

# Regional Events

## Kickin' It Off In Pensacola!

by Roger Johnson

The Gulf Coast Mustang Club proudly opened this show season with their 16th Annual Gulf Coast Regional Show March 31 - April 1, 1995. The club seemed to be collectively chomping at the bit Friday morning when we met up with them. The President herself, Donna Pittman (#28732) guided us through the gate. Unfortunately at the time she was wearing a rather drenched poncho.

The rain continued throughout the first day, but this club seems to live on the bright side, because the rain didn't slow them down one bit.

They played up to the earlybirds to register for that give-away car enticing them with the unusually good odds. There may not have been many people that first rainy day; but they all lined up for that '65 red convertible. Lena Odom (#31267), Club Treasurer -Audrey Trine (#31576) and Club Secretary-Shirley Boothe(#29218) hawked their club's prize like pros on a carnitour. Oddly enough, the winner of this car is from Flomaton, as was last year's winner. Isn't that somewhere between Alabama and Florida?

We would be greatly remiss if we failed to take this opportunity to thank Kenny and Shirley Boothe for donating their late son's car as the give-away car at last year's Gulf Coast Show. Kenneth was a great enthusiast of Mustangs and an MCA member. We all share their loss and thank them once again for their giving spirits.

The Fish Fry on Friday night was a great success, although only 30 cars had registered on the first rain-ridden day, attendance at the dinner was considered good, and... everybody got plenty of food.

And then there was The "Guitar Sam" Skit. This was a HUGE smash hit which the Gulf Coast Regional Club not only choreographed but independantly produced. Broadway agents were lining up outside the banquet room fighting to sign Misty Trine to play Ginger in a Gilligan's Island sequel. This family packs a team of white Mustangs - a '65 and a '94. That must be where they get all that enthusiasm.



The weather was not Friday's most endearing trait. It was Mustang enthusiasm. That may even have worn thin for some of the less experienced show goers. Fortunately, the sun had everyone smiling by Saturday.



Friday's all day rain didn't dampen everyone's spirit. We even heard about one exhibitor who washed and dried (?) his Mustang in the motel parking lot - while he was being rained on!

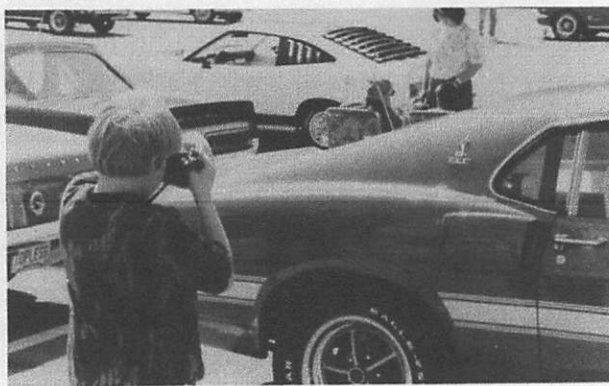


Ricky Simmons, MCA National Head Judge, and Kitty Wilmot flank Lenora and Martin Van Deventer of Alberton, Transvaal, South Africa.

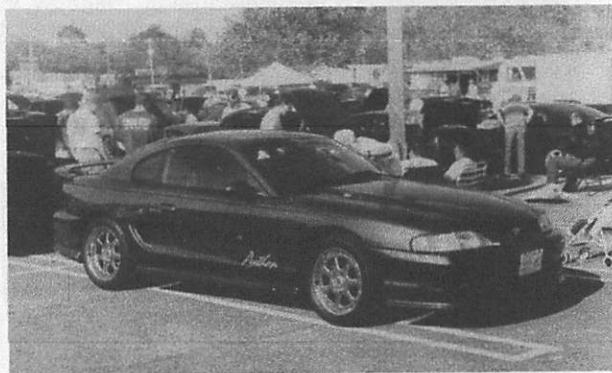
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With Saturday's dawn the skies cleared and the sun shone brightly throughout the second day. But, the enlightening spirit of this Mustang show was in its original dedication to one of this club's dearest members, Ralph Thacker (#5900) who has been struggling bravely with a terminal illness, and who now appears to be losing the battle. It was to his enthusiasm and friendship that this club dedicated this show season's opener. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Ralph, his wife, Wanda, and their family, friends, and fellow club members.

