



January 2008

PONY TIMES

ROANOKE VALLEY MUSTANG CLUB NEWSLETTER

Published by *PonyWild Graphics*

www.roanokevalleymustangclub.com

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DETAIL:

January 15th, RVMC Monthly Meeting; Corned Beef & Company, Downtown Roanoke

January 20, RVMC Circle Cruise to Christiansburg
(Jan. 27th alternate date if postponed due to bad weather). Details to be found later in this newsletter.

March 7-9, Roanoke, VA

MDA Car Show at the Roanoke Civic Center, 3 days of car show fun. See www.mdacarshow.com for updates and information. Major sponsor is Berglund Auto World.

March 28-30, Pensacola, FL

MCA presents first national show of the season hosted by the Gulf Coast Mustang Club (www.germc.org). Show location is the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds. Holiday Inn Express is the host hotel (850) 944-8442.

April 3-6, Concord (Charlotte), NC

Spring Food Lion Auto Fair at Lowe's Motor Speedway, car show and swap meet. See www.lowesmotorspeedway.com for complete show updates, or contact the Speedway Events Dept at (704) 455-3205.

April 5-8, Columbus, OH

Columbus Spring Swap at the Ohio Exposition Center. All Ford, Lincoln, Mercury parts. See www.springswap.com or contact Richard at (614) 855-4750.

May 3, Roanoke, VA

RVMC 20th Anniversary Mustang and Ford-Powered Round-Up at Tanglewood Mall.

May 31-June 1, Kershaw, SC

8th Annual Performance Driving School hosted by the Carolina Regional Mustang Club at Carolina Motorsports Park. This is a safe way to learn about your car's handling and capabilities and is not a racing school. Cost is \$280 and open to all vehicles. Contact Jim Edwards at jimedwards@theciada.com, or see the CRMC website at www.ponytales.org.

June 6-8, Carlisle, PA

All-Ford Nationals at the Carlisle Fairgrounds. All-Ford show and swap meet. See www.carsatcarlisle.com for complete show information.

June 20-22, Dublin (Columbus), OH

MCA national show hosted by the Mustang Club of Ohio (www.mustangclubofohio.com) at the Columbus Marriott Hotel.

August 1-3, 2008, Oakville (Toronto), Ontario, Canada -

MCA presents its first national show in Canada, The No Borders Mustang Internationals at Ford of Canada Headquarters. Host club is the Golden Horsepower Mustang Association (www.ghma.on.ca). The host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn (905) 829-1145.

August 15-18, Millville, NJ

Shelby American Automobile Club (SAAC) 33rd annual national convention at the new Thunderbolt Raceway in southern NJ. Includes open-track, racing, show with SVTOA, and much more. See www.saac.com or email saac@saac.com or contact SAAC Headquarters, PO Box 788, Sharon, CT 06069.

August 29, Park City, UT

MCA Grand National Show hosted by the Northern Utah Mustang Owners Association (www.numoa.com) on Main Street in downtown Park City. Host hotels are the Grand Summit or Sundial Lodge at The Canyons Resort (435) 615-8040.

October 24-26, 2008, Chandler (Phoenix), AZ

Phoenix National hosted at the Wild Horse Casino by the Copperstate Mustang Club (www.copperstatemustangclub.com). LaQuinta Inn in Chandler is the host hotel (408) 961-7700.

RVMC MONTHLY MEETING

Our first meeting of 2008 is early this year, Tuesday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. Please arrive earlier by 6:30 if you wish to order food.

**Corned Beef
& Co.
BAR and GRILL**
Jan. 15th

RVMC JANUARY 20TH CIRCLE CRUISE

If bad weather the cruise will be postponed to the following Sunday, January 27th. Meet 12 noon at the Park & Ride just off I-81, Exit 140 near Salem. Around 12:15 we will begin the cruise over Catawba Mountain (SR 311) to Old Catawba Road (a VA Byway) through Ellett Valley ending at the Farm House Restaurant in Christiansburg, VA. We have the private dining room

reserved. Please RSVP to Butch Cook ASAP so we can give a head count to the Farmhouse. Contact him by (540) 387-1979, or email to Myred64stang@aol.com.

RVMC RECENT EVENTS: SALEM CHRISTMAS PARADE

On Friday, December 7, 2007 our club had a great turnout of members that put their cars into the parade line. Thanks to all that participated and look forward to December 2008's parade.

RVMC Christmas Party at the Home Place -

On Sunday, December 16, 2007 some 20+ members and guests gathered at the Homeplace Restaurant for our annual dinner and optional gift exchange. All present enjoyed the meal and fellowship... and especially the gift exchange.

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

Unique Performance, the Texas-based company licensed by Shelby Automotive to produce the "continuation" Shelby GT500E (Eleanor) and GT500SR (Super Snake) as well as by Chip Foose to produce specialty Mustangs, Challengers, and Camaros, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in November 2007, ending its operations immediately. They received approximately \$15 million in deposits for cars ranging from \$100-200K from approximately 120 customers who never received their vehicles. Almost all of these were Mustangs. About another 120 customers had previously received their cars during Unique's 5-year production run. In response to the problems, Shelby terminated their licensing agreement in October and Foose shortly thereafter. Unique contends they received faulty engines from Shelby, especially for the Super Snake, which put them behind in production. In addition, the police raided the facility in October and seized 61 vehicles in an investigation of an alleged "title washing" scheme involving the vehicles and illegal use of VIN's. Unique Employees have lost out on thousands of dollars of pay owed for work already completed and allegedly had deductions taken for their 401(k), health insurance, and even child support that were never actually paid to the proper sources. So far, no criminal charges have been filed against anyone at Unique. It is not known at this time if customers will receive a vehicle in some other way or recover any of their deposits or if employees will see any pay. For more information, see: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/classifieds/news/automotive/latestnews/stories/DN-uniqueperformance_26bus.ART.State.Edition2.3702c7a.html

