

(R)MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS - ISSUE NUMBER 224 - SEPTEMBER 2025

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MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS

Issue Number 224 - September 2025

DEDICATED TO ALL FORD MUSTANGS

SENT TO OVER 570 MUSTANG OWNERS AND CLUBS

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

On September 14, 2024, I attended the NCRMC's Summer's End Mustang Spectacular & All Ford Show, held at the Ion International Training Center, a large ice skating complex, in Leesburg, VA. There was an excellent assortment of Mustangs and other Ford, Mercury and Lincoln products there, and we will feature several in our Mitchell Motorsports newsletters. In this issue we have three of the Class A Mustangs that I judged, as well as three other '69 and '70 Sportsroof Mustangs that were in another class. It is hard to believe that these cars are about 60 years old. They all looked like new!













-END-

Rick Mitchell
Editor and Founder
MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS
remitchell22@aol.com

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OUR 225TH ISSUE!

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MY 33RD SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL

By mid-September, we in central Maryland were well into our Fall Classics car events, with a good remaining schedule for 2024 still to come. On Saturday, September 21, 2024, I attended the 11th Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, hosted by the Rod and Staff Custom Car Fellowship, honoring breast cancer awareness, and in memory of Iris Belt. This event was held at the Chesapeake Christian Fellowship Church in Davidsonville, just over 30 miles south from my home and an easy drive. There were Top 75 awards available, and this was a peoples' choice show, with several other Best of trophies for each class, and a few other awards.

I had gone to this show twice before years ago in my gray '14 V6 Mustang but with no success, although a few of my friends had won awards. This event was a typical popular vote show where it was important to have friends there to support your car, in addition to any other votes received from people whom you did not know. The good news was that there were many awards to compete for. The not so good news was that the turnout was usually quite high with a whole lot of everyone's everything showing up, so take a camera for pictures! The parking area was huge, but it was usually tightly packed with cars. Once again my friends and I would drive to this event and park as a group to support each another and hope for the best! If nothing else, this was a truly excellent cause to support.



Our Mustang line up at the show, with me, Leo, Glenn, Jim, Reggie and John!

The fall weather started out cool and cloudy and temps in the '60's, but it quickly warmed into the upper '70's with intermittent sun and clouds. In fact, it was a perfect day for a car show! Five of us Mustang owners met offsite and caravanned to the church where we were parked together by 8am. We soon caught up with a few other friends and registered for the show. I do not know the final entry count, but I heard door prize car numbers that were well into the 130's, so there was an excellent turnout. Add in vendors and food trucks lined all around the parking lot perimeter, and the event could have passed for a mini-national show! There was an excellent assortment of cars, trucks and motorcycles in attendance with much to see, plus many visiting spectators.



Jim Bridgett with his very impressive 1970 Boss 302 Mustang.

By 2pm we were called forward for the trophy presentations, but first the church explained that the money raised was for breast cancer and sickle cell anemia research, with both being truly worthy causes. I feel it is a great way to go when funds donated at shows go to highly worthwhile causes to benefit others in much greater need, rather than paying for club picnics or parties or the like. A few women in the church spoke to the audience and described what they went through to recover from severe illnesses and the effects that their family members felt. Fortunately most of these ladies were much better today as a result.

After these presentations, the church began awarding its Top 75 trophies. Of the seven of us in my immediate group, all but one received one of these awards. I was roughly counting the trophies when they were given out in no particular order and holding my breath (maybe just a little!) hoping that I would be included. I believe I was not called until somewhere around number 66 out of 75, followed by a great sense of relief! I will guess that the third time attending this show was a charm, or I was very fortunate, or just plain lucky!. I really liked this show, but I just wanted to be successful there once in awhile.



An impressive array of trophies were available commemorating breast cancer awareness.

One of the funnier moments was later when I was packing to go home. A couple walked by and asked what color my Mustang was? I said that it was Kona Blue, a popular color used on the Mustangs for several years. The guy then said, "I've got a 2007 Honda I could trade you for!" I replied, "Hmm, we may have deal there!" And we both laughed. He then said as he walked away, "All I know is that I want one of these!"

I hated to see this show draw to a close. It was held in near perfect fall weather, it was for an excellent cause, the church members running the show did a fine job, there was an excellent mix of cars, there was a certain amount of drama at trophy time, and everyone went home safely. Shows like this pass by much too quickly, but this event was the definition of a good day out in the Mustangs!

