



The Pony Express



"Preserving & Driving a Legend"

The Low Country Mustang Club of Charleston, SC

105 Duke Ln, Ladson SC 29456 www.lowcountrymustangclub.com

Club Officers

President	Duane Helzer	(843) 849-1802
Vice President	Rich Bible	(843) 830-1450
Secretary	Michelle Hatfield	(843) 200-5367
Treasurer	Mary Zorich	(571) 771-3519
Regional Director	Joe Ingarr	(843) 209-8311

Webmaster

Cameron Brady (843) 714-5256

Newsletter Editor

Ron Smith (843) 870-3706

The **South Carolina Coastal Regional Mustang Club** is a chartered member of the **Mustang Club of America**. The club is better known as the **Low Country Mustang Club of Charleston, SC**. The MCA charter was reinstated in the fall of 1993. The **LCMC** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to local community service and the enjoyment and preservation of the Ford Mustang and its heritage. Membership is \$15, which is due before February 1st and prorated annually for new members. MCA membership is a requirement for LCMC officers and is encouraged for all members.

Words from the President

Hey, Guys,

We are approaching crunch time for our car show and the only sponsor money we have in hand is \$500 from Jones Ford. We already have incurred over \$900 in expenses, so we need to try to collect money from places who have said they will help and I need to try to get a commitment from Rob Marchant at Ravenel Ford. Remember, if our show is fully funded we can stay true to our goal of giving every penny raised the day of the show to our chosen charity.

We continue to have plenty of interest in our club with new members joining almost every month and we are thankful that we are attracting good quality people to our group. We are coming up on a good time on show season with something every weekend, so pitch in and grab some show flyers at the next meeting and pass them out. Put them in parts stores you

frequent, and other places where car people gather. If everyone does a little our results will be fantastic.

Come out to the next meeting, the food is good and cheap and the conversation is even better.

See you there,

Duane

Meeting Minutes from July 31, 2018

(Submitted by Michelle Hatfield)

Duane called the meeting to order

New members: (I was late and didn't catch this)

Treasurers report was read and a motion was made to accept report as read. Motion was seconded and carried.

Duane read the letter from Camp Breathe Easy thanking LCMC for our support. Way to go LCMC!

Old Business:

Car shows:

Melva and Rich Bible went to the car show in Nebraska and brought home a GOLD! Congratulations!

The recent Bessinger's car show was cancelled due to the grounds being too saturated with water from all of the rain.

Lowcountry Mopar Car Show – August 4th

Omar Shrine Open Auto and Bike show - August 11th 9am - 2pm

Myrtle Beach – October 6th is the 8th Annual Mustang Stampede for the Coastal Carolina Mustang Club

Cars on Kiawah (2019) - (May 4th) Already starting to prepare. Wants to promote all generations of Mustangs next year

New Business:

LCMC Car show: Someone will need to take Joe's place due to medical reasons. Joe said that all trophies are lined up

Committees so far are:

Melva - Door Prizes

Skip - Parking

Bill - Photos, fun

Randy - (Michelle's husband) - DJ

Ken - Trophies

Future committee meetings will be announced VIA email.

Next committee meeting August 18th at East Bay Deli on Dorchester/526

Duane suggested we think about doing another club activity once all this rain let's up. So, everyone think about a fun activity for us to do as a club.

Our President, Duane Helzer, adjourned the meeting and we gathered in the parking lot to admire everyone's cars.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE CLUB

Our Newest Members are:

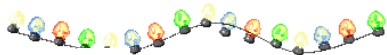
Bobby & Ginny Bruneau

James & Cheryl Russell

John & Carol Vaughan

ANNIVERSARYS

Marc & Jennifer Collins	1-Aug
Frank & Mary Shorter	7-Aug
Kyle & Tammy Hunt	17-Aug
Michael & Brenda Roach	17-Aug
John & Carol Vaughan	30-Aug
Ernie & Carol Kleppin	7-Sep
Larry & Paula Rice	9-Sep
Justin & Karmen Wood	9-Sep
Bobby & Dena LaRoche	14-Sep
Donn & Antoinette McIntyre-Biegaj	25-Sep
Michael & Karen Geringer	30-Sep



