

(R)MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS - ISSUE NUMBER 158 - OCTOBER 2024

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From: remitchell22@aol.com (remitchell22@aol.com)

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**MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS**

**Issue Number 158 - October 2024**

**DEDICATED TO ALL FORD MUSTANGS**

**SENT TO OVER 570 MUSTANG OWNERS AND CLUBS**

*Welcome to the latest issue of our MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS e-newsletters with feature articles and other items of interest for our members. In this issue, we present more stories with pictures and other items for your review. Thank you for joining our Association. Tell others about us.*

### **MY 13TH CAR SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 COUPE - BY RICK MITCHELL**

The month of September in 2023 here in central Maryland was characterized by one word: *rain!* During all my years of attending car shows in various six-cylinder Mustangs, past and present, I had never experienced anything like this! Events were rained out, rescheduled, rained out again, and then rescheduled once again all month long, or a show location found a several hour long gap in the weather to have their event, but from where I lived the forecast was not as good. During the first week of the month, I had my show bag and gear packed and waiting in our spare bedroom, but it all sat there waiting for more than a month because of the constant rain delays. *It was miserable!*

Finally, we were into October and the weather seemed to calm down somewhat. The first worthwhile event to attend was on October 14. This was the *4th Annual Mustang & Fast Ford Car Show*, held by the Knights of Columbus, Prince George's Council 2809, located in College Park, MD, an easy half-hour run south off I-95. This event benefited the Special Olympics of Maryland. This show was first held in 2020, although I did not attend because of the pandemic, but I was there over the next two years. This is a well-run but small show with popular voting determining the winners. There was usually a good selection of trophies, and typically everyone received one if they placed or an Honorable

mention award, which was very generous. After attending so many disappointing shows this year, a nice event like this one was greatly appreciated!

As we approached the weekend before the show after several days of beautifully sunny, cool Fall weather, a storm system that started over the Pacific northwest was slowly making its way east, and it was due to arrive over Maryland by, you guessed it, mid-morning on October 14. *What luck!* I called the show contact who said that their event really would be held on that Saturday as their schedule was full and there was no rain date. They realized that the weather may limit attendance, but they thought the rain may hold off in the morning to get the show in. If the weather came I would close my hood and stand where there was cover near the Knights' building and talk to my friends. After such a long stretch with no events, I wanted to take my Mustang out!

The weather check at 6am on the day of the event said that there should be a gap in the rain for College Park between 8:15am and 11:15am to have the bulk of the show held in somewhat better weather, although the forecast for my area called for rain all day. When the skies lightened at 7am, it was already raining when I looked out my front door. I wondered how these dismal forecasts would affect the show's attendance? Next was driving south on I-95 toward College Park that brought many stretches of heavy rain.



*The entire line of entries at the Knights of Columbus car show.*

I arrived at the show site by 8:40am. My ace sidekick Leo Howard was already there with his '08 Mustang GT convertible. There was also an '06 Mustang GT coupe, who I did not know, and so I was the third car there. Leo and I registered for the show and chatted with the Knights members who were running the event. And so our three Mustang owners and the Knights members waited for more cars to arrive. In fact, we waited for the next two or three hours, standing under an overhang outside of the building while the rain showers came and went, and *no one else* came to the show! That was it! There were only *three entries* for this show. I have never seen anything like this in the 40+ years I have shown Mustangs. The Knights had four boxes of trophies waiting to give out, and only three Mustangs pulled onto the property. It was an uneasy sight to behold...a mostly empty parking lot otherwise ready for a car show.



*Leo Howard's '08 Mustang GT convertible.*

Eventually the Knights handed out their popular voting ballots. All three of us were in Class E for 2005-2014 (5th Generation) Mustangs. We voted among ourselves and turned those ballots in. There was next a Best Sounding Exhaust competition. Leo and the '06 V8 owner revved up their engines for the Knights to determine the three place winners. I did not start my engine as I thought I could not beat the sounds of those two V8's with my V6. There was also a Best of Show trophy and a Grand Knights Choice award, which was a plaque given for "best presentation." We then waited to be called forward for the awards.



*My soaking wet '11 V6 coupe!*

Not long after came trophy time. Leo took first place in our class and I took second. The owner of the '06 coupe took third. And then Leo won the Best of Show trophy. The Knights then presented the three Best Sounding Exhaust trophies. The '06 won first place, and somehow I was awarded second, which was crazy as I never even started my engine! Leo and his supercharged '08 took third. I still have not figured that one out! One person later asked how I won second place, and I said I must have had my engine set on the "stealth mode"! Go figure. Mine should have received a third out of the three of us, but that was the Knights' decision. They may have mixed up our cars when choosing the exhaust awards. And finally near the end I was presented with the Grand Knights Choice plaque where the Knights selected a car they liked.

After the awards gathering, Leo and I sat in the Knights' empty and somewhat dark dining area to warm up a bit and work on some sandwiches before starting the cold, wet trip back home. Neither one of us had ever won three awards at one show before, and it was a little overwhelming. In fact, I had never won more than one at a time that I could recall. This show had a once in a lifetime outcome that we doubted would ever happen to us again. It was an incredible day out in the Mustangs!

-END-

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**got Mustang?**

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**MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS**

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**Issue Number 159 - October 2024**

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**DEDICATED TO ALL FORD MUSTANGS**

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**SENT TO OVER 570 MUSTANG OWNERS AND CLUBS**

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*Welcome to another issue of our MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS e-newsletters with a feature article for our members. Thank you for joining our Association. Tell others about us.*

**MY 14TH CAR SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL**

As the summer of '23 drew to a close, we in central Maryland looked forward to our "Fall Classics" car shows, as I called them. The month of September rolled out many good events to participate in once more. The first excellent show on our

schedule was *The Shops at Waldorf Center Classics Car Show*, located at 3003 Festival Way in Waldorf, southern Maryland, that was scheduled for September 9. This event was co-hosted by the *DMV Rods and Classics Car Club*. It was their third show for the year, and I greatly wanted to go to it. The location was only an hour away and easily accessible. But once again the weather did not cooperate. The event was rescheduled for September 23, and the poor weather forced yet another change of plans, until finally the show date was changed to October 21.

This event had much to offer, including independent judging with 97 awards, of which there was a Top 50 and many other specialty trophies. At their last show in July, I saw that our cars were evaluated using what appeared to be an abbreviated, one-page scoring sheet, with points awarded or deducted for what may have been seven or eight areas, although I only briefly saw one of these sheets. The judge who reviewed my Mustang the last time spent maybe five or ten minutes, and then moved on to the next car. He looked at all areas, but not the undercarriage or possibly the trunk. This was the kind of judging I hoped for!



*My Mustang as seen at the DMV Rods' excellent Fall car show.*

On the Monday before the show, my Mustang was still filthy from a Knights of Columbus popular vote event I went to two days earlier where it rained all day. Since the DMV Rods show was judged, I knew I needed to get out in the driveway and reclean my entire car rather than bluff my way through, so I spent several hours washing and cleaning everything, inside and out.

On that Tuesday, I emailed the DMV Rods' contact and asked them to add us to their email list if there was a change of plans for their 10-21 show. Not long after, the club replied that, "Things have changed for that date, and we posted it on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Due to the weather again, the event has been rescheduled for October 28th at the same location." That seemed too early, though, to make a weather change so many days out.

To this I replied, "Thank you for your reply, but the four of us noted in the emails all have Mustangs, and we have plans to go to an all-Mustang show in Virginia that was rescheduled to 10-28. That means we will miss one of these two excellent shows. I have never seen rainy weather louse up so many shows as it has since late August. I truly will hate missing your excellent show."

The club replied that, "This weather has messed up a lot of shows, and we are just trying to adjust before winter. Hopefully we'll see you next year." I replied that this was the "lost summer of 2023" for car shows. The club replied,

"That's why we don't do rain or shine, and the reason we keep rescheduling. A lot goes into these shows, especially money...we want to do it right and hopefully break even."



*This was my friend John's '66 coupe at the DMV Rods' event.*

On the next day, I sent the following message to the DMV Rods: "Here is what [weather.com](https://weather.com) (The Weather Channel) says as of Wednesday morning for the weather in Waldorf for this Saturday: "Partly cloudy skies. Slight chance of a rain shower. High near 65F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph." I then asked, is it too late to reverse your decision to postpone the show? The club replied that, "We use three different systems to see the weather, including radio, but if it is clear by Thursday, it is a possibility." To that I replied, "That is good news, and thank you for considering it. Please let us know when you make your final decision."

On Thursday, the DMV Rods replied further, "The car show will remain this Saturday, October 21, at the same location. The weather keeps changing, but it has changed for the best this time. Please spread the word." To this excellent response I replied, "Thank you for reconsidering and changing the show back to the original date of 10-21. This is great news! We will see you this Saturday!"

The early Saturday morning weather check for my home southwest of Baltimore, as well as onsite at Waldorf, called for cloudy conditions all day with intermittent sunshine. The problem for this day, though, was that it would be *very* windy after 10am. "*No problem,*" I told my friends. "*We can handle the wind!*" But later, when I backed my Mustang out of the garage at 7:15am, I could not believe my eyes, but it was *raining* again. *Ouch!* I looked at my wife's car, and I could see it had been raining for sometime. "*Well, what do I do now?!*" I thought. "*No more blown shows. Let's GO!*"

The rain was nowhere in the forecast for this day, but there it was. I drove to I-95 and headed south toward the District of Columbia. It was still quite overcast and moderately raining. "*Here comes another three-hour clean up!,*" I thought. But soon thereafter the rain slowed and then stopped. By 8am I was driving without my wipers. I arrived at 8:20, and the lot only had some water on its edges, but the site was ready, the club was setting trophies up, and more cars were entering the show site. *Phew!*



*This was Leo on the left, then Glenn, and finally John.*

I soon caught up with my usual three Mustang friends, Leo, Glenn and John. I then spent the next 90-minutes recleaning my Mustang because of the rain I drove through for 45-minutes and getting the muddy water drips off my paint and cleaning my wheels to look better. By 10am, *"it was like it never even happened,"* as the Serv-Pro ad says!

At the two earlier DMV Rods shows I attended, the number of entries was usually 110-140 cars and trucks, but for this event, the mixed forecast of rain/no-rain and increasingly windy weather held the number attending the show to about 80-90. With potentially 97 awards, of which there was also a generous Top 50 in the mix, the chances of winning were good. Our judge came by after 1pm and reviewed our four Mustangs, and he spent 5-10 minutes with each car. He looked at all areas except our trunks and undercarriages, the same as at the last show. The weather became quite windy by late morning, but fortunately we had some periods of warm sunshine mixed in to keep us from getting chilled!



*This was our judge from the DMV Rods after he reviewed my Mustang.*

It was close to 4pm when we were called forward for trophy time. They DMV Rods first called their Top 50 awards, and all four of us with our Mustangs were fortunate to receive one of these truly nice trophies. This had been a long day but a good one out with our Mustangs. The DMV Rods have done very well for a relatively new club with hosting three major shows during their first year, and they made adjustments as needed to give every entrant a fair chance. I certainly will look forward to their second year with hopefully three more excellent shows!

-END-

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**got Mustang?**

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**SENT TO OVER 570 MUSTANG OWNERS AND CLUBS**

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**OUR 160TH ISSUE!**  
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*Welcome to a photos issue of our MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS e-newsletters for our members. Thank you for joining our Association. Tell others about us.*

*On October 21, 2023, I attended The Shops at Waldorf Center Classics Car Show in Waldorf, southern Maryland. This event had much to offer, including independent judging with 97 awards. For this show, the mixed forecast of rain/no-rain and increasingly windy weather held the number attending this event to about 80-90 cars and trucks. There were many interesting cars at this show, and this was one of them.*

*This car was a highly modified '67 Mustang fastback. The owner, who can be seen in the first picture cleaning the engine compartment, said that he added a 4.6L V8 motor into this incredible restoration. We added a second*

***picture of the exterior without the owner in the last image. The paint and wheels were very impressive as was the modified interior. This Mustang was stunning!***





**-END-**

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**MY 15TH CAR SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL**

Our "Fall Classics" here in Maryland got off to a slow start with so many rain delays and rescheduled events. I had my car show bag and other equipment packed and ready to roll several weeks prior in preparation for our first September event, but a few late schedule changes meant my gear sat in the same corner collecting dust waiting for our weather to break for a decent show Saturday or Sunday!



*My 2011 V6 coupe at the NCRMC Fall car show.*

The next event on our local schedule was the *National Capital Region Mustang Club's End of Summer Mustang Spectacular & Ford Show*, scheduled for September 23, 2023. It would be held at the Ion International Training Center, located in Leesburg, VA, for a 67-mile run. As we approached the weekend, though, the weather forced another postponement, and the event was rescheduled for October 28. It was also rebranded as a *Mustang Spooktacular & All Ford Show*. The new flyer said to, "Join us and come dressed in your best costume." *Wow!* I decided to skip the costume part though!

This event used MCA Abbreviated Judging Rules that focused on cleanliness, condition and workmanship for Mustangs through 2020. There were classes for all years of Mustangs, as well as Shelbys, Bosses, Saleens and so forth. There were both stock classes as well as modified, and classes for other Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models, as well as other Ford-powered production cars and replicas, but these last classes were popular vote. If you owned a Ford-powered vehicle, there was probably a class for you!



The first Mustang show I ever attended was way back in April, 1982. This was held at Academy Ford in Laurel, MD. That event was hosted by the same NCRMC, and I remember the show like it was held last week! I was there with my mostly unrestored first Mustang, a 1966 Sprint 200 coupe, and I was amazed to see so many First-Generation Mustangs from 1964-1/2 through 1973 parked all around the dealer's lot. It was like an all-day Mustang party outside their show room, and I was completely captured by the excitement. Over 40 years later, and after more than 200 shows in several different six-cylinder Mustangs, these events, especially the ones at Ford dealers, still bring that same great enjoyment!

During the week before this latest NCRMC show, the club asked for volunteers to share the duties of running the event. When I went to this show two years ago, long-time NCRMC friend Richard Porter asked me to help by judging a class. I was rusty but agreed to judge one of the late model Shelby classes. Good friend Leo Howard and I teamed to look over six or seven cars. It took time as we were learning as we went from car to car, but it was a great training experience. A year later and Leo and I judged separate classes by ourselves. For this year, I volunteered again and looked forward to the judging experience once more. It gave quite a bit of insight into what the judges go through when looking at cars that they may have never seen before. I recommend trying it!



In the days leading up to this event the forecast greatly improved, and the outlook for October 28 was for an unseasonably mild 83 degrees with generally sunny weather. The timing was perfect as our weather would quickly return to the 50's and 60's in the days that followed. This was quite a contrast as compared to the show I went to in Waldorf the weekend before with eight hours of high winds and lower temps!

My early morning departure was just before sunrise for the 75-minute run to Leesburg. This was mostly high-speed interstate driving, and actually a fun early morning romp out on the various interconnecting highways leading to the Ion Training Center. This center, I soon realized, was an enclosed ice hockey rink! When we used their restrooms, we literally walked from outside, which was in the '70's and '80's, through their front doors and immediately experienced what seemed like at least a 30-degree drop in temperature! Want to cool off in a hurry from the hot sun? Just walk inside the building for a few minutes!



*Tony Cruz's impressive '06 GT convertible.*

For this show I was placed in Class P for 05-20 Mustang Modified again, the same as my last two years of going to NCRMC's Fall Show, because of so many upgrades on my car. This time my friend Tony Cruz was already there with his triple black '06 Mustang GT convertible (black paint, black interior and black convertible top) and signed in to the same class. Tony won our class last year, and I knew he would probably win again. His '06 is extensively and tastefully modified and makes an outstanding appearance. He deserves to win!

By late morning the club called for volunteer judges to come forward, and I offered to help. This time I was teamed with long-time friend Kelvin Ali, who I have known for 40-plus years. He has restored several excellent first-generation Mustangs over the years, and in fact, I competed against him in my '66 Sprint 200 back in the '80's. We were assigned six '65 to '68 coupes and convertibles to review using a points system that was thorough.



