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 Mary Jean Wesche

As promised, we continue with coverage of the Mustang 45th Anniversary Celebration. Held in Birmingham, Alabama, at Barber Motorsports Park, the event was on April 16-19, 2009.

Saturday's activities included Open Track, Car show and judging, Ford Racing Mustang Challenge qualifying and a race held at noon, vendor area activities, and an Evening with Ford Banquet at the Marriott Birmingham, which served as the host hotel.

The Ford Racing Mustang Challenge series utilizes Ford's FR500S Mustangs, and is sanctioned by the Grand American Road Racing Association. This series offers an affordable, yet challenging platform for racers wanting to compete on a level playing field showcasing driver ability. A competitive point structure affords winners generous purses in the Mustang Challenge for the Miller Cup Series.

Another highlight on the track was Vaughn Gittin Jr. who piloted his drifting Faulken Mustang around the Barber track, leaving those who weren't aware of his talents to wonder what was going on as tire smoke billowed over the course. What a show he put on and what a talented driver he is!

The vendor area was a busy place all weekend long. Adjacent to the vendor area were more display cars including cars belonging to members of the Saleen Club of America.

A long row of Red, White, Blue, and 2 Gold Mustangs were driven by the members of the Mustang Club of France to the 45th Celebration. This group contacted Hertz when they originally made their travel arrangements. I heard that Hertz surprised the group when they arrived at their pick up location in Atlanta, GA, with a complement of 2010 Mustangs. Not sure if that was entirely true, but it sounded good to me. The French Mustang Club contingent brought windshield banners which were proudly displayed on their rented Mustangs.

Several groups traveled a great distance to join in the celebration. In addition to the visitors from Canada, Mexico and France, we also welcomed Mustang enthusiasts from Australia, Brazil, Peru, Aruba, Germany, Netherlands, Puerto Rico, and Denmark.

How many of you were aware that members of the Magic City Mustang Club of Birmingham comprised the majority of the volunteers in the orange T-shirts? A huge word of thanks to all the members of the club for their hard work. Check out their photo on pages 34-35.

The Pay It Forward contest winner was announced at the Scott Drake Booth on Saturday afternoon. Craig Chesley of

Mustangs of East Texas was awarded the keys to the Mustang from Scott Drake. It was difficult to choose a winner from the many applicants; I was proud to have been able to participate in the process.

With the vendor area across the track from the show field, trams were picking up people at various stops along the perimeter road. There was much activity in the vendor area beginning with the huge and exciting Ford display showcasing the 2010 Ford cars.

I could write volumes and explain the event in many words, but as my mother always said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." So, here are a few photos for your viewing pleasure.

Coverage of the 45th Anniversary Celebration will continue in the August issue.

In closing this portion of the event coverage, I advise everyone to start saving for the next Mustang Anniversary in five years. It should be the biggest yet—50 Years! **MT**





The sight at every Mustang show first thing in the morning—cleaning and polishing the Mustang!



In addition to MCA items, 45th Anniversary merchandise was being sold.



Jon Enyeart of Pony Carburetors went out into the showfield for one of his hands-on seminars!



John Clor was selling signed copies of his book, The Mustang Dynasty—45th Anniversary Edition."



The main entrance to the vendor area was decked out in 2010 model Ford Cars.



Tremec Transmissions had an interesting display in the vendor area.



The MCA tent was a busy place all weekend long.



Kicker's booth was an active area as well.



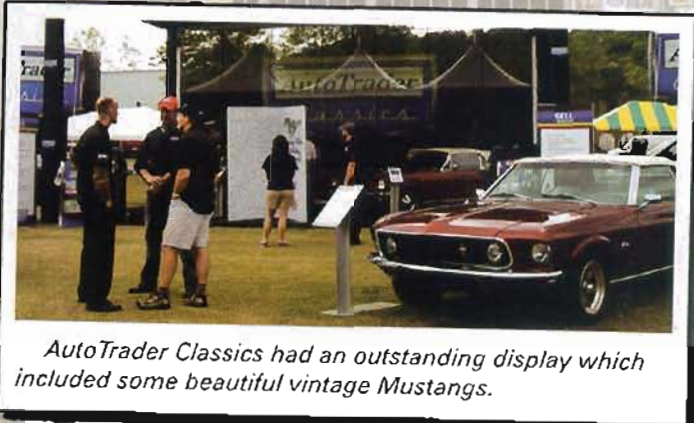
(L-R) Heacock Classic's Ford Heacock, Stacey Heacock, Gary Gandy, and Bonnie Madden were on hand to answer Insurance questions. They offer special discounts to MCA members.



The Pay It Forward Restoration Team poses with Scott Drake and yours truly after the presentation.



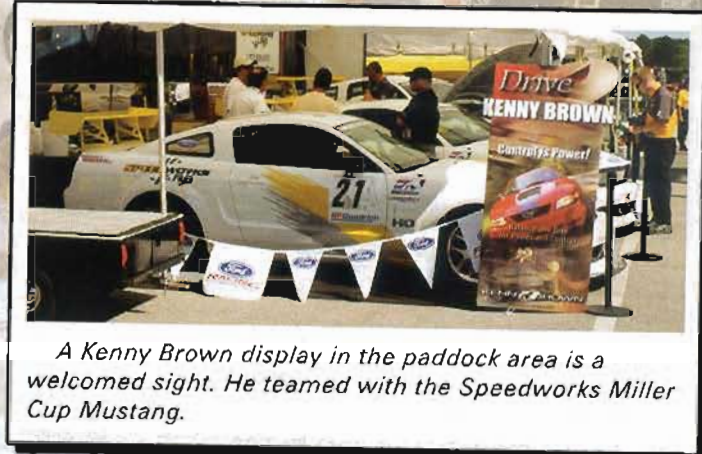
The Roush Performance display was a great place to view the company's 2010 vehicles.



AutoTrader Classics had an outstanding display which included some beautiful vintage Mustangs.



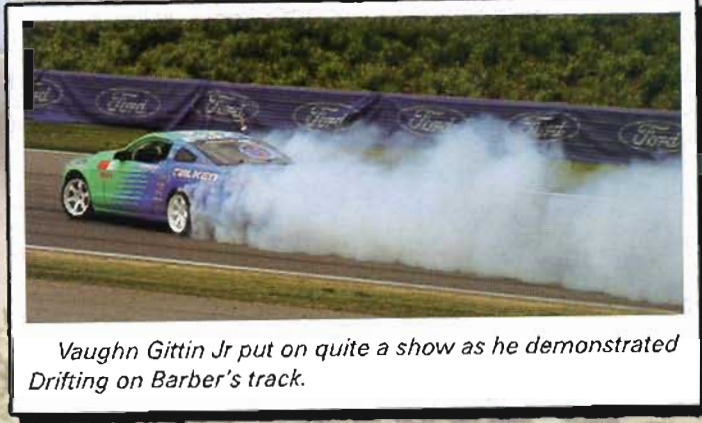
AutoEtcNeon.com always has beautiful and unique items. This sculptured rug is one of their new offerings.



A Kenny Brown display in the paddock area is a welcomed sight. He teamed with the Speedworks Miller Cup Mustang.



Scott Drake (R) awarded the keys to the Pay It Forward Mustang to Craig Chesley (L) of Mustangs of East Texas, as I looked on.



Vaughn Gittin Jr put on quite a show as he demonstrated Drifting on Barber's track.

45th
MUSTANG
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



BA
MOTO



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BARBER
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