

Valley Forge Mustang Show

by Betty Shingle, VFMC President

Sunday, May 25th was a bright, sunny, and cool day. The perfect weather for a Mustang Show. We left home at 6:30 a.m. thinking we would have until 9:00 a.m. to get everything for the show set up and organized! Boy, were we wrong! I forgot how anxious Mustang owners are to get to a show and prepare their Mustangs. By 8:20 a.m., Mustangs had begun pouring in. We did manage to have the field set up and ready to go.

Last year, 157 Mustangs were registered for our show. This year, we hoped to break last years record by registering at least 160 Mustangs. We all felt we had a good shot at it because of a favorable weather forecast. Well, we were slightly wrong again, but in a good way.

For more than three and one-half hours, there was a steady stream of Mustangs driving in to register. By noontime, we had registered 201 Mustangs! We're so delighted that we broke all of the club's previous records.

This year we presented three awards for each class and one President's Choice Award. We also added a Shelby/Saleen/Roush class. One little boy, only four years old, drove his electric Mustang through registration. To no one's surprise, he was one of our winners. Kudos to the members of the Valley Forge Mustang Club for another successful car show.

THIS YEAR'S SHOW WINNERS WERE:

1ST GENERATION	Bill & Maggie Proctor Lloyd Brown Alan & Lois Orenstein	5TH GENERATION	Tommy Lee Cindy Brownback Ron Adams Sean Axe (four years old)
2ND GENERATION	Samuel McDonough Joan Aberts	SHELBY/ROUSH/SALEEN	Fran Thompson Bill Smart James Kerper
3RD GENERATION	Lisa Sams Mark Morrison Michael Schmidt	PRESIDENT'S CHOICE	Donnie Huth 1997 Mustang Cobra
4TH GENERATION	Mike Thrasher Karen Baum Rich Crouse		



Dave Shingle (r), Show Chairman presents Cindy Brownback from Gap, PA. an award for her 2009 Warriors In Pink Mustang.



Four-year-old Sean Axe was a winner in the 5th Generation Class.

3rd Annual Alex's Lemonade Stand and Car Show

by Bob Parsons and Jackie Dahlen

On September 13, 2008, 11-year-old Riley Gillespie held the 3rd Annual Alex's Lemonade Stand and Car Show at the Maple Point Middle School in Langhorne, PA. With assistance from the Valley Forge Mustang Club, Riley raised \$10,000 to fight childhood cancer.

Riley and his family did a terrific job putting this year's show together. They had games for the kids, food vendors,



a bake table, 50/50, raffle table items, a great DJ who played Mustang Sally at our request, the local fire department, Neshaminy High School cheerleaders, Boomer - the cow, a red robin and, of course, lots of lemonade. They certainly surpassed last year's stand and car show which consisted of 18 cars parked on Riley's street in his neighbors' driveways. Last year's show had one Honoree, Jeremy Garcia who is currently cancer-free. This year, in addition to Jeremy, Riley honored Leah Chapman and Dayna Irwin, two 14-year-old girls who are currently receiving chemo treatments.



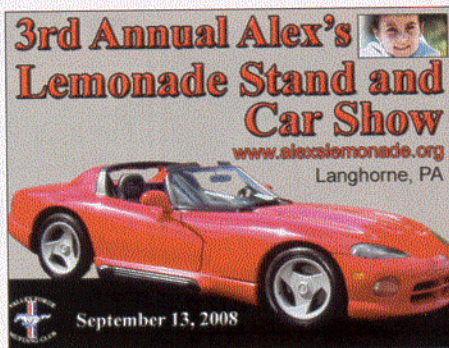
We had a great turn out including VFMC members David & Betty Shingle, Karen Baum, Jackie Dahlen, Tommy and Mary Lee, Greg Bean, Bob and Teresa Parsons, Rusty Glessner, Ken and Sue Lessig, Mark Pellechio, as well as our



friends from the Bad Pony Club, Ken McCauley and Maggie. Natalie Gomez and Donald Gatenby were unable to attend, but each made a donation and so were there in spirit.

We all met at the Oxford Valley Mall and galloped over in a herd. We drove up to the school and made the turn up the long winding driveway and into the parking lot and were greeted by loud cheers and a standing ovation from the crowd. The feeling we experienced from this just cannot be described! They really love the Mustangs.

There were well over 40 cars registered for the car show. VFMC was a sponsor of the show by donating the dash plaques.



(In case you're wondering, although VFMC sponsored the dash plaques, the Viper pictured on it won Best in Show at Riley's show last year and that's the car he wanted on the plaques. We'll have to work on him to see if we can put a Mustang on next year!)

The week before the show, Nancy Gillespie (Riley's mother) asked Jackie if any members had a red Mustang because the one Honoree, Dayna Irwin, just loves red Mustangs. Jackie checked the list and saw Ken and Sue Lessig were planning to attend with their '09 Candy

Apple Red GT/CS. When we arrived at the show, Dayna was nowhere around. Nancy informed Jackie that she had her chemo treatment on Friday and was having a tough time. Her father was brought her over to the show later on; it was really great that Ken was able to take Dayna and Riley for a ride. She is such a beautiful girl. And I'm sure getting a ride in Ken's car made her feel better. As Nancy once said, sometimes the best medicine is not in the form of a pill, a shot, or a treatment.

