5th place, David Ragan, #6 UPS- 8th place, and Jamie McMurray, #26 Crown Royal-28th place)

Bobby Labonte has joined Hall of Fame Racing, which converted back to Ford from Toyota with the #96 Ask.com Fusion. The venerable team from the Wood Bros., with Bill Elliott driving has qualified well, but bad luck on the track has them outside the top 35.

All the Ford teams are running Yates motors again this year and so far they are taking it to the competition at the Cup level. Ford teams have not been as fortunate in the Camping World Truck series or the Nationwide series, where only Toyota and Chevy have been to victory lane so far. One almost has to pity those lonely Mopar fans out there.

Ford Racing News

MUSTANG FR500CJ COBRA JET RETURNS VICTORIOUS

Pomona, Calif. — They say history often repeats itself, and in the case of the Mustang Cobra Jet, it has. John Calvert, driving the 40th Anniversary 2008 Mustang FR500CJ Cobra Jet duplicated the success of the original 1968 Cobra Jet when he won the AA Stock Eliminator class at the 2009 NHRA Winternationals, which finished today after several rain delays.

In 1968, drag racing legend Al Joniec drove the Cobra Jet to victory at Pomona in the NHRA Winternationals in the CJ's competition debut.

"I couldn't be happier for Brent Hajek and John Calvert who have taken the car that we designed, and created a championship race car in just six weeks," said Brian Wolfe, Director of Ford North America Motorsports. "I am especially happy that John was able to drive the Al Joniec tribute car that won in 1968 to a victory in 2009. It is an unbelievable debut for the Cobra Jet.

"I am really excited and I am really pleased at the result," said Calvert. "The thing I am most pleased about is that Ford Racing thought about this project and reached out to the grassroots level of racing. This wasn't an easy race weekend; in fact I would say it was difficult. The weather certainly created some consistency issues, especially with an iffy track. Still, the Cobra Jet ran very well in the elimination rounds and we were able to bring home the trophy."

"How cool is this? It was like a storybook ending that was meant to be," said Hajek, who entered four Cobra Jet Mustangs at Pomona. "It is our first time entering a national event and we won! This program was always about paying tribute and respect to the drivers from '68 who started the legend of the Cobra Jet. This was about upholding their honor and everyone involved with this project deserves a great deal of credit."

For decades, the Mustang has been the preeminent car in many forms of motorsports, including drag racing. Adding to the rich and successful racing history of Ford's iconic pony car, the 2008 Cobra Jet Mustang is a factory-built race car that is NHRA-legal and ready for the drag strip. It is the first purpose-built race car from Ford for drag racing since the original Cobra Jet Mustang.

The original Cobra Jet Mustang was conceived by drag racing legend Bob Tasca, the competition-oriented Ford dealer in Rhode Island who at the time operated one of Ford's most successful retail operations. Tasca looked to the Ford parts shelf when he wanted to upgrade the engines on some of the Mustangs that he was selling, and came up with the KR-8 conversion package for his performance customers.

Henry Ford II announced that Ford would put together several of the Tasca 428-powered Mustangs for drag teams competing in the 1968 Winternationals, where two of the Mustangs made it into the finals and Al Joniec went on to win the Super Stock championship. After the car's success at Winternationals, Ford announced that it would be producing the 428ci Cobra Jet engine.

The 2008 Cobra Jet Mustang joins Ford Racing's stable of championship-capable customer Mustangs: the Mustang FR500S, the Mustang FR500C and the Mustang FR500GT. All are turnkey cars available via the Ford Racing Performance Parts catalog and through your local Ford dealers.

The FR500 series of Mustangs are race-ready cars, designed by Ford Racing engineers for performance-conscious customers, which can be rolled right off of a truck and win in competition.

In winning its debut race the '08 Cobra Jet, matched the accomplishment of its sister car, the Mustang FR500C. The FR500C was unloaded for customers at the 2005 Grand-Am Rolex Series opening race in Daytona on a Wednesday, won the race on Friday and went on to secure a championship its first season. The CJ has once again delivered a victory to the FR500 series of Mustangs in its debut weekend.

Member News

Roman Collins has parted ways with his trusty DPS steed earlier this month. He has already replaced it with another Fox. He has acquired a '92 LX convertible "feature car" in vibrant red. We all look forward to seeing it.

Sighted – The Haygood's were out recently enjoying a meal at Joe's in Silsbee. Everyone was doing well. Gary sold his '69 Mach and it now resides in San Antonio with a member of our armed forces.

Saleen update – There is fresh paint on the car! At least some of it anyway. In about 5 weeks it will celebrate 1 year in the paint shop. I will take a cupcake with a candle in it down there. No wonder some folks refer to this as paint jail. I wish Ron Woods luck on getting his repaint completed before the Bluebonnet cruise in April.

Derek Peaster had his Legend Lime '05 get redesigned in a fender bender. It's gone, but he has upgraded to a new Dark Candy Apple Red Metallic California Special (Oklahoma colors as I hear). Sharp looking ride.

