



MCT's **PONY EXPRESS**

E-News – February 2026 Edition

We're Back!

Dear Club Members – After a long slumber, your Pony Express is ready to run its route once again! Thank you to Russ “Doc” Hostetler and Doc Nanette Parra for hectoring me to get this back off the ground. The good doctors have several items lined up, so we should be in good shape to keep this publication running along. If you have any additional items you would like to share, feel free to share them to president@mustangcluboftampa.com and I'll pass them along to our editorial staff.

February brings great weather and great car shows. Stay tuned to my emails, Facebook and our website's “Events” tab. For you Gmail users out there – my emails to you are hit and miss...more miss than hit unfortunately. Please keep an eye on Facebook and our “Events” tab....we are trying to make Gmail Jail Parole...but so far we have not convinced them we're one of the good guys....in the meantime, please rely on our other sources of info.

Our 45th Annual Roundup being held April 18th is off to a great start. Many sponsors have already re-upped, including NPD which is once again our **Presenting Sponsor**. Registrations are surprisingly strong this year – if you want to grab one of those free Ford's Garage giveaways, I suggest signing up ASAP – we only have enough for the first 100 registrants...and many are already spoken for...don't delay! Other show news – we will have a dedicated Mercury Cougar Class, and a Ford Thunderbird Class as well. We've expanded the other FoMoCo Classes, and in particular, we expanded the Truck Classes. We also have a growing number of Bronco owners in the club – if we get enough signed up we'll create a separate class for that breed of horse.

Happy Valentine's Day to all, hope you get all the chocolates and Sweetheart Candy you can handle!

- Bob Turner, President, MCT

Upcoming Events

For more details, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram (@mctprez), or visit our Events Tab at www.mustangcluboftampa.com.

February Upcoming Events and Info:

7th – Nature Coast Mustang Show at Nick Nicholas Ford in Inverness – Club meet-up at McDonald's at Hwy 41 and SR54 in Land O'Lakes, FL by 7:00am, cruise to show. Show info at www.naturecoastmustangs.com.

21st – Fenders for First Responders – Downtown Tarpon Springs – Club meet-up at Circle K Odessa (18902 Gunn Hwy, Odessa, FL 33556) by 7:30am, cruise to show. Show info at www.cs4c.com.

24th – Monthly Club Cruise-In at Ford's Garage Westchase.

28th – IMPC's Mustangs and Mustangs Show – Club meet-up at Chick-fil-A (1101 Goldfinch Dr., Plant City, FL 33563) by 7:30am, cruise to show. Show info at <https://impc.clubexpress.com>.

March Upcoming Events and Info:

7th – Streetside Classics' Caffeine and Classics - 9am to 11am – Meet at Ford's Garage Wesley Chapel by 8:45am, cruise to event. Event info www.streetsideclassics.com

12th – Board of Directors Meeting at Glory Days Grill in Carrollwood, 6pm to 8:30pm.

14th – Judging Clinic for 45th Annual Roundup at Ford's Garage Westchase – 11am to 2:30pm.

21st – Suncoast Mustang Club Show – Meet up at Bahama Breeze (3045 N Rocky Point Dr. E, Tampa, FL 33607) by 7:30am, cruise to show. Info at www.suncoastmustangclub.com.

24th – Monthly Club Cruise-In at Ford's Garage Westchase.

Member Spotlight

By Doc Hostetler, Editor and Reporter

This month we feature – Joe Jefferson

I just spent a delightful 90 minutes at lunch with Joe Jefferson, one of the founding members of our Mustang Club of Tampa and the subject of this Member Spotlight. Joe is about a year younger than me, so we share about the same amount of history in years, but he has had nearly twice as many cars as I have, and I consider myself a car guy!

