

Pony Tales



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Greetings fellow Mustang enthusiasts!!

Some quick December history and fun facts... National Cookie Day is December 4th. The 7th is National Pearl Harbor Day and the 13th is National Violin Day. Bill of Right’s Day is the 15th. Don’t forget Wright Brothers Day on the 17th and Underdog Day is the 20th. The 21st brings the Winter Solstice. And on the 25th we celebrate the Lord’s birthday as Christmas Day and the following day is National Candy Cane Day.

As we should all know now, our club elections will be conducted via the online survey tool we used last year. The “polls” will open at 7am and close at 7pm on Monday December 6 rather than Tuesday of our General Meeting.

As of this writing, the current president and treasurer have accepted nominations and are running uncontested. The vice-president and secretary have one nominee each running for office. Six nominees are running for five open Board positions.

December brings plenty of parade opportunities. If you have never participated in a Christmas Parade... you should give one a try. Decorations are not required but make it so much more fun for you and those on the road side. There are both daytime and nighttime parades available... and at one of the nighttime parades the tossing of candy is allowed. Check out the calendar of events on the next page... and review previous and upcoming emails for details. For ideas on decorations... contact your board of directors or a member you know who has attended.

As always, check out or sponsors and pay them a visit or check them out on their websites. Adam's Polishes detail products and supplies make great gifts. OK Joe's has gift cards. Guys Car Garage gives proceeds to the Little Lighthouse. Check out our merchandise page on page 9. Ever thought to purchase a membership for someone? Or perhaps a club badge? Order forms start on page 20 and both are available on our website!

Speaking of the website... did you know we have a link on the home page where you and the public can select the Contact Us link where question, ideas and comments can be submitted.

Trust everyone had a great Thanksgiving and looking forward to a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you all soon at the meeting, a parade or two and the Christmas party!!
Mustangs Rule!



Inside Information

Just 'Round The Bend	2
New Members	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	3
Meeting Minutes	4
GCCM Christmas Party	6
The Christmas Story	7
Trivia Time	8
Christmas Gift Ideas	9
GT350H Story	12
Why You Should Join The MCA	15
Sponsors	17
Club Application	20
Club Badge Ordering Form	21

Just 'Round The Bend

December

- ☞ 4 - Broken Arrow Annual Christmas Parade
- ☞ **7 - GCCM General Meeting @ OK Joe's - 6:30pm**
- ☞ **7 - Elections**
- ☞ 11 - Owasso Annual Christmas Parade - AM
- ☞ 11 - Coweta Annual Christmas Parade - PM
- ☞ 11 - Oologah Annual Christmas Parade - PM - candy tossing allowed
- ☞ **18 - GCCM Christmas Party**
- ☞ **28 - GCCM Board Meeting @ OK Joe's - 6:30pm**
- ☞ 25 - Christmas Day!!

2022

- ☞ Feb 18-20 - Starbird Car Show
- ☞ March 19 - Stang Thang at Tulsa Air Space Museum
- ☞ Spring/Summer - GCCM @ Driller Stadium
- ☞ Spring/Summer - GCCM Pot Luck @ Hallett
- ☞ Summer - GCCM Annual Picnic
- ☞ June 16-19 - Mid America Shelby Meet Car Show
- ☞ June 25/26 - AAA Route 66 Road Fest



Are you an MCA member?
If not, you're missing out on
good information and
opportunities.
For more information about
the MCA...
check out page 13.



New Members!!

Bell Pollard
Oktaha OK
'00 Black Coupe

Greg & Catherine Woods
Mounds OK
'66 Nightmist Blue GT
Coupe

Matt Erwin
Broken Arrow OK
'21 Rapid Red Mustang GT

James Hawes
Tulsa OK
'21 Carbonated Gray
Mustang GT



DID YOU KNOW??

GCCM has Instagram?!?

The club has had it's own page for over two years... so be sure and go follow it.

