

Mustang History

by Tony Garcia
MCA Historian



The 1985 Mustang GT Convertible

The 1985 Mustangs marked one of the most significant years in the modern day muscle car wars. In 1982 the announcement was made that "The Boss Is Back", and thus began the 5.0 liter engine that saw its way into thousands of Mustangs through 1995.

In 1983, the Mustang was offered with the 302 rated at 175 horsepower with a 600cfm Holley 4-barrel. In 1984, Ford offered automatic transmissions on GT's but only when equipped with an electronic throttle body fuel injection. But, power was down as a result to 165 horses. Yet, injection was required to make the auto-equipped cars meet Federal emission standards. In that same year, 5-speed cars retained the 600 Holley.

1985 saw the Mustang become a serious player in the horsepower wars. Ford decided to do

just what Chevrolet did back in 1967 with their first Z28. They used classic hot rod tricks to breathe new life into a proven performer.

Stainless steel tubular headers and a true dual exhaust on 5-speed cars helped kick the horsepower up to 210! A number that was never really significantly surpassed, not even by the 1996 two-cam engine.

A hot 'roller' cam with new hydraulic roller lifters was also used in 1985 for the first time. It proved to be a system that is now the only way to go on any pushrod V-8. Even leather interior was first available in Mustangs that year.

But despite all the 'firsts' offered in 1985, one of the most significant factors of the year was that it was your LAST chance to buy a carbureted Mustang.

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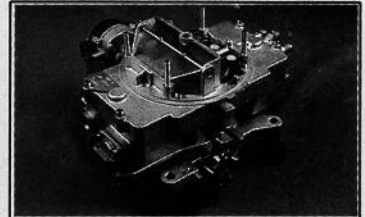


Fellow Mustang enthusiast and MCA member Terry McCoy has owned several Fox chassis Mustangs. His favorites are the 1985 GT convertibles. And why not, since convertibles are the essence of the free spirit that Mustangs represent?

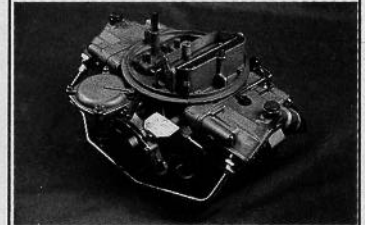
Terry keeps the 1985 Mustang GT Registry. His research shows that 156,514 Mustangs were produced that year. Of that total, less than 10 percent (15,110) were

convertibles. Further research showed 5,549 GT convertibles were built with 145 of those shipped abroad. Terry is currently working on the breakdown of 5-speeds vs. auto and has promised that information to us soon.

You can contact Terry McCoy at
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