

The Pony Express

MUSTANG CLUB OF TAMPA OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Mustang of the Month: Shannon Long's 2014 Mustang



(Article by Melinda Morales) This month we are pleased to feature a brand new MCT member, Shannon Long, and her 2014 Mustang. This month's feature car is a 2014 V6 Mustang, the exterior color is black with gold stripes, other features include 3.7 L, automatic, and it has 305 HP... "for now" Shannon tells us.

Shannon's first car was a 2009 45th anniversary edition Mustang V6. She had that car for six years until it was wrecked by a hit and run driver. Shannon was devastated. She had the option of looking at other types of replacement cars, but nothing could replace her love of Mustangs. So Shannon went online, searching for a new one, and that's how she came across her 2014 Mustang. She bought it last March, when it was two years old, from the Friendly Kia dealership... (Continued on page 18)...

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Father's Day is here! To celebrate, we hope this month's edition brings with it the familiar feel and comfort of spending time in your favorite garage or man cave ...

Up Front

The Pony Express

Melinda Morales, Editor

(Email: newsletter@mustangcluboftampa.com)

Newsletter Staff:

Lupe Minute..... Lifestyle Reporter
 Rumer Mills..... Investigative Reporter
 Sally Ride..... Traveling Reporter
 Paige Turner..... Reporter At Large
 Rusty Sparks..... Staff Mechanic
 Ada Sage..... Staff Philosopher

Thanks to our contributors this month:

Joyce Bendishaw, Frank Morales,
 Harry DePeppe, Rusty Gillis,
 Robert Tetreault, Blake McLane,
 John Esposito and Shannon Long.

(Note: Melinda writes under multiple pen names)

A Note from your Editor...

Welcome, fellow members, to the June Edition. This month I'm pleased to feature Shannon Long on our cover. Shannon just joined the club and I hope you all get a chance to meet her and make her feel welcome. We also feature Robert Tetreault in our Member profile. I hope you enjoy getting to know Robert, too.

Of course, the big news is that with the first of June we welcome a new group of Club Officers and Board Members, which are listed on this page. Congratulations to each of them. Our first activity will be a Cruise on June 10th and we hope many of you can come out and get to meet your new President. Speaking of President's, many thanks to Joyce for her service to the club as our past President. Luckily, Joyce will continue to serve on the Board.

This month my staff had a chance to meet and interview our new President, Frank Morales. That interview is included in this edition. In honor of Father's day, our Staff Mechanic, Mr. Rusty Sparks has something to say ... and all I can say is, "Oh dear!" Lupe continues to be confused in her "Ladies Corner" and my mischievous Rumer Mills has a couple of good rumors for us. Then we wrap up by introducing a new "MCT Bad Boy" ... want to know who? Start reading! - Melinda



Thanks to our Club Leaders!

PP = Past President

Officers...

President Frank Morales
 Executive VP Frank Cossota (PP)
 Treasurer Kevin Riley (PP)
 Secretary Mary Lou McCarty
 Membership Harry DePeppe
 Newsletter Melinda Morales
 Webmaster Scott Englert

Board Members...

Joyce Bendishaw (PP)	Phil Collie
Mark Morley (PP)	Paul Strausbaugh (Facebook)
Chris Meyer (PP)	Paul Hiley
Phil Bendishaw (Car Show Chairman)	Robbie Polo (Cruises)
Bob Perry	Brandon Pacifica
Lucy Carroll	Rusty Gillis
Jim Carroll	

Facebook Friends of the MCT is now up to:

2101!

Make sure you check us out on Facebook! Many thanks to Paul Strausbaugh for keeping the club's Facebook page up to date and interesting.



Not a member? Thinking of applying for membership? Ownership of a Mustang is not required, just an enthusiasm for the model.

Go to <http://www.mustangcluboftampa.com/membership/>

Or e-mail the Membership Director

membership@mustangcluboftampa.com

Up Front

Our Outgoing President ...

Hi MCT Members,

It has been a great honor serving as MCT President and I thank our Board of Directors for their guidance. I also want to thank all MCT Members for the on-going support!

I look forward to staying actively involved within the club as Community Relations Director, continuing to work with our community charity leaders.

Congratulations to Frank Morales who is our next President of The Mustang Club of Tampa! I am

excited to be part of this transition and I look forward to working with Frank and the other Board of Directors on new initiatives.

Please join me in welcoming and supporting Frank as our new Prez!

Thanks!

Joyce Bendishaw, MCT President



Advise of a new Father:
"Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then, fold second base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and third together, bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again."



Father's Day Gift Idea!