You can tag the page with pictures you have of club activities or use #greencountryclassicmustangs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

- 1 - Stan Soboleski
- 3 - David Newby
- 6 - Mike Penny
- 11 - Dayna Belk
- 12 - Glen Hansen
- 14 - Carmon Wieden
- 15 - Cynthia Stehm
- 20 - Bob Huntsinger
- 22 - Glenn Harden
- 23 - Ron Watkins
- 24 - Dick & Pat Cast
- 25 - Sherry Lewis
- 25 - Ken & Mary Calvert
- 26 - Damon Boggs
- 28 - Rachael Granado
- 31 - Michael & Joyce Hogan

General Meeting Minutes November 2, 2021 Oklahoma Joe's BBQ

Open Meeting - 6:30pm

- Opening comments - John shared several videos of burnouts at the Tulsa Boy's Home. 18-20 GCCM Mustangs provided a show 'n shine with trunk 'n treat for them on Halloween afternoon.
- Sponsors: Ron M of Magnusson Realtors; Jon Lane of Matthews Ford
- Welcome New Members & Guests: N/A

Treasurer Report - Mary Calvert - Provided financial report.

Secretary Report - Ron Magnusson processed minutes approval.

Vice President Report - Michael Hogan

- Michael announced the presented the final Round Up income report with the amount to be given to the Little Light House of \$850.00. No questions... "great to be in the black"

Current Business

- Christmas Party - Online "ticket" purchases are available via the club website; inform Mary of children aged 13 or under; Donnie Moseby will be Santa
- Elections - John reminded everyone of the online voting process and the polls open 7am-7pm Dec 7 with results posted within 24 hours of polls closing. Reviewed the current candidates and announced Cassie Pollard running for the open Secretary position.
- By-Laws - reviewed the additions of current and new appointed positions to be added and the creation of an Events Director. This position will be appointed to a Board member to oversee and be a Liaison to several of the appointed positions.

Track News

- George Walker - reported an autocross event at the Fair Grounds this weekend.
- Jerry Bergeron - reported a busy October at Hallett. Reminded everyone of the Veteran's Day event scheduled for November 13... vintage racers, 350R rides, Ford GT rides, a show 'n shine car show (only ten have registered thus far), trophies and food trucks. A great day to pay tribute and show thanks to the veterans.

MCA News - Ron Watkins reminded everyone to renew or join MCA membership. Reviewed the scheduled '22 MCA Nationals. Presented details of the pending AAA Route 66 Road Fest scheduled in June 2022.

New Business

- John asked how everyone was receiving /accepting the use of MailChimp. Encouraged all to report issues and to check their Spam / Junk folders periodically for all incoming emails GCCM and others.
- John announced Joyce Hogan will take over the posting of Birthdays and Anniversaries to our Facebook page.

Calendar - Upcoming events reviewed

- Focus on this weekend... BA Veterans Day Parade on Saturday and the Family Day Show 'n Shine car show / Toy Run for the Air National Guard on Sunday.
- Claremore Veterans Day Parade on the 11th. Email details expected.
- Lunch Cruise to Freddy Paul's Steak House scheduled for Nov 14th... OMC is invited. Jim & Jan Massey are coordinating this event.

You Have The Floor - N/A

Closing Comments

- \$10 towards dinner – Alan S
- 50/50 Pot - \$55 - Ron Watkins
- Door prize(s) – N/A

Adjourn Meeting at 7:45pm with 63 in attendance

Board Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021
OK Joe's

Open Meeting - 6:20pm

- Roger B absent.
- Guests - Alan & Crystal Stretesky, Stan Allred, and Jamie Jackson

Treasurer Report - Mary provided report

Secretary Report - N/A

Vice President Report - N/A

Current Items

- Elections - Email reminder to be submitted on process. Election day Monday rather than Tuesday... results to be announced at Tuesday meeting.
- Christmas Party - Eight members have registered as of tonight. Email reminder to be submitted. The three remaining club calendars will be given as door prizes. Toys to be collected for Salvation Army. Mathis Brothers Furniture donating toys.
- Bylaws to be amended (additional Appointed/Director positions) at next General Meeting. Discussion on the need to secure an Activity director. Several locations to visit were discussed.
- Tommy's Express Car Wash - Franca has left messages. Will follow up this week.

