



# MID AMERICA

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Mary Jean Wesche

**M**ore than 36 years ago, Jim and Terry Wicks hosted a Shelby gathering in their Oklahoma front yard. That gathering has been growing for 36 years, and has now become the five-day-long Mid America Ford and Team Shelby Meet held in Tulsa each June.

Activities actually begin on Wednesday with a Team Shelby Driving School at Hallet Motor Racing Circuit in Jennings, OK, with classroom and on-track experiences.

Vaughn Gittin Jr. was drifting his Monster Energy/Falken Tire Mustang at Hallet. If you weren't aware that he was at the track, the first time he left the grid in full drift, it left no doubt as to his presence. He's an awesome driver with

mega control, never mind that he's a really nice young man to boot!

Shelby formally introduced their GT350. See the sidebar on page 28.

Thursday and Friday daytime activities (sponsored by Baer Brakes and Quantum Performance, respectively) continued at Hallet with open track activities for participants and an exhibition race with Vintage Fords. Many vendors, such as Shelby, Ford Racing, Classic Design Concepts, Baer Brakes, MRT, and Kicker to name a few along with several swap meet vendors feature their products and services. Hallet provides many spectator areas around the track for viewing the on-track happenings. It's a great venue for road racing. A vintage exhibition was held by Corinthian Vintage Automobile Racing (CVAR). MCA's Charlie Jones, *Mustang Times* Roadracer columnist, was one of the podium winners of this exhibition race along side the race winner, Michael

Eisenberg from Los Angeles, California. Michael drove his 1973 Falcon to a First-Place finish. The contestants drove a great race with some exciting passes, much to the delight of the attendees.

Thursday evening's activity was a 900-plus car cruise to the Brady Arts District of Tulsa. There were more than 100 vehicles already parked waiting for the cruisers to arrive. This was a good move from the prior Thursday evening venue, which couldn't hold this many vehicles. The Brady Arts District is an eclectic area with much to see and do and great parking for the participants.

At the host hotel, Marriott Tulsa Southern Hills, a Ford and Shelby product trade show was held on Thursday. On Friday evening, enthusiasts were invited to attend a sponsor reception featuring a light dinner and an art and memorabilia show at the hotel.

Saturday's venue changed to the Tulsa



## FORD AND TEAM SHELBY MEET

Raceway Park for drag racing sponsored by Shelby Performance Parts. For those who preferred to participate in road racing, Hallet was still open with open track activities. In fact, Ford's Jim Farley took to the track himself on Saturday, driving the new GT350 and Rick Titus' newly acquired race school Panoz, much to the delight of those present. He's quite a hotshoe. He returned from the track with a huge grin!

Saturday evening's banquet in a time honored tradition at this event. The way-better-than-expected dinner was interspersed with the largest door prize give-away that you can imagine. Hundreds of prizes are given out ranging from key chains and hats to fully paid weekends at a Barrett-Jackson Auction of your choice, sets of tires, Kicker Audio equipment, and much more.

Featured speakers were John Luft, president of Shelby American; Rick Titus

race car driver and radio host and son of the late racer Jerry Titus; and Steve Ling, Ford car marketing manager. The evening's keynote speaker was Jim Farley, Ford group vice president of Global Marketing and Canada, Mexico, and South American operations.

Each year, Ford awards a Lifetime Appreciation Award at the Mid America meet. This year's recipient was MCA President Steve McCarley. Surprised and nearly speechless, Steve graciously accepted the award from Steve Ling.

As an opening to the evening's activities, the attendees were treated to a visual delight with several large screens showing some of the most popular recent television ads for Mustang and Shelby, along with some vintage ads that brought back some awesome memories for many of us.

On Sunday, a huge car show is held in a parking lot adjacent to the hotel.

There is a concours judging for those who enter in that portion of the show, the remainder of the show is popular vote. At the awards ceremony, awards were presented for the various track activities and the Sunday car show.

The Mustang chosen "Best of Show" is owned by MCA & North Texas Mustang Club member, Mouse Prosen. His is a modified 2006 Screaming Yellow GT named "Saphira."

This is one show that I look forward to attending each year. Having known the Wicks from our early Shelby days, it's incredible to see how this event has grown and prospered. And, the amount of fun to be had at this entire event should almost be illegal.

The MCA is one of the many sponsors of this event, and I urge you all to make plans to a Mid America Ford and Shelby Meet. Kudos to all the volunteers, this show is always a memorable event. **MT**



▲ Nearly 1,000 Ford vehicles graced the streets of Tulsa's Brady Art District for the Thursday evening cruise.



▲ Jeff Yergovich piloted his red #11 1967 Terlingua Mustang racer around Hallet during the event.



▲ Jim Farley got in some hot laps at Hallet driving Rick Titus' newly acquired race school Panoz.



▲ Donald Farr, accompanied by his son Matt, drove Jim Wicks' 1965 Shelby in the 900-plus Thursday evening cruise.



▲ CDC's George Huismann's son, Travis, pilots his red and black Mustang during the MRT-sponsored late model race.



▲ Shelby American President John Luft addressed the crowd at the Saturday evening banquet.



▲ Vaughn Gittin Jr. delighted the crowd with his drifting abilities. Some attendees were able to get a ride-along.



▲ Mike Eisenberg from Los Angeles, CA, drove his 1963 Falcon to the checker flag at the CVAR exhibition race.



▲ Keynote speaker Jim Farley delighted the crowd with personal stories and highlighted the plans Ford has for its future.



▲ Charlie "Roadracer" Jones is a delight to watch on the track. During the Friday race, he was dicing for the lead.



▲ Jim Farley hotshoed the new Shelby GT350 around Hallet Motor Racing Circuit on Saturday.



▲ MCA's president, Steve McCarley (R), accepts a Lifetime Appreciation Award from Steve Ling (L) of Ford.



▲ Just one of the several beautiful Concours Mustangs at the Ford and Team Shelby Meet this year.



▲ A Red Candy Gittin-inspired RTR Mustang caught my eye at the Classic Design Concepts booth.



▲ Mouse Prosen's 2006 Screaming Yellow GT won Best of Show. Mouse, who lives in Texas, is an MCA member.

## TULSA RACEWAY PARK DRAG STRIP AND SUNDAY'S SHOWFIELD