BIRTHDAYS



Walter Banks	4-Aug
Bobbie Black	8-Aug
Frank Shorter	9-Aug
Larry Hawkins	13-Aug
Kenny Rossiter	19-Aug
Sabrina Fellers	20-Aug
Debbie Herndon	20-Aug
Christy Humphries	22-Aug
Pat Silvestri	24-Aug
Clay Leaphart	28-Aug
Steve Miller	29-Aug
Ken Brinkman	2-Sep
Mike McFadden	5-Sep
Nancy Nebitt	7-Sep
Barb Dinning	9-Sep
J. Eric Lovell	9-Sep
Jordan Michael	15-Sep
David Batdorff	22-Sep
Larry Rice	25-Sep
Mary Zorich	25-Sep
Richard Chamberlain	26-Sep
Vikki Morrell	29-Sep

If I missed your birthday or anniversary please fill out the **Membership Renewal/Change Form** or email me the information needed so I can update your information.

Mail to: Ron Smith
105 Duke Ln
Ladson, SC 29456
ronsmith55@comcast.net

Local Monthly Meets

LMC – Open Cruise-in at Sonic, 660 College Park Rd, Ladson, **Sat Sep 1**, 5 – 7:30pm

Charleston Cars & Coffee; 1712 Towne Centre Way, Mt Pleasant, **Sat Sep 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**, 8 – 11am

Cars & Coffee Goose Creek; Crowfield Village Center, 431 Saint James Ave Unit G, Goose Creek, **Sat Sep 1 & 15**, 8 – 11am

Wings and Wheels!, Hosted by The Southern General, Seanachaie, and Krazy Owls, 3157 Maybank Highway, Johns Island, **Mon Sep 3**, 7 – 9pm.

Bessinger's BBQ Open Car Show, Bessinger's BBQ, 1602 Savannah Hwy, **Wed Sep 5**, 6 – 8:30pm, Registration \$5

LCMC Cruise-in at Charleston House of Pizza; 5031 Dorchester Rd, N. Charleston, **Sat Sep 8**, 5 – 9pm

Moncks Corner Cars and Coffee; Main Street, Moncks Corner, **Sat Sep 8 & 22**, 8 – 10am

Street Rods Unlimited Cruise-In; Sonic, 660 College Park Rd, Ladson, **Sat Sep 8 & 22**, 5 - 8pm

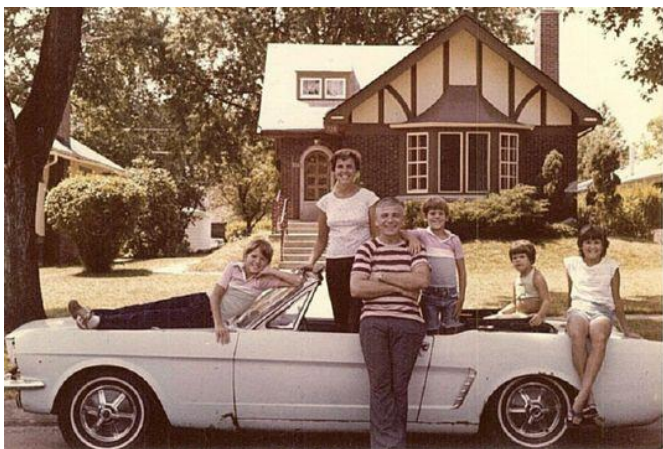
LMC - Open Cruise-in "Ride-of-the-Month" at Sonic; 660 College Park Rd, Ladson, **Sat Sep 15**, 5 – 8pm

Summerville Third Thursday Open Cruise-In; Guerin's Pharmacy, 140 S Main St, Summerville, **Thu Sep 20**, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

Walterboro Cruise-In; Hill Tire Center, 506 Robertson Blvd, Walterboro, **Sat Sep 22**, 6 – 7pm

Other Local Stuff

Camp Hope Support Party, presented by the Warhorse Brotherhood MC, Honkey Tonk Saloon, 192 College Park Rd., Ladson, **Sat Sep 15**, 3 - 7pm. Camp Hope provides interim housing for our Wounded Warriors, veterans and their families suffering from combat related PTSD in a caring and positive environment. \$10 Cover Fee. Food, Car Show, Pin Up Girl Contest and Gun Raffle (tickets sold separately).



15 April 1964 – The First One Sold

Tom and Gail Wise disagreed about whether a broken-down car should be stored in a family garage for 27 years or sold for junk. He insisted they keep it because, he promised, one day he would find the time to fix the vehicle himself.