New Items

- GCCM Round Up Venue Option - The Little Lighthouse has offered to allow us to conduct our annual show at their location. Hospitality room, tabulation room and restrooms available. Tours of the building will be available, gift shop will be open, their students and families will be involved... no charge. Junior League parking next door is available. Board approved to pursue after the first of the year.
- Communications Director - Dropped
- Lifetime Membership - Board voted and approved unanimously a nomination for this award. The presentation will occur at the Christmas party. This will be the tenth Lifetime member award presented.
- Membership Renewals - Email reminder to be submitted. 127 memberships to expire Dec 31.
- Suggestion Box - We have an existing "Have a comment or a question" link on our club website. It was recommended we reword and remind members it exists. Email to be submitted.

Calendar - December

- 4 - Broken Arrow Annual Christmas Parade - Ron M
 - Ron will submit another email reminder... needs headcount to reserve meeting location. Storybook theme.
- 11 - Owasso Annual Christmas Parade - Ron W
 - A signed covid wavier required to participate... forms will be available at General meeting. Hawaiian Christmas theme.
- 11 - Coweta Annual Night Christmas Parade - Ron M
 - Light up your cars. Email reminder to be submitted.
- 11 - Oologah Night Christmas Parade - Ron W
 - Light up your cars. Email reminder to be submitted. Candy tossing allowed!

Closing

- Dennis expressed how much fun the Veteran's Day celebration was at Hallett the previous Saturday. Kudos to Franca, her team of assistants and Hallett family.

Adjourn Meeting - 7:20pm



2021 Club Christmas Party



The party is December 18th from 6pm -8pm. The location is Oklahoma Joe's BBQ 61st & Sheridan. The cost is \$8.50 per club member and an RSVP is required by December 7.

You must be a registered club member (as defined in the By-Laws) for 2021.

Mary Calvert will collect head count and payment. If you can't make a meeting or club event by the December 7 meeting to provide head count and payment, mail it to the club @ PO Box 471361 Tulsa, OK 74147-1361 and call Mary Calvert (918.313.0181) with the head count informing her payment is in the mail. You can pay on-line via our Merchandise link on the club website... www.gccmustangs.com.

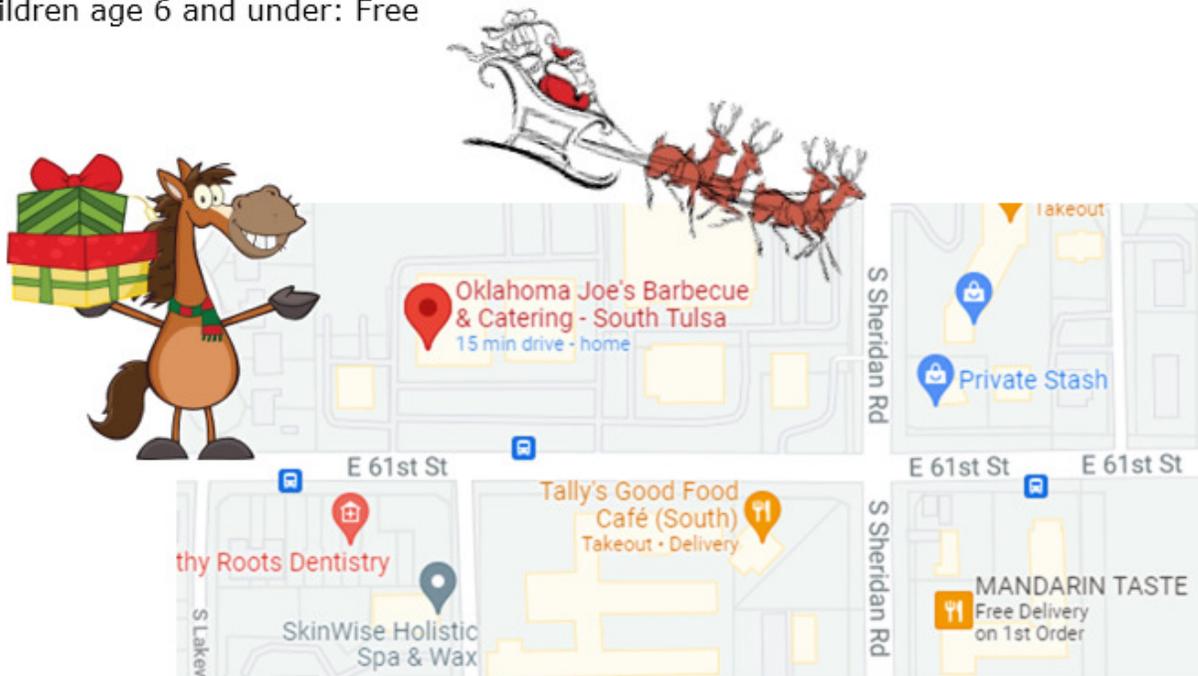
Please inform Mary how many children will be in attendance... we don't want Santa to miss anyone. We will have gifts for children age 12 and under.

