

## MEMORABLE CARS, STARS, ONE-OFFS, & REUNIONS

Some things just get better with age, like fine wine ... or Mustangs. Now you can add the annual "Mustang Memories" car show put on by the Mustang Owners Club of South Eastern Michigan (MOCSEM) to that list. In fact, ever since the event found a home behind Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn a few years ago, the show's growth in popularity has been darn near exponential.

Even if MOCSEM's Mustang Memories wasn't my home club's big annual show, I'd make sure this event was on my "must see" list. This year, Mustang Memories drew some 900 Ford-built or -powered cars and trucks (another record) and featured a variety of attractions that would make staying home on this particular Sunday ... well, downright stupid.

I suppose it only makes sense that the show put on by the largest Mustang club in the world should hold one of the biggest one-day, single-marque car shows in the nation. MOCSEM has grown to 725 members, with more than 22 percent of those also being paid MCA members. While the show and club focuses on Mustangs, any Ford or Ford-powered vehicle is welcome; we can vouch that you'll see nearly anything from Model T's to 2013 Boss 302's on display in the Ford WHQ parking areas. But all those wonderful cars are not the whole story here.

Much like he's done to grow the ranks of MOCSEM, Club President Mike Rey has come up with a winning formula to make the Mustang Memories show so memorable. Oh sure, it can't be done without the club's army of volunteers, who work like a well-oiled Ford Racing crate motor in running this super-smooth event. And there's also something about having so many cars on display that actually works to draw even more cars to this show. But adding attractions like some very rare Fords and a slew of corporate personalities, plus co-hosting special anniversaries and reunions for other clubs at the show, have pushed this venue into uncharted territory.

Yes, you had the chance to meet Formula Drift Champion Vaughn Gittin Jr., *Mustang Monthly* Editor Donald Farr, and Chief Mustang Engineer Dave Pericak at last year's show, but this time we saw Kevin Marti, SVT Chief Nameplate Engineer Jamal Hameedi, and retired Ford VP Neil Ressler (my personal Mustang hero!) among the many notable attendees.

(I saw Ressler chatting with the owner of a 1993 SVT Mustang Cobra R about the development of that car—except the owner really didn't know who he was talking to. When he had asked, "Where did you work at Ford?" Neil simply smiled and said, "Up there"—glancing up to the top floor of Ford World Headquarters. After the owner got Neil's autograph, I came over and explained to him Ressler's role in Mustang history—not to mention him being the founder and champion of the Ford Special Vehicle Team.)

Speaking of SVT, Mustang Memories also hosted "SVT Homecoming 2012" for the SVT Owners Association, helping Ford mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the launch of SVT program. A special section of the showfield was reserved for the SVTOA and any SVT vehicles. Ford SVT brought out its trio of No. 1 Cobra R's, plus SVT's Lightning Bolt Ranger show truck, a 2012 Raptor SVT, as well as an all-new Focus ST. The weekend reunion included test-track laps at the Dearborn Proving Grounds, a Garage Tour at SVT Headquarters, and a banquet where Ressler and Hau Thai-Tang were the featured speakers!

As usual, Memories included a special display of rare Fords, including the 1964 1/2 "The Deuce's Coupe," John Grafelman's 1969 Shinoda Boss Prototype, Doug and Rita DeLorme's 1976 Western Mustang, the 1979 Mustang Daytona Show Car, plus the Wounded Warriors Family Support 2012 GT500 SuperSnake.

Again this year, the show played host to the awarding of the grand prize in the Mustang Dream Giveaway. This yearly sweepstakes makes one lucky winner the owner of two amazing Mustangs and benefits a worthy charity. For 2012, a pair of old-and-new Shelby Mustangs were raffled off, one a 1967 GT500 and the other a 2012 GT500. The winner, Tim Millard of Jacksonville Beach, FL, was awarded the keys to the '67 from Kevin Marti, and got the keys to the 2012 from SVT's Jamal Hameedi.

Of course, the Ford Racing events trailer helped anchor the Vendor's Midway as one of the show's primary sponsors, which included many of the top names in the Mustang aftermarket hobby. What's more, a separate swap meet and car corral was set up to help bargain hunters get in on the action.

