



THE PONY EXPRESS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE MUSTANG CLUB



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July 2012



T.S. Debby doesn't dampen spirits at FLMC annual getaway

by: Mark Patterson

The FLMC held their annual getaway to the Fort Myers-Sanibel Area, also known as Mantanzas. The festivities included pontoon boats, a barbeque and of course, and an all around good time.

Despite the threat of high winds and heavy rain from Debby, the club pushed forward with the annual social outing. