

“In Search of Mustangs visits the MOCSEM!”

by Jim Smart

Southeastern Michigan, known for automobiles, is known more importantly for the Mustang. Mustang was conceived and born here. A club, dedicated to the classic Mustang, was born here too! The Mustang Owners Club of Southeastern Michigan, headed up by Mark Bednarek, is one of the finest clubs in these United States.

I recently had the golden opportunity to “Mustang Club it” with the fine folks of the Mustang Owners Club of Southeastern Michigan and the special memories are second to none. There is a special breed of cat that makes up the core of MOCSEM. You have president Mark Bednarek who displays his love for the special machinery of the classic sixties. Mark, who is not only a Mustang enthusiast, owns a 1969 Torino Cobra, crammed full of 428 cubic inches of beautiful muscle. Mark also sports two immaculate mid-sixties “Chevy” Chevelles (Ok, I know . . . I know!).

You have J. R. Gillespie and Gary Pietraniec, both have Mustangs of which they can be proud. Gary in particular has one super sleeper of a 1966 Mustang. Gary’s ’66 sports as much beauty as it does horsepower with a 289 Tri-power!

J. R. Gillespie, like other MOCSEM members, makes his living at Ford Motor Company. J. R. has spent much time at various assembly plants around the country and had many a humorous story to relate. One story in particular drew quite a laugh. J. R. was on an assembly line as an observer (as his job sometimes requires) dressed in suit and tie. Suddenly he was shot with oil from an unknown location. Obviously by someone with that “team spirit”!

During an evening with interested MOCSEM members at the “Mama Mia’s” restaurant in Livonia, Michigan, we discussed IN SEARCH OF MUS-

TANGS and it’s various finds. MOCSEM blessed IN SEARCH with yet some more interesting new finds. One being a 1965 2+2 that was once . . . Lee Iacocca’s. I am presently researching this “DSO 89” Mustang. J. R. told me about a very unique set of wheel covers that he owns. They are 1967 “Spinner” wheel covers, the only set known to be in existence. They are basically your standard 1967 full wheel cover, however, they have the spinner that definitely sets them apart from the rest! What happened to the others? Ford sent down a memo, says J. R., that said just simply, “DESTROY.” J. R. had the foresight to save one set. Today, some sixteen years later, J. R. has something that is truly priceless.

After the meeting, we visited with one MOCSEM member with a unique 1966 Mustang GT. The mid-sixties GT Pony sported an obvious warranty/serial number goof (covered in IN SEARCH, October, ’83) that made for interesting conversation. This GT was the first in “IN SEARCH” with a warranty plate error.

Visiting with different MOCSEM members had its “interesting” moments too, especially when one member asked why “IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS” had not expanded to the 1974-78 Mustang II. What do you think MCA?

A bright, sunny, warm June day in Redford Township, Michigan was just the setting for a parade in which MOCSEM played an important role. Of the many events in Redford’s Memorial Day (postponed a week) Parade, the MOCSEM parade of Mustangs attracted the most attention from on-lookers. I was blessed with the opportunity to ride in Art Butler’s beautiful ’65 Mustang convertible. As you can see, there couldn’t have been a better day!

The Redford Township Parade and MOCSEM made for the perfect ending to a perfect visit to the Motor City area. Many thanks go to Mark Bednarek and the special people that made my MOCSEM visit a very warm and memorable one!

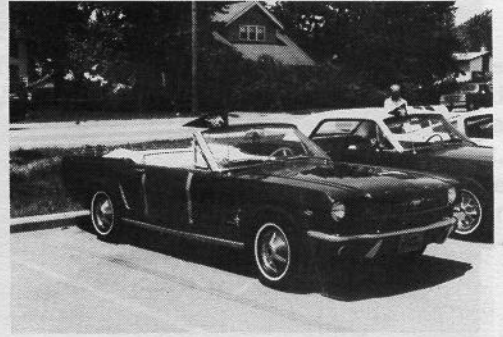


President Mark Bednarek’s ’69 Torino Cobra.



Art Butler at the wheel of his beautiful ’65 convertible.

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