



The Pony Express

March 2007

Spring Has Arrived

Spring is in the air, and it has a yellowish green tinge. When the pollen blows, it's time for car shows! The season is upon us. It is time to pull out the car and dust off the winter blues. Change the oil, and clean the wheels (note to self) and get back in the groove.

This weekend is the Spindletop Rod Club show at the Holiday Inn Beaumont. The Mustang club of Houston has one the first weekend in April. The MCA national in Mustang Oklahoma is coming 3rd week in April. If you don't have reservations, now is the time to get on the horn. Check the listings at the end of the newsletter.

It is best to get the heavy cleaning out of the way before you get to the first show of the year (note to self again). We will have the resumption of club driving events. The Chappell Hill cruise to the Bluebonnet Festival is mid-April. Let Ron know if you plan to go so we may provide them with a headcount for parking. We always get preferred parking by the museum. It is a nice cruise with some bluebonnet scenery along the way and artsy-craftsy shopping for the gals while there are also some guy related diversions for the less retail inclined.

We are ready to get cranked up for another fun year of blue oval automotive activity. Make your plans now!

HWY 69/96 Improvements?

I recently spoke with some TxDOT folks earlier this month about the MCF project between Lumberton and Beaumont. They are cutting grooves into the concrete and installing rebar reinforcement rods between the road segment joints to prevent buckling and not having to hot tar seal. Remember I-10 going to Orange? Once all the rebar is installed, they will be coming back and top coat sealing the entire stretch to make it smooth like the section from the old Palace into Beaumont. You can track the project on their website at www.Txdot.gov

"Boss"

The word has meaning on several levels. To the Mustangers of the world, it means some of the best muscle Dearborn ever sent down the line in '69. That goes for 70-71 also. We are fortunate enough to have in our midst some of the Shinoda creations. One member is blessed to have the choice of driving an original Boss 302 or a new Saleen Parnelli Jones Special edition. It was recently featured on the front page of the Hardin County News while attending the Lumberton HS Operation Graduation car show. We were lucky enough to glimpse the two cars running at speed on 96/69 recently. What a sight that made.

At some of the recent auctions, pricing for some of the Boss 429 cars eclipsed record levels, getting into the \$500K range. This is way beyond the normal mustang aficionado's budget level. A recent EBay sale had a 429 drug out of a barn that sold for almost \$132,000! It looks like if you're not Jay Leno, the specialty Mustangs have gone to a different level of ownership.



Project Car for sale!

Everyone has seen them advertised, some have even bought them. Fewer yet have seen them through to the end. There are phases to every part of the project. For the un-initiated, I will try to explain these.

1. The initial euphoric enthusiasm sets in when the latest find is driven or pushed home.
2. The determined drive to start working on the project kicks in shortly afterward. You get all the shop manuals for the model -Chilton's, Haynes, and Ford.
3. The onset of disillusionment creeps in as one begins to uncover the true depth of the project during disassembly of the car. This is where time/money/effort inputs get weighed and are found lacking, hence "project car for sale".
4. If you manage to make it past that point, you should find the renewed vigor that sets in as one begins to coordinate the multiple efforts of paint/body, engine rebuild, trim restoration or replacement, electrical (as

an aside, did you know that you can't spell geek without a double E? That's an engineer joke), and interior.

5. The final stage of reassembly is a daunting task. It is usually 4-6 months after you took the car apart, sometimes even longer. Did I take enough pictures or enough notes? When it comes time to put it all back together and you could find out your brain is like an "Etch-a-sketch", meaning you didn't take enough notes or pictures. Trust me on this.

6. As your car begins to rise like the proverbial phoenix, it can become akin to the closing chapters of a good novel in that you can't put down the tools and your spouse has to remind you to eat and sleep.

7. The very last and final stage is the total elation that envelops you when the project is done and you are the proud owner of a spanking new hot car. If you make it to here, it tends to temper the previous emotions and over time can cloud your memory and lead you into step 8 - doing another "project".

I have just about completed disassembly on our '88. I removed the first part at Thanksgiving. I hope to have it ready for paint by the end of March. (in step 3 and trying to make it to 4) The Fox era cars have way more stuff on them than the first generation cars. The most fun is learning where everything is and how it comes apart. This doesn't necessarily imply I will know how to get it back together! This will hinge on my ability to tap into the "Knack". Dilbert Rocks!

Member News

Derek Peaster has his '69 Sportsroof on the market. Give him a call if you are interested.

Donnie Tipton is in the throes of repaint/restoration on his '69 Convertible. I am not sure what stage he may be at.

Sue has club contact info business cards available. They will be brought to the next meeting.

Johnnie Ruggles has put in a new car lift. If you need access to a lift, get in touch with him and see what you can work out. Speaking of Cobra's, the Ruggles has come down off the lift with some sneaky fast new mods. Watch out since his fangs are sharper now!

Dustin Babin has sold his Mach 1. Sorry to see it go. Maybe he'll find another project.

Rocky Vickery has discovered a coworker who has a 1968 Shelby GT500 KR convertible "in the barn". They don't want to sell, or do the resto. Go figure! Rocky has been up to some skunkworks mods of his Cobra also along with Johnny. Remember when you see their cars; you can't always judge the book by the cover. The venom in the Vickery's Cobra has gotten deadlier.

Todd and Sue have found that a Saleen Mustang can take up around 1500 ft² of garage floor space when totally disassembled. We are also the proud owners of several special trim removal tools, a new engine hoist with load leveler, and a 1/2" electric impact wrench. Hmmm - more power, more power.

