



# The Pony Express



**May 2026 Edition**

***Color of the month  
Grabber Orange***



2008 Shelby GT-C 113 #113 of 215 owned by Paul Leplatte

**MUSTANG**



**CLUB OF TAMPA**

**MCT's**

**PONY EXPRESS**

**E-News – May 2026 Edition**

**What a show!** Our latest Roundup was an incredible success — more than 200 vehicles registered, 186 judged, and 90 awards presented. Thanks to everyone's participation and generosity, we raised **over \$5,000** for our two charities.

We'll be donating **\$1,500** to *Honor Flight of West Central Florida*, which will sponsor three Guardians for an upcoming mission. Another **\$2,500** will support *Celebrate Birthdays*, and we're setting aside **\$1,000+** to help families in need during the holiday season.

The **Hertz GT-H collection** was a crowd favorite and made for a stunning display. The feedback was so positive that we're already planning to expand it for next year.

So mark your calendars — our **46th Roundup** is set for **April 17, 2027**, and trust me, this Pony Party is one you won't want to miss. Your Board of Directors is already hard at work making next year's event even better.

If you have **feedback, suggestions, or special requests** for the next Roundup, I'd love to hear them. Email me anytime at [president@mustangcluboftampa.com](mailto:president@mustangcluboftampa.com). You're the customer — you put in the time and effort to prep your rides, and we want to make sure that effort shines.

As the weather heats up and the show circuit cools down, we'll be shifting toward **cruises, indoor activities, and morning events**. Check out the event listings in this issue, and keep an eye on our website, Facebook, and Instagram (@mctprez) as new details roll out. Got an idea for a get-together? Send it my way and we'll explore it.

Finally, our **annual Board of Directors elections** are coming up on **May 26th**. If you're passionate about the Mustang brand, the hobby, and the future of this club, consider running for a board position. Self-nominations are open until **May 17th**, after which we'll finalize the ballot and begin the election process. This club thrives because of the dedication and character of its leaders — if that sounds like you, we'd love to have you on the team.

Take care, and we'll see you on the road!- Bob Turner, President, MCT

# Upcoming Events

## Mustang Club of Tampa – Summer Event Highlights

For more details and updates, follow us: [Facebook](#), [Instagram \(@mctprez\)](#) or on our Events Tab at <https://mustangcluboftampa.com/events/>

For additional events not listed here please visit [Florida Car Shows Website](#)

## Upcoming Events and Info

May

Date	Event	Details
May 2	Derby Day at Ford's Garage Westchase	Cancelled
May 16	Club Appreciation Saturday @Bill Currie Ford	50% discount on all Works packages, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch provided for club members. Come in and get your Ford serviced
May 26	Monthly Club Cruise-In at Ford's Garage Westchase	Elections for the Board.
May 31 (Sunday)	<a href="#">R2 Pub Custom Car Show</a>	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June

Date	Event	Details
June 13	MCT Rally Spring Along The Beach	More details to follow
June 23	Monthly Cruise-In	Ford's Garage – West Chase
June 28	Rays Game	More details to follow – we need volunteers please contact

# Member Spotlight

## Mustang Memories: The Road That Drives Us

### Kevin Riley's Journey of Passion, Family, and Ford

Hello Mustang friends! I'm thrilled to share a slice of my story with you—because if there's one thing we all know, it's that these cars aren't just machines, but pure magic on wheels.

My Mustang journey kicked off back in 1996, when Bill Eggleston—one of MCT's founding legends—welcomed me with open arms and an infectious passion. From day one, I felt like part of the family, and that feeling only grew with every club event, cruise, and meeting.

Bill gave me a friendly nudge to jump in and run for a Board position, and before I knew it, I'd spent nearly 30 years serving alongside some of the finest folks you'll ever meet—minus a three-year adventure out west in Nevada. I even had the honor of serving two terms as President. Every moment was filled with camaraderie and Mustang spirit—you know the feeling!

Mary, my wonderful wife and partner-in-crime for 40 years, and I got married in Las Vegas. We loved it so much, we visited countless times before settling in Mesquite for three years. It's a peaceful little town, just a quick drive north of the bright lights, and together we've raised three amazing kids who keep us young at heart.