My wife, Jenny, brought her 1980 Pinto station wagon, and proudly parked it next to a Ford GT. I left my 1978 King Cobra home this year and drove my 1977 Mustang II Cobra II to the show, and parked next to my good friend, Mike Pakoskey, who drove in from central PA in his Grabber Blue 2013 Boss 302. I awarded my annual "Mustang Dynasty" award to the SVTOA's Joe Goffin for his Terminator that is the only SVT Cobra I know to display the signatures of both Neil Ressler and John Coletti.

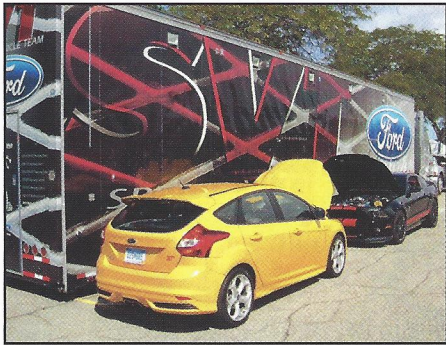
With so many cars, personalities, and special attractions, the Mustang Memories 2012 show flew past so fast, it was over before I could see it all. It wasn't long before the more than 200 awards were handed out, and all the cool Fords began leaving the lot—many for a quick "photo op" out in front of Ford's Glass House. It was the perfect ending to a great day—and a fun way to put an exclamation point on a great show.

If you're thinking of heading to The Motor City next year to soak in some of the rich automotive history, I suggest you come out the weekend before the Woodward Dream Cruise to attend MOCSEM's big show, which is sure to be even bigger still next year. I'll guarantee you'll score some special "Mustang Memories" of your very own.



▲ MOCSEM's annual 'Mustang Memories' show is held in the shadow of Ford World Headquarters.

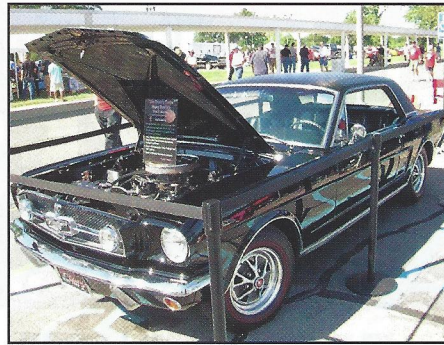




▲ The SVTOA's 'SVT Homecoming 2012' event held its show during Mustang Memories this year.



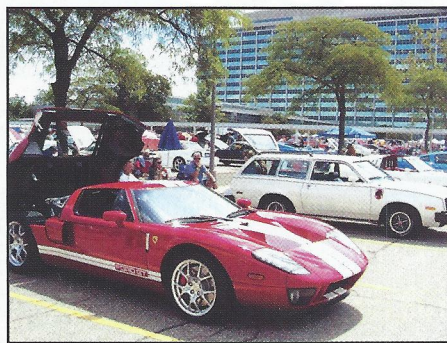
▲ Avid Mustang collector and Ford exec Mike Berardi brought his wife's Ford ice cream truck.



▲ One-off display included 'The Deuce's Coupe,' a specially equipped 64-1/2 built for Henry Ford II.



▲ Ford's Special Vehicle Team brought its 3 original Cobra R No. 1's to anchor a special SVT display.



▲ Where else can you possibly see a Ford GT parked next to a 1980 Pinto station wagon?



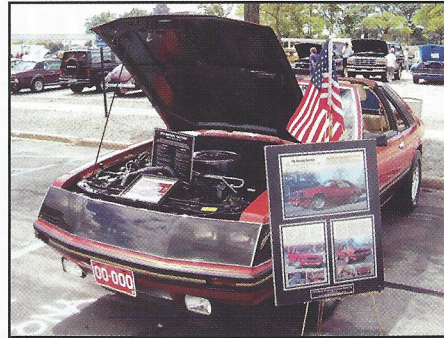
▲ Doug & Rita DeLorme's rare 1976 'Western Mustang' also graced the special display area.



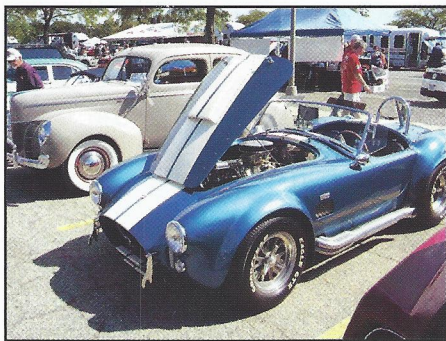
▲ Yes, even Model T's were a big (and small) part of the many great Fords seen on the showfield.