The OK Joe's menu includes:

*Chopped Brisket, Pulled Pork, Pulled Chicken
Premium Sides BBQ Baked Beans & Traditional Potato Salad
Bread
Peach, Apple, Blackberry Cobbler
Water & Tea*

Entertainment will be an ornament exchange with a reading of the Night Before Christmas. Ornament required to participate!

Registered Members: \$8.50 per person
Non-Members: \$12.50 per person
All children age 6 and under: Free



The Christmas Story - As told by Matthew

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled.

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

--Matthew 1:18 - 2:23 NIV



Merry Christmas to you and yours!!
John, Kelly, Shelby & Roxy

We just wanted to say a big “Thank you” to all who went to the car show at the Air National Guard on Sunday November 7! We had a great turn out and great weather for this show n shine!! One of our favorite highlights was watching two F-16’s take off then come back later and do a fly over for more entertainment! Also, thank you to all who donated toys in support for our military! We have a great Mustang Family!!

Mike & LaNora Bean



The Pontiac Fiero mid-engine sports car was sold from 1984-1988. What does "Fiero" mean?

- A. cruel
- B. proud
- C. wild
- D. all the above

Answer on page 9

Not too late to get some great GCCM apparel and gifts for that Mustang Fan of yours!!

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Ever wonder where some of the club members got their cool club shirts, hats, and other GCCM items? Well, wonder no more!! You can find them at <http://gcmustangs.americants.shop/>

You can order name tags using the form in this newsletter or on-line at <http://www.gccmustangs.com/clubbadge.html>.

For an awesome quality jacket check out <https://us.mustangjackets.com/>

Be sure to mention Green Country Classic Mustangs as you check out and our charity The Little Lighthouse will receive a donation.

Check out our Merchandise page anytime!!

[Car Club/Businesses](#) [Merchandise](#) [Newsletters](#) [more...](#)



Support our local sponsors like Bill Immell who is an Adam's Polishes certified technician who has the detailing supplies that all Mustang Fans need!!

<http://bkispecialties.com/index.html>

(918) 698-6669

Trivia Answer

D. All of the above (Fiero can mean all these things in Italian and/or Spanish)





Fifty Five years ago the first GT350H rolled out Shelby American's door at 6501 West Imperial Highway in Los Angeles. By now the Shelby-Hertz story is a familiar one. Shelby American was trying to increase sales of their new GT350. General Manager Peyton Cramer came up with the idea of making a run at the Hertz Corporation, which had recently switched from GM to Ford products. His goal was to convince them to buy a modest number about 100 special model GT350s which would be offered for rent at certain Hertz outlets. The cars would be black with gold stripes and would all have 4-speed transmissions, special wheels and radios. Cramer did his homework. He had discovered that back in the 1920s, Hertz manufactured a car of its own which was black with brass trim. The black and gold was a natural.

The meeting was successful beyond Cramer's wildest dreams. He returned to Shelby American walking on air, with an order for 1000 cars in his briefcase. This was great news for Shelby's sales department but it caused something of a headache for production. They were already busy building standard GT350s to ship to Shelby dealers. Rental cars have a distinct window; they are typically supplied to rental agencies at the beginning of the model year and taken out of service when they are replaced with the next year's models. The Hertz order required Shelby's production to expand. Shelby American was able to supply the required 1000 units in time for them to see rental duty and the rest was, as they say, history. Then, 40 years later in 2006, history repeated itself.

The seed for the 2006 Hertz car may have actually been planted back in 1991 when Hertz Vice President, and avid Shelby enthusiast, Walt Seaman arranged for Hertz to repurchase a 1966 GT350H (6S1417) for the lobby of their World Headquarters in Park Ridge, NJ. Seaman passed the car every day on his way to his office and when he heard that Shelby and Ford had, once again, joined forces to produce a Shelby Mustang, he found himself thinking, "*why not?*" The timing was perfect and public interest in the new Shelbys could not be greater. So, near the tail end of 2005, representatives of Hertz and Shelby Automobiles sat down together to discuss the project just as they had forty years earlier.

