

Valley Forge Mustang Club Makes Bride's Dream Come True!



Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Reinhart with their wedding ride, Donald Gatenby's '66 Mustang.

By Jackie Dahlen

Stephanie Alloway entered this world in a most auspicious manner. As her parents were rushing to the hospital in July 1982, Stephanie decided she did not want to wait. And so, right outside the emergency room entrance, she "galloped" into this world in the front seat of a 1979 red Mustang coupe! Ever since then, she has become the quintessential Pony Girl.

When she was in middle school, all of her friends had scrapbooks filled with pictures of teen celebrity heartthrobs. Stephanie's was filled with photos of vintage Mustangs. I know this is true—she showed me the scrapbook.

When she became engaged to Kurt Reinhart, she commissioned Kurt to find a vintage Mustang for them to ride in on their wedding day. Kurt came to the right place, placing a plea for such a vehicle in the February 2008 issue of VFMC's newsletter, *The Pony Express*. I responded to that plea saying we could provide such a car. Then I suggested, what the heck, we can drive your whole wedding party!

On Sunday, August 31, 2008, 13 VFMC members and their 'Stangs drove the wedding party 12 miles from Paoli Presbyterian Church to Tyler Arboretum, the site of the reception. The line-up of cars for the wedding caravan was as follows:

DRIVER

- Jackie Dahlen
- Donald Gatenby
- Chris Thomas
- Karen Baum
- Tina Bauman
- Rich Banyai
- Ken Lessig
- Natalie Gomez
- Bob Parsons
- Mike McLaughlin
- Mike Dahlen
- Sue Lessig
- Bob Gomez

VEHICLE

- 1965 Poppy Red Coupe
- 1966 Red Convertible
- 1965 Ember-Glo Coupe
- 1995 White Convertible
- 2006 Vista Blue Coupe
- 1970 Orange Boss 302
- 2009 Candy Apple Red GT/CS
- 1973 Green Convertible
- 2006 Screamin' Yellow GT
- 1998 Dark Green GT Vert
- 2004 Blk/Yellow Stripes GT
- 2007 Grabber Orange Coupe
- 2007 Red Convertible

RIDER(S)

- Lead Escort Vehicle
- Steph & Kurt (*bride & groom*)
- Mia (*bridesmaid*)
- Rick (*bride's brother*)
- Luis (*groomsman*)
- Beth (*bridesmaid & bride's grandmom*)
- Fran & Rich (*bride's parents*)
- Gary (*bride's brother & minister*)
- Margie & Erika (*groom's mom & sister*)
- Jordan (*best man*)
- Kris (*bridesmaid*)
- Brian (*groomsman*)
- Premal (*groomsman*)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

After dropping the wedding party off at Tyler, some of us strolled through the arboretum viewing the special Tree Houses exhibit that was going on. There were frog statues that we took pictures of, a butterfly house, and lo and behold, we found Big Bird's nest. The accompanying photo says it all! For those of you not familiar with VFMC, we have affectionately dubbed Bob Parson's '06 Screamin' Yellow Saleen-supercharged GT "Big Bird."

I initially told the Alloways that we were a non-profit organization and would not accept any financial compensation for driving. I did say, however, that we support a charity called The Lord's Pantry, an agency that provides food to low income Downingtown residents (see www.lordspantryofdowningtown.org). I was told that a donation would be made for the amount that would have been spent on limousines. I don't know what limousines go for nowadays, but we were struck speechless when Rich Alloway presented us with a \$700 check made out to The Lord's Pantry.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all the VFMC club members who made this such a special day for Kurt and Stephanie. And an equally appreciative thank you to the Alloways for their incredibly generous support of our charity, The Lord's Pantry.



Stephanie and Kurt Reinhart with Donald Gatenby's '66 convertible.

The newly married Reinharts with Bob Parsons' Screaming Yellow '06 GT, dubbed ("Big Bird").

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Bob Parsons in Big Bird's nest.



The cavalcade of wedding Mustangs.