Preparedness of an experienced Father:
"When I took the old family car to college, Dad loaded the trunk with soft-drink bottles filled with oil, coolant and transmission fluid. Sure enough, the car overheated. Scolding myself for not listening to my Dad's instructions, I looked at the engine and saw how well he knew me. The oil cap was labeled Dr Pepper, the transmission stick, Coke, and the empty coolant container, Diet Pepsi. I finished the trip just fine."



Our Incoming President ...

Hi fellow MCT members and friends.

As I start this new chapter in my life, I would like to thank all of you that voted for me and who have given me your trust in continuing the success of the Club.

I am looking forward to another exciting and successful year with MCT. I hope that most of you can support us by attending our events and if you have any suggestions, please let me, or any MCT Board Member, know what's on your mind. We will always welcome new ideas from our members.

In closing, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be President of MCT, which has been such a successful Club for the last thirty seven years. I also want to thank Joyce Bendishaw for her leadership for the past two years. Special thanks go to all the past Officers and Board of Directors for your service to the club. Lastly, welcome to the new Board of Directors!

Frank Morales, MCT President
president@mustangcluboftampa.com



Meet MCT Member ... Robert Tetreault

(by Melinda Morales) This month we are pleased to spotlight MCT member Robert Tetreault. Robert heard about MCT through Facebook and by looking online for local clubs and groups. He was also introduced to the club at one of the Bill Currie Ford Mustang shows. Robert wanted to be part of a club that is surrounded by positive and funny people. Those who have more knowledge about the Mustang, and can share stories and secrets that make these cars unique.

Robert joined MCT in November 2015, while at the Bill Currie Mustang Car Show. While enjoying the show, Robert introduced himself, spoke with a few members of the club, and signed up that day. As a MCT member, Robert mostly looks forward to participating in car show events. He takes pride in his car and is constantly cleaning her up. She is his daily driver, so upkeep is an ongoing process.

Robert has always loved the Mustang ever since his mom told him about hers. She had a '68 Mustang when she got her license. He has a great admiration for muscle cars and always wanted one. The day he purchased his first Mustang he wasn't actually in the market to buy a new vehicle. His fiancé asked him to have her oil changed on her Explorer while she was getting a tattoo nearby. While the truck was being serviced, Robert happened to walk into the show room and saw a Race Red Mustang 5.0 sitting there. He sat in it ... and instantly fell in love with it. A sales person came up and asked Robert if he liked the Mustang. Robert told him that he had always wanted one, but he was not sure if he could actually afford it, seeing that the sticker price was over \$45,000. So, for the heck of it, Robert decided to have the sales person run the numbers on a trade in for his current vehicle. With the offer that they gave him for his trade-in, the sale was made and Robert took possession of his first Mustang that day.



Robert currently has a 2015 Mustang GT Premium Package Oxford White. He has not ventured into tracking his Mustang yet. He is just enjoying showing her off at car shows for now. He says it is a "work of art" that just gets better as the years move on.

Robert loves working on cars, going to car shows and spending time with his family and Mustang family. Robert has three boys, Robert Jr. (who is twenty), Oliver (who is fourteen), and Owen (who is eleven). His oldest son lives in Massachusetts with his mom and has a love and desire for cars as much as Robert. Oliver and Owen live in Florida with Robert and their mom, Robert's fiancé Deborah Petty.

Thanks, Robert, for letting fellow MCT members get to know you a little better!

If men really do rule the world, why do they still wear neckties?
- Ada Sage, Staff Philosopher

Welcome to Our Newest MCT Members...

Our total membership is 191 families!

Evan McCarthy	'07 Mustang Coupe
Ryan Heck	'15 Mustang Coupe
Lou Lipari	'17 Shelby GT350
Antonio Mejia	'13 Mustang
Shannon Long	'14 Mustang Coupe
John & Leisha Pica	'17 Mustang GT/CS
Mark Jensen & Cathy Limone	'15 Mustang Coupe
James & Cherie Ventola	'11 GT Convertible

Josue & Tracy Cabrera	'69 Mach1
Phil Sillers & Lynda Warsaw	'12 Mustang Coupe
Rob & Diane Edwards	'07 Shelby & '99 35th Anniversary Mustang
Rick & Jeanne Hector	'94 SVT Cobra Pace Car
Steve & Lynn Travis	'65 Mustang Coupe
Jeff & Lolita Hoffman	'01 SVT Cobra
Christopher & Eileen Hicks	'17 Shelby GT350
Gaston Garces & Ashley Bass	'10 Mustang



Welcome to our newest club members! We look forward to having you join us at our next club meeting or event!



If you were recently watching Channel 13 news, and nearly fell out of your chair when you saw all those beautiful Mustangs, well those were fellow Mustang Club of Tampa members supporting Car Shows 4 Charity's 9th Annual USF Breast Health Car Show promo event with Fox13's Good Day Tampa Bay host Charley Belcher.