The idea was hammered out and the details soon emerged: Hertz would purchase 500 black and gold cars, to be called "Shelby GT-Hs," for rental use in their "Fun Collection." The black and gold motif would be exclusive to the Hertz Shelby. In 1966, you could rent a GT350H and then immediately purchase a GT350 at a Shelby dealer should the drive result in your being bitten by the snake. Initially there was no 2006 equivalent of this. These Hertz cars were intended only for rental and then when they were decommissioned from Hertz' rental fleet, they would be auctioned off to Ford dealers who would put them on their lots as used cars.



But a funny thing happened along the way. The initial response to the '07 Shelby GT500 was so great that the almost 4,000 Ford dealers, who would each get one or more cars (instead of their going only to SVT dealers), found themselves in the unaccustomed position of having potential buyers fighting over the first cars. They were lining up even before the GT500s were built and orders could be taken. Sensing a rare opportunity, dealers began asking for \$10,000 "deposits" to which the MSRP would be added when the car arrived. Some dealers were reportedly asking more \$15,000 to as high as \$22,000. Neither Ford nor Shelby liked seeing buyers made to pay such high premiums, but the company was powerless to intervene. To do so would run afoul of federal restraint of trade laws. Essentially, a dealer

can sell a car for whatever price he wants. The market determines that price and with demand for GT500s obviously exceeding the supply, buyers were willing to pay high prices.

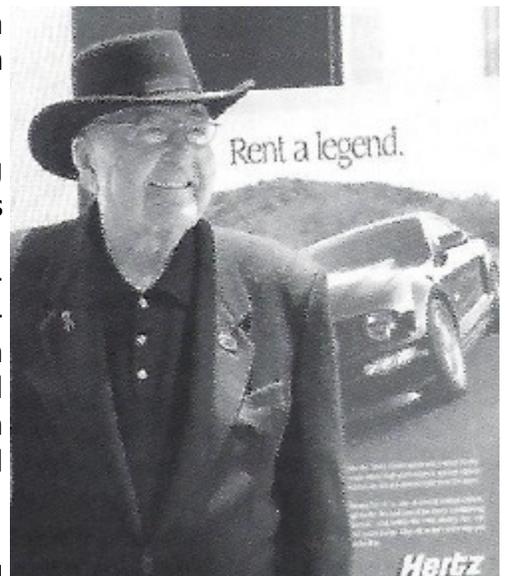
The feeling at Ford was that the company not the individual dealers would suffer from the backlash of angry buyers who felt they were being taken advantage of by dealers or frustrated because they were not able to buy a car they really wanted. So Ford attempted to put the brakes on the situation. Their solution was to contract with Shelby to create another '07 Shelby model, the Shelby GT. It will be, essentially, a civilian Hertz car with the same horsepower rating (325 HP), a choice of 5-speed manual or automatic transmission, and available only in white or black with silver stripes. Ford will reportedly produce between 8,000 and 10,000 units - enough to glut the market and make GT500s a little easier to get. An unintended side affect might be to make owners who paid the outrageous premiums feel a little foolish.

In early 2006, SAAC member Gino Lucci of Staten Island, NY received a call from Shelby Automobiles asking if he would make his GT350H (6S1886) available for a display at the New York International Auto Show in April. Lucci had the distinct "on-the-outside-looking-in" feeling because his business was supplying cars to movie companies. Usually he is the one on the phone asking for the loan of someone's Shelby for a movie or TV commercial. He agreed to provide his contours Hertz car for the show but everyone was tight-lipped regarding exactly what was in the works. As with most high-profile debuts, the rebirth of the Hertz "Rent-A-Racer" was a closely-guarded secret known to only a few company insiders. Lucci wasn't told the full details until the day before the show.

For the second time in as many years, a new Shelby was the hit of the New York Automobile Show Carroll Shelby was on hand and he was driven on stage in the new car and posed with it as he effortlessly answered questions from the press. If anyone needed a reminder that this all had been done before, Lucci's GT350H was also on the stage, a few feet away.