It was her skylight blue convertible Ford Mustang, purchased at age 22 in 1964, that their family of six drove for 15 years.

One day, it just stopped running. And there it sat until Tom retired. When he started hunting for car parts on the internet, he discovered a story about someone with a similar car who claimed to be the very first Mustang owner, with a purchase date of April 16, 1964.

"Tom came to me and said, 'I think you bought the car a day earlier,'" Gail Wise recalled. "And, sure enough, he went down to the basement and found the receipt and the owner's manual. Sure enough, I had purchased the car on April 15."

They called Hagerty Classic Insurance, experts on collector cars, and learned a paper trail was essential.

"We had everything," Gail Wise said. "We didn't know it was anything special. But, we kept the new car invoice, the registered owner's manual. Tom's a saver."

So now, as Ford celebrates production of the 10 millionth Mustang, Gail Wise is back in the spotlight. She was at company headquarters last week and, from Thursday through Saturday this week, her Mustang will be on public display during the Woodward Dream Cruise at Ford's Royal Oak site at the Kruse & Muer Restaurant parking area.

"It's like being a movie star at 76," she said with a tiny laugh. "I felt like a movie star at 22 when I bought the car. I mean, that was 54 years ago and we're still talking about it."

Her story, she notes, is filled with luck and mystery.

The new third-grade teacher was living at home with her parents on the northwest side of Chicago and sharing her father's red and black 1957 Ford. But, she had accepted a job in the suburbs. So, Helen and Cleadis Brown agreed to lend their daughter money for a new car and they headed over to Johnson Ford on Cicero Avenue.

"I told the salesman I wanted a convertible and he said, 'I have none on the floor. Come into the back room, I have something special to show you,'" Gail said. "There were two Mustangs, one was a hard top. And he didn't even bother to show me that one. He lifted the tarp and I knew that convertible was for me."

Back then, new cars always came out at the end of September and Ford wanted to shock the world with an April reveal. The company had distributed Mustangs to dealerships around the country so salespeople would have something to show when Lee Iacocca unveiled the car at the World's Fair in New York on April 17, 1964.



"This was two days before, and it was all top secret," Wise said. "But, he sold it to me. I drove out of that showroom with everyone waving at me and asking me to slow down. TV ran a lot of advertisements for Mustang, but they never showed the car. They just showed the logo and said, 'It's coming.' For this to be out in April was a really, really big thing. People were so happy, giving me thumbs up, even the police. I don't remember having the top down, so it must've been cold. I wanted to keep driving, but I only had to go about 3 miles to get home."

She married two years later, bought a home and used the Mustang as a family car with four kids.

"You just didn't go out and buy new cars," Wise said. "Tom was using it for work. We could fit three kids in the back seat and I'd hold the youngest on my lap. We would go to McDonald's and eat in the car. And then one day, he pushes it into the garage. I wanted to get rid of it because we needed space for children's stuff. He kept saying, 'It's my retirement project.'"

He built an addition onto their two-car garage for the Mustang.

Today, the car has just 68,000 miles.



"When I was young and single, I enjoyed driving that car," she said. "The highways were brand new. We had no traffic and you could fly. The first time I saw that Mustang, I thought it was so sporty, with bucket seats and a transmission on the floor. Usually sports cars were expensive, and I could afford this car."

Now the fully restored (but not altered or modified) classic pony car that cost \$3,447.50 is worth \$350,000 to \$450,000, according to Jonathan Klinger, spokesman for Hagerty in Traverse City.

"It can be difficult to place a specific value on such a unique car and story. A car with significant provenance like this — being the original owner of the first-ever sold Ford Mustang — would likely have a premium of around 10 times the current market price," he said. "Enthusiasts are drawn to the bookends of models. It is stunning that the first-ever sold Mustang is still owned by its original owner."

Gail Wise said she only wishes her mom and dad could be here.

"I'd like to ask them questions," she said. "We went out on Wednesday, April 15, 1964, to buy me a car. Right in the middle of the week. They worked such long hours."

Her father worked as a cook and her mother worked as a waitress in their family-owned restaurant near Armitage and Grand avenues.

Stories about Mustangs leave even industry analysts a little stunned.

"When Mustang hit in 1964, it created a global sensation," said John McElroy, a longtime auto industry observer and "Autoline" host. "It created a frenzy. It was a car designed and developed by young people, hotshots. Ford blew through production estimates, selling like 600,000 the first year."

