

The Pony Express

MUSTANG CLUB OF TAMPA OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Mustang of the Month: Nick & Helle Mellitas' 2017 Mustang GT



(Article by Melinda Morales)

This month we are pleased to spotlight Nick and Helle Mellitas and their 2017 Mustang GT California Special.

Nick was a shipbroker for forty years in New York City. Nowadays he enjoys boating, fishing and car shows. He and his wife, Helle, have three grown kids. His son is a US Navy vet (USS Carl Vinson). He also has two daughters. One is a teacher and living in New Jersey, and another who is an NGO executive living in Washington D.C.

Nick used to own a 2003 Mustang GT Convertible, but was “forced” to trade it in for an Explorer when his son got his drivers license. Now that his son has grown, Nick is the proud owner of a Lightning Blue 2017 Mustang GT California Special convertible, with 435 HP that shoots to 60 mph in 4.5 seconds. Not that anyone is bragging of course!

Nick’s purchase of the car comes with a sad story. Nick purchased the car in August of 2017 from a local dealer. It only had 3500 miles on the odometer.

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My Mechanic told me he couldn't repair my brakes so he made my horn louder. I'm just sayin'...

The Pony Express

Melinda Morales, Editor

(Email: newsletter@mustangcluboftampa.com)

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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:

Frank Morales, Harry DePeppe, Nick Mellitas, Howie Taylor and Rusty Gillis

(Note: Melinda writes under multiple pen names)

A Note from your Editor...

Happy March fellow MCT members!

We've had a busy month so there is a lot to report on. Thanks to Nick Mellitas for letting us spotlight him and his Mustang in our feature article. There are also pictures from past events for those of you who weren't able to attend.

One of my favorite things to do is spotlight interesting club members, and this month I'm pleased to spotlight Howie Taylor and his participation in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. What a wonderful thing Howie is doing, and I'm so glad that this organization received a charitable donation from MCT in January.

Regarding upcoming events, please keep your eye out for upcoming MCT fliers. Our March Cruise flier will be out shortly, followed by our Picnic Flier and our May Car Show flier. These are all great activities so mark your calendars, and we will hope to see you there!

Last, but not least, if you have something you'd like to see in an upcoming newsletter, please contact me ... until next time, happy reading! - Melinda

Thanks to our Club Leaders!



Officers...

PP = Past President

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

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Lucy Carroll	Bob Perry
Jim Carroll	Brandon Pacifica (Facebook & Sergeant at Arms)
Harold Champion (MCA Regional Director)	Robbie Polo (Cruise Director)
Phil Collie	Howie Taylor (Publicity Director)
Chris Meyer (PP)	

Facebook Friends of the MCT is now up to:

3,078!

Make sure you check us out on Facebook! Many thanks to Brandon Pacifica 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.

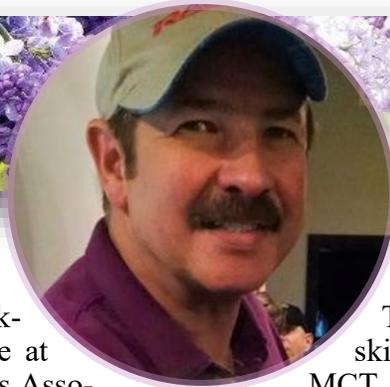
Go to <http://www.mustangcluboftampa.com/membership/>

Or e-mail the Membership Director membership@mustangcluboftampa.com

Up Front

President's ...

... Message



Hi MCT Members and Friends.

As I'm writing this message, I'm looking forward to the fun day I'll have at the NMRA (National Mustang Racers Association) on Saturday, March 2. This will be my fourth year attending. This event was one of my first events that I attended when I moved to Tampa, Florida four years ago. Anyway, I always have been impressed with the amount of Mustang enthusiasts attending this event. Fans and racers alike wait all winter for this event to take place, and it's just awesome. It's Mustang heaven for any Mustang enthusiast.

As I mentioned in my last President's message, our 2018 Board of Directors has been working and planning our activities for 2019. On Saturday, March 23rd Robbie Polo has put together a Cruise to Streetside Classics and then to Ford's Garage in Wesley Chapel for lunch. Please refer to the Cruise flyer for details and please RSVP to Robbie, as he needs a head count for the restaurant. We also have scheduled a Club Picnic at John Chestnut Sr. Park on Saturday, April 6th. This will be an old fashion pot luck style picnic with games and BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs just like last year. I'll be emailing a flyer with additional information soon. We want to thank our MCT Board for making this possible, Melinda Morales for generating all the activity flyers, and Robbie Polo for organizing the Cruise event throughout the year. Great job team.

As for past events, on Saturday, February 9th we had Dyno Day at Vortex Motorsports. We started the morning with coffee and donuts. Then we buckled our seat belts as members dyno pulled their Mustang's for horsepower and torque numbers. We had scheduled dyno pulls for six slots', but we ended up doing nine. Great job by the Tech's at Vortex. In addition, Mission BBQ provide a fully catered lunch, including chicken, pork and brisket, with all the sides and beverages. We had an awesome day with picture perfect weather, a beautiful and meticulous Vortex garage and MCT members and friends. As a little surprise we also gave out four awards. I want to congratulate Phil Collie for Best Early Mustang, John Sepessy for Best Convertible Mustang, Cesar Colon

for Best Late Model Mustang and Frank Morales (me!) for Sponsors Choice. Thank you, Robbie Polo and Tom Jankowski, for coordinating this wonderful event for MCT.

If you didn't attend our MCT General Meeting on Tuesday, February 26th you missed out on a great meeting. We had Deputy Gary Mechler share with our members his experience and knowledge as a Deputy. He shared some tips on Traffic Safety, Motor Vehicle Theft, the do's and don'ts about leaving on Vacation, Florida Firearm Laws, and what to do in case of an active shooter event. Members also took the opportunity to ask Deputy Gary Mechler various questions on the different situations and experience s they've had. It was a good question and answer presentation. I want to thank Deputy Gary Mechler for taking the time to share his knowledge and experience with MCT members. I also want to thank Lucy Carroll for making the coordinating this month's Guest Speaker.

As for upcoming events, Suncoast Mustang Club is hosting the 32nd Annual Mustang, Shelby, Ford Car Show at County in the Park on Saturday, March 16th. Pre-registration must be postmarked by March 12th. Only Pre-registered cars will be judged. Also, on Saturday, May 4th is the MCT and Bill Currie Ford 6th Annual Pony Party Car Show. This event is "Caring for Kids" and will benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Registration is from 9am -11am day of show. I'll be emailing a flyer with additional information once finalized.

In closing, I would like to encourage all of you to attend our next general meetings or activities to show your support for our Club, as our Board is working very hard to make this year a fun year for MCT. So, stay tuned as I don't want you to miss out on any of the fun!

Best regards,
Frank Morales, MCT President
president@mustangcluboftampa.com

Welcome to Our Newest MCT Members...

Rocco Costa '16 Mustang GT Fastback
Larry Levine '09 Mustang GT Convertible
Nicholas & Helle Mellitas '17 Mustang GT Conv.
Ben Sudduth '16 Mustang Fastback
Lloyd & Patti Luke '07 Mustang Coupe
Scott & Pierangela Gerke '68 Mustang Coupe

Steven Eyring '00 Shelby Convertible
Wayne & Susie Timmerman '72 Mach 1
Michael & Elaine Martino '65 Mustang Coupe
Chasity Byrd '19 Mustang Coupe
Sara Wercinski '16 Mustang Convertible



Our total membership is **187 families, 318 total members!**
Welcome to our newest club members! We look forward to having you join us at our next club meeting or event!

Mustang Ladies Corner ...

By Lupe Minute, Lifestyle Reporter

Last night I had the worst experience of my life. For the first time ever, my Mustang got caught speeding while I was in it. I have to admit that I totally freaked out. After pulling me over, this scary looking officer approached me and said I was speeding. So I did what works on my husband. I played dumb. "Is there a problem, officer?" "Ma'am, you were speeding. Can I see your license please?" (*I felt a rash breaking out.*) "I'd give it to you but I don't have one. I lost it a year ago, I just haven't had a chance to replace it." "I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please." (*My rash was really starting to itch now.*) "I can't do that. I stole this car." "You stole it?" (*Now I was starting to sweat on top of my itchy rash.*) "Yes, my car wouldn't start, so I hijacked the keys for this one and took off. I think I also might have pushed the owner into the trunk if you want to check on him."

The officer looked at me and slowly backed away to his car and called for back-up. Within minutes five police cars circled my Mustang. A senior officer slowly approached me, clasping a very scary half-drawn gun.

"Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please!" I stepped out and with my dumbest look asked, "Is there a problem sir?" "One of my officers told me that you hijacked this car and the owner is in the trunk. Could you please open the trunk of the car?" With a vague smile I opened it, revealing nothing but an empty trunk. At that point the cop gave me the strangest look, "Is this your car, ma'am?" (*Slowly my rash stopped itching.*) "Yes, here are the registration papers." The officer now looked stunned. "One of my officers claims that you do not have a driver's license." I dug into my purse and handed my license to the officer. After examining it, the officer looked quite puzzled. He looked at me and said, "Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you hijacked this car, and that you pushed the owner into the trunk." I gave him my most innocent smile (*as my rash faded away*) and said, "Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too."

In the next moment I was jolted wide awake, but safe and sound in my bed, my Mustang Man sleeping soundly next to me. Naturally, this terrible experience was all his fault. I gave him one good jab in the arm for putting me through that. Then I rolled over and spent the rest of the night sound asleep.

Buy, Sell, and Trade

For Sale— I have a complete Grill kit for a 67 Mustang GT. Includes all trim, horse and corral, etc. \$125 for all. Call Mark @ 813-205-2953

For Sale— FOMOCO 4 barrel manifold for sale for a 289. Asking \$85. Anyone interested can contact John Goyack at 727-726-5701.

For Sale— Raxiom Navigation & Touch Screen Upgrade For OE Radio (15-17 All). 8" HD Touch-Screen LCD, Navigation System with iGO NextGen Software, US and Canada Maps Included, Retains Sync and Factory Functions, HDMI Connectivity / USB Charging / OBD2 Reader, Input for Factory Reverse Camera, Factory Style Dash Bezel Included, Not Compatible with SYNC® 3, Fits 2015-2017 Mustangs Equipped with the Standard OE Radio with the 4 in. Screen. This is no longer available from American Muscle. This is for everyone with the little 4" screen that wants to upgrade to a 8" screen with gps. I have everything for installation. Asking \$275.00. Contact Doug @ 813-857-7959 or dkasr2@gmail.com



For Sale— American Muscle Speed Form side scoops in Performance White for Ford Mustang.

Came off of a 2012, will fit 2010-2014. Perfect condition at half price of new. \$100. Call Wayne Garris at 727-215-6121.



For Sale— For Sale, 1950 Ford 4 Door Sedan with Chevy 350, 5 speed manual trans. Car has air conditioning, and 4 new tires. Except for engine and transmission, the car is original and is a good daily driver. Engine has about 200 miles since rebuild and runs good and strong. Clean Florida Title.



\$10,500
Please call Fred Flesche if interested.



For Sale— FS - Eaton Detroit Spring #349 or NPD # 5660-23 rear leaf springs - less than 3000 miles on them. With hangers and U-bolts - FIRST \$150 takes them. Will fit a 65-69 Mustang - See the chart in the NPD catalog. Call Jerry 813-417-3037

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

Have you Heard?

*By Rumer Mills,
Investigative Reporter*

MCT Member, Cesar Colon, wasn't originally on the list to get his Mustang Dyno tested at our club Dyno Day, but at the end of the event Vortex Motorsports was able to squeeze in one last car ... and it was Cesar's. Here we captured Cesar's excitement when his car was Dyno'd. Boys never fully grow up, do they? At least not when their beloved Mustangs are involved ...



Features

Spotlight on ... MCT's Renaissance Man

(When I think of Howie Taylor two things automatically come over me. A smile, and an overwhelming desire to secure my mobile phone. If you don't know what I mean about securing my phone, I encourage you to leave your phone sitting out when you are around him. No doubt, you will learn what I'm talking about and it will put a smile on your face, too. But there are many reasons you smile when thinking of Howie, and there is a reason I think of him as a modern day renaissance man. Howie is a multi-talented person. Sometimes he is a pirate ... sometimes a Mustang enthusiast ... sometimes our computer expert. But he is something more. He's a Big. Most of us already know this about Howie, but you may not know that Howie was just voted the 2019 Big Brother of the Year for Tampa Bay. His story as a "Big" is a wonderful one, and in celebration of his award we share it with you here ... we know you will love it.—Paige Turner, Reporter-at-Large)

My Big Essay (by Howie Taylor)

In 2014, quite unexpectedly, I lost my younger brother, Chris, leaving an emptiness I had not felt before. By 2015, my children had grown and moved out of our home. I found myself with a lot of extra time on my hands with many options for creative and worthwhile hobbies and charities that I could lend my time and talents to. I bought that cool sports car I've always wanted and helped to found a charitable Gasparilla Krewe. But something was still missing ... My little brother.

I was at the local Dairy Queen when a flyer on the neighborhood bulletin board caught my eye ... It was for a Big Orientation Training (BOT) in my neighborhood. The headline with the words Big Brothers Big Sisters spoke to me. I used to be a big brother. I felt this might be the answer to what was missing in my life. An opportunity to be a big brother again. A second chance to mentor to a young man the way I did for my own brother.

When I showed up at the BOT, I was greeted by Deb and Heather from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. As luck would have it (for me), I was the only prospective recruit to turn up at this particular meeting. I got a personal "tour" of what Big Brothers Big Sisters is from these bright and enthusiastic women and learned of the dire need for local men and women to help shape the lives of our next generation. THIS was exactly what I needed at the time. "Sign me up!"

Within a few weeks, I got a call from a match specialist describing a little boy from a single parent household nearby that she felt would be a good match. I was very excited about getting to meet Hunter. He was a quiet boy of 13. Intelligence was obviously present behind this awkwardly shy young man's eyes. I flashback and see me at his age and realize he will have something I didn't ... A mentor that felt he had a vested interest in my success.

During our first outing, I suggested we go to his neighborhood park to get to know each other. I learned that he had low self-esteem. He wasn't confident to do anything new. I suggested to him that he help me grab the case from my truck and bring it out onto the open soccer field. We discussed his love of video games. That it was something he did feel confident with. Hunter explained that he spent a lot of his down-time in his room on his video game console racking up points. I offered that he must have great hand-eye coordination in order to be that good. He beamed with pride.

We opened the mystery case and he discovered that I had brought along a full size professional drone and that we were going to discover his current talent can be used for more than just Mario Brothers. After a few minutes of training, he had that drone dancing in the sky. He was excited. He was confident. He was talkative. He was a natural! He saw that there are great things he can do outside. We became best buddies. *(Story continued on page 7)*



Features

Spotlight on ... MCT's Renaissance Man

(Story continued from page 6)

Watching and participating in the development of this young man has given me a purpose. While I once concentrated on what was missing in my life, I discovered that being a mentor to Hunter has taught me things about myself. I used to be quick to react to what I felt was wrong with things and people around me. Hunter has taught me patience, understanding and the value of listening instead of reacting. I have discovered that others around me see this change and are inspired to find my magic recipe for calm and deliberate living. They are inspired to discover the magic of mentorship.

Hunter and I have explored robotics, programming, art, cooking, and volunteerism and shared excitement and awe doing 60mph down a steep drop on a roller coaster and watching tigers and whales at theme parks. He is now open to explore much more. He isn't the self-pitying hermit he was when we met. He is now excited by new technology, he is amazed by his own impact when volunteering and fundraising. He takes pride in doing, not just the bare minimum, but giving his all to do his very best. A sense of pride he gets from a job well done or giving a piece of himself to others.

My Little has learned he is not entitled. If he wants something, he must be willing to be respectful and responsible and work towards it. The day he asked to take the extra pizzas and donuts at the end of a fundraising event so that we can give it to total strangers spotted at an intersection with a small sign asking for hand-outs brought a tear to my eye. My Little is growing up. Feeling the need to take some responsibility for others that aren't as fortunate as himself is a true sign of growing as a person.

This is the payback. This is why I love being a Big. Being introduced to a young person that didn't know what he wanted for his life and getting to take part in shaping him into someone that would ask to go to classes during the summer break from school to learn how to code video games. His self-confidence and thoughtfulness has been a total turn-around. He speaks now of not just video games, but what might be necessary to learn how to get a head-start on a career. I am still proud to take him to his video game tournaments, but now he sees it as more than just playing games, but honing his eye-hand coordination and getting great ideas for the next video game HE will design.

Hunter has the potential and focus needed to concentrate on what is truly important. He is a loving and caring young man of 15 now. Someone with stars in his eyes about what he is really capable of. A thirst for knowledge and a roadmap of sorts about how he can use his talents and skills to benefit not only himself, but his family as well as total strangers. He is excited to learn new talents. He promised to cook a meal for me after we took that cooking class together. I'd be happy with homemade pizza, but I have a feeling that the chicken cordon bleu will be amazing.

My Little Essay (by Hunter Sanders)

My name is Hunter Sanders and my Big Brother is Howie Taylor. We have been matched with one another for 2 and a half years and we have done many fun things such as flying drones, going bowling, participating in charity fundraising events, go cart racing, fishing, going out to lunch and talking, and going to amusement parks.

Howie has impacted my life in many ways. He has taught me how to understand that there are people who have less than me. He also taught me how to be grateful for the things that I do have and to work hard to earn the things that I want.

(Story continued on page 8)

Features

Spotlight on ... MCT's Renaissance Man

(Story continued from page 7)

My favorite thing that me and Howie have done was when we went on a safari at Busch Gardens. On that safari we saw many different animals. We saw rhinos, antelopes, zebras, and giraffes. We even got to feed the giraffes, that was my favorite part of the safari.

My favorite memory with Howie was when we first went out to the local park together. At the park he was asking me questions about myself. I was telling him that I spent all of my free time playing video games and he said that I must have amazing hand-eye coordination. After he said that we went back to his car and he took a big box out of the trunk. When we reached an open soccer field, he opened the box and to my surprise there was a drone inside. He let me fly the drone and it was really fun. Howie said that I was a natural. It was a very fun first impression of him.

Howie has helped me improve my self-confidence. He has helped me by showing that he believes in me so I could believe in myself. It made me happy when we were taking cooking classes and he looked like he was enjoying eating what I made. Whenever I try something new Howie is great at cheering me on.

We have done things that I would never have been able to do on my own. We have done things like going to Busch Gardens and other amusement parks, Monster Jam, Rays Games, participating in pirate parades, fundraising for charities, volunteering/community services, flying kites and flying a drone. A couple months ago I even got to try archery for the first time. I think Howie was very happy that I hit the target and not him! It was really a fun experience.

I would describe Howie as funny, cool, capable, and amazing.

One day I wish to be a famous YouTuber, I also want to have a nice house with a few different pets and a nice family.

If I never had a Big, then I would probably not have had the courage to try and enter a club at my high school. I also would never have gotten to learn how good it feels to do charity work. Without Howie I would not have ended up being the person that I am today.

Parent Essay (by Sharon Sanders)

When we realized that Hunter's dad, who lives in Georgia, wasn't going to be able to visit him more than once a year, something needed to happen. Hunter's self esteem was very low and he was becoming extremely introverted. Hunter needed an active male presence in his life. Someone he could count on and do things with. When we found out about Big Brothers Big Sisters we decided to see if he qualified for a Big Brother. After filling out the application and being interviewed we had the good fortune of meeting his potential match. Howie and Hunter seemed to hit it off from that first meeting and we were so grateful when we learned that Howie was going to be Hunter's "Big".

(Story continued on page 9)



Features

Spotlight on ... MCT's Renaissance Man

(Story continued from page 8)

Hunter is a very special child. He has always had a very big heart and an innocence about him that shines through his eyes. He is extremely smart, especially in math and science. Hunter always wants to please the people around him and is always the first to smile and say hello to people where ever he is at. He doesn't have a malicious thought about or towards anyone. If Hunter sees you struggling with anything he will be the first to see if he can help you out.

Howie has impacted many aspects in Hunter's life. Probably one of the most important impacts that Howie has had is that Hunter feels he is not alone. He knows that he can count on Howie to be there for him. Howie has made a point of not just doing activities through BBBS but he comes to Hunter's band concerts, video game tournaments and other activities that Hunter is interested in. Howie also always makes himself available if Hunter needs someone to talk to or a shoulder to lean on.

One of the main things Howie has shown Hunter through their shared volunteer experiences is that there are many people in this world who are less fortunate than he is. It has helped him to see that the world is much bigger than just YouTube and video games!

Our goals for Hunter's future are to see him succeed in whichever direction his dreams and passions will take him. Before BBBS I really didn't see Hunter furthering his schooling after high school. I now am hopeful that he will go on to a technical college to follow his dream of creating video games.

Hunter has shown a growing interest in technology since Howie came into his life. Howie has helped him see all different aspects and options for his future through introducing him to flying drones, summer camps for video game programming and building robots together. Howie has helped Hunter realize that he can accomplish whatever he puts his mind and heart into, as long as he is willing to put in the time and effort. He has also shown him how great it feels when you've worked hard and successfully reached a goal.

We are hopeful that the past two and a half years are just the beginning to a life long friendship.

(Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay was one of MCT's charities recognized at our November Car Show, and at our January General Meeting MCT presented Big Brothers Big Sisters representatives a donation of \$1,000. We are proud to be able to give back to our community! —Paige Turner, Reporter-at-Large)

It Sounded Like a Good Idea at the Time ...

by Rusty Sparks, Staff Mechanic

Years ago my sweet little wife always wanted to help me in the garage. One day I was working on my Mustang and she decided to assemble a shelf that I had recently ordered. We worked enthusiastically on our two projects until she called out, "I did it. See, and I have leftovers!" I looked up and saw that my shelf was fully assembled ... and, yes, there was a bag of extra bolts and screws. She looked so proud of herself that I didn't have the heart to hurt her feelings. So I just got out my (very light weight) rags from their drawer and moved them to the shelf. A few days later my wife was out running errands when I noticed the bag of extra bolts and screws still sitting on my counter. Suddenly I found myself in her kitchen, making lunch for her return. I took a can of tuna and some bread and slapped them together. That done, I then placed jars of unused mayonnaise and sweet relish on the counter next to the leftover can of tuna ... and lunch was ready. Just in time my sweet wife arrived home. And as she strained to eat her dry tuna sandwich I said, "You are right, honey! Leftovers are just proof that we can make things better!" Ever since then, she leaves lunch waiting in the refrigerator any time she has to run errands. And I put the bag of extra bolts and screws in a drawer and left things at that.

Features

MCT's Dyno Day at Vortex Motorsports

On February 9th, we buckled up our seat belts for a fun filled day at Vortex Motorsports. We jump started the morning with coffee and donuts, then took a moment to shine up our Mustang's in anticipation of a few awards later in the day. Then, as though the sugar filled donuts didn't get us going, we had an additional dose of adrenaline when the dyno pulls started. Most people enjoyed watching and listening to the Mustangs as each dyno pull was completed. I enjoyed watching the smiles on everyone's face. It was like watching a bunch of kids in a toy store. You know this kind of fun builds up an appetite, and Mission BBQ was on site to provide a catered lunch including chicken, pork brisket, and all the trimmings. What a fun day! Thank you Vortex Motorsports!! - Sally Ride, Travelling Reporter



Never underestimate the therapeutic power of a revved up engine. — By Ada Sage, Staff Philosopher

Features

MCT's Dyno Day at Vortex Motorsports (Cont'd)



Thanks to everyone that participated!

Features

Mustangs and Mustangs Legends...Havin' Fun Car Show

On February 23rd, several MCT members met up at a local McDonalds for breakfast, and then we caravanned to Imperial Mustang Club's Mustangs and Mustangs Legends ... Haven' Fun Car Show. This is a great venue and the show is held in conjunction with a huge meet and the Carlisle Auction. Something for everyone! - Sally Ride, Travelling Reporter



Features

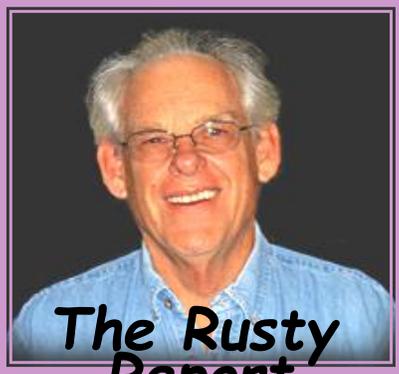
Mustangs and Mustangs Legends...Havin' Fun Car Show (Cont'd)



You can't buy happiness but you can buy a Mustang, and that's kind of the same thing.

— By Ada Sage, Staff Philosopher

Features



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 ...

We have a new project in the shop. It's a 1965 Mustang convertible that was delivered from Virginia by Reliable Trucking.

The owner bought it last August and wants us to update the suspension, brakes and interior. The exterior will be almost stock. The body appears to be in good shape, but the recent paint job is bad.



She really likes the "baby blue" paint so we will have to match this color but with a lot more shine. (See picture #1.)

The front seats will be replaced with new leather seat with more support. (See picture #2.)

The front and rear suspension will be changed to DSE coil over suspension, Wilwood brakes and 17" wheels and tires. (See picture #3.)

The 289 engine and C4 transmission will be rebuilt by her husband. He will add Weber carburetors and a Gear Vendors overdrive unit attached to the transmission. (See picture #4.)

The floor and inner rockers look to be in good shape but after removing the seam sealer and sandblasting the floor will have to be replaced. (See picture #5.)

As you can see at onetime it was in an accident. We will replace the right rocker panel and A pillar. (See picture #6.)

Instead of replacing the rocker panel someone decided to add about an inch of filler. (See picture #7.)



