

Mustangs Northwest's 26th Annual Roundup



By Vicki Couture & Kevin Crader

For the past 26 years, Mustangs Northwest—a Seattle-based Mustang & Cougar club—has hosted “The World’s Largest Annual Gathering of Mustangs®” on the third weekend of July. In 2006, the four fun-filled days of Mustang bliss began with a track day on Thursday, July 13th at Pacific Raceway in Kent, Washington.

Miraculously, for an area known for its web-footed inhabitants, July is quite beautiful and this weekend in particular never fails to delight show attendees. With the exception of Thursday’s track day, which did provide some of that liquid sunshine we are known for, the weekend weather was spectacular beginning with Pony Trails on Friday.

Pony Trail’s co-chairs, Mark Wade and Dick Knight, did an outstanding job planning the route. Everything was well organized and all the groups hit the road without a hitch. Beginning at Bellevue Community College, our trip took us eastward toward Issaquah. From there we began a beautiful and leisurely country drive up to Mud Mountain Dam. Once we arrived at our destination, we were rewarded with breathtaking scenery. Shorter than usual, the drive took less than one hour one way, which gave people more time to relax and to explore the wonderful surroundings. The park was large and grassy with more than enough room for all of our fabulous Mustangs to park. There were plenty of things for kids to do with a play area that included a wading pool with a fountain. The park had several nice picnic shelters with barbeques and clean restrooms.

The beautiful grounds were well maintained by the Seattle-based Army Corp of Engineers, who, by the way, were quite excited to have us there.

The food vendor chosen for Roundup was on site when we arrived and ready to serve barbequed pork, burgers, and dogs. Our own Tack Shack had also arrived ahead of time and was overwhelmed with shoppers purchasing event t-shirts and other goodies.

The shorter trip was welcomed by most, particularly by those who still had a car to clean for Saturday’s Judged Show. Attendance was down a bit this year, gas prices may have played a role in that, but there were still an impressive 220 Mustangs that made the trip—not a bad showing.

There was a strong turnout for the Saturday’s Judged Show. Eighty cars were registered, and the judging teams along with a lot of the car owners worked together to judge all of these wonderful cars.

Being part of the judging team, whether a head judge, an assistant judge, or even a scribe, is a learning process in several ways. First of all, it is a great way to hang out with friends and meet new ones in this day-long process. The second, and most informative part of the process, is when one gets to judge cars that are similar to their own. Going over the other vehicles is an opportunity to learn what more can be done to one’s own car and also what parts may be missing from the vehicle. Another reason to enter your car in the judged show is that your chances of taking home a trophy go up considerably; and Mustangs Northwest always has some pretty awesome trophies. Why would your chances go up? Well, since

your car is being judged against a standard, and not in competition against the other vehicles, it’s pretty much up to you how well your car scores points.

On Sunday, we had a great showing for the People’s Choice Show. The excitement and teamwork was strong with a wide variety of cars in all years and colors from both vendors and participants. In the center courtyard, there was a display of new Shelby GT 500 and Hertz Rental cars. They were really sweet and drew in a lot of onlookers.

Saleen was a major sponsor of Roundup again this year. Steve and Liz Saleen were unable to attend due to a commitment with the Saleen S7 Racing Team in Germany. We were very fortunate to get a look at the new S331, Saleen’s unbelievably fabulous new truck and they also provided a new Speedlab Yellow S281 Extreme for our viewing pleasure.

There were also some kids that were getting into the act as well, by building their own cars for our annual model car contest. Those were judged by Restomod Judge, Bob Doran.

And while the day was filled with good times and sharing the awesome weather with friends, Bill Johnson had a special recognition of three individuals who were either club members or friends of the club, Tom Sensabaugh, Di Albert, and Ric Kolb. We all took a moment to reflect on the impact of these wonderful folks and the memories we shared.

We invite you all to come to our 27th Annual Roundup on July 12 – 15 to see it for yourselves; you won’t be disappointed. For information check our website for updates at www.mustangsnorthwest.com.