It was a real thrill for the members in attendance to be interviewed, live, by Charley. Thanks to all the MCT members who got up early and came out to help promote such a worthy cause!

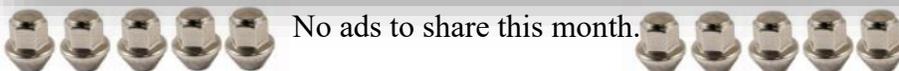
FOR MCT MEMBERS Buy, Sell, Trade ... Here!

Letters ...

To the Mustang Club of Tampa,

Thank you for allowing me to be your Treasurer for the last seven years. It was my pleasure and honor.

*Sincerely,
Lucy Carroll*



No ads to share this month.

MCT members looking to Buy, Sell, or Trade can post items here. Our newsletter reaches all our members, sponsors and several other Mustang Clubs. E-mail your photo & info to:

newsletter@mustangcluboftampa.com

I Think It ... So I Must Say It ...

(and let me just apologize in advance)



(No one on our Newsletter Staff knows grunting, scratching, and poking around a garage like our very own Rusty Sparks. So in honor of the Father's Day Edition, I have asked him to share some of his favorite things with our MCT fathers. - Your Editor)

The Piddler

Article by Rusty Sparks, Staff Mechanic

Someone once told me that it's a great life if you don't weaken, but I say buggers to that. Let me give you some Rusty wisdom ... old age isn't a matter of weakening, it's just all about how you ease into it. The older I get, I've learned that there are some definite benefits to look forward to. So as I've eased into my senior years I'm gonna share one of my greatest discoveries with you. I've become a piddler.

Let me explain something about being a piddler. One doesn't strive to become a piddler because it is really quite hard to do. You see piddling is neither one thing nor another but something in between. It's not rest, not something that can be done with your feet up in your favorite recliner (which I also do). But then neither is it work, something that one toils at, sweats at, or something one needs a break from. It is certainly not something for which one should ever be paid and absolutely not something that one does while watching a clock.

The whole idea of piddling is to kill time, but without any great effort, or much effort at all, or even really meaning to. If one piddles correctly, time just goes away, without regret on the part of the piddler, or even any particular notice. One does not march off to piddle. One meanders. And even when one heads off to do it, one may not go to piddling right away. A piddler may use tools, but only small, light ones, and only on things that are not needed right then. Changing a car battery is not piddling because it is a necessity. But tinkering with my tool kit around the house, tightening things that don't need it, is definitely piddling. I like to turn cabinet door bolts just a little bit so I can tell the Mrs., "Now that's better!" Rotating ones tires is, of course, not piddling. Organizing one's sock drawer by color is. Some people put off piddling but I have eased myself into it without even realizing it was happening.

Now that I spend more time in my garage I've taken my piddling ways there. The other day, for no apparent reason, I got into the paint cabinet. I took out all the cans of paint and put them back in order of color, lightest to darkest. This qualifies as piddling because it wasn't necessary ... just me spending time in my piddling ways.

I wasn't really looking for the next thing to piddle with ... that would be work. But now that I've been hired as a Staff Mechanic for this Newsletter, I've decided to bring my piddling here – and you can imagine our Editor's joy when I shared this with her. Who wouldn't love my piddling ways? I thought about a work shop for piddling but that would be, well, work! Right?

I like the idea of having a Piddler's Poker Run. Piddling while driving around in my Mustang is a real treat. I just get in my Pony, drive around town, and if, late in the day, I realize that time has once again slipped away from me, it will probably be because once again I have piddled.

So are you a piddler too?

Tomorrow is Father's Day. My lovely kids said, "Do you need something like mom does or are you okay?"

Out & About

Mustang Memories ... CS4C 9th Annual Car Show for Breast Cancer



On May 6th, 2017 many MCT members turned out in support of Car Shows for Charity's 9th Annual Car Show for Breast Cancer, held in Downtown Tarpon Springs. It was a cool day with nice breezes, there were plenty of shops and food, and we had a huge turnout of enthusiasts, all supporting the fight to end breast cancer. We also congratulate MCT members Chris and Suzann Painter who do a fabulous job making this show such a success. This year they raised approximately \$15,000 for their charity! Hats off to the both of you and everyone that made this show a success! Also, congratulations to the following MCT trophy winners: Robert Tetreault, Joe Brannon, Randy & Patsy Dwyer, Chris Meyer, Phil Bendishaw, Harold Champion, Frank Morales, Stephanie McGovern, Jim & Lucy Carroll, Paul Strausbaugh, and Gil & Jeanette Gonzalez. (Pictures provided by Melinda Morales, Blake McLane, Harry DePeppe, and John Esposito)



Out & About

Mustang Memories ... Dirty Bingo in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters



(by Melinda Morales) On Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 several MCT members came out to Buckets Tavern & Tap to join in on Dirty Bingo, in support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. We had a great evening and our hats are off to Howie Taylor for organizing this evening and for all he does as a “Big” for his “Little.” Here is a comment from Howie which he posted to Facebook after the event:

“I am humbled again by the support I have received from my friends. Deb Kristol-Irwin and I would like to thank you all for your generosity towards Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. We raised over \$1,200 and had a blast doing it. Shout out to our bingo caller, Stephanie and to our host, Buckets Tavern & Tap for an amazing evening. A special thanks goes out to my friends, Mustang Club of Tampa and Krewe of Blackbeard's Revenge for coming out in force. These funds raised tonight will stay local and help to support matches like mine and my “Little”. Being a mentor to a boy and giving him the tools to become a respectable and responsible young man is a huge responsibility and an awesome experience. One I would wish on every one of you. If you would like to know more about how you can make a positive change in a young person’s life, reach out to Deb. She will show you how to be a rock and a rockstar to a child looking for someone JUST LIKE YOU!”

Way to go Howie!



Out & About

Mustang Memories ... Bill Currie 4th Annual Pony Party Car Show

Below is an excerpt from a follow-up email sent by our Car Show Co-Chairmen:

Our 4th Annual Pony Party is now history. Saturday, May 13th, 2017 was wonderful day with some overcast skys and a great breeze to keep the temperatures reasonably comfortable. We had a great showing with approximately 140 cars for this event, held at Bill Currie Ford. All charity drives were completed, as we hoped, and the effort raised \$18,000 for the Teachers Back 2 School Supply Giveaway program, which assists teachers by providing supplies for students who are less fortunate.

Jennifer Currie, of Bill Currie Ford, and General Manager, Rob Henry, worked hand in hand in preparation for this show, and they remained with us all day long to extend their hospitality to everyone who attended. Tijuana Flats served delicious, free tacos for 2 1/2 hours, so we assume nobody went home hungry! Christy Vanette from Stepps Towing was amazing and kept us on track and moved the drivers through the driving process easily.

Last, but not least, came the team of workers from MCT. Our thanks go out to all of you for showing up and making this event go so smoothly. Thanks to Bob Perry who handled all the registration work, and the crew who assisted him at the table. With some potential of rain they pushed the voting up a little early and concluded the selection of winners very early. Thank you to Robbie Polo and the entire parking crew for handling the parking of this event as efficiently as possible and making it pleasant for vehicle owners to arrive and parked easily. The show raised the money as planned. The day was stress free, and the attitude of those attending was upbeat and positive. It was a great, fun day!!!

Thanks to all of you,
Mark Morley & Phil Bendishaw



Out & About

Mustang Memories ...

Bill Currie 4th Annual Pony Party Car Show (Continued)



Bob Perry,
Registration



Harry DePeppe,
Membership



The Lunch Line



Free
Lunch!



Highlights

A Road Well Travelled ...

I'm proud to announce that, for his first action, our new MCT President, Mr. Frank Morales, graciously agreed to sit in on my recent Staff Meeting so that my staff of reporters could get to know him better. Here is his interview. - Your Editor

Frank: Hi everyone. It is a pleasure to meet all of you.

Lupe: Hi Frankie. I'm the Lifestyle Reporter. Are you going to be able to handle life as a "MCT Bad Boy" and President?

Frank: Well, to tell you the truth, one just comes naturally, while the other is like a job. You work at it.

Rumer: As the Investigative Reporter, I'd like to know just how you came to be a Bad Boy, and don't leave out any of the nitty gritty details ...

Frank: Well ...

Paige: Frank, don't pay any attention to them. I'm our Reporter-at-Large and I've already done my research on you so I know our readers will want to get to know you better. Lets talk about your history.

Frank: That would be much better.

Paige: Start at the beginning ...

Frank: Well, to begin, I have been buying, restoring, and selling collectable Mustangs since 1982. Some of my cars have sold in auctions like the Barrett-Jackson and Mecum Auctions, while others have sold to collectors as far away as Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Paige: I know that you were a very busy Mustang Enthusiast while you lived in California. Tell me about that.

Frank: Sure. I decided to join the Orange County Mustang Club (OCMC), located in Orange County, California, in 1987. In 1989 I became President of OCMC and subsequently served as President for 24 years (not consecutively, I took a year off in 1997 and 2005). As an enthusiast and President of a club for so many years, it was important for me not only to have fun with the hobby, but to give back to the community.

Paige: How did you do that?

Frank: As an example, I was instrumental in fulfilling a Mustang restoration for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It was a lot of work but wonderful to see club members and sponsors all pitch in and donate time and services to get the project done. We had the unveiling at the John Force facility in Yorba, Linda, California, during a cruise night. All the hard work paid off when I met the young man who received the car.

Paige: Didn't you become friends with a Chevy guy?

Frank: Yes, can you believe it? He also worked for Make-A-Wish and was passionate about completing the project. During the process we became fast friends

and remain so to this day.

Paige: And what came after that?

Frank: I created the "Hooves for Hope" charity for OCMC, which collected money for the City of Hope (a Cancer Research Hospital). In addition, we did charity contributions for Children of the Night, The Heart Association, Orangewood Children's Home and Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

Paige: Was being President of OCMC enough?

Frank: Well I also served as Chairman of the Southern California Ford Council for five years. This Council hosts the largest one day Ford car show in Southern California with almost 2,000 Fords, and is known as Fabulous Fords Forever.

Paige: So what achievement did you appreciate most?

Frank: My support of the hobby over the years was recognized by Lee Iacocca when I received the much coveted Lee Iacocca Award. This award is given for dedication to excellence in perpetuating an American automotive tradition (the Mustang).

Paige: And now about Florida ...

Frank: I joined MCT about three years ago, having made the decision to retire and relocate to Tampa, Florida to be closer to our family. Melinda and I have two daughters, two granddaughters, son-in-law's and family in Tampa. Also, Melinda has family living in the Orlando area. So, it was an easy decision to move to Florida. After the move I also became a National Director for MCA, I continue to work part time for a California Dealership (where I previously worked for 17 years), I've been a MCT Board Member for two years, and I'm a CDD Supervisor for my local community.

Paige: That's quite a history. We can't wait to see where your story takes you next.

Frank: Thanks, Paige. It's been really nice chatting with you.

Ada: Hi, I'm Ada Sage, Staff Philosopher. Good grief don't you get tired? I'm pooped just listening ...

Rusty: Hi Frank, I'm Rusty Sparks, Staff Mechanic, and I'm a Bad Boy too. It sounds like I need to take you to my garage and teach you how to spend time piddling around ...

Lupe: Did you say piddling? I want to learn too!!

Frank: I really need to go now ...

Highlights

Pictures of the Month ... Ice Cream!



Darlene Esposito and Frank Morales



John Esposito



Marilu Gonzalez-Martinez



Bad Boy Bendishaw



Mark Morley

Everyone loves ice cream! And, boy, does it put smiles on everyone's faces. Apparently ice cream eating is a serious sport for Bad Boy Bendishaw. Notice the working gloves? Even Car Show Chairman Mark Morley took time to enjoy a little refreshment. I do love watching MCT members have fun!

Have you Heard?

By Rumer Mills, Investigative Reporter

(Note: Last names of members are withheld to protect the innocent. – Rumer) Funny how time flies. It seems like only yesterday that we met Mary Lou M. in her New Member Profile. Now here she is joining the Board of Directors as our new Secretary! And she had a very nice feature picture in MCA's The Mustang Times article on last year's Bill Currie Car Show. She was so thrilled she autographed our new President's magazine for him. It's nice to see how quickly new members make friendships with fellow club members. Recently I walked by Mary Lou M., who was deep in a discussion with Robbie P. I didn't want to pry so I kept on walking, but I did overhear her asking for Robbie's help in picking out a new bra. When she saw me she quickly walked up to explain that the bra was for her car ... *but I knew that ...*



Highlights

The Mustang Ladies Corner

By Lupe Minute, Lifestyle Reporter

Sometimes I think Ford is out to get me. I finally resolved the issue of “kicking” my Ford in the rear end to open the tail gate. My car and I achieved detente when I agreed to just use my key, and she agreed to open up on the first pull of the door handle. Now I realize that those pesky Ford designers have laid another trap for me. Recently I got in my car, drove off, and realized that my radio was off. Who turned it off? So I turned it back on and continued on my way. When I got home I turned the car off but when I got out of the car, it was still running. I must have pushed the button on, off, on, off, about ten times before I realized I was pushing the volume button for the radio. *This is entirely Ford’s fault.* First, when I’m sitting in the drivers seat I can’t see the ignition button because of the design of the steering wheel, which completely blocks my view of it. Then, Ford placed the volume button next to the ignition button and *made it look the exact same.* Does that sound fair to you? I swear these Ford designers are out to get me.



