



Jim and Rick Schmidt of National Parts Depot

# Silver Springs Round Up

NPD'S 13TH YEAR SPONSORING THE FIRST SHOW OF THE SEASON. Text and Photos by Mary Jean Wesche

For the past 13 years, National Parts Depot has sponsored the Ford & Mustang Round Up at Silver Springs in Ocala, Florida. The show has grown to well over 1,500 Ford-powered vehicles.

The weather was Chamber-of-Commerce perfect with temperatures in the high 70's all weekend. With the exception of a brief shower at the end of the day on Saturday, the sun was shining, and the people were smiling. During that brief shower, at least before it really poured, the place to be was near the exit road. There was a parade of cars leaving Silver Springs that was a real treat to see.

We managed to get father and son, Jim and Rick Schmidt, to stop long enough to take the above photo. The '68 GT500KR they're standing with became the family car when Jim brought it home in the 1970's. Quite a grocery-getter! It's absolutely perfect, as are all the cars in the Schmidt collection. Jim and Rick are terrific hosts and do an outstanding job with the Round Up.

Three years into sponsoring Silver

Springs's show, Rick and Jim decided to offer free registration to the first 500 cars pre-registered, with the intention to make the show free for as many participants as possible. The promotion was a huge success as each year the show has grown by 100-200 cars. Now, the first 1,000 pre-registered vehicles pay no fees. Rumor had it that those 1,000 slots were filled before Labor Day 2006 for this January's show. The popularity of this show is spreading. This year, 19 states were represented.

On Friday, 100-plus cars participated in *Mustang Monthly's* Pony Trails led by editor, Donald Farr. Saturday, more than 1,000 vehicles entered the Silver Springs Park before the 10:00 a.m. registration deadline. After getting cars wiped down and situated in place throughout the beautiful grounds, participants and visitors had plenty to keep them busy all weekend.

In addition to the incredible display of Ford-powered vehicles, visiting the park is a fantastic way to spend a day. Silver Springs is a nature theme park on

350 acres surrounded by the Silver River, which is the largest artesian spring formation in the world. Silver Springs features views of the underground springs from their glass-bottom boats giving you the opportunity to see fish, shellfish, turtles, and alligators. The park also has wild life consisting of Birds of Prey, snakes, reptiles, giraffes and bears. There are restaurants, gift and souvenir shops, rides and exhibits all in a natural setting that is relaxing and beautiful.

Strolling through the park viewing all the cars and trucks of every generation, you can't help but have a great time. Mark Houlahan, Editor of *Mustang & Fords* and Donald Farr, Editor of *Mustang Monthly* were in attendance, taking plenty of photos and talking with participants. They also each chose a car for their Editor's Choice awards. The list of winners is on page 18. Heacock Classic (formerly Parish-Heacock Classic Car Insurance also presented an award for Best Preserved Mustang. Balloting for the remaining awards is done by popular vote.

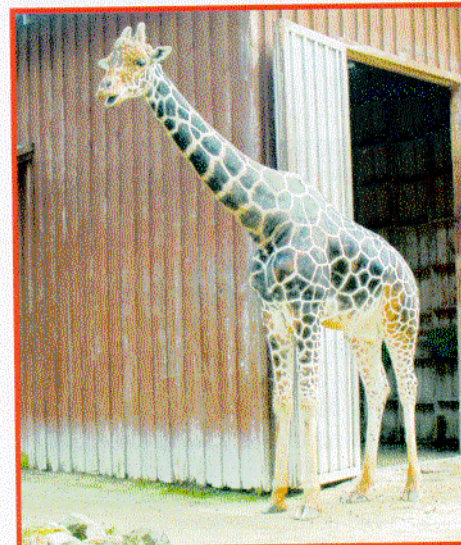




Watching the cars drive in from registration gave us a good view of most of the entrants.



Nearly everyone was wiping down their car first thing each morning.



No trip to Silver Springs is ever complete without visiting the giraffes. I think he was trying to speak.



Took a walk out toward registration to say hi to NPD's Scott Halseth, also an MCA judge, just as this Roush 427R was driving in.



Silver Springs' famous glass-bottom boats traverse on the Silver River giving riders the opportunity to see the underwater springs and wildlife.



OK, I know it's not a Mustang, but it is beautiful.



If you get tired, or just want to sit and rest a bit, there are plenty of comfortable chairs on the docks of the riverbanks.



Couldn't believe we saw three Roush 427R's; this one's a convertible.



Before you think I lost my mind, I know it's also not a Mustang. It's a 1915 Ford!



This Foose Mustang captured much attention.



Not your typical 1971 Mach 1, neat paint job!