*Another image of Tony's "triple black" Mustang.*

Kelvin and I discussed each aspect within the different categories, and then deducted points for areas on these cars that were not quite right. Of the cars we reviewed, really only one Mustang was in an overall excellent condition. I realized that these cars were at least 55 years old, but there were many worn parts or incorrect detailing, or other areas that were just were never cleaned, such as their engine compartments. All of these imperfections resulted in points deductions and held a few of these cars back from winning an award.

Not long after we completed our judging duties, everyone was called forward for trophy time. As it turned out, only Tony Cruz and I were placed in Class P, and his beautiful '06 convertible took first place. I took second and was happy with Tony winning our class. Not long after that I headed for home, but I got hopelessly lost in an area I had never driven in before!



*Several of the NCRMC's gold trophies with their lists of winners.*

I finally told my GPS to *get me out this mess* and take me home! After a few more visits down some unknown side streets we were back onto the interstates that led to the Capital Beltway, which was now a log jam with heavy traffic that was out enjoying the brief beautiful weather. Finally, we crept around to I-95 north back to Baltimore. But, as the tired old saying goes, it was another great day out in the Mustang!

-END-

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## got Mustang?

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**MY 16TH SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL**

The weekend weather here in central Maryland during the month of October in 2023 continued as its unpredictable self, with a Saturday show held during a rain storm that brought out only three Mustangs, followed by a cool but very windy

Saturday event on the next weekend, and finishing with a final Saturday show that was held in sunny but hot weather that reached well into the lower '80's! Perhaps the month of November would return to more normal Fall temperatures with calmer weather?



*My blue V6 Mustang at the 4-H Camp Car Show.*

By late October we were looking everywhere for a few good remaining events. On Monday the 30th, I was killing time waiting for a plumber to arrive to fix a leaking fitting when I looked up "car shows this weekend" on the internet and stumbled on to a new event. This was the *4-H Camp Car Show*, to be held on Saturday, November 4. This event was at the *Harford County 4-H Camp and Deer Creek Overlook*, located in Street, MD, about an hour away, but on the other side of our beltway above Baltimore.

This event was their first annual car show, and it was open to all makes, models and years. "Are you passionate about cars? Come join the fun, support the Harford County 4-H Camp and show off your ride!," their flyer stated. There were 67 trophies available with a Top 50, and 16 Best of classes, such as paint, rims and so forth. This description looked very good, and so I preregistered and planned to attend. *What a lucky find for so late in the season!*



*This was one of the other Mustangs at this show, a beautiful red '69 Mach 1.*

The weather for the day of the show started in the '30's but eventually climbed into the '60's. It was an overcast, Fall day, but otherwise very good for this time of the year. I frankly did not know too many details of how this event was run until I got there by 8:40am. The show area was on a grassy but wet field.

When I arrived, the show personnel handed out a two-page sheet, one of which was our score sheet as our cars would be evaluated by one of 12 different judges using a points system. This was music to my ears as I am convinced that this is the best way to evaluate the entrants, although it requires much more effort on the part of the club. I was directed to where I was to park, and then I spent the next hour recleaning my car, plus wiping as much wet grass off my tires as I could!



*This white '71 Mach 1 Mustang was in excellent condition.*

By 10am the club announced that the judges were beginning their rounds. It would take some time to review all of the entrants as I heard later that there were about 250 cars, trucks and motorcycles in attendance! When I received my score sheet earlier, I looked it over, and it appeared that the judges were looking at all areas of our cars, but *not* the trunks or undercarriages, which was typical for shows of this nature.

About an hour later, though, my judge started reviewing my car, and I stayed off to the side. He then asked, "Do you want your trunk looked at?" That surprised me as I thought they were not reviewing trunks? I replied, "Are we looking at trunks today?" "Yes, we are," he said. I jumped in and opened mine, which looked fine, but despite scanning my score sheet *twice* earlier, I had completely missed that area. *Duhh!* My judge looked at my trunk and then went on to review the other areas. *How did I miss that?!* My trunk was a five-point area and would have greatly downgraded my score. Fortunately I had a very patient judge.



*A rare red '68 Shelby GT 500 Mustang was also present. Really nice!*

The one strange aspect of this show that stood out was the number of cars that went to this show, and either never cleaned their cars ahead of the event, or would not open their hoods to show their engines. The focus of a judged show is on craftsmanship, and especially *cleanliness*.