▲ This year's Dream Giveaway featured a matching pair of GT500's—a 1967 and a 2012.



▲ Another one-off on display was this 1979 Mustang Daytona Show Car.



▲ Classics, from restored sedans to Shelby Cobras, keeps visual interest high for show attendees.

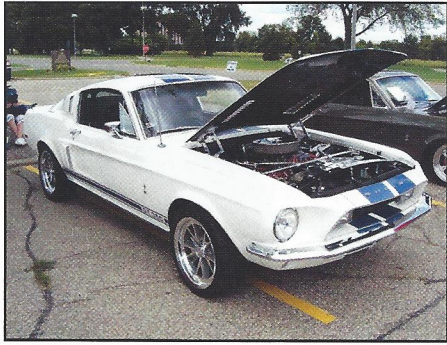


▲ Kevin Marti awards keys to the Dream Giveaway winner as SVT's Jamal Hameedi looks on.



▲ The Wounded Warriors Family Support 2012 Shelby GT500 SuperSnake was a big draw.





▲ Beautiful Shelbys like this one make for plenty of eye candy on display.



▲ The Ford racing trailer display included an up-close look at a Boss 302 race car.



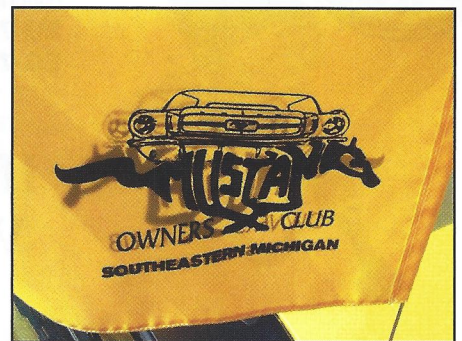
▲ Club President Mike Rey and his army of MOCSEM member-volunteers handed out over 200 awards.



▲ You can't have a great Mustang show without a pristine red Mach 1.



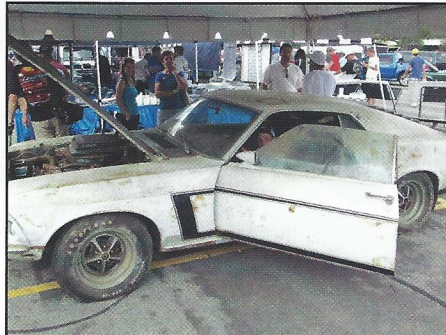
▲ New Boss 302 Mustangs in a variety of colors dotted the Memories showfield.



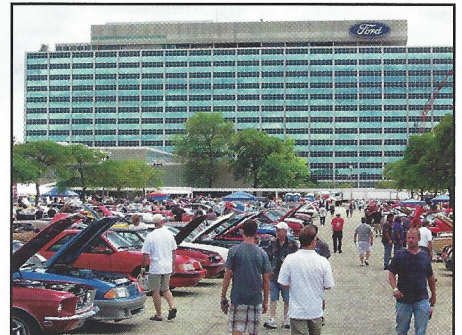
▲ We found the MOCSEM club flag affixed to a wide variety of cars on the showfield.



▲ This incredible Terminator-powered Mustang II raised plenty of eyebrows.



▲ John Grafelman's Boss 302 Prototype, once owned by Larry Shinoda, was a huge hit.



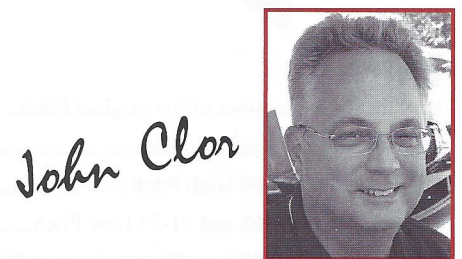
▲ With more than 900 cars, Mustang Memories is a 'Can't Miss' show!



▲ Ford Racing left its mark, both inside and outside a wide variety of Mustangs.



▲ Yes, a big swap meet and even a car corral are part of the Mustang Memories show mix.



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