The insane love for Mustang reflects nostalgia for a time when the muscle car war was just getting going and America had a can-do attitude before Vietnam and Watergate.

"I remember when I was a little kid, Dad worked for Ford and brought it home on a Friday night and I remember getting up on Saturday morning and going and sitting in the car for hours," McElroy said. "I was, like, 11 years old. We lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was the only Mustang in the country, and when we drove, it was like the day the Earth stood still. Everybody was paralyzed looking at this car."

So, it's no surprise to anyone that Gail Brown stopped traffic in Chicago.

"When you look back at the history of the Mustang, the very first car was purchased by a young professional that totally represented that era. Is there a more perfect person?" said Ted Ryan, Ford historian, whose father had a 1965 yellow Mustang. "America had a sense of optimism. Baby boomers were coming of age. Mustang was this beautiful combination of time and place."

Ford invited Tom and Gail Wise to come to Detroit this month to celebrate the Mustang milestone, and the Dearborn-based company shipped the Mustang out from Illinois.

"It's just amazing that this Mustang has been built continuously all these years," said Tom Wise, 76, an electrical engineer who served in the U.S. Navy as a submariner in the Atlantic. "Ford builds a reliable car."

Their garage these days houses a 2013 Ford Escape and a 2015 Ford Edge. They can't believe that, for so many years, the family stacked lawn chairs on the Mustang.

"Anything you didn't want on the garage floor, it was piled high on the car," Gail Wise said. "Tom drives us now. I saw how hard he worked to put this car together. I don't want to be the one to put a dent in it."

Just for Fun!

Must Have Been True!

Bubba died in a fire and his body was burned pretty badly. The morgue needed someone to identify the body, so they sent for his two best friends, Darryl and Gary. The three men had always done everything together.

Darryl arrived first and when the mortician pulled back the sheet Darryl said, "Yup, his face is burned up pretty bad. You better roll him over."

The mortician rolled him over, and Darryl said, "Nope, ain't Bubba."

The mortician thought this was rather strange. Then he brought Gary in to identify the body.

Gary looked at the body and said, "Yup he's pretty well burnt up. Roll him over." The mortician rolled him over and Gary said, "No, it ain't Bubba."

The mortician asked, "How can you tell?"

Gary said, "Well, Bubba had two assholes."

"What? He had two assholes?" asked the mortician.

Yup, I've never seen 'em, but everyone knew he had two assholes. Every time we went to town, folks would say, "Here comes Bubba with them two assholes!"

Oh, Deer!

While riding my Harley the other day, I swerved to avoid hitting a deer, lost control and landed in a ditch, severely banging my head. Dazed and confused, I crawled out of the ditch to the edge of the road when a shiny new convertible pulled up with a very beautiful woman who asked, "Are you okay?"

As I looked up, I noticed she was wearing a low-cut blouse with cleavage to die for. "I'm okay I think," I replied as I pulled myself up to the side of the car to get a closer look.

She said, "Get in and I'll take you home so I can clean and bandage that nasty scrape on your head."

"That's nice of you," I answered, but I don't think my wife will like me doing that!

"Oh, come now, I'm a nurse," she insisted. "I need to see if you have any more scrapes and then treat them properly."

Well, she was really pretty and very persuasive. Being sort of shaken and weak, I agreed, but repeated, "I'm sure my wife won't like this."

We arrived at her place which was just few miles away and, after a couple of cold beers and the bandaging, I thanked her and said, "I feel a lot better, but I know my wife is going to be really upset so I'd better go now."

"Don't be silly!" she said with a smile, while unbuttoning her blouse exposing the most beautiful set I've ever seen. "Stay for a while. She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"Still in the ditch with my bike I guess."

Editor's Notes

That was an interesting committee meeting last night! Never expected there to be so many members attending a committee meeting! It was really good to see. Touched on a lot of good information, got some flyers handed out (not as many as I thought!). I'll have the remainder of them with me at the meeting on the 28th.

As for the Sponsor Sheets, Joe has them and I'm sure will have them at the meeting, also.

If you are selling, trading, searching for something special and would like it in our classifieds, send it to us! If there is a special article or topic you like to see in the newsletter please let us know! Do you have a favorite Mustang story you would like to share, let us know! Or just anything you would like to share with the club, please email information to ronsmith55@comcast.net.

The only restriction we have is that we keep the total pages to 12 (that's 6 pages both sides).

Smitty

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