Along with the sunshine came 155 cars from as far away as Canada. They ranged from 1965 coupes to a 1995 purple Python. The judges were swarming to complete tech inspections and difficult decisions had to be made.



The sun was out in full glory on Saturday and so were the Mustangs and Mustang lovers. Here's a picture of one taking a picture of one.



Deryck Hickox may have had the most fun of all. He got to drive his Python all the way from Canada.



This "Boss-ized" late model looked impressive even without those previously collected trophies.



A nice early Fairlane, an Eliminator Cougar and a real 289 Cobra joined in with all the Mustangs to celebrate the sunshine.

This show may have started out a little slower than we would have liked; but it sure made Saturday seem even more grand. There were around 50 cars in the Pony Corral alone. There were some rare beauties there for the taking.

No one can meet the **Gulf Coast Mustang Club** without feeling the vibrations of the phenomenon we could call "*Hurricane McNeal*"; AKA Rochelle and Bob McNeal, (MCA# 596) of *Mustang Village* fame. These two sent out the wake up calls for the set-up crew, filled their home with Mustang fanatics; and then - there they were again at dawn on Sunday for the clean-up. They manage to play the ever smiling hosts; even when their tails just happen to be

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## Pensacola (continued)

draggin' a little. They'll order up breakfast for everybody and then show you some Hot Mustang action as an appetizer.

The **Gulf Coast Mustang Club** is one of the friendliest groups in the country and their show was a fine start for what should be a great 1995 Mustang Show season.



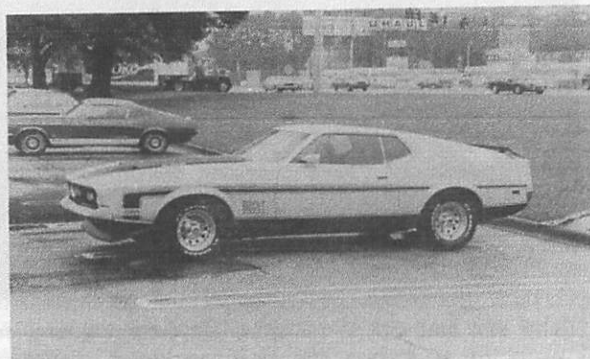
Simple rain is not nearly enough to take away the impact of seeing this pair of healthy looking '69 Mustangs. In fact, it's almost pleasing sometimes to see cars like this glistening with that beaded up water all over them.



Naturally, Bob McNeal was on hand to guide everyone in need of help. Here we see Bob looking for his tee shot.



Mustang project cars are now available in all body styles and sizes.



The first time we 'heard' this very healthy sounding Mach I it was in the drive-through window at McDonalds. The Knoxville TN owner untrailerred it for the streets as soon as he hit town.



Rodney "Shorty" Brown (#3233) of the Gulf Coast club holds court for the judges. Because of the previous day's bad weather, it was decided to not count off for pollen, freshwater marks and the like.

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## Pensacola (continued)



Donna Pitman, the club's president and red Mustang convertible owner presided over the festivities. Even a live band performed.



The crowd for the awards presentations was impressive with well over 100 people in attendance.



After the Friday fish dinner Ron, Misty and Audrey Trine (the one with the long dark hair on the right) did a special rendition of "Guitar Man" to the delight of all.

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## Carolina Regional Mustang Club Goes Racing



Members of the **Carolina Regional Mustang Club** had the opportunity to tour **BSR Products** in Charlotte, NC on Saturday, January 28, 1995.

**BSR Products** is a major supplier of all parts and components for racing dirt track to Winston Cup. The only things they don't do are engines and transmissions. Their main facility is in Charlotte but they also have locations in Mooresville, NC and the west coast. Since they supply parts to racers they dispatch trucks to tracks all over the country averaging 70,000 miles per year per truck.

The 31 club members were taken on a tour guided by Mike Gross and we were able to see all aspects of their operation. In addition to supplying components they also build cars as well and are currently building as many as 30-50 cars per season.

During our tour we were able to see cars in different stages of completion and something new, Race Trucks! NASCAR is starting to race trucks in 1995 and **BSR** is actively involved in this as well.

**- Thanks to Tony Gowan (MCA# 27432), for the above coverage. Sounds like this club has their REV's up! Keep on 'Stangin'. -Ed.**