This Cobra II is in awesome condition. What show would be complete without a few Mustang IIs?





John Erdle's '04 Roush 440A. Look for a feature in a future issue.



Three different scales of Indy Pace Car Mustangs, pedal, Junior, and the real McCoy!



Junior even got covered up when the rains came on Saturday afternoon.



The crowd gathered at the base of the stage for the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.



The Best Mustang award to be presented by NPD.

## NPD 13TH ANNUAL FORD & MUSTANG CAR SHOW WINNERS

Mustang & Fords editor's choice .....Jimmy Voyles '66 Fastback, red  
 Mustang Monthly editor's choice .....Dominec Greco, '65 Fastback  
 Young Owner's choice .....Brittany Murphy, '73 Comet  
 Heacock Classic Best Preserved Ford .....Jim Broady, '69 Cougar XR7  
 Heacock Classic Best Preserved Mustang .....Bob Richards, '82 Mustang GT

### Balloted Awards..... Name, Hometown, Model & Color

1964-1/2 to 66 Mustang: ... Jim Lane, Chulota FL, '66 GT Fastback, red  
 1967 to 68 Mustang:..... Ricky Moss, Stanley NC, '67 Mustang, blue  
 1969 to 70 Mustang:..... Scott & Emily Kroger, Daytona Beach FL, '70 Mach I, blue  
 1971 to 73 Mustang:..... Bob Chrisman, Fruitland Park FL, '71 Mach I, red  
 1974 to 86 Mustang:..... Tony Thompson, Proctorville OH, '78 King Cobra, white  
 1987 to 93 Mustang:..... Ben Launerts, Coral Springs FL, '93 Cobra, teal  
 1994 to 98 Mustang:..... Steve Procko, Stuart FL, '97 Cobra, red  
 1999 to 2004 Mustang:..... Kibbie Fulton, Sarasota FL, '99 GT, black  
 2005-up Mustang:..... Tammy Beloney, Pensacola FL, '05 Boss Shinoda, yellow  
 Pantera:..... Ken & Laura Costa, Eustis FL, '72 Pantera, blue & orange  
 1965 to 70 Shelby:..... Jane Lewis, Fernandina Beach FL, '68 GT350, red  
 2007-up Shelby:..... Cindee Rowe, Yulee FL, '07 Shelby, gray  
 Saleen:..... Paul Thomas, Tequesta FL, '05 Saleen, yellow  
 Falcon/Comet:..... Mike Dove, Covington GA, '65 Falcon, red  
 Exotic:..... Peter Leonard, St Augustine FL, '05 Cobra Coupe, blue  
 Cobra Replica:..... Rich Scherer, Daytona Beach FL, '66 Cobra, titanium  
 Pre-1948 Ford:..... Joe Letts, Crystal River FL, '27 Model T, wineberry  
 Post-1948 Ford:..... Wayne Newkirk, Jacksonville FL, '57 Custom 300, blue  
 Street Rod:..... Fred Golsner, Dunnellon FL, '39 2 door coupe, tangerine  
 Truck 1948-79:..... John Maffucci, Dawsonville GA, '55 F-100, tungsten gray  
 Truck 1980-Present:..... Rob James, Longwood FL, '00 Lightning, silver  
 T-Bird 1955-57:..... Don Snyder, Leesburg FL, '55 T-bird, red  
 T-Bird 1958-Present:..... Rick Hawthorne, Largo FL, '59 T-bird convertible, blue  
 Cougar:..... Phil Elder, Clermont FL, '70 Eliminator, yellow  
 Maverick/Comet:..... Ken Garmany, Ocoee FL, '72 Maverick, yellow & black  
 Roush:..... Ronny Mason, Apopka FL, '05 Stage 1, blue  
 Best Mustang:..... Jim Goldade, Spring Hill FL, '65 Fastback, white  
 Best Ford:..... Joe Letts, Crystal River FL, '27 Model T, wineberry  
 Best of Show:..... Richard Brandl, Hudson, '39 Zephyr, black

The MCA had a booth set up to sign up new members. Dave Siegel from Boca Raton, and Pat and Merv Rego, National Directors of the MCA from Lakeland, aptly manned the booth. They managed to sign up 59 new members, a few of which joined for five years. Thanks to all of you for doing a wonderful job of representing MCA!

We wandered around the show field for two days, meeting some of the nicest

people and taking in the beautiful surroundings. Of course, everyone stops by to see the giraffes, and some even to feed these awesome creatures. There is no reason not to enjoy yourself at this event. Here's a sampling of the magnificent Mustangs we saw.

If you get the chance, plan to take a trip to Florida the first weekend in January and attend the NPD Silver Springs Round Up. You'll not be disappointed. **MT**