

(R)MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS - ISSUE NUMBER 278 - JUNE 2026

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

Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 at 12:47 PM EDT



MITCHELL MOTORSPORTS

Issue Number 278 - June 2026

DEDICATED TO ALL FORD MUSTANGS

SENT TO OVER 570 MUSTANG OWNERS AND CLUBS

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MY 2008 MUSTANG GT STORY - BY LEO HOWARD

In the past, I owned a 2000 Mustang GT convertible, a 2011 Mustang GT coupe, and a 1998 Mustang GT convertible. I now have an Alloy Clearcoat Metallic 2008 Premium Mustang GT convertible with a Dove Gray leather interior and a 5-speed manual transmission that I bought in 2017 from an estate sale in southern Maryland.



My 2008 Mustang has received many new upgrades and changes over the years. My latest and best was an Edelbrock Stage One supercharger, which raised my engine's horsepower from 300 to 496 and increased its torque from 320 to 452-lb. ft., with a 10-psi boost. This was a significant increase in my Mustang's performance, and I really enjoy the adrenaline rush my Mustang now gives!



I have also added new wheels and tires, contrasting stripes on the hood and rear deck, and a JBA axel back exhaust to give my Mustang a deeper exhaust note, as well as many other chrome goodies to my engine area. All of this has made my Mustang more appealing without going too far over the top! I do not plan any additional upgrades to my Mustang for now, and I will just take care of anything that may need to be done.



In 2019, I entered my GT in the Mustang Club of America's Grand National in Fredericksburg, VA, and I won a Silver Award in the Occasionally Driven class. I have also won four 'best in show' trophies and 12 first place awards. Since 2020, I have averaged 25-30 events each year during the show season.



I hope to enter many more events with my Mustang friends, and I truly enjoy talking to fellow entrants at the different shows I attend. I also enjoy taking rides in my Mustang around my local area whenever the weather cooperates, especially in the warmer months and occasionally in the winter.

-END-

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got Mustang GT?

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MY 42ND CAR SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG! - BY RICK MITCHELL

By early August, we were halfway through our 2025 show season here in Maryland, and the opportunities for taking our Mustangs out to good events were few. Usually there was not too much activity during this time through the beginning of September as so many families were going away on their summer vacations and leaving their prized chariots home for a few weekends. But there was one excellent event left on our local calendar that I was greatly looking forward to, and that was the MCAC (Maryland Custom Auto Club) / St. Stephen's AME Church Annual Charity Donation Car Show to benefit the Men's Choir, held on Saturday, August 2.



My Mustang early in the morning at the show.

This event was open to all vehicles, trucks and bikes, and located in Elkridge, a short 20-minute drive away and an excellent location. This show was the fourth event this year hosted by our good friend, Shawn Chambers. I attended his first two shows at this church, but I missed the third as I was out of state. That was unfortunate as there were only about a dozen entrants at that third show as I heard that it was competing with several other nearby events. Shawn's shows usually fill the church's parking lot, but not on that rare occasion.



Shawn Chambers is on the right while standing near our Mustang line up.

Shawn usually evaluates most or all of the entries by himself, and in return he offers a generous number of trophies. For this event again, he made available trophies for the Top 50 best judged vehicles, along with 29 other specialty awards for the 'Best Of' categories, such as engine, paint, interior and so forth. Shawn's emphasis for judging appears to be on the condition and cleanliness, and if your car is well-kept and in good shape, then your chances for success were more than fair.

Those of us who know Shawn were thrilled when he announced he was handling four shows in 2025. They are always enjoyable with a good variety of entries. Shawn planned for an ambitious show schedule for this year, with events in May, June, July and August, and possibly a bigger season closing-out event at the end of the year. We were very fortunate that Shawn was back in action!

The week leading up to our Saturday show day was marked by numerous thunderstorms on most afternoons that week with the temps in the high '90's and lots of humidity. The weather pattern finally shifted by that Friday bringing a high only in the '70's that next turned into a beautiful Saturday for us with the thermometer only reaching 80-degrees by late afternoon. When I looked out my front window at a quarter to six that morning, the skies were clear, and I remarked, "It's going to a great day today!," and it truly was.



Leo Howard and his '08 GT convertible.

I was the second car onsite at the church by 7:20am with the St. Stephen's lot mostly empty while two of Shawn's friends were walking around the parking area with leaf blowers to tidy up the lot a bit. Not long after, my friends, Leo and his '08 GT convertible, Glenn and his '08 GT coupe, John and his '66 GT coupe, and Gary, who this time left his excellent '05 Roush Mustang home and instead brought his modified '47 Chevy pickup truck, all arrived, and we took over one side of the parking lot and set up our cars.



John Kuczinski and his '66 GT coupe.

As the morning passed the number of entrants slowly climbed to about 100 cars and trucks, although I never heard the exact count, and the church's parking lot was once more filled to capacity, and that very low count from the last MCAC event fortunately was not repeated. There was a good variety of mostly late model muscle cars and several other great-looking older vehicles mixed in. By late morning, Shawn was making his rounds reviewing the score sheets for the various attendees' vehicles.