When the awards were presented, VFMC members and Mustangs in general did quite well:

• **Dayna Irwin Honoree Award** •
Ken & Sue Lessig
 '09 Red Mustang GT/CS

• **Leah Chapman Honoree Award** •
Greg Bean
 '06 Legend Lime
 V-6 Convertible

• **People's Choice Award** •
Rusty Glessner
 '06 Vista Blue GT



There was also a '04 Red Mach 1 that received one of the five People's Choice Awards, and a '66 Blue striped Mustang received one of 3 Best in Show awards. The third Honoree, Jeremy Garcia, selected a '03 black Corvette.

A great time was had by all. At the end of the day we had all, each in our own small way, helped raise more than \$10,000 for the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

And that, folks, is what it's all about!

Law Enforcement Support

Text by Joe Grace

Photos by Dennis Watson

During the week of June 20th, 2008, a State Trooper from the Asheville, NC, area was fatally shot and killed while performing a routine traffic stop on Interstate 40.

This event was witnessed by passing motorists and thanks to the use of cell phones and CB units, the shooter was apprehended by police within minutes after the shooting. A few days later, as I passed by the makeshift memorial on my way to the National Show in Columbus, Ohio, I wondered what could be done by our Mustang club to help the family of the slain trooper.

This thought to 'help the family' was due to the fact that everything in this family's life had changed so dramatically in such a short time. Seems the trooper had just come back to duty from 'maternity leave' to be with his wife and 2-week-old son who was born 7-weeks premature. A week later, as the trooper was going into surgery with 5 bullets in his young body, his wife was in the same hospital with her little baby boy just a few floors above the emergency surgery area. As the trooper was fighting for his life, his baby was also fighting for his own life. The baby had severe heart and brain damage and was in critical condition. Unfortunately, the 24 year old trooper was unable to survive the damage from the bullets and passed away shortly after arriving at the hospital.

When information reached the community about how hospital bills were quickly piling up for the baby and that insurance did not cover the pregnancy, people rallied and began the most incredible show of support I have ever witnessed. Shortly after the funeral, a local business put the word out to motorcycle enthusiasts about organizing a bike run to help raise money for the hospital bills. He was quoted on TV as saying that he "hoped for a few hundred bikers." Well, it seems that more than a few hundred heard his plea. On the day of the bike run, more than 4,600 bikers paid tribute to the trooper and his family and donated a minimum of \$10 each. The bike run drove from Swannanoa to Maggie Valley, NC, and raised more than \$48,000! That is community spirit!

Although we could never get 4,600 Mustangs together, the Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville organized a Law Enforcement Appreciation Day event hoping to at least get the club to come out in large numbers and support the event. We invited

owners of all makes and models, every local car club in Western NC, and every law enforcement agency in the area as well as fire departments and EMS crews to attend.



Once word spread, local TV, radio, and newspapers began to cover the story. Donations from local businesses began to come in. Food vendors, soft drink suppliers, and local bands began to offer their services for no charge. A local marketing and printing firm donated their services to design a flier and make copies of the flier to pass out at car shows and on windshields of Mustangs and other vehicles. In less than 35 days, we organized a full-blown car show with raffle items, bands, DJ's, and food vendors. To make things even more interesting, a State Trooper in Charlotte, NC, heard about our show and brought it to the attention of his good friend Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Seems Dale called his NASCAR buddies and suddenly NASCAR-related items were being donated by the likes of Jeff Gordon,



Jimmy Johnson, Red Bull Racing, Miller Racing, Roush Racing, and dozens of others! A week before the event, a State Trooper escorted convoy pulled into town with a covered trailer full of NASCAR-related memorabilia to be used at an auction during our fund raiser. We had to sort and price 100+ items and find an auctioneer to donate his time to help us pull this off. Three auctioneers came out, set up the auction area inside a local mall and donated three hours of their time to conduct the auction during the car show.

Outside, more than 300 Mustangs and classic automobiles came to the car show. We had dozens of law enforcement vehicles and fire trucks. We asked for a \$10 per vehicle donation; many people gave us \$20 or more. Even non-participants gave us checks for whatever they could afford; we saw a few that were made out in the amount of \$100 or more! At 2 p.m., we were blessed by the appearance of the widow of the slain trooper and her family! She took the time to personally thank people who were outside at the show and even gave a small speech thanking us and letting us know how her baby boy was doing. She also went inside to surprise the people at the auction to thank all of them. Needless to say, there were few dry eyes.



By the end of the day, all the items were auctioned off, raffle items were awarded, trophies for best Mustangs and Classic non Mustangs were handed out and people made their way home. It took a lot of effort and time to put together such a large event in only 35 days while still planning our Annual Mustangs for Hospice Pony Run which was to take place 45 days later. But, the members of the Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville came together and we made it work. The final tally was \$13,100 which was deposited into a fund set up by a local credit union. It feels good to know how many people came together to help someone in need, especially in such a short time. I am proud of everyone in the club and in the Asheville area who supported our efforts.

No matter how much money is raised, no matter how many prayers are said, and no matter how advanced medical care can be, we cannot interfere with the will of God. On Friday, October 17th, little Tye Blanton who fought so hard to stay alive, passed away and went to be with his dad. Words cannot express the shock within the community. Tye had successful surgery a few weeks ago, but that was one of many more that was needed. The little guy could only take so much and was then called to a better place. We will remember him, his dad, his mom, and their families in our prayers.