My love affair with cars started over 50 years ago, as a "lot boy" at a bustling Ford dealership in Dayton, Ohio. The roar of engines and the gleam of chrome hooked me for life. I spent decades with Volvo—22 years in Clearwater and now 13 more at Volvo Cars Tampa—but Mustangs have always tugged at my heartstrings.

The fever really caught hold just before I joined the club, when I bought a gorgeous white 1966 Mustang Coupe. That car was more than just a ride—it was a member of the family. After a full restoration, she brought home National Gold and First Place awards at MCA and AACA shows, and even got her "fifteen minutes of fame" in Mustang Times. Eventually, my brother Tom took the reins and held onto her for another twelve years. Talk about keeping Mustangs in the family!



# Member Spotlight

Through the years, I welcomed a few more stars into my garage—a sparkling red-and-tan 2001 GT Convertible (another MCA National winner!) and a trusty 2009 GT/CS



that carried me to and



from Orlando, racking up 90,000 miles in just two years. These cars are more than transportation—they're partners in adventure.

Our annual

trips to Las Vegas brought me face-to-face with Shelby American. Watching them prep the 2006 Shelby GTHs for Hertz rentals was love at first sight! I even managed to rent two GTHs on separate trips, and every mile behind the wheel felt like a dream. The Shelby GTs in production made me long for one of my own—and fate had a surprise in store.



When Mary and I moved to Mesquite, I stumbled upon what looked like a Shelby GT listed as a plain Mustang GT at a Ford dealer in southern Utah. With help from Steve Thorton at Shelby Automobiles, I confirmed it was a genuine Shelby GT, already in the Shelby Registry. That moment—nearly ten years after I first saw them—was unforgettable. She made her Mustang Times debut in September 2023.

Fast-forward to July 2025, and I was at a show in Columbus, Ohio, parked beside my brother's '66 when a jaw-dropping 2006 Shelby GTH rolled in. Instantly, memories of Vegas came rushing back. I made my pitch, but the owner wasn't ready to let her go (his wife seemed more convinced!). Undeterred, I kept searching, and at a show hosted by Rusty Gillis' church, I met Adam Burden and found both a '66 GT350H and an '06 Shelby GTH. Adam tipped me off to one listed online that very day, and after a quick call, Mary and I were flying to Raleigh, NC, to seal the deal. We drove our new black '06 GTH home—650 miles in just 12 hours. What a journey! Another Mustang Times highlight came in September 2025.

# Member Spotlight

Now, you'll catch me at local shows, showing off either my black '06 GTH or blue '08 Shelby GT, surrounded by old friends and new faces. MCT isn't just a club—it's a family, and every event brings memories that last a lifetime.



If you see me at the next show, come say hello, swap stories, and let's celebrate the Mustang magic together!

**See you on the road!**

— Kevin

## Thank you MCT family

**45th Annual Mustang and All Ford Round Up Feedback:** Thank you, MCT family—our Annual Roundup was a great success! Now we'd love your feedback so we can make next year's event even better. Please take a moment to fill out the feedback form by clicking on the link below:

45th Annual Mustang and All Ford  
Round Up Event Feedback





## MUSTANG CLUB OF TAMPA

**DRIVE THE LEGEND. SUPPORT OUR HEROES.**

### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### 46th Annual Mustang & All Ford Round Up

Saturday, April 17, 2027 (National Mustang Day!) | Tampa, FL

*Celebrate a Legend. Support a Hero.*

Join the Mustang Club of Tampa for our most significant event of the year. This isn't just a car show; it's a community mission. All proceeds benefit Celebrate Birthdays, ensuring every child feels special, and Honor Flight of West Central Florida, flying our veterans to their memorials in D.C.

### Choose your performance Level

Put your brand in front of 170+ member families and 5,500+ social followers!

Level	Awards w/ Logo	Website Link	Social Post	Investment
Silver:	1 (Sponsor's Choice*)	—	—	\$100
Gold :	10	Included	—	\$300
Platinum:	20	Included	Included	\$500

\*Sponsors at the \$100 level are invited to walk the field and personally present their award!

### 2. NON-CASH SPONSORSHIPS: DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE ITEMS

Help us drive donations through our Silent Auction and Raffle. We welcome items of all kinds—sports memorabilia, entertainment packages, cosmetics, or gift certificates.