Induction to the “MCT Bad Boy” Club

(By Melinda Morales) MCT is full of classical Mustang Men. They have big hearts, they are incredibly knowledgeable about their Mustangs, they are helpful, sweet, and they do the nicest things for so many people. Some of our Mustang Men also have a bit of a “Bad Boy” streak. I guess we let

them get away with this quirk in their personalities because we know it is just a piece of the naughty little boy that still lingers in the grown man. They can’t help it when they get themselves into trouble. They do it regularly and they like it (although they pretend to be shocked by their behavior). In past editions I’ve pointed a finger at two of these MCT “Bad Boys” (and you know who they are!) but there is another MCT member who clearly



needs to be recognized. So this month we are officially recognizing Howie Taylor as a member of the MCT Bad Boy Club. After all, who would give me a handstand when I ask for a picture? Howie already has a new license plate that advertises his position— “IMABB.” Until now it has stood for “I’m A Big Brother” but I always knew it could stand for “I’m a Bad Boy!” Join me in welcoming him to this special club within a club. And if you ever want to see his signature Bad Boy move, leave your phone out ...

Have you Heard?

By Rumer Mills, Investigative Reporter

(Note: Last names of members are withheld to protect the innocent. – Rumer) Who needs to wait for the 4th of July to have a cracking good time? Well, not one long time MCT member. And certainly not when this member happens to carry a fire extinguisher in his trunk. The way I heard it, it seems that for a good time Frank C. like to set off his fire extinguisher in the trunk of his classic Mustang. Oh sure, it’s a mess to clean up after-the-fact. But for a couple of minutes it makes for a wild time for the poor Pony and its owner!

In telling the story, Frank C. pretended like it was an accident, but based on the grin on his face, I know better. So I’m going to recommend to our new president that we have a fourth of July party, with Frank C. as the host. He gives new meaning to having a rooting, tooting good time!! At least that’s the way I heard it ...

Highlights



The Rusty Report

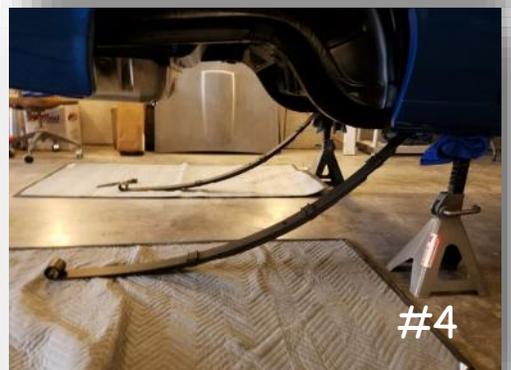
By Rusty Gillis

Gillis Restorations builds every car as if it were Rusty's own. They are a one stop restoration shop. From rust repairs to turn key restorations, no job is too big or too small. Let's see what Rusty is up to this month ...

Steve Osborne's 1969 Mach 1 body has been wet sanded and buffed and it is time to install the suspension. I told Steve about a small company in California, Opentracker Racing Products, that sells and also makes some of their own suspension parts. They have a lot of road racing experience and have used their experience to make the

Classic Mustang handle better on the street. They also make drag racing front suspension and I have their complete roller front suspension on my 1969 Mustang and 1967 Fairlane drag cars.

I'm sure a lot of you have heard about the Shelby drop for the front suspension, and Opentracker has a template that you bolt into your upper control arm mounting holes in the shock tower so now you can drill a pilot hole that is 1" lower than stock. This modification helps the handling of your Mustangs and was used on the Shelby Mustangs that were raced back in the 60's. (See picture #1) This is how it looks after the holes are drilled and when you assemble your suspension you will use the lower holes. (See picture #2)



All new suspension from Opentracker using their roller spring perches, upper and lower control arms, Bilstein shocks (not installed yet), Street or Track strut rods and Wilwood brakes. (See picture #3) When installing your new leaf springs start with the front bolted together and then you can roll your complete rear housing in place on a jack. (See picture #4)



The Strange 9" housing bolted in place and you can also see the new stainless steel gas tank. (See picture #5) The doors and deck lid have been wet sanded, buffed and lined up. Wilwood brakes are also used in the rear. (See picture #6) *(Rusty's story continues next month...)*



www.gillisrestorations.com
727-847-7973
Email: rusty@gillisrestorations.com

Features

Area Cruise-Ins

Events are subject to change so always check with organizers.

✓ Every 1st Monday - Mustang Mondays, Biff Burger & Buffy's BBQ, 6 to 9:30pm. 3939 49th St N. St Petersburg. Info: 727-522-0088. Free event. December meet is Toy Drive, bring a toy! More info on MCT facebook page.

✓ Every Tuesday Evening - WOW! 5:30-8:30pm. 10902 N. Dale Mabry, free, open-to-all, trophies, 50/50, music, Info: Jerry 813-780-1215.

✓ Every Friday - Citrus Park DQ Grill & Chill 6-9pm 8410 Citrus Park Dr. Music, door prizes & 50/50. Free cone for the first 20 registered. Space limited to 45 cars. Info: Paul Figoni 813468-027

✓ Every Friday - Pep Boys Speed Shop, 5-8pm 10124 N. Florida Ave, open-to-all, drivers receive a hot dog & soda, door prizes, 10% discount on store purchases, DJ Ed Cullins. Info: Joe 813-933-2424.

