

Georgia Regional Visits *World of Wheels*

by Brad Bowling



It's difficult to explain *World of Wheels* to someone who has never been to one of the car-packed events. WOW is a traveling road show featuring cars, barely-clothed women, cars, trucks, cars, loud music, cars, and more cars. A good subtitle would be "A Room Full of Things Men Lust After" or perhaps "All This Could Be Yours If Only You Had Money."

Entering the huge, smoke-filled auditorium can be compared to a child's first visit to Disneyworld. Instead of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, you find girls called "Hooters" wearing orange shorts and tight T-shirts dancing on top of a local radio station's van. Women wrestlers take the place of Bear Jamboree and Hall of Presidents.

Carry a bag with you as you walk down row after row of vendors' stands; everybody gives away bumper stickers, posters, brochures, and, if you are lucky, free sets of tires, oil, cars, jackets, T-shirts, and go-karts.

It's easy to get lost in the football field-size room. If you do stray too far from familiar territory look for landmarks. Over there's the world's largest Miller beer can standing high above the crowd so I must be near the display of Miller-sponsored race cars. Several aisles away from the BIG CAN is Goodyear's answer to the question "But what if someone *did* need a tire to fit a 12-foot tall wheel?"

To continue with the automotive similes, it's also possible to compare WOW to the United Nations. The Italians were well-represented. Three Lamborghinis (a Countach, a Miura, and the truly hard-to-believe four-wheel-drive V-12 powered Cheetah) represented more than a quarter of a million dollars and over 1,000 horsepower. Several Ferraris of various ages were in attendance; the Testarossa, Mondial, 400, and friends were just across the aisle from the only Korean delegate, Hyundai. The Germans brought up the other side of the Koreans with a passle of Porsche 911s.

And, scattered around the floor, possibly to keep the foreigners under control, were pockets of decidedly American activity. Street rods, antique cars, pony cars, and examples of past and modern muscle were displayed as shining examples of domestic pride.

Perhaps the proudest assembly was the Georgia Regional club's corral of show ponies. Lee Mathias's '65 Shelby (a recent *Mustang Times* cover car), David Osborn's '69 Shelby, Joe Prussiano's '69 Boss 302, Don Perry's Paxton-powered '68 Shelby convertible, and Bob Deale's '64½ convertible made up an eye-catching display that earned each of the cars an individual trophy in its class.

A blue '67 convertible with "WIN THIS CAR" spelled across the windshield was a non-judged part of Georgia Regional's corral. It is the give-away car for the Foothills Mustang Club's Grand National to take place September 2, 3, and 4. Over 2,000 tickets were sold during the weekend and proceeds will benefit various Meals on Wheels organizations (appropriate group for a car club to be affiliated with). For more information about this car or the Grand National show, refer to the January 1988 issue of *Mustang Times*. The blue '67 was not the only car at the show being given away. A Callaway Corvette was being raffled for \$5 a shot and an '88 Saleen Mustang was part of Motorcraft's sweepstakes contest.

Another nifty item at WOW: exhibitors got their own buffet. One room overlooking the main floor was seen by many as refuge from the smoke and noise. The food was great (and all-you-can-eat) and many of the Georgia Regional people spent a great deal of time recuperating there.

Several Ford dealers were set up, including Bleakley Ford (sporting two Saleen convertibles and an ASC/McLaren) and Bill Elliott Ford (displaying a special edition T-bird that resembled a NASCAR racer).

During the trophy announcements, the bikini-clad trophy girl mysteriously wound up wearing Lee Mathias's Mustang Farm cap after his visit to the stage.

Sunday night, displays came down and the trailers came in to take everything home. You can't imagine the noise of all those high-performance cars and race-built engines firing up inside what is basically an echo-chamber-turned-garage.

Next year, there will be an all-new group of cars behind the Georgia Regional banner and there will no doubt be another bunch of trophies to bring home.

MT



Gulf Coast Region Mustang Club

by June Raybon, President

Greetings and happy Mustanging from the greatest and fastest growing Mustang club in the South.

Our club continues to grow in number of members, activities, and participation. This pleases me very much. As a club we do more than hold a monthly meeting and a yearly show; we get involved in community projects such as the fund-raiser at Christmas which benefitted an orphanage in the Pensacola area. We all had a great time collecting money and food, and buying gifts for the eleven children of that home.

The length of this article prohibits mentioning many of the things we do but we are a busy, happy group. Probably one of the best things about our group is the wonderful fellowship we enjoy with each other.

By the time this comes out in print our 9th annual Mustang show will be history. Much of our time and energy in recent months has been given to the organizing of our show; we really do believe this is our best effort yet. We wish all of you Mustangers could attend. We promise all the good things you have enjoyed in previous years

plus new items of interest. Not the least of which is our wonderful, super, absolutely positively one-of-a-kind Mustang. Only seeing it will be believing it. Watch this magazine for more on this Mustang; all of you who can't attend our show definitely need to know all about this super car and how it came to be.

Our 1988 show has been sponsored in part by Flammer-Beckford Ford Company of Milton, Florida. (Milton is about 20 miles from Pensacola.) We are extremely fortunate to have secured this sponsor. Most of us walked around about 10 feet off the ground for a week after we received word from this firm that we would have their support. We are very proud to include them in our activities and festivities.

Be sure to watch for the new owner's name of the marvelous raffle car. All of you who have purchased your tickets by mail, thanks so much. Somebody will win our finest give-away car yet; will it be you? Our greatest wish is that the winner will truly appreciate this fine Mustang.

Have a happy and safe spring and summer and just keep on being a happy Mustanger.

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