As the winter of 2006 drew to a close, transporters from Ford's Mustang assembly plant at Flat Rock, MI loaded with black Mustang GT fastbacks began rolling into Las Vegas and Shelby Automobiles' crews went to work. Hoods were replaced with a more muscular (albeit non-functional) air-extractor bonnet, held closed by a pair of chrome hood pins on plastic-coated wire lanyards. A redesigned front fascia had a lower grille and an integral air dam. Side scoops provide a '66 retro look, as did the brushed aluminum grille which, like 1966, carried a running horse emblem. Twin gold LeMans tape stripes were added along with gold rocker panel "Shelby GT-H" stripes. A Mustang GT rear spoiler finished off the exterior.

Under the hood the 25 horsepower increase was due to a Ford Racing



Performance Power Pack assisted by a 90mm cold air intake kit. The low-restriction exhaust system with X-pipe provided just the right tone to seduce the driver into staying on the throttle even when it isn't necessary. Power was transmitted through a 5-speed automatic (although 7 cars were destined to have 5-speed transmissions: one for Bill Ford, one for Shelby and five for high level Hertz execs). The rear end carried 3.55:1 gears, giving the car some additional punch. Wheels were the optional Mustang 17" x 8" aluminum 5-spokes which purposely resemble the American Torque Thrust wheel from 1965. The suspension also

received attention: lowered springs that were 65% stiffer, larger and stiffer anti-roll bars, additional dampening via heavy duty shocks and a tubular strut brace that tied the shock towers together all worked to give the car better road feel and less body roll. It also sat 1 1/2" lower.

Every car received special chrome "HERTZ" fender badges and Hertz/Shelby door sill plates. Each car also received a unique "Shelby GT-H" serial number plate in the engine compartment. Interiors remained pretty much stock Mustang GT, in basic black, but a largish panel in the center of the dash between the air conditioner outlets carried each car's seven character Shelby serial number (for example, "06H0050") and a facsimile of Carroll's famous signature. Shelby also defeated the traction control system (TCS) defeat switch, and if the double negatives are a bit confusing, it means that a renter, with thoughts of billowing tire smoke coming from the rear wheels, is not able to not turn off the TCS to achieve that effect.

Shortly thereafter, trucks heavy with newly minted Shelby GT-Hs were heading to Hertz locations. Unlike 1966, when they went to airports in the larger population centers across the country, this time they were only delivered to Hertz outlets in Phoenix and Scottsdale, AZ; Burbank, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara and Orange County, CA; Denver, CO; Miami, Tampa, Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Charlotte and Raleigh, NC; Nashville, TN; Greenville, Columbia and Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; Las Vegas, NV; Cleveland, OH; Indianapolis, IN; Portland, OR; Boston, MA; Seattle, WA; and on Oahu and Maui, HI.

Hertz learned a bit from their 1966 rental experiences, because before any renter can rumble off the lot in his GT-H, a thorough list of items will have been gone over in his presence. When the car is returned, every item on the list is rechecked just to make sure nothing has... er... fallen off. Serial tags, fender badges, even engines are inspected to ensure the returning rental car is not a few pounds lighter. One item on the checklist is the confirmation that the car is being returned with the TCS still defeated. And they do their best to thwart the efforts of weekend racers by only renting to individuals who can show proof that they arrived at the Hertz counter on an airline flight. Renters must be

25 years of age (just like in 1966) as if reaching the magical quarter-century mark imbues a driver with the requisite amount of maturity to keep from abusing the car.



Another big difference between the rent-a-racer of 1966 and the 2006 version comes from the benefit of hind-

sight. SAAC has tried to collect tales of 1966 Shelby rental cars which were rented, raced and then returned to Hertz. However, the hearsay vastly outweighs anything that is documented. These stories are little more than urban legends and never have serial numbers accompanying them. Today we're more conscious of the history of these cars. SAAC is collecting stories of the new rental Shelbys and since we are able to document details (especially vehicle serial numbers) this information will go into the new registry. With lightning-fast communication like email and faxes, details of renter's exploits are reaching Shelby Automobiles and SAAC almost in real-time. They're probably not all that much different from what took place in 1966; the difference is that now we will have the specifics and the supporting information, and in some cases even photos.