Glenn Wheeler's '08 GT coupe took a Best Engine plaque, in addition to a Top 50 trophy!

We were called forward for trophy time by 1:30 or 2pm. Shawn announced that for this last MCAC show of the year that some people would receive only one trophy, some would receive two, and others may receive three or even four awards! Shawn began by awarding the single trophy winners, those who were part of the Top 50 trophies only, and Leo, John and I were fortunately in that category. As we went deeper into the awards, Glenn received a Top 50 trophy and a Best Engine plaque, and later Gary received a Top 50 trophy and a Best of Show plaque! This was a great day for all of us and a good way to close out the MCAC show season!



Gary Sockriter's highly modified '47 Chevy pickup won a Best of Show plaque and a Top 50 trophy!

In the future Shawn was planning for a year-end banquet in December for those of us who attend his shows regularly at this church to wrap up a successful show season for the MCAC. Shawn refers to us as his 'car show family' and says that 'we are family first and car show people second.' Shawn, though, deserves a great round of thanks from all of us for his outstanding efforts with coordinating and handling four major car shows over four months during 2025, which was truly incredible. Those of us who attend his shows will also be greatly anticipating his gatherings in the new year!

Well done, Shawn!

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OUR 280TH ISSUE!

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MY 43RD CAR SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG! - BY RICK MITCHELL

"Rev Up for a Great Cause! Get ready, car enthusiasts! The Charles County Crime Solvers' 2nd Annual Car Show is rolling into town this August, and you won't want to miss it! From classic beauties to muscle cars, lifted trucks to custom rides --there's something for everyone! Join us for a fun-filled day of cool cars, great vibes, and community spirit, all in support of Crime Solvers' mission to help keep our county safe! Stay tuned for details--mark your calendars and shine up those wheels!" (from the Charles County Crime Solvers facebook page).

The last weeks of August are usually a slow time for car shows here in Maryland as many families are away for their summer vacations or getting their kids ready to return to school in the Fall, but a fortunate internet search led to the above promotional information about the Charles County Crime Solvers 2nd Annual Car Show, held on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at the Regency Furniture Stadium, the home of the Blue Crabs baseball team, that was open to all years, makes and models.

Several weeks before I had attended a different show at this excellent ballpark that was hosted by a Corvette club. The parking area was huge and wide open, and excellent for a weekend event, plus it was great fun just to walk around inside the stadium and see the playing field. This location was in Waldorf in southern Maryland, for a 62-mile or typically an hour and a quarter drive that seemed long but that I have driven many times to other events in this general area and enjoyed while listening to Sirius XM!

This event was listed as a judged show, which I prefer, as opposed to participant voting, which usually means that the winners were selected based upon the condition of their cars or trucks. Best of all there was a great selection of trophies available, including a Top 50 and many other 'Best Of' awards. This criteria is a growing trend we are seeing with many shows in southern Maryland where the entrants are both judged and competing for a wide array of awards, so if your car or truck is well-kept and show-worthy, and you can handle a slightly longer ride, then your chances for success are reasonable!



The weather for the day of the show could not have been better. It started cool and only rose to about 80-degrees with low humidity and was pleasant all day. I left home by 7:30am and arrived by 8:50am, and began another 90-minute recleaning. I went through every area, except the undercarriage, and had my Mustang looking pretty good! I caught up with good friend Tony Cruz, who is the original owner of an '06 triple black Mustang GT convertible that had taken a Best of Show trophy only a few weeks earlier at a Mustang show. We spent time catching up while prepping our cars for the judges, which was enjoyable!



The Charles County Crime Solvers invited many other state and local law enforcement agencies to this event to display their cruisers and talk to those who were interested. There were quite a few police vehicles in attendance, and many were Ford products. But the police cruiser that impressed the most was one that our Maryland State Police were still maintaining at their Easton, MD location despite its age, and that was a marked 2011 Crown Victoria, while using it for occasional shows.



The trooper I spoke with said that this was the last one, and it was retired to display duties. There were many years in the Maryland area where these Crown Vics controlled the interstates. As I overheard one officer say, the Crown Vics slowed traffic down when they came upon a few folks who were in a hurry on the highways! If only cars could talk! Imagine the stories this older cruiser could tell!

There were many early Mustangs in attendance, but the most unique was an original '65 Playboy Pink Mustang convertible. The current owner spent three years restoring it to like-new condition. There were also a number of late model Broncos in attendance, and many other Ford pickup trucks, as well as pre-war cars. Add in several late model Shelby Mustangs as well as a few visiting new Ford trucks from nearby Waldorf Ford, and in total there was a great selection of Ford vehicles from many eras.



This was a judged show as noted, although I did not see my Mustang when it was reviewed as I was photographing cars, but Tony said that there were three or four people reviewing each entry. We did not know what their criteria was for evaluating the entrants though. The show organizer said that there was close to 100 trophies available, and about 140 entrants were registered. Tony's '06 Mustang won second place out of three of the Best Convertible trophies. My car was eligible for either one of their 10 Best American Muscle trophies, or their Top 50 plaques. But despite extensively prepping my Mustang, it was not to be, and I was not called.

