

MID AMERICA

37th Annual Mid America Ford and Team Shelby Nationals



Text by Austin C. Craig
Photos by Austin C. Craig and
courtesy of Ford Performance Group

Each June thousands of Mustang enthusiasts, including a large number of MCA members, from 38 states including Hawaii, Canada and Europe travel to Tulsa Oklahoma for four days of Fords, Families and Fun. Mid America has become a "moveable feast" with something for just about everyone. All the venues are located within easy traveling distance from the host hotel, the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills. The Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, a 1.8-mile technical road race course is about 45 minutes away. The event opens here on Thursday with two days of open track action for Mustang and Shelby owners in a variety of classes, from touring to all out purpose built race cars. The numerous parade laps allow just about everyone to drive or ride around the beautiful Hallett circuit.

OPEN TRACK ACTION

The Friday program showcases two exhibitions, the Corinthian Vintage Car Association vintage race brings back memories of Mustang and Shelby racing of the 1960s. MCA Member Charlie Jones, whose monthly column,

"Roadracer's Corner" appears in each issue, drives a very fast 1966 GT350 in the race. Charlie's GT350 is a real Shelby and always fun to watch.

For late model enthusiasts the MRT Late Model Exhibition is always a fun to watch event. MCA member and *Mustang Times* contributor, Scott Hoag created the exhibition when he founded MRT in 2003. Scott had previously attended Mid America as Manager for the Mustang Bullitt and Mustang Mach 1 Programs during his 17 years as a graduate engineer at Ford Motor Company. He has not missed a Mid America event since.

For those road racing enthusiasts who cannot get enough open track time, MRT also sponsors a Saturday session.

Ford brought a number of 2012 Boss 302s including a Laguna Seca model with a number of engineers and gave fast laps around Hallett. MCA Past President Steve McCarley, a former professional IMSA and SCCA road racer logged many laps over the two-day period in the Boss 302s and the Shelby GTS, GT350, and 2011 GT500 equipped with the SVT Performance Package. With this option, the GT500 really feels at home on a road course.



▲ Action during the Late Model exhibition shows Shannon Guderian, Late Model Restoration Founder and President, as he puts his new Mustang through its paces.



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▲ MCA member and Mustang columnist Charlie Jones is shown on the left of the photo in his 1966 GT350 during the vintage exhibition. The former Hertz Shelby is well prepared and fast.

CRUISIN' TULSA

With cruising a popular venue for Mustang enthusiasts, the Mid America Team led by Jim Wicks, Randy Roberts, David Apgar, and Earl Groves created a 10-mile cruise that commences at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills, winds through the lovely area of Tulsa ending at the Brady Arts District in downtown Tulsa, a wonderful destination.

The center has many good restaurants and shops that are augmented by any number of sponsor exhibits, including the Ford display where participants can sign up and win Mustang t-shirt. This year, more than 850 Mustangs and performance Fords participated in the cruise, sponsored by Bob Hurley Ford—a Tulsa Ford dealer and a key sponsor of Mid America.

BANQUET

This year the Mid America team, reacting to requests for additional runs during the Saturday drag races, moved the banquet to Friday night. This is a banquet like none other I have ever attended. More than 1,200 people were seated. The evening event sold out with good reason. The action Mustang and Shelby videos, very interesting speakers from Shelby American and Ford Motor Company, plus an almost unbelievable array of door prizes that range from Motorcraft Parts and accessories to sets