There was one late model Mustang there that looked good from a distance, but up close it looked like the engine, and especially the interior, had not been cleaned in a very long time. And across the aisle from my car I saw five or six mid-'90's Camaros follow one another in and park as a group. Only *one* opened his hood for the judges, and that was not detailed very well. *Did they lose all or most of their engine points?*



*Our final photo car was a rare, tiny '72 Fiat 500. It looked brand new!*

Not long after, the judges completed their evaluations and were seen at the trophy table with calculators adding up their scores and determining the winners. Then they began presenting their awards by starting with the Top 50 trophies. Part

of the way through I was very fortunate to hear my name and car called. The club then presented its 16 Best of trophies, followed by their Best of Show award.

I stayed back for a few minutes and spoke with several of the show's organizers and congratulated them for an excellent first-time show. I also thanked my judge for selecting my car. I thought the club did a great job handling such a large crowd so quickly and efficiently. They also awarded trophies to a good mix of older as well as late model cars so that everyone had a fair chance.



*There were many great looking trophies presented at the end of the show!*

Finally, it is a very good sign for our car hobby that newer groups are enthusiastically undertaking large shows as some of the older organizations lose interest or fade away. It takes tremendous effort and planning to successfully run an event of this size. *Well done 4-H Camp Car Show!*

-END-

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***MY 17TH SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL***

After enduring our hot-as-blazes summer here in central Maryland, followed by our extended monsoon-like rainy fall, by mid-November we were well into the, "Wow, it's getting cold out there," early winter segment of our local car show season. One of the last events for 2023 was the *Annual Veterans Appreciation Car Show*, held on Sunday, November 12, at a shopping center in Glen Burnie, just outside one of the entrances to Glen Burnie Park, a housing development I grew up in by coincidence from 1955 to 1975.

This show was held by the *Street Survivors* car club. It was open to all vehicles and was popular vote. Best of all, the event was offering a very generous 75 trophies, plus several other specialty awards. If the weather was reasonably good then this would be a great late-season show to visit. I had not attended this event in many years when it was held at a different location.



*My blue '11 Mustang squeezed in among many other entrants.*

The weather on the day of the show called for partly cloudy skies with light winds and a high in only the low '50's, but it was quite cold and generally overcast when I left home by 7:30am. After a short, 20-minute run I arrived onsite and caught up with four other good Mustang friends, Leo, Glenn, John and Jim.

The club hosting this show said that we had to arrive as a group if we wanted to park together, and we could not hold places for friends. That seemed strange until we pulled into their marked-off show area at the shopping center. The five of us were directed to one of the parking rows that was already lined on both sides with parked show cars and trucks that had entered before us. Leo and I were then told to drive down the middle of this parking lane and park side by side at the end of the row, effectively blocking our entire lane. Our friends then parked behind us.



*Leo Howard's '08 Mustang GT convertible parked next to my car.*

We were packed onto the show field "like sardines in a can," as the tired, old cliché goes! But as the morning passed, every aisle had parked show cars backed into the slots, with another lane or two of more cars filling in the driving lanes. Eventually there were over 270 cars and trucks attending this show! It was wall-to-wall show cars, owners and visitors!

The weather remained overcast and cold until noon when the sun finally broke through the clouds, and the winds calmed allowing for somewhat warmer weather. The club honored the attendees who were veterans during a short ceremony, and earlier played the national anthem, and we recited the pledge of allegiance. It was an excellent way to honor those who served.



*My parked Mustang, but looking in the other direction.*

By mid-afternoon the club asked everyone to come forward for their trophy presentations. They first awarded their Top 75 trophies, and I was very fortunate to receive one of those awards, as were Leo, Glenn and John. The club then had

about a half-dozen specialty trophies to give out as selected by their club or others who assisted with running the show. The last and biggest trophy, of course, was their Best of Show award.

Because my car was blocking so many others, I had to pack and head out soon after that to let the others depart. Overall, this was a well-run show but held in somewhat of a cramped setting that was not very good for pictures, and on a cold and sometimes blustery day, but it was an excellent event to attend, and I will look forward to going again next November!

*This show was also my last for 2023!*

-END-

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**got Mustang?**

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