Upcoming Mustang Events in Detail

March 13-14, 2009

10th Annual Regional Show

Sulpher, Louisiana

hosted by Cajun Mustangers at Don Shelter Ford. Event 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Check in 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon. Modified MCA judging, all vehicles must be Ford Powered. Special interest vehicles and Pony Corral Cars are welcome. Friday evening hospitality dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Door prizes, T-shirts, trophies, 50/50, food, music, family fun. As we say in Louisiana, Les bon temps roule! For more info, call Ralph Unglaube at 337.912.0978; email coldairtech@yahoo.com, call Rebecca Liles at 337.842.0068, or email beccakay1@yahoo.com

March 20-22, 2009

30TH ANNUAL GULF COAST REGIONAL MUSTANG & ALL FORD SHOW

Pensacola, Florida

Hosted by Gulf Coast Regional Mustang Club at Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds. Event hours are Fri 8-5, Sat 8-6, Sun 8-2 with check-in running Fri 8-5, Sat 8-11. Registration fee is \$35.00. 30th Annual Gulf Coast Regional Mustang & All Ford Show hosted by Gulf Coast Regional Mustang Club will be held March 20-22, 2009 at Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds. Show flyer and more info at www.gcrmc.com or call Bob & Rochelle McNeal 850-478-8951, vendor info call Donnie Carlisle 251-961-1411 or email at carlisle@gulftel.com. For more information, call Lamarr A. Seader at 850-529-8366 or email seaderl@bellsouth.net or call Donnie Carlisle at 251-961-1411 or email carlisle@gulftel.com or visit the website at <http://www.gcrmc.com>.

April 4, 2009

Mustang 45th All Ford Show

Houston, Texas

Hosted by the Mustang Club of Houston. To be held at Mac Haik Ford, 10333 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024. Contact Pete 281-392-1814 sigwardtpl@aol.com

April 16-19, 2009

45th Mustang Anniversary Celebration Birmingham, Alabama

hosted by Ford Motor Company and Mustang Club of America at Barber Motorsports Park. Event 8AM - 5PM with check-in running 8AM-5PM Thurs/Fri, 8-12 Fri. Registration \$35 before March 31, 2009). Judging restricted to 250 cars, and display limited to 2,250. Open track events, Saturday Evening with Ford, and a Thursday Evening Cruise, among many other events. Registration fees vary depending upon judging (\$60) or Participant Display (\$35). Lots of Vendors. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.mustangevents.org/> or see the notices in Mustang Times.

Club Meeting Notes

The club held our last meeting on February 5th at Catfish Village in Silsbee.

- The Club has \$3355 in the treasury. Dues are due!
- Many upcoming events were discussed, please see the calendar.
- We are also considered another road rally tentatively planned for March 21.
- Donnie Tipton has complimentary tickets for the Baytown drag races on March 6-7 from Snap-on tools. If interested, he will have them at the March 5th club meeting.

Our next club meeting will be on March 5th @ 6:30pm – Fuddrucker’s in Beaumont by Parkdale Mall

2009 dues of \$20 per family membership are to be paid to our club treasurer, Donnie Tipton . You can pay in person at the next meeting or send a check to Donnie at 3490 Riverbend Dr. Vidor, TX 77662. (payable to Wild Horse Mustang Club)

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CRUISE NIGHTS

1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @ OFFICE DEPOT IN PORT ARTHUR/NEDERLAND

3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @ WEINERSCHNITZEL IN ORANGE

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH @ WEINERSCHNITZEL IN BEAUMONT

5TH SATURDAY – VIDOR CRUISE

FEBRUARY

5 CLUB MEETING

28 DRIVE AND DINE TO THE PICKETT
HOUSE, WOODVILLE

MARCH

5 CLUB MEETING

7 PROJECT GRADUATION SHOW,
LUMBERTON HIGH SCHOOL

14 CAJUN MUSTANGERS SHOW
SULFUR, LA

14 WESTBROOK AUTORAMA
PROJECT GRADUATION
WESTBROOK HS, BEAUMONT

15 SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND
SHS - 26TH ANNUAL FORDS OF
THE 50S CAR SHOW AND PICNIC

21 CLUB ROAD RALLY, TBA

27-29 SPINDLETOP ROD & CLASSIC
CAR SHOW, BOSTON AVE,
NEDERLAND

27-29 O'REILLY SPRING NATIONALS
HOUSTON RACEWAY PARK

APRIL

2 CLUB MEETING

4 MCOH SHOW AT MAC HAIK IN
HOUSTON

16-19 MUSTANG 45TH ANNIVERSARY
SHOW, BIRMINGHAM, AL

17-19 MIDNIGHT FANTASIES SHOW
LAKE CHARLES CIVIC CENTER

18 CRUISE TO BLUEBONNET
FESTIVAL IN CHAPELL HILL

18 DAYTON OLD TYME DAYS CAR
SHOW

25 LITTLE CYPRESS PROJECT
GRADUATION SHOW

MAY

1-3 FUN FORD WEEKEND, HOUSTON
RACEWAY PARK

2 BUD CLASSIC CAR SHOW,
BUDWEISER BREWERY, HOUSTON

7 CLUB MEETING

16 CLUB SHOW, KINSEL FORD

CLUB BUSINESSES

KINSEL FORD – CINDY YOHE

AAMCO TRANSMISSIONS – THE RAYZOR'S

AFLAC INSURANCE – MARTY JONES

GRINNELL COMPUTERS – OUR WEBMASTER, KEVIN GRINNELL

HOUSE OF POWER/PERFORMANCE – THE BROWN'S

PARSON'S DIFFERENTIALS – CLIFF PARSONS

SNAP-ON TOOLS – DONNIE TIPTON

WOODS SUPERMARKET AND MINI STORAGE – RONNIE AND KATHY WOODS

GO BURGERS LLC (BURGER KING) - DON O'BRIEN

**Wild Horse Mustang Club
Sue Quick, Editor
90 Beech Dr.
Lumberton, TX 77657**

THE PONY EXPRESS

WHMC Officers

President - Ron Roth 751-0447

Vice President - Ronnie Woods 769-5961

Secretary - Sue Quick 755-1256

Treasurer - Donnie Tipton 656-9961