The Early Years

Joe was born in a C&O Railroad hospital in Huntington, West Virginia, in 1949, a product of his father's second marriage. His dad worked for the railroad, and when Joe was 9, his dad retired and moved the family to Florida. So, while not a Cracker, he's pretty close! Always a hard worker, Joe worked in a grocery store after school and on Saturdays. He was able to save enough money (\$635) to buy his first car, a '62 Plymouth Valiant, at age 16. He was also hardworking enough to shoulder an advanced curriculum such that he only needed to earn 2 credits during his senior year in high school. That allowed him to work (volunteer) as a driving instructor (along with a coach and a teacher) at his high school and take on a job at a local bank. He graduated high school in 1967 and married his high school sweetheart in 1968. Their son, Joe, Jr., was born in 1970. That marriage didn't last, but his marriage to Brenda has. Joe traded the Valiant for a '64 Fairlane 4-door to support his family needs.

The Car Guy

The litany of cars from that point forward is extensive. Notably, he traded the Fairlane on a '66 Dodge Coronet 2-door with a 273 V-8 engine. He bought another '62 Valiant and traded it and a boat for a Dodge Polara, then traded that for a '69 AMC Javelin with a 3-on-the-floor. Ah, a muscle car! His first Mustang was a '70 fastback purchased in 1972. When that car was rear-ended, he ended up in a '68 Plymouth Road Runner with a 383 engine and a 4-barrel carburetor. I think you can see a trend here! That morphed into a '72 Duster. When he started working as a distributor for Pepperidge Farm baked products, he bought a Chevy Van, but a Starsky and Hutch Torino (white and brown, not red) ushered him back to Ford products. Joe sold a station wagon to get a '65 Mustang Coupe and sold another coupe to get a '66 Blue Convertible Mustang.

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Member Spotlight

Joe Jefferson, Continued

The Founding of Classic Mustangs of Tampa

He had those 2 Mustangs when he and 5 others started Classic Mustangs of Tampa. Joe and Frank Cassota, Bill Egelston, Glenn Bornemann, Gene Guy, and Foreman Metro (yeah, that was his name!) were routinely driving over to Pinellas County to participate in the Suncoast Mustang Club activities there. They decided in 1980 to start a Mustang club on the Tampa side of the Bay. To do that, they each chipped in \$15 and elected Frank as president. Bill owned a 64 1/2 and was elected vice president. Glenn was the treasurer. Joe helped Glenn find his first Mustang, a '65 Coupe. Joe was the secretary with his '65 Coupe and '66 Convertible. Gene Guy had 5 Mustangs, but it was likely that not all of them ran, and Foreman Metro had a storage unit full of Mustang parts. They all met around Joe's dining table. They were officially chartered in 1981, and held their 1st Show, a picnic, that year. Larry Dorsey was their first recruited member and carried membership card #001. The MCT grew out of these origins.

Wrapping up...

We spent most of the rest of our lunch time with Joe telling one story after another of yard finds and salvaged wrecked Mustangs. He recounted the time he lined up 2 Mustangs side by side, and with a rented engine lift, swapped out an engine and transmission in 2 hours! He then parted out the wrecked Mustang and made much more than he paid for it! The last story he told was about buying a '72 Coupe with a 302 V-8 back in 1987 (the same year Meredith, our current Membership Director, and her twin brother, Matt, were born) then sold it to meet expenses when the twins were born. He drives a '24 Yellow GT today. He and Brenda adopted Alissa in '94, and while they likely won't grow their nuclear family further, I'd bet the Yellow GT is not going to be his last Mustang!



Cars & Coffee at Sodalis

Tampa – January 24th, 2026

By Doc Hostetler, Editor and Reporter

A Cars and Coffee meet and show at Sodalis Senior Living Center was held this past January 24th. In addition to coffee, donut holes, and sliced fruit, attendees and residents were treated to a beautiful January day, warm enough for convertible tops to be down! Over 25 cars showed up and the residents and guests really enjoyed the show. Each car was numbered and each resident was allowed to pick 3 equally weighted choices.



Above - While mostly Mustangs, the show also attracted a green Chevy on 22” wheels.



Above - The top vote getter was Chris Meyers with his 1967 Mustang Coupe “Blue Belle”. First Place included a \$200 gift card and a shirt.