Overall, there was an excellent assortment of unique Fords at this show, and they made for a great assortment of pictures. And with so many visiting police there from other jurisdictions, I am reminded of something a friend once said at a similar show many years ago where there were visiting police, and that was that, "I have never felt so safe at a show as I did at this one!"

-END-

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MY 44TH SHOW IN MY 2011 V6 MUSTANG! - BY RICK MITCHELL

By September, we were into our Fall Classics car shows, as I called them, here in Maryland, and next up was the DMV Rods and Classics Car Club's event, the Shops at Waldorf Center Classic Car/Bike/Truck Show, located in Waldorf, in southern Maryland, and held on the same wide-open parking area as before. This club started holding their large events in spring 2023, and they run three excellent shows each year at this location with their attendance usually around 125 entries, if the weather permits.



My Mustang at the DMV Rods September car show.

Their spring show earlier in April though was rescheduled because of the weather, and instead was planned as a Halloween-themed event later in October. I missed their June event because of conflicting show dates. I did, however, hear that the threat of rain reduced their number of entries. All of this meant that my first show for the year with the DMV Rods was on Saturday, September 6, 2025. I honestly missed not going back to Waldorf to attend their earlier shows!

This event's format was much the same as before. There were 99 awards available, which is 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. One interesting new change that the DMV Rods instituted on the last time I was there was to split their Top 60 awards into 30 trophies for the 2000 and newer cars, and the other 30 for 1999 and older. By splitting their Top 60, it made the awards more favorable for both sides.



Leo's '08 Mustang GT convertible.

When we registered the last time, we were given our number cards as well as our scoring sheets right away. The club used a simplified 50-point judging system, with ten points each for Body, Interior, Engine, Paint, and Tires/Wheels/Hubcaps. Each area also had an added notation that the judges were looking for cleanliness, so the judging criteria was that and the car's condition, which was a good, reasonable way to evaluate the cars.

The long-range forecast during the week said that our show would be in the mid-80's and sunny, but as we got closer, this prediction changed to sunny in the morning, followed by cloudy in the afternoon, and finally, you guessed it, thunderstorms by late afternoon. Saturday started out well enough as my hour and ten minute drive heading south to Waldorf was uneventful while listening to the greatest hits of the '60's on Sirius XM! I was onsite by 8:20am before two of my friends, Leo and his '08 GT convertible, and Glenn with his '08 GT coupe, arrived, and I then had enough time to reclean my car and get it ready for judging.



Glenn's '08 GT coupe.

Arriving early gave us a chance to talk to Krasil Bradshaw, who leads the DMV Rods. Over the past two years he has made his club's shows better, and his events have become increasingly more enjoyable to attend. We said that we passed on several other shows closer to home to attend his event. A few notable comments from Krasil were that the DMV Rods do not allow their members to enter their shows so that the awards do not favor their people, which is admirable and unselfish, but also a trend we are seeing. It takes a great effort to run a show of this size, but in return there were no awards given to club's members. Another interesting point was that they rotate their judges from show to show. I had never seen my judge before, so my car was new to him. He was an independent from a nearby street rod club, and he took the time to review all areas during his evaluation.



My Mustang under review at the show.

The threat of late afternoon storms was on everyone's mind, and so the club wanted to give their trophies earlier so that we could head for home sooner to avoid the rain, but despite this threat, the number of entrants slowly increased to 145, which was remarkable. This required more time to judge so many cars, trucks and motorcycles. In the interim, we were checking the forecast for Waldorf, where we were, as well as north of us. Finally, the storms arrived over our home areas, but it was still great weather at our show. Maybe the rain would move out by the time we left?

Eventually trophy time came, and Krasil called the winners, starting with the motorcycles and then the trucks. Then he came to the Top 60 cars, and he began with my class for 2000 and newer with 30 awards. I had no idea how this would go! I went over everything on my car a few hours before my judge saw it, but I also did the exact same drill at a similar show only two weeks before with no luck. But when Krasil was about a third of the way through the list, I heard my name called! Not long after, Leo was called, and soon thereafter, Glenn received one of these excellent awards. All of the trophies were given out not too much later, and then the crowd broke up. I waited for a few minutes and then told Krasil how much I enjoyed their show. While walking back to my car I passed my judge and thanked him for selecting my Mustang. He said that the judging was unbiased and fair.



There was an incredible array of trophies available at this event!

I packed up my Mustang and began the longer return drive because the afternoon traffic heading toward Baltimore was much heavier. I was hoping that the strong rains near my home had dissipated, and for the first 40-minutes it looked like I may get a free pass, but then the clouds started sprinkling rain. After a few more miles this became a shower, and when I was near Baltimore-Washington International Airport, the rain was so heavy that I could hardly see the lines on the road as the traffic slowed. I eventually exited onto the Baltimore beltway while driving in more heavy traffic and rain, and I soon made my way closer to home. But when I was only a few miles away, the sun broke through the overcast, and when I pulled onto my driveway, there was little evidence of the torrential downpours that I just spent the last half-hour wading through!

So it was another great day out in the Mustang!

-END-

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