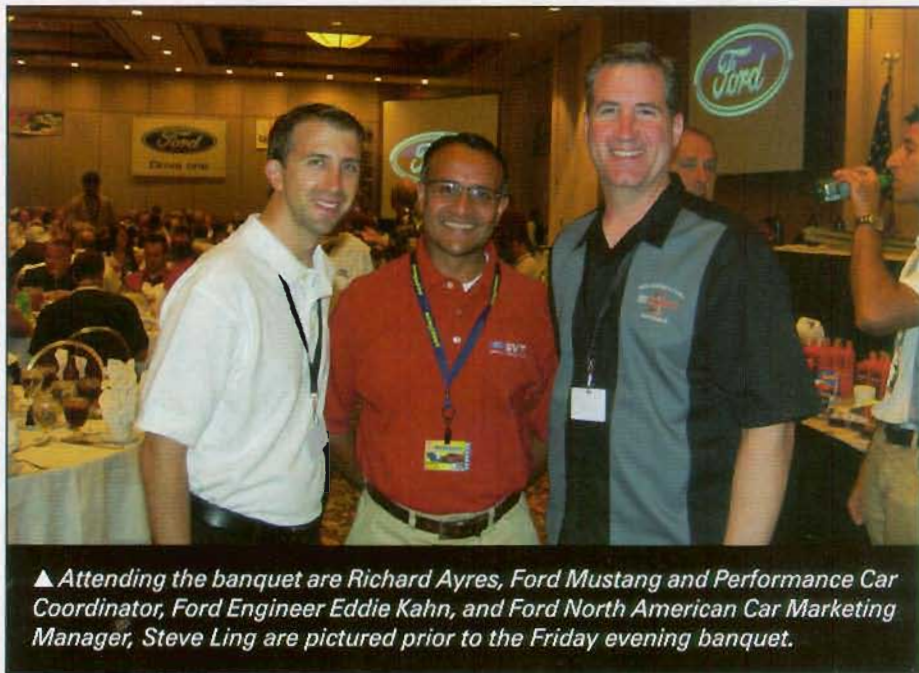
of Goodyear Eagle performance radials, highlight the evening. High dollar gift certificates from Baer Brake Systems, MRT, Kicker Performance Audio, and Gateway Classic Mustang added to the evening's enjoyment.

John Luft, Shelby American president, enlightened the audience on the latest vehicle and Shelby Performance Parts information. The future looks bright for the company with exciting new vehicle and performance parts for enthusiasts.

Steve Ling, North American Car

Marketing Manager — Ford Motor Company, who owns a 2011 Mustang GT, was the Keynote Speaker. Steve gave a very interesting presentation, with some insights to Mustang theme lines that never made the Mustang advertising, all were quite good, and very funny. The product portion of his presentation was both interesting and enjoyable.

No question about it, Ford Motor Company has an outstanding vehicle lineup in addition to the best-ever Mustang and Shelby offerings.



▲ Attending the banquet are Richard Ayres, Ford Mustang and Performance Car Coordinator, Ford Engineer Eddie Kahn, and Ford North American Car Marketing Manager, Steve Ling are pictured prior to the Friday evening banquet.



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▲ Both late model as well as vintage Mustangs participate in the Tremec Transmission sponsored day of drag racing.

DRAG RACING

Tulsa Raceway Park is located a short distance from the host hotel and this year the program was expanded to provide racers with extra runs. Mustangs of every vintage competed in the action including the new 2012 Boss 302s Ford brought to the event. This year Tremec Transmissions was the event sponsor, marking the company's return to Mid America.

Every year in addition to the sponsor displays from Ford, Shelby American, MRT, Gateway Classic Mustang, Tremec Transmissions, Barrett-Jackson, and Fast Lane Classic Cars are augmented by vendors of all types. The number of product and literature exhibits in the swap meet runs the entire length of the quarter mile and offers parts and literature for every year Mustang.