✓ 1st Saturday - Dairy Queen, Lutz, 6-8:30pm. 23671 FL-54, Lutz. All makes and models welcome. Food, ice cream, DJ music, raffles and face painting. Fun for whole family. Info: 813-949-8900, or email Dawn.c@inspiringservice.com.

✓ 2nd Saturday - NorthPointe Village, 5-8pm. 16506 Pointe Village Dr, Lutz. Door prizes, oldies, music and 50/50. Info: Paul Figoni 813-468-0277

✓ 2nd Saturday - Breakfast & Coffee at Insty Tune. 7am to 9am. 14783 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618.

✓ Last Saturday - Cars & Coffee at Streetside Classics. 9am-12. 4610 Pet Lane, Lutz, FL. 150+ classic cars on display under one roof.

Member Businesses and Services



Mustang Club of America

Phil Collie
Internet Consultant
Lazydays, The RV Authority
Cell: 800-626-7800
pcollie@lazydays.com

John Underwood
Custom Cabinetry
U.S. Design & Mill, Inc.
Cell: 813-854-2321
USDMM1@tampabay.rr.com

Jeremy & Jessica Cianfrocca
Auto Detailing
Tampa Wax Slingers
Ph: 813-409-2630
jcianfrocca@tampabay.rr.com

Fred Flesche
Indoor Gun Range/Sales
Shooting Sports Inc.
Ph: 813-933-3000
ffnc@aim.com

Rusty Gillis
Automotive Restoration
Gillis Performance Restorations
Ph: 727-847-7973
rusty@gillisrestorations.com

Glenn Bornemann
Auto Detailing Products
Garage One
Ph: 813-380-3773
mustang62401@gmail.com

Jose Chinchilla
Autobody & Collision
Full Metal Garage
Ph: 813-217-5364
fullmetalgarage.com

Members who would like to add your business or service, which may be of interest to other members, email your info to: newsletter@mustangcluboftampa.com

Another great perk for Mustang Club of Tampa members, who also join the National Club
Mustang Club of America



MCA members can take advantage of
The Ford X-Plan

Purchase a Mustang with a deep pricing discount, the process is both simple & rewarding.

Don't forget to make the dealer aware of your MCT membership for a \$150 loyalty bonus to the Mustang Club of Tampa. See below for details.

<http://www.mustang.org/content.php/274-X-Plan-Pricing-for-MCA-Members>

Features

Car Shows & Other Events

Events are subject to change.
Always check with organizers.

* = Car Shows with Mustang classes.

Car Shows -

√ June 10 — MCT Cruise. Summer time is here! Join your fellow club members for a cruise across the Bay Area Bridges on Saturday, June 10th. We will gather at Bill Currie Ford in the back lot at 10:45am and depart at 11:15am sharp for a scenic cruise. Our final destination is at Quaker Steak & Lube for lunch. Please RSVP to Robbie Polo (rpolo1@tampabay.rr.com) directly by email if you plan to attend. The deadline to confirm your attendance is Friday, June 9th in order to give the restaurant a head count. We are looking forward to a great turnout and, as always, feel free to call Robbie with any questions. Robbie's cell is 813-505-7727.

√ June 11 — Lake Mary Car Show located at Central Park, 100 N. Country Club Road, Lake Mary, FL. 11am—2pm. Registration is Free. For info contact Tara at 407-617-4201, or via email at TarasNova@yahoo.com. Hosted by City of Lake Mary. Free for all years and models.

√ July 13-15 — Mark Morley has talked about the Arthritis Auto Show in Columbus OH. This year is the 35th Annual Classic Auto Show & Cruise-In. Mark and his wife are flying up. Kevin Riley is going for his third or fourth time and his brother On Satur-

day the judged show will have a Mustang Show within-the-show with 150 to 200 Mustangs. This show brings people back year after year with its festival atmosphere. An Elvis impersonator, Mike Albert, will perform on Friday night and the Saturday night entertainment is by Phil Dirt and the Dozers. Mike Albert is thought to be one of the top Elvis impersonators in the country and Phil Dirt is a phenomenal oldies band that travels much of the country and appears frequently here in Florida. If anyone is interested in joining Mark and Kevin, contact Mark at mytang66@yahoo.com.

√ *August 25-27 — 2017 Grand National MCA Show. Overland Park, Kansas. Details to follow.

√ *October 7 — 8th Annual Nature Coast Mustangs All Ford Powered Car and Truck Show. Located at Nick Nicholas Ford. Start time is 8am.

Other Noteworthy Activities -

√ June 10 — MCT's June Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 10th at 8:30am, in the room over the Bill Currie Ford showroom.

