

# Mustangs Make Shriners Shine!

By L. Wayne Allen  
For The Mustang Times

What's in a name?

Sometimes more than meets the eye.

The YAARAB Temple Regal Unit is a perfect example. This specialized "club" consists of dedicated Shriners who donate their time and use of their personal automobiles to help crippled and burned children through the facilities of the 19 Shrine orthopaedic hospitals and three burn institutes in North America.

But what does a "Regal Unit" have to do with Mustangs?

That's an interesting story.

In 1982, the YAARAB Temple Shrine Motor Corps of Atlanta, GA. decided to form a specialized automobile precision driving team, to compete in precision drill and obstacle course competition with fellow Shrine Units and Clubs across North America. The goal of the group was to benefit the primary charity of Shriners, crippled and burned children.

The automobile chosen by the group was the 1983 Buick Regal. But 1983 was a year of "convertible scarcity" and the 16 identical Buick Regals were customized from factory-delivered hardtops into beautiful and impressive convertibles.

Thus the name "Regal Unit."

Even though the Regal Unit of the YAARAB Temple was able to compete with the best of them, there were some desirable features missing from the automobiles being used.

In 1986, the group began an earnest search for replacement convertibles which would not only provide the continuing showmanship and flashiness the characterized the group, but also one which would retain its value and popularity while providing high performance to its well trained and demanding driving team.

The 1987 Mustang GT Convertible was their choice, and a wise one it was. The high performance 5.0 liter engine, along with the beauty and eye-catching popular appeal of this automobile has earned the group many awards and accolades. Specifically, the Atlanta group won the Southeastern and National Championship for both the Obstacle Course and Precision Driving competition among Shrine Motor Corps throughout the USA and Canada. An outstanding accomplishment and a testimony to the performance of the Mustang!

Winning this title is no simple task. Not only is the driving team subjected to "military style" personal inspections, but the automobiles are closely inspected with "white glove" precision for cleanliness and identical comparativeness between the automobiles. (Judges have even been known to deduct points because radios in two of the identical cars are set to different stations!)

During the judging of the precision driving competition, "precision" is the key. Executing a well-practiced series of difficult and impressive maneuvers, the driving team is rated on its driving skills, timeliness, difficulty and precision of maneuvers, showmanship and audience appeal. Rules governing the competition are very strict, allowing from 4-12 vehicles to perform on a field which is only 150 feet by 300 feet. Time limitations of a minimum of five minutes but no more than 10 adds pressure and excitement to the performance. This event provides quite a show.

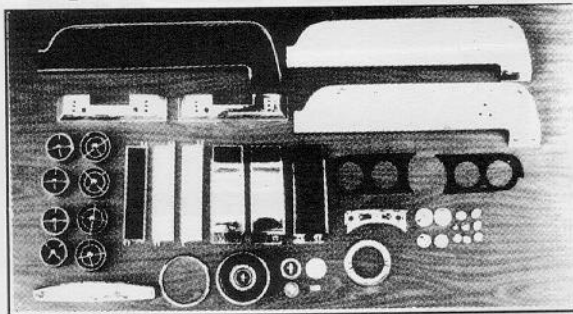
And the obstacle course is even more exciting. This is where the high performance Mustang GT Convertible "shows its power and maneuverability." Based on speed and accurate precision driving through a maze of pylons, the Mustang GT Convertible shines like a star in this competition.

So, keep your eyes on the International Champions of the YAARAB Temple Regal Unit, as they "Ride So Crippled Children May Walk." With dedicated Shriners such as this, YAARAB Temple of Atlanta should be extremely proud.

More than 350,000 children have been helped by Shriners' Hospitals, and with the dedication of the Regal Unit, it is certain that thousands more will benefit from the efforts of the Shriners in years to come.

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