2007 WAS A BAD YEAR FOR AUTO SALES

Auto sales were down in 2007, one of the worst years over the past 10 years. The mortgage/housing crisis, high gas prices, and other general worries about the economy are considered the major reasons consumers lack confidence in automobile spending. Unfortunately, these issues are likely to carry over into 2008. Although sales are down about 12% over a year ago, the Ford F-series trucks continue to be one of the best selling vehicles for Ford and in comparison to other makes and models according to Forbes.com. Several Ford-related models were in the worst sales categories such as the Jaguar X-Type, Jaguar S-Type, Jaguar XJ, and the Mazda B truck series.

Ford's sales were very poor in the 4th quarter 2007 with an equally-bad December, where holiday discounts have not panned

out and sales could be down as much as 12% in this month alone, allowing Toyota to take over as the #2 automaker in the U.S. Fourth quarter sales of the new rebadged Taurus and Mercury Sable sedans and Taurus X crossover have been disappointing. However, the Edge crossover and other smaller SUV's like the Escape have sold fairly well this fall.

Mustangs are also doing poorly in sales compared to last year, even taking into consideration fewer Mustangs are sold in winter months. Recent data for November 2007 indicated a 28% drop compared to November 2006 from 10,230 to 7,352 units. Total Mustang sales through November 2007 were 126,311 compared to 155,285 for the same period of 2006, an 18% drop. Major refreshing to the Mustang will probably not occur until 2010, so it could be a long two more years for Ford besides the specialty Mustangs such as the Bullitt and the Shelby models.

NEW MUSTANG EYEWEAR

Get ready for the 2008 car show and cruise-in season with some new officially-licensed Mustang sunglasses. There is a pony on the temple with "MUSTANG" inscribed on the right lens. Two different styles are available, the more-angular Eliminator (\$59.99, in black, red, blue, yellow, and silver frames) and the more-oval Competitor (\$49.99, in black, red, and silver frames). All frames are made of lightweight polycarbonate, and all lenses provide maximum UVA and UVB protection. For more information, see www.mustangeyewear.org or contact them at Mustang Eyewear, 3569 Somerset Cir., Kissimmee, FL 34746, 1-866-416-8247.

HOW HIGH WILL THE BIDS GO?

A red and white 1969 Shelby GT500 convertible that has been owned only by Carroll Shelby its whole life will be auctioned off at Barrett-Jackson. The sale (lot #1287) will air on live television sometime between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. EST Saturday, January 19 on the Speed Channel. Carroll Shelby will personally sign over the title to the winning bidder at the close of the sale. The car is interesting in that it has several modifications performed over the years by Carroll Shelby, such as missing hood pins, Shelby 10-spoke wheels instead of 5-spoke, an auxiliary electric fuel pump in the trunk, and the engine block was repainted red instead of blue per his request when it was rebuilt in 1978. The car was originally white but was painted red when he decided he wanted a red one for his personal vehicle.

MUSTANG AND FORD NEWS BRIEFS

- A black with grey stripes Shelby GT500KR will be the new "KITT" in a revival of the 1980's TV series Knight Rider on NBC. The first episode is set to air February 19.
- A full glass roof option will be available for 2009 Mustangs. Cost is estimated to be \$1,995, available for both V6 and GT models.
- Ford is finalizing sale of its Jaguar/Land Rover luxury brands to the India-based Tata Motors, with the completion taking place in early 2008.
- Mustang Funny Car driving legend John Force was injured in September when his car broke apart during a race. He suffered a broken wrist and ankle and is expected to make a full recovery.
- The 2008 Mustang convertible is the first specialty sports car and the only convertible to get the highest possible five-star safety rating in the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) ad-

1990 LX CONVERTIBLE PARTS FOR SALE.. BY WAY OF CLOSE CALL FOR RVMC MEMBER

On December 31, 2007 Lisa Moles was on her way to work, when she hit an icy bridge and clipped a guard rail, then over the curb, through a ditch and landed her white 1990 LX Convertible on its belly in a pile of rocks. MIRACULOUSLY.. she was not hurt, which is the main thing, however the insurance declared her Stang a total loss.

The wrecked Pony is now back at home. Jon is planning to build a 331 using the motor, but there are some other body panels still in good shape like the doors, deck lid, and quarters etc. are still usable and will make them available for sale to anyone that is interested. The top is brand new with a glass window, the seats are the black plaid twill and are not torn or threadbare. Unfortunately all four of Jon's silver ponies are now busted, so they can't salvage those.

Their wrecked pony is sadly pictured below on a trailer. If interested in any possible parts for salvaging please them give them a call at (540) 977-2962 after 6 p.m., or by email at either: (For Jon) MUSTANGJON88@aol.com or (For Lisa) cobrachic97@aol.com



Roanoke Valley Mustang Club

c/o Linda Lancaster
1810 Spruce St., Apt. 103
Martinsville, VA 24112

See you on the 15th at:

**Corned Beef
& Co.
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