-END-

Rick Mitchell
Editor and Founder
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MY 34TH SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG - BY RICK MITCHELL

One of the most ambitious car clubs in my area has to be the DMV Rods and Classics, located in Waldorf in southern Maryland. Those who receive our newsletters have heard about them on five prior occasions over the last year and a half after they started holding their large shows in spring 2023, and they continue to put on three excellent events annually with attendance above 125, if the weather permits. I know of no other club now that puts in more effort than the DMV Rods! Their Fall show was scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024, in the same huge parking area at the Shops at Waldorf Center. Their format was much the same as before. There were 99 awards available, which is very generous, of which there was a Top 60 for all makes and models of cars, as well as additional trophies for trucks, motorcycles, and other special categories.



Good friend Tom Smith's trophy-winning 2006 Mustang GT!

This was a judged show and the club used independent judges, but I was never clear on exactly how our cars were judged. At one event I thought I saw a judging sheet being used, but at others the judging seemed to go by too quickly for filling out score sheets, but regardless, my Mustang friends and I were fortunate to be selected a few times! The club members try very hard to run a good show and generally succeed. Add in that the 60-minute ride early on a Saturday morning down I-95 to the Capital Beltway, and then south again to Waldorf is not bad at all, although my return flight typically sees much more traffic, and so I usually go by a different route. Once a show is over, there is no hurry to rush home! I just sit back and listen to Sirius XM!



A nicely restored Ford Fairlane.

As we approached the last weekend in September, the threat of rain on both days was very real. A show I wanted to drive to on Sunday was postponed by that Thursday, but the DMV Rods held steady with their Saturday plans for the 28th. When I got up early that morning, I saw that it would stop raining in Waldorf by 5am, and their show was still on. But I live an hour north where our forecast called for rain until 7 to 7:30am. When I pulled out of my driveway at 7:15, the skies were dark and it was still raining. In fact, for the first 40-minutes of my drive it rained on the interstates.



A great-looking Fox body Mustang convertible.

As I approached Waldorf, the weather changed to foggy, and finally the sun was out as I entered the city limits, and the DMV Rods were soon letting cars onto their show site. This worked out fine for the weather, although my Mustang was now a disappointment with wet, dirty splatter everywhere; all over the front of my car, up in the wheel wells, and even on the tops of my engine. It looked terrible! When we registered soon after, we were given our number cards, and for the first time ever the club gave us our scoring sheets, and by golly, they really do exist! The club was using a simplified 50-point system, with ten points each for Body, Interior, Engine, Paint, and Tires/Wheels/Hubcaps. Each area also had a notation that the judges were looking for CLEANLINESS! So I now had my work cut out for me!



A rare and beautiful Mercury.

I spent over an hour and a half cleaning up my pigpen on wheels and tried to make it look like a show car once again, rather than a sloppy mess, which was exactly how it looked. I used every old baby diaper in my travel bag, a lot of Windex and many paper towels to get my Mustang ready for the judges. No kidding folks, it looked bad when I got to Waldorf! Also the parking lot was still wet. I have never sat on wet macadam before and cleaned wheels like today! But my car pulled through the operation and it looked much better! Within several hours the remnants of the rainy weather blew away, and we were left with a beautifully sunny mid-day and afternoon, and the temps went up to about 80. For as lousy as the morning was, the afternoon was the exact opposite. It turned into a perfect show day.



Some of the many excellent trophies awarded at this show!

One interesting new change that the DMV Rods instituted for this show was to split the Top 60 awards into 2000 and newer cars, and 1999 and older, with 30 trophies for each group. This is a trend that we are seeing with some of the more forward-thinking car clubs. There has long been a perception, at least in our area, that the older cars were the favored ones at an all makes and models event. What this old approach failed to recognize was that there were growing numbers of the newer cars at these shows, and that it takes as much effort to keep a post-2000 car show-worthy as it does for a pre-1999. By splitting the 2000 and newer out from the group, it was recognizing these facts and making the awards more favorable for both sides. Finally, I was fortunate to have my car selected for one of these awards.

This was a great show season for the DMV Rods and Classics. They have grown and adapted and made changes as needed for their shows, and I will greatly look forward to their 2025 events!

-END-

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