If anyone has something going on or something they think others would find interesting, drop us a line and we'll include it.

Club Meeting Notes

The club had the last meeting on March 1st at The Schooner Restaurant

- Club Treasury is at \$2407.00, which includes the show donation from Kinsel Ford.
- Sue Quick distributed club business cards to attendees and will have more available at the next meeting.
- Ron Roth reported Mustang Club of America is likely to turn us down for sponsorship again due to the other club being in the same area. But we will not give up and will apply again.
- Bob Davenport displayed examples of trophies for the upcoming show. The show committee will be meeting again in March.
- Sue Quick provided possible designs for the show shirts. Club members selected a design that features a Shelby Mustang similar to the Jones'.
- Ron Wood distributed a packet of show information. These shows are all listed on the calendar.

Our next club meeting will be Thursday, April 5th, at Elena's at the Colonnade in Beaumont at 6:30pm.

MCA Events 2007

April 1-1, 2007

Annual Spring Open Car Show Houston, Texas

Hosted by Mustang Club of Houston at Freeway Ford/Dealership. Event hours are 8 AM to 3 PM with check-in running 8 AM to Noon. Registration fee is \$20.00. Annual Spring show at Freeway Ford Dealership. All makes and models welcome. Free Lunch will be provided on site. Hourly door prize drawings. Fire Extinguisher required. Complete Show information included on the Mustang Club of Houston website. For more information, call Les Blankenship at 281 463 4245 or email lesblank@hotmail.com or call Pete Sigwardt at or email sigwardtpl@aol.com or visit the website at <http://www.mcoh.org>.

April 20-22, 2007

Oklahoma Centennial Mustang National Mustang, Oklahoma

Oklahoma Centennial Mustang National hosted by the Oklahoma Mustang Club. Show site is at Wild Horse Park in Mustang and the host hotel is the Clarion Meridian Hotel in Oklahoma City, (405) 942-8511. Additional information is available on the show website: www.nationalmustangshow.com

May 12-12, 2007

9th Annual Mustang Stampede Texarkana, Texas

Hosted by Four States Mustang Corral at McLarty Automall Ford-Lincoln-Mercury Event hours are 11 AM to 4 PM with check-in running 8 AM. Registration fee is \$30 (pre-registration \$25 before May 6, 2007). Dash plaque, T-shirt and goodie bags to first 100 registrants. Awards, Door prizes, raffle and entertainment. Registration forms are available on our Web site. www.4statesmustang.com. For more information, call Mac McLaughlin at 903 334 8371 or email cw4macret@yahoo.com or visit the website at <http://www.4statesmustang.com>.

2007 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

MARCH

24-25 SPINDLETOP CLASSIC CAR SHOW

HOLIDAY INN BEAUMONT

MCA GULF COAST NATIONAL

PENSACOLA, FL

31 EVADALE CATFISH FESTIVAL SHOW

APRIL

1 MUSTANG CLUB OF HOUSTON SPRING

OPEN CAR SHOW @ FREEWAY FORD

5 CLUB MEETING

13-15 CONROE CRUISERS CAR SHOW

14 WHMC CRUISE TO CHAPPELL HILL

BLUEBONNET FEST

14 WESTBROOK AUTORAMA

20-22 NATIONAL MCA SHOW,

MUSTANG, OK (OKLAHOMA CITY)

21 BAYSHORE FINE RIDES SHOW,

BAYTOWN

MAY

3 CLUB MEETING

4-5 FUN FORD WEEKEND - O'REILLY

NATIONALS AT HOUSTON RACEWAY

PARK

5 LCM PROJECT GRADUATION SHOW

12 BEAUMONT CRUISE

19 WHMC SHOW @ KINSEL'S

JUNE

7 CLUB MEETING

16 BEST YEARS SENIOR CENTER CAR

SHOW, CROCKETT ST.

JULY

5 (12) CLUB MEETING

14 CLASH OF THE TITANS AT HOUSTON

RACEWAY PARK

20-21 CRUISIN' KIRBYVILLE

AUGUST

2 CLUB MEETING

10-12 HOT SUMMER NITES AND

BEAUMONT CRUISE

SEPTEMBER

6 CLUB MEETING

7-9 FUN FORD WEEKEND O'REILLY

MUSTANG WORLD FINALS AT ENNIS

29-30 OLD TOWN SPRING CAR SHOW

OCTOBER

4 CLUB MEETING

6 CAJUN MUSTANGERS SHOW

9/30-7 CRUISIN' THE COAST, MS

TBD UNIQUE PERFORMANCE CAR SHOW

NOVEMBER

1 CLUB MEETING

10 BEAUMONT CRUISE

10 CLASH OF THE TITANS AT HOUSTON

RACEWAY PARK

DECEMBER

TBD CLUB MEETING: CHRISTMAS

PARTY/ELECTIONS

CLUB BUSINESSES

KINSEL FORD – CINDY YOHE

AAMCO TRANSMISSIONS – THE RAYZOR'S

AFLAC INSURANCE – MARTY JONES

GRINNELL COMPUTERS – OUR WEBMASTER, KEVIN GRINNELL

PARSON'S DIFFERENTIALS – CLIFF PARSONS

HOUSE OF POWER/PERFORMANCE – THE BROWN'S

Wild Horse Mustang Club
Sue Quick, Editor
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THE PONY EXPRESS

WHMC Officers

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