Above - A super sweet '57 T-bird, and Lexi's super trick, scissor doored, Coyote powered, Blue GT convertible. **Continued next page...**

Cars & Coffee at Sodalis

Tampa – January 24th, 2026

...Continued



Left - Second Place was a cute tire mug and a \$100 gift card. It was won by Jeff in his wrapped 2023 GT Convertible.



Right - Third Place was an “emergency bag” and a \$50 gift card. It went to Bruce Cooper and his very nice 1st Gen.



Left - Drivers, residents and staff gathered to award the winners and to sing “Happy Birthday” to Grace McKeever, a retired nurse at Sodalis Senior Living, who is also a retired Airforce Lieutenant and a current Sodalis resident.

A big thanks to Rochelle and the rest of the staff at Sodalis Senior Living for putting on a very nice show!

Membership Benefits:



MCT is pleased to have the sponsorship of **Bill Currie Ford**. In addition to supporting our annual car show, and hosting our General Meeting location, Bill Currie Ford also offers a **15% discount** to members on:

- Parts
- Service & aftermarket installation
- Body Shop

Their Referral Program is another way they help you and the club:

- **\$500 to the club when a member purchases a vehicle – we'll split it with you! (see next page)**

Use the next page to lock in your savings.

Questions? Email

president@mustangcluboftampa.com

For your Bill Currie Ford Service needs, make sure you ask for PJ or Leo as your Service Writer, and Ryan in Parts for aftermarket discounts.



Join the MCA to get even more benefits:

- Ford X-Plan Pricing (BCF will still beat this deal!)

Discounts at:

- Car Covers Direct
- CJ Pony Parts
- Hagerty Insurance
- Plus 17 other vendors

Go to www.mustang.org for details

Our Other Partners:

Streetside Classics Tampa – Dave Pfister
– Call (813-501-1630) or email
(dave.pfister@streetsideclassics.com)

Dave to either buy or sell you classic or modern muscle car.

Hagerty Insurance – Email Matt Judge
(mjudge@hagerty.com) to get you custom quote.

Insty Tune & Lube – Let owner Andreh Alito know you are with MCT – 14783 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618. PH – 813-960-3908.

GT1 Detail Products – Let Gene know you are with MCT...might not get you a discount, but he will gladly give you a tutorial on how to best use his products!

Ford's Garage – Ask for Mark at Westchase or Kelly at Wesley Chapel – they will make sure you feel right at home...and get you a 10% discount!

NPD – National Parts Depot – No discount yet, but if you mention you are with MCT, eventually maybe we'll earn one!

*****Print and bring this form to Bill Currie
Ford, make sure it's in your deal package.*****



Purchaser's Name:

Purchaser's Address:

Vehicle VIN:

Date of Sale:

Deal #:

Referred by:

Remit \$500 Referral Bonus to:
Mustang Club of Tampa
c/o Rusty Gillis, Treasurer
6330 Pine Hill Rd. #7
Port Richey, FL 34668

*****Print and bring this form to Bill Currie
Ford, make sure it's in your deal package.*****

MCT Swag

We have an arrangement with Cigar City Promotions to produce polo shirts and hats with two logos to choose from. Thanks to Lucy Carroll for getting this arrangement set up for us, and thank you to the membership for helping us design and decide on the updated logo. If you want a hat or shirt:

EMAIL Cigar City at: SALES@cigarcitypromos.com state NAME and a member of MCT. Our contact is Susan.

POLO SHIRT: Request men Golf or women's V-neck shirt, size and color, or provide your own shirt.

Cost of Shirt is	\$29.95
Name added	\$ 6.00
tax	\$ 2.70
TOTAL	\$38.68.

HAT: Request New Era Mesh Back Cap Idex (NE 1090), size (S/M, M/L, L/EL) and color, or provide your own hat.

Cost of Hat is	\$21.98
tax	\$ 1.54
TOTAL	\$23.52

They will email you an invoice, you pay online, and they will notify you when your shirt is ready to pick up.

Multiple Colors Available – Match your Car!