Some of the new Hertz cars will receive their own unique history by way of Hertz, Ford or Shelby Automobiles. Such as the prototype on display at the car's unveiling in New York. But renters seem to be in a frenzied stampede to add individual history to as many of the rental cars as they can. Probably the first to strike was New Jerseyan James Wysocki who took 06H0013 from its rental home in Boston to a Syracuse car show, mostly for kicks. He was surprised to not only win class honors (beating out two 1966 GT350Hs), but also a "Best In Show." The car proved that there is, indeed, a sound basis in superstition. On the way back to be returned in Boston, "Lucky 13" plowed into a deer in the Pocono Mountains, causing some left front fender damage. It was nearly the 1966 cost of a GT350H: \$3000! The story was newsworthy enough to be included in the October '06 issue of *Car and Driver*.

Well on the fast track to being a rental legend is one S.D. Wheeler who rented #369 in Nashville and took it to the Fun Ford Weekend at Bristol Dragway in Bristol, TN. Part of the festivities were drag racing and S.D. was pretty successful. He walked away with top honors, but the distinction of being the first GT-H renter to make Hertz' "DNR" (Do Not Rent) list for conduct that was deemed "damaging to the vehicle." He was read the riot act by the Hertz manager upon returning the victorious drag racer to the rental counter. Wheeler is still investigating, but thinks his being ratted out to Hertz might have been done by the disgruntled second-place finisher.

In an attempt to appeal the life-time ban, he pointed out that his driving was less "damaging to the vehicle" than what Carroll Shelby himself is seen doing to a GT-H for a TV commercial. [*Note: while Shelby appears to do the drifting and burning rubber in the commercial, it's actually Shelby American V.P. of Marketing Gary Patterson behind the wheel.*]

Wheeler's plea fell on deaf ears, but he left undeterred. Two weeks later he was behind the wheel of #070, a Boston-based GT-H and he again found that 325 HP and black and gold paint was the hot set up as he took home the trophy at the Epping, NH drag strip.

Drag racing is not the only illicit use the new Hertz cars are finding. *Car and Driver* magazine brought three rental cars (one from Massachusetts and two from Florida) to SAAC-31 at VIR for a combination mock race/photo op. Their cars were joined by the prototype GT-H (also on display at VIR) and at the end of the day on Friday the four black and gold Shelbys took to the track, driven by *Car and Driver* Executive Editor Mark Gillies and Editors John Phillips, Steven Cole Smith and Robin Warner. They spent a lot of time talking to '66 GT350 Hertz owners at the convention and it's certain a lot of these comments will appear in the magazine. A rollicking good time was had by all, and a photo of that "race" graces the cover of this issue of **"The Shelby American."** The next day, *Car and Driver* (with some assistance from SAAC) took the prototype GT-H and Ron Finger's 6S673 (which won a Bronze award in the concours) to a secluded part of the track for a "that was then, this is now" photo session. Look for the story in the November, '06 issue of *C&D*.

If it seems that only the renters have an affection for the new GT-H, read on: Anthony Alonzo was in Los Angeles and while he was there he decided to rent a GT-H from Hertz. Wanting some neat photos, he drove it to the car's

birthplace at Shelby Automobiles in Las Vegas. While snapping away at his rented GT-H in front of the Shelby plant, he was asked by one passing Shelby worker how he enjoyed the car. Fine, he responded, but there was a clunking in the rear. *"Do you have a few minutes?"* was the query from Shelby American's Akos Feher, who then proceeded to take the car back into the shop, put it on a lift and tighten the offending exhaust pipe hanger on the car. He also disassembled the front end and replaced both sides' McPherson struts on the car that he had created!

Are the cars a hit? Is Carroll Shelby from Texas? Absolutely, but you don't have to take our word for it. In August 2006, a GT-H was auctioned off (with the proceeds going to charity) to the highest bidder at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual convention/fly-in in Oshkosh, WI. How bad was the itch to purchase the first Shelby GT-H to get into the hands of the public - and one which had never been rented? The bidding went to \$250,000!