Your donation will be highlighted during our live drawings!

### 3. VENDOR SPACES - \$50

Want to engage the crowd directly? Secure a 10'x10' vendor space. (Note: These are car-related OR general interest—and they are included free with any cash sponsorship above!)

Note: Vendor spaces are FREE with any Cash Sponsorship listed above!



# The Pit Stop...need a break from reading?

Need a quick breather between articles? Pull into The Pit Stop—your fast, fun intermission in the newsletter. Grab a pencil, test your Mustang knowledge, and enjoy a few light activities before you hit the road to the next section.



[Mustang Legend Cross Word Puzzle](#)

Click the link above or scan the QR code to try the interactive crossword.  
Prefer old school? Print it out and solve it by hand.

## Mustang Legend

By Nannette Parra

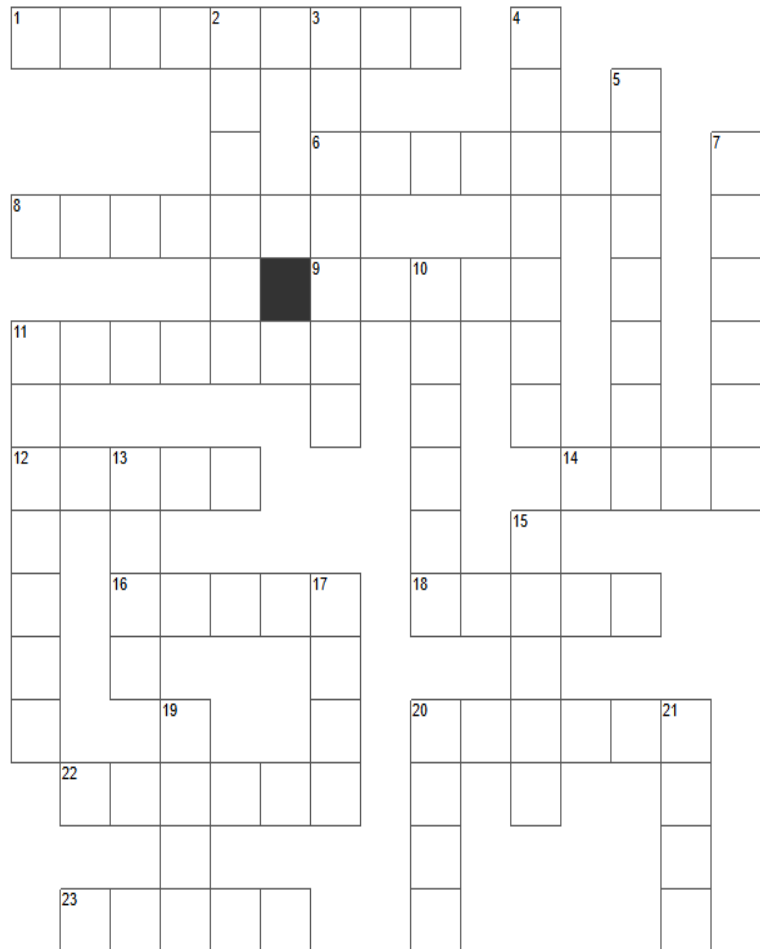
### ACROSS

- 1 Key designer Gale who sketched the original look
- 6 Designer Larry who styled the Boss 302
- 8 Movie featuring a famous green 1968 Fastback
- 9 Month the Mustang launched in 1964
- 11 Actor Steve who drove the Highland Green GT
- 12 Snake badge on high-performance Shelby models
- 14 Location of the 1964 public launch
- 16 Performance-style feature on the hood
- 18 Highland color of the Bullitt Mustang
- 20 Name considered before Mustang was chosen

- 22 Describes the stylish four-seater's image
- 23 The horse or snake on the grille

### DOWN

- 2 Heart of the car, like the 5.0L
- 3 Iconic pony car namesake
- 4 Aerodynamic wing on the rear deck
- 5 Ford executive who championed the project
- 7 It was designed as a four-person vehicle
- 10 Focus of the Boss and Shelby models
- 11 Performance package with a matte black hood
- 13 High-performance 302 variant
- 15 It made its public debut in 1964
- 17 Car class created by this model



- 19 Company that builds the Mustang
- 20 Body style with a retractable top (abbr.)
- 21 Type of wheel drive for classic Mustangs

# *Pony Prep...The Stable Secrets*

## A Vet's Guide to Florida's Most Annoying "Species": The Lovebug

By: Nannette C. Parra, DVM

As a veterinarian, I usually spend my days caring for creatures' people actually *like*. But twice a year in Tampa, I'm forced to deal with a species that has no business being in the animal kingdom: *Plecia nearctica*, better known as the Lovebug.