(Continued on Page 15)



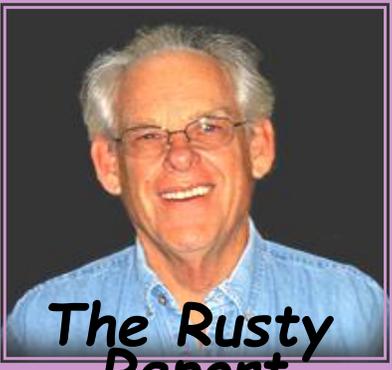
www.gillisrestorations.com

727-847-7973

Email: rusty@gillisrestorations.com

Features

(Continued from Page 14)



The Rusty Report

By Rusty Gillis

I explained to the owners that a lot of the inner structure was never primed by Ford so they wanted the quarter panels removed and the inner structure epoxy primed. (See picture #8.)

Brian drilled out over 150 spot welds to remove the outer cowl. It's a good thing it was removed because there were a few small holes around air vents. (See picture #9.)



Brian added braces before going to the sandblaster. This is how it looked after sandblasting. We did find a few areas that had rust and will need to be repaired. (See picture #10.)

Brian cut out the air vent tube that collects a lot of debris and isn't used when you add after market AC. (See picture #11.)

Because of the shape Brian had to make the patch in three pieces. (See picture #12.)

Brian finished making the patches. He will grind the welds so any water or debris will go out the drain the Ford installed. The lower cowl will be removed to see if there is any rust on the back side and repaired if needed and epoxy primed. (See picture #13.)



(Rusty's story continues next month) ...

MCT's February General Meeting



The Guest Speaker at our February meeting was Deputy Gary Mechler. Here are some of his Vacation Tips: 1) If you live in Hillsborough County notify your County Sheriff's Office about your vacation dates and give a name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative to notify in case of a burglary, fire, or other emergency. Your home will be periodically checked by officers patrolling in your area. 2) Don't forget to notify the Post Office to hold your mail or arrange with a neighbor to pick up your mail daily and hold it. 3) Have a trusted neighbor pick up your newspaper each day. 4) Unplug or turn down the volume control on your telephone so it cannot be heard from outside. 5) Set an electrical timer to turn some lights on and off during the evening hours. 6) Have a neighbor put one of their garbage cans in front of your home on collection day. 7) Put window shades in normal position and make sure all main floor drapes, shades, and curtains are arranged so that neighbors and police can see your house.

Features

Area Cruise-Ins

Events are subject to change so always check with organizers.

√ 3rd Saturday - Tabellas Cruise-In on the Causeway. Noon to sunset. 5818 Causeway Blvd, Tampa, FL 33619. No entry fee. All makes and models. Food trucks, DJ music, Craft beers & cigars. Sponsored by Garage One.

√ 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

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

√ 2nd Saturday - Insty Tune & Lube offers free coffee and breakfast. 7am-10am. Free event, open to all. 14783 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618. 813-960-3908. Get your car questions (or problems) answered for free while showing off your car.

√ 1st Saturday - Garage One Cars & Coffee. 8am-11am. 9222 Anderson Road, Tampa, FL 33634. Free coffee and doughnuts, product demos hosted by the Garage One Pro Shop. Music provided by DJ John Paul Gasca. Door prizes and \$50 cash giveaway. Open to all cars, trucks and bikes. Free event.

Member Businesses and Services



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
USDMI1@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
fjfn@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

Mustang Club of America

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 -

✓ March 16th— 32nd Annual Mustang-Shelby-Ford Show at Country in the Park, hosted by Suncoast Mustang Club. This show is for any Mustang, Shelby or Shelby Cobra, Ford, Mercury, Lincoln, or Ford Powered Car or Truck. All show vehicles must be Ford powered. 8am—3pm. Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. Only pre-registered cars will be judged. Register online or mail before March 12th.

✓ March 23rd (note date change)— MCT's "The Great Ford Escape to Ford's Garage" Cruise to Ford Garage-Wesley Chapel. We will be meeting at Dunkin' Donuts and then will make a stop at Streetside Classics for a tour of their facility. Then we will cruise to Ford's Garage for lunch. Watch for the flier to be out soon.

✓ March 31st— 21st Annual Chasco Fiesta Car, Truck & Bike Show. Orange Circle, New Port Richey. 8am-12pm. For info: 727-236-0959.

✓ April 6th— MCT Picnic. This year's club picnic will be held at John Chestnut Sr. Park in Palm Harbor. We have a pavilion on the lake and food will be pot luck style. There will be games and lots of fun for everyone. Watch for the flier to be out soon.

