

## MARK RENO'S '67 COUPE

Mark Reno sent us a letter and this photo of his '67 coupe. It's equipped with a 289, an automatic transmission, and a few other options. His parents bought him this Mustang for \$800 in 1979. Mark has owned it ever since.

The Mustang has been in the restoration process. Mark says, "I do have some work left to do, although it always seems to get put to the bottom of the list because of family needs. But she is a pretty nice car, and I am real proud of her."

The interior is all new and the body work and paint have stood up well over the last 15 years. Mark informed us that his Mustang is always garage stored.



## A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Most consider a 500+ horsepower Mustang to be a gas guzzling, impractical toy for those with money to burn. However, I may have a story of interest to prove that this is not always true.

This is actually two stories rolled into one. In my 59 years, three previous times, I had occasion to find that Shelbys were just beyond my reach. The first time in high school, when the GT 350's came out, the second time when the used ones were finally affordable to me but no longer practical with a wife and children, and the third time when the kids were out of school and the restored Shelbys were commanding six figures. When Ford announced that they were bringing back Shelbys a little while ago, I was determined that I would not be denied four times in a row.

However, as we all know, a nice color Shelby Convertible is commanding 25 to 40K over sticker and it appeared once more that I would be denied. However, the Mechanical Engineer in me kicked in and I figured out how to get my dream for under 45K. I took advantage of the end of the year zero-percent financing and bought an end of the year 2006 GT Convertible and converted the exterior into a GT500 Clone for about \$5,800. That of course would only be marginally newsworthy at best. However, using my skills as a Mechanical Engineer, I researched just the right combination of performance options and added an intercooled Vortec Supercharger, Diablo Sport tuning, low resistance intake, and 3-chamber, axle-back exhaust, to create a Mustang with 440 wheel horsepower that consistently averages over 22 mph.

This entire performance package costs less than \$6,500. The net result was a car that would rival almost any super car, for less than \$45,000.

At 59 years old, I admit that I no longer take off like I am in a race from every red light. However, I do not go out of my way to get this kind of mileage. Would this be news worthy? Lane Singletary, a writer for the *News & Observer* (Raleigh, NC), who is a fellow Mustang nut, verified all of this and put the attached article in the local paper. I have a feeling that if folks knew that they could own one of the world's fastest cars as an every day driver for under \$45,000 (and get great gas mileage), it might attract some positive attention from those who had had the misfortune to drive "other" types of transportation.

—Lewis O'Leary