While they aren't "parasites" in the biological sense, they certainly act like them when they're plastered across your Mustang's bumper. Here is my "clinical" advice for protecting your Pony during this biennial infestation.

### **1. The Prognosis: It's All About the pH**

In the vet world, we worry about acid reflux. In the Mustang world, we worry about acid *remains*. When these bugs meet your grill at 70 mph, their bodies begin to decay instantly. Their high acidity—mixed with the Florida sun—will "digest" your clear coat faster than a Lab with a dropped steak.

**The treatment:** Daily "baths" for your front fascia to neutralize the pH before permanent scarring occurs.



### **2. Preventive Medicine (The Shield)**

Think of a good ceramic coating or wax as a "flea and tick" preventative for your paint. It doesn't stop the bugs from landing, but it prevents them from "latching on."

- **The Surgical Gown:** If you're heading on a club cruise, try a temporary barrier spray. It acts like a protective layer—once the drive is over, you just rinse the mess away.

### **3. Proper Grooming Techniques**

When the splatters happen, don't use "brute force" surgery.

- **Hydration is Key:** Just like an IV drip, moisture is your friend. Soak the area with a bug-specific cleaner to soften the remains before wiping.
- **The Dryer Sheet Hack:** Believe it or not, a wet dryer sheet is like a gentle exfoliating scrub. It lifts the "patients" off the paint without causing trauma to the finish.

### **4. Check the Airways**

As any vet will tell you, if you can't breathe, you can't run. Lovebugs love to congregate in your radiator fins, which can lead to your engine overheating. Give your grill a thorough rinse to ensure your Mustang's "respiratory system" stays clear during those humid Tampa afternoons.

Let's keep the Mustangs healthy and the bugs off the chrome. See you at the next meet—hopefully with a clean bumper!

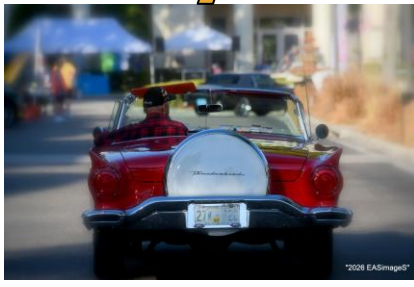
# Snapshots from the Stable

**Mustang Memories: We want to see the herd in action! Share your favorite pictures from recent shows and club cruises with the MCT team.**

🏆 Winner's Circle: The Greatest Show on Four Wheels! 🏆 190+ cars, one massive day of Ford performance. The 45th Annual Mustang & All Ford Car Show was electric, with elite iron shining under the sun. Saddle up and take a trip through our compilation of the show's champions, stunners, and crowd favorites. Huge thanks to everyone who came out to support Honor Flight and Celebrate Birthdays! If you missed the excitement this year, don't worry—the 46th Annual is already in the works. It's going to be another photo finish! Thank you, Ed Sindoni, for providing these wonderful pictures. We truly value your contribution. If anyone is interested in any of the images, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. #WinnerCircle #FordPerformance #MustangMonth #45thAnnual #Horsepower #CarShowSeason



# Snapshots from the Stable



" 📷 **Mustang Club of Tampa Photo**

**Reminder!** 📷

Don't forget to send in your best shots from your recent Cruise-in's, car shows or club gatherings for next month's newsletter!

Please include your name, car model, and a quick note about the event. Send them to the newsletter editor or reach out via the MCT website." [Nannette C Parra, DVM](#)

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.mustang.org) for details

## Our Other Partners:

**Streetside Classics Tampa** – Chris

Mauro– Call (813-501-1630) or email

[Christopher.Mauro@streetsideclassics.com](mailto:Christopher.Mauro@streetsideclassics.com) Chris to either buy or sell you classic or modern muscle car.

**Hagerty Insurance** – Email Matt Judge (mjjudge@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](mailto: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!***