√ June 27 — MCT General Meeting. Our next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27th at 6:45pm, in the room over the Bill Currie Ford showroom.

(See MCT Website for fliers.)



The Rust Bucket... by Rusty Sparks, Staff Mechanic



Features

Bill Currie Ford Referral Program

\$\$\$\$ Benefits to Members of
Mustang Club of Tampa provided
by Bill Currie Ford!

Club members, and the club, have special Loyalty Privileges at Bill Currie Ford. Earn \$\$\$, receive discounts, and work with a dedicated team to assist you. Here is what we get in return:

** \$150 – Paid to the Club when a club member purchases a vehicle

** \$150 – Paid to any Member who refers a friend to purchase a vehicle

** 10% -- Discount for Parts and Service

A dedicated Mustang enthusiast at Bill Currie is assigned to assist you.

Dealership Contact for MCT Members:
Jim Carson, 813-872-5555, Ext. 1335

To receive these benefits always introduce yourself as a member of Mustang Club of Tampa and present your membership card. If there are any questions contact club President Joyce Bendishaw at <mailto:to:president@mustangcluboftampa.com> or Jim Carson at the phone number listed above. Please give Bill Currie a try, and refer your friends. Let us know if you make a purchase.

If purchasing a vehicle - present the voucher below
with your membership card at the time of sale!

Mustang Club of Tampa Referral Program

In recognition of the partnership with Bill Currie Ford, Mustang Club members who purchase a vehicle from Bill Currie Ford will get \$150 donated back to the Mustang Club **This Voucher MUST be shown at time of Sale along with Membership Card**

Sales Team and Finance Team. - Please add this voucher to the deal packet

Accounts Payable,- Please make checks payable to the Mustang Club of Tampa. (please reference Club member/purchaser name for records

Thank you !



Snapshots

(Continued from Page 1) It had one other prior owner who hardly ever drove it. It only had 4,000 miles on it at the time Shannon bought it. Today this pony is in good hands, and Shannon has named her new car Great Pyrite. Shannon's mom once rescued a racehorse right off the track of Tampa Bay Downs, and his racing name was Great Pyrite, which they called Pirate. Shannon remembers him as the coolest, most fearless horse. So she decided that would be a cool, meaningful name to name her car. Plus, she says, "Pyrite is gold, well, fool's gold."

So far, Shannon has only added appearance mods to her Mustang. Originally it had silver stripes, and she replaced them with gold stripes, and added the boss 302 C-Style stripes. She also added black leather seats, hood and side scoops, pony emblem light, tinted headlights/taillights, and blacked out grille border and center caps. By the time this newsletter comes out, she will probably have added the Flowmasters, which will be installed for some extra sound. Eventually she will be adding an air intake and other performance mods. Then Shannon plans to start entering her Mustang in more shows, "when it's a little more show ready." When asked what Shannon likes best about her Mustang she says, "That it's mine!"



Shannon currently lives with her mom in Tarpon Springs, on a two and one half acre horse property. Also living with Shannon are two horses, three dogs, and seven cats. Ask Shannon how she feels about that and you'll get a, "yikes!" Shannon currently works full-time for Bank of America as a Production Specialist in the Home Equity loan department. She has been there for a little under a year. If you think you might recognize Shannon it would be because of her second, fun job. She also works, during all the Tampa Bay Lightning home games, on the Bolt Brigade. Shannon does the contests, shoots the t-shirt canon from the Zamboni, pumps up the crowd, and skates on the ice (flag in hand) for the Thunderstruck openings. She has been doing this for the past four, going on five, seasons. When asked about her favorite interests, Shannon will tell you they are Mustangs and ice hockey. Most of her time is spent going to car shows or doing something involved with the Lightning.

Within our Mustang Enthusiast community Shannon is currently a member of MCT, Pony UP and Wild Stallions. She has also been in communication with Ford's VP of US Marketing and Sales trying to pitch an idea for a new Mustang campaign.

When asked how she got interested in the Mustang hobby, Shannon said that the Mustang was her dream car as a kid. She always considered herself a 'Stang Girl and once she got the one she has now, she really wanted to get more involved with Mustang events. It's heaven for Shannon to be around a bunch of Mustangs, and she's always felt that Mustangs are not so much a car, as a hobby. She heard about MCT online, and from other current members, and she just joined MCT on May 9, 2017. "I'm a newbie!" she says. Well, we say, "Welcome aboard newbie!"



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And coming Next Month ...

Thank goodness we have successfully completed this edition. The nuts and bolts, the smell of tires, and all that grunting and scratching that went into it! Not a flower anywhere. Wow. As the staff's reward I've told them they can go all out for the July edition. I'm not sure what they will come up with, but I'm sure it will be a Yankee Doodle Dandy! Till then! - Melinda, Editor