



Northshore Mustang Club • Covington, LA

By Donna Bryant

The Northshore Mustang Club of Covington, LA, received its MCA charter in 1999. We currently have 147 members whose vehicles represent all generations of the Mustang.

Of course, we have members that attend all the local area car shows and cruise nights that they can possibly fit in, from Lafayette, LA, to Pensacola, FL. We can usually count on a few members showing off their ponies in Christmas, Home Coming, and Mardi Gras parades each year. From March through October, we host a cruise night on the 3rd Saturday of each month that is attended by an average of 80 cars. We hold this as an open cruise, so we see all makes of cars. We host two Regional All-Ford and Mustang shows each year with help from our local Ford dealer, Banner Ford, in Mandeville, LA. Banner Ford helps us tremendously with providing the show site and they also sponsor all of the awards that we present to the show participants.

We try to show our appreciation to our members, for all of their hard work at our

shows and cruise nights, by providing all the food and drinks at our annual crawfish boil in the spring, at our picnic in the summer, and for our annual Christmas Party.

Once a month we try to do a dinner cruise so that, no matter what the weather, we have a reason to get out and drive our ponies. It's always fun when there is a group of 10 or more Mustangs (from all generations) heading down the highway. If we are not heading to an area restaurant you might find us on our way to the local winery for an evening outdoor concert or a town festival.

Our first attempt to compete in the World of Wheels was in 2005. Looking back, I can now see that our display materials were somewhat crude. Of course, everyone that owns a Mustang refers to it as a "pony" at some point. We put in a lot of effort and imagination to turn PVC pipe and rope into a pony corral. We used borrowed saddles and horse blankets and bridles to complete the look and theme we were after. After seeing all of the other beautiful car displays most of us didn't think we had a shot at any award for our corral. It must have been the fine herd of ponies that we had on display that caught

the judge's eye. Our herd was comprised of two 1970 Boss 302's, a 1970 Fastback, a 1965 2+2 Fastback, a 1973 Convertible, and a 1971 Mach1 429CJ. After all of our members received individual awards for their Mustangs, we were surprised to hear Northshore Mustang Club called for the "Outstanding Club Display" along with a cash prize of \$100. A few months after the show, our President (my husband) Jerry Bryant received a phone call from one of his friends saying he saw our 1971 on TV. Of course, Jerry immediately tuned in to the SPEED channel. The Mother's Car Care Series had done film footage in the Superdome and did a segment on Jerry's car. This particular 1971 Mach1 429CJ had started as a T5 export to Germany and was quite rare. (No not the transmission, the project name from Ford "T5," but that is another story in itself.)

The World of Wheels did not make it to the New Orleans Superdome for 2006 due to Hurricane Katrina, nor in 2007 as the Superdome was occupied by the New Orleans Saints in the end-of-season play-off games.

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In the 2008 World of Wheels show in the Superdome we corralled our ponies with an actual wooden fence that we built around our cars, set up a camp fire (since an open flame is not allowed indoors we made do with a fan, blowing fabric flames)



and had a few cowboys resting against their saddles, while flanked by six of the finest ponies our club had to offer. The Mustangs that represented our club were a 1966 GT Fastback, a 1966 Convertible Restomod, a 1973 Convertible, a 2007 Shelby GT, a 2006 GT, and a 2007 Roush Stage 3. When the show was over and all was said and done, not only did all of our members receive individual awards for their cars, but we were also awarded Best Club Display, along with a cash prize of \$400.



In January 2009, we tried to uphold our title for the Best Club Display in the O'Reilly Auto Parts sponsored "World of Wheels" in the Louisiana Superdome. This year, we again corralled our ponies and celebrated the "45th Anniversary of the Mustang," with tires that were

stacked and decorated to look like a giant cake—complete with candles. Of course, the candle flames were once again made of fabric and put into motion by a fan. We provided real cake and café au' lait to the show spectators each day thanks to one very generous member, Paul Marsh. Our Mustangs in this year's show were a 1965 Convertible owned by JoAnn Greco, 1966 Fastback owned by Michael Degan, 1967 Convertible owned by Donald Drewes, 2007 Shelby owned by Paul Marsh, 2007 Saleen owned by Oscar Ortiz, and a 2008 GT Convertible owned by Donald Day. All of our entries won awards in their respective categories. This year the competition for Best Club Display was a little tougher but the Northshore Mustang Club upheld



the title and won the Best Club Display award for the 2nd year in a row, along with a \$300 cash prize.

A portion of the money we raise at our events throughout the year is used to support New Heights Therapeutic Riding located in Folsom, LA. New Heights is a progressive equestrian program for individuals who are physically, cognitively, or emotionally challenged. In addition to the financial donations, some of our members volunteer as side walkers and horse leaders during the students' sessions. We also volunteer at the New Heights annual "Golf Tournament" and "Garden Party" fund raising events held by New Heights each year. We do everything at these events from setting up tents and

tables, icing down beverages, and picking up any donations of products that are donated for the events and tending the beverage stations. We especially seem to have a good time at the beverage stations!

Northshore Mustang Club recently made a donation to St. Tammany Parish Humane Society.

This is only the highlight of the things that we have participated in over the past few years. Some members participate in Road Racing such as the upcoming Music City driving event.

We currently meet at Coscino's Pizza in Mandeville, LA, on the third Tuesday of each month. So, if you're ever in the area, come and join us.