If there are any doubts as to the cars' desirability, Shelby Automobiles Gary Patterson reports what is likely the first attempt to creating a GT-H clone. It seems that a Hertz worker contacted Shelby Automobiles for a complete set of GT-H ID tags and badges, claiming that they were being purchased to replace parts that had been stolen. It sounded a little suspicious so Patterson started asking a few questions. It turned out that the parts were not intended for replacement on stripped Hertz car, but for a planned GT-H clone!

Diehard Chevy guys are apparently feeling the Shelby siren call. Eric Scheper, on a business trip to northern California, reports that he rented a Shelby GT-H (#228) just to see what all this fuss was all about. *"The coolest rental car I ever drove!"* was his appraisal. He also learned that in the world of the Blue Oval, just as in Bow Tie Land, there still is no substitute for cubic inches. Approaching a new GT500 from behind on California's Route 101, the Shelby owner demonstrated what an additional 170 horse-power does by pulling away smartly from the rental car. We thank him for providing some neat intel on the car as well as the rental check-out procedure. While he was in San Francisco, Scheper learned that there were 19 cars available. And that while the Hertz "missing parts" checklist IS very detailed, the check in/out amounts to little more than a cursory look at the list.

Another Chevy guy, SAAC member Al DeBonis of Millbrook, NY races a 427 Corvette roadster in vintage events throughout the northeast. On a business trip to southern California he succumbed to the magnetic pull of the new Shelby GT-H. He found the car he rented (#0051) to be a very enjoyable road car - as long as none of his Chevy buddies saw him. Three thousand miles away he was pretty safe. The current plan is that the new GT-Hs, like the GT350H of forty years prior, will accumulate 12,000-18,000 rental miles and will then be returned to Ford. Ford will run them through dealer auctions around the country. With the money they receive from the auction, added to what they received from Hertz, they stand to make a good profit on each unit. Dealers, who also have one eye on the profit margin, will know a good deal when they see it. They will likely purchase the cars for less than they will be worth at retail. They will inspect the cars and put them back into like-new condition, and find a prominent spot on their lot.

What will the cars sell for on the used car market? That's difficult to predict. On the upside, only 500 were made (limited production). And there is the "Shelby" name which is like pure gold. If any 1966 GT350H owners are looking for a new car, it would hard to suggest something better. But on the downside, Ford will be building somewhere in the neighborhood of 7000 to 10,000 GT500s a year for two years, and upwards of 10,000 Shelby GTs. That's a rot of competition. And if the Hertz program is as successful as it appears, why would Hertz not want to do it again in 2007? Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain: Carroll Shelby is definitely back in the Mustang business and things never looked better for Shelby enthusiasts, new and old.

Source: Shelby American Magazine - 2015

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- The Mustang Club of America is the largest organization of Mustang enthusiasts in the World. The camaraderie of fellow MCA members is legendary. Wherever you travel you will find MCA members that are willing to help with assistance, advice and/or comradeship.
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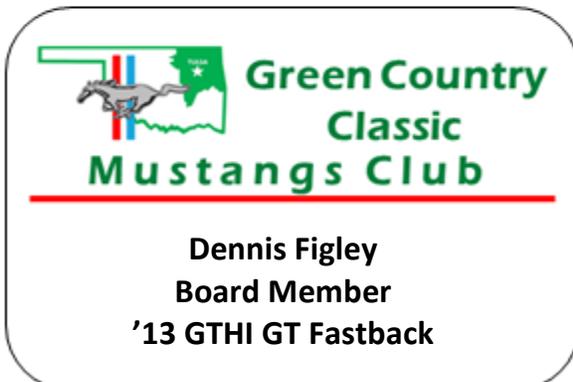
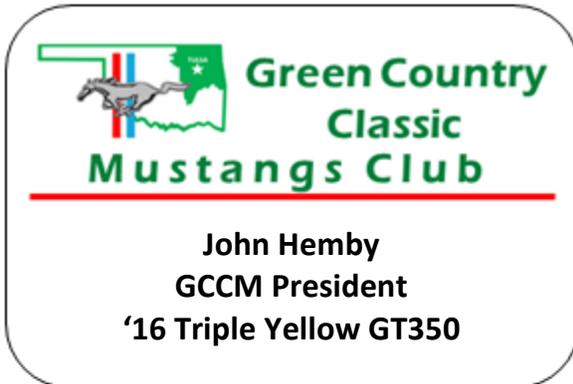
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