ALL FORD SUPER CAR SHOW

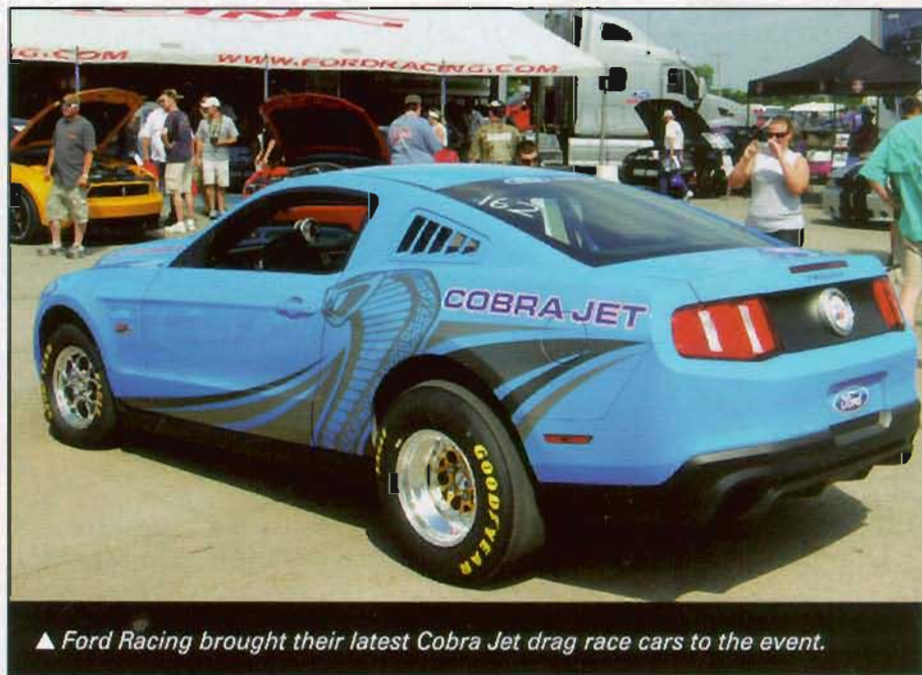
Every year the car show attracts Mustangs, Shelbys, and performance Fords of every vintage. The Classic Design Concepts-sponsored event features a popular vote portion to go along with a concours for vintage Shelbys and Boss Mustangs. A number MCA judges participate including: Bob Gaines, Jeff Yergovich, and Jeff Speegle

who are joined by knowledgeable Mustang and Shelby enthusiasts such as Ed Meyer from Southern Indiana, John Brown, Pat Meyer, Randy Roberts, Tim Lea, and Pete Disher. Sponsor exhibits and a large swap meet add to the day's fun and excitement.

The awards ceremony for the drag race and car show features some of the finest trophies to be presented

anywhere. It also concludes four days of Fords, Families, and Fun as the Mid America Team makes everyone feel at home and glad they traveled to Tulsa.

The 38th Annual Mid America Ford and Team Shelby Nationals will be held on June 13-17, 2012. Mark your calendars now. This is an event you do not want to miss. **MT**



▲ Ford Racing brought their latest Cobra Jet drag race cars to the event.



▲ MCA Past President Steve McCarley enjoys a laugh with MRT's Lisa and Scott Hoag at Hallett Motor Racing Circuit.



▲ Mustangs and Shelbys from every decade join in the fun at the drags.



▲ Mustang enthusiast and renowned journalist Donald Farr receives the 2011 Ford Motor Company Lifetime Appreciation Award.



▲ MCA Vice President Ed Hockaday gets ready to go for some fast laps with Steve McCarley in a 2012 Boss 302 Laguna Seca similar to the one in Ed's garage.



▲ 2012 Boss 302 vs. 2012 Boss 302 on the Tulsa Raceway strip.



▲ Among the feature cars in the hotel lobby was this Boss 429 Mustang. Not just any Boss 429, but the first 1970 model produced.



▲ MCA members Daphne and Bill Norris traveled from Jacksonville, Florida, to their first Mid America meet.



▲ Enthusiasts of all ages enjoy the "grab table" where all sorts of prizes are given away. Here Earl Groves (L) and Jim Wicks (R) assist the future Mustang owners.



▲ MCA Oklahoma Mustang Club Region members set up the display complete with issues of Mustang Times.



▲ The 2011 Mustang Predator driven by Lisa Hoag was the pace car for the MRT Late Model exhibition.



▲ Shelby American President John Luft provided the audience with the latest information from the company.



▲ A partial view of the car show and some of the manufacturer's exhibits.