

# Choices, Choices, Choices

**M**y all-time favorite Mustang is Shelby's 1968 GT500KR. Next is a Fox-Body Saleen. Ever since I went to the New York World's Fair in high school, I have always loved Mustangs. Nearly had a '68 KR, but let's not travel down that road right now!

If you keep abreast of automotive news by reading the newspapers and automotive magazines or watching TV, especially Speed TV, then you know that right now there are more choices of Mustangs for the enthusiast to buy than probably ever before in history.

When I first learned to appreciate automobiles the styles changed every year. And, since my parents were prone to changing cars every two years (only once sooner because my mother hated the color so much she couldn't wait), I never got too attached to any of them. (I won't even go into the car I got my license in! It wasn't a Ford, and it was the ugliest car on the planet. Thank goodness that's gone now!)

Anyhow, when Ford came out with the 1982 Mustang, I was so excited. As the Fox Body evolved, I became more and more enthralled. When I saw the photos of the 1987 Saleen in Automobile magazine, I was hooked—big time! My husband bought me one without ever seeing one in person, let alone drive or ride in one—that's really hooked!

Whenever Ford comes out with a new design for the Mustang, I try not to look too hard. There will invariably be renderings from nearly every corner of the country, as well as from across the big pond! With all the hype, all the speculation, and all the false information and renderings of the SN95, I decided that I didn't like it before the car was introduced. It was too big, it wasn't any longer a Mustang, etc., etc. Then in 1994 came the Anniversary show in Charlotte and the Saleen display! Oops, shouldn't have even looked. As I told Steve Saleen then, I really didn't want to change my mind, I didn't want to like the "new" Mustang. So, what do I drive everyday? A 1996 Saleen Speedster! And, I love it! Thank you, Mr. Coletti!

A few years later, along came the "New Edge" design! Well, in the garage is a "New Edge" Saleen, a really nice, powerful, and totally collectible Saleen S351! And, then we saw the S197! Most people who like early Mustangs like this design. Drive one—Ford's done their homework. But, the thing that I find most interesting is the choices we have!

As with the muscle car era, there's Saleen, Steeda, Roush, Foose, Ronale, and on, and on! Surely we'll see the return of the Boss, a Bullitt, and/or a Mach. And let's not forget Shelby. First he introduces the GT500, which has Mustang enthusiasts salivating. Then comes the '06 GT-H on the 40th anniversary of the 1966 GT350H! Next, he introduces the GT500 convertible. When the GT-H comes out of the rental fleet from Hertz to be auctioned to dealers, to be sold to consumers, Shelby brings out the GT-H convertible. Just as our heads quit spinning, here comes the 2008 GT500KR! It has everything—so much of the retro look of the 1968 and all of the updated engineering marvels of today, and horsepower—that I think I'm going to be sick!

Saleen introduced a limited-edition Parnelli Jones, a one-off Saleen S281-E which will be awarded to the winner of the cross-country race reminiscent of "Gumball Rally." To add to the angst of the Mustang enthusiast, Roush introduced a limited-edition BlackJack.

Well, I haven't even touched on the aftermarket! Every possible piece of equipment to upgrade or personalize your Mustang is on the market today! What choices we have. How fortunate we are! What's a Mustang fanatic to do? Of course we all want one of everything, well almost all of us. But, we also know that's not practical, at all! Since most of us don't have the income of Jay Leno, nor his garage in which to store all those wonderful vehicles, we'll take much pleasure in seeing the smiles on the faces of those who drive these fantastic displays of automobile design and engineering.

I'm quite happy with my Mustangs, and someday soon will add another to our stable to retire the current daily driver. And I'll continue to remain happy for all of the choices we have, and mostly the ability we have to share those choices with others in the hobby!

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