✓ May 4th— MCT's 6th Annual Pony Party "Caring for Kids" car show at Bill Currie Ford. This years car show benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children. This show is open to all years of Mustang and Ford products. Food will be provided by Tijuana Flats. The show flier is being finalized now and will be available soon.

✓ May 18th— Cruising for Critters, a 501c(3) Fundraising Organization, will be hosting a car show at Streetside Classics in Lutz, FL. This show is open to all years of cars, trucks, and motorcycles. All proceeds from this show will benefit Pasco County's Retired K-9's. Come on out and support this great cause and meet some of Pasco County's K-9s and Deputies.

✓ June 8th— MCT Bay Area Bridge Cruise. Flier to follow.

✓ July 13th— MCT Bowling & Cruise to Ford's Garage. Flier to follow.

✓ August 10th— MCT Hot Shots and Mustangs. Flier to follow.

✓ October 5th— MCT

Cruise to Ford's Garage. Flier to follow.

✓ November 2th— MCT's Car Show at Tampa Joe's. Flier to follow.

✓ December 8th— MCT Christmas Party. Flier to follow.

Other Noteworthy Activities -

✓ March 12th — MCT Board Meeting. Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30pm.

✓ March 26th — MCT General Meeting. Our next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30pm, in the room over the Bill Currie Ford showroom.

(See MCT Website for fliers.)





BILL CURRIE

PERFORMANCE CENTER

FOR ALL YOUR MUSTANG NEEDS



**NEW 2019
MUSTANGS!**



**X-PLAN PRICING TO
ALL
MCT MEMBERS,
FAMILY & FRIENDS!
PLUS
10% OFF PARTS
AND SERVICE
FOR MCT MEMBERS!**



**5815 N DALE MABRY HWY
TAMPA FL 33614**

BillCurrieFord.com

813-872-5555

SALES HOURS

Monday – Saturday

9:00am-8:00pm

Sunday

11:00am-5:00pm

PARTS & SERVICE

Monday-Friday

7:00am-6:00pm

Saturday

7:00am-5:00pm

Closed Sunday

BILL CURRIE FORD

Referral Program



FEATURES

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:

Sean Sullivan, 813-872-5555 x1752

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 the club President, Frank Morales, at President@MustangClubofTampa.com or the phone number listed above. Please give Bill Currie a try and refer your friends!



IF PURCHASING A VEHICLE, PRESENT THIS VOUCHER BELOW WITH MEMEBERSHIP 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 & FINANCE TEAM – PLEASE AD THIS VOUCHER TO DEAL PACKET

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MUSTANG CLUB OF TAMPA

(Please reference Club member/purchaser name for records)

General Manager,

Sean Sullivan

Snapshots

(Continued from Page 1)

The dealer advised Nick that the original owner had just traded it in because his wife suddenly passed away two months after they purchased it. Afterwards, every time the original owner got behind the wheel, it brought back memories. He had had the original sticker laminated and he had a specific blue towel he would place on the driver's side to not dirty the carpet. Both came with the car.

The Mustang was in pristine condition when Nick brought it home. Nick has had the windows tinted, but has kept the car in it's original condition. Nick says he LOVE's driving it ... his wife, "not so much." She tells Nick she is embarrassed driving it ... too much "noise." (Is that even possible, we ask?)

Anyway, Nick heard about MCT from a fellow MCT member, Tommy, who is reported to have a great looking Saleen. Nick just joined the club this year and we are looking forward to seeing him, and his California Special, at various MCT events. Welcome to the club Nick and Helle!



I'm going to start spring cleaning my house today. And by cleaning, I mean drinking a glass of wine while spraying everything with Febreze. — *By Ada Sage, Staff Philosopher*

Reflections ... I think I made a big mistake with the staff. Last month's Valentine's Day marshmallow fight was such a big hit that every one of the staff is hinting at having a monthly celebration any time there is something to celebrate. Right now I have Rusty Sparks speaking to everyone with an Irish accent. I could put him in charge of a St. Patrick's day celebration. Of course he would want to serve green beer. Not sure if that is such a good idea ... unless we have the celebration at the nearby pub. On a good note, at least no one will be throwing the beer at each other. At least I don't think so. For those that might not like beer, I've already caught Lupe Minute sneaking into the break room to put a few drops of green food coloring into the teapot, then she is leaving green footprints around the break room and scattering gold candy coins everywhere. These are all okay vices, but I know I'm going to need HR to issue a memo warning about pinching fellow employees. Do you really think my staff would miss out on this tradition, even if everyone is wearing green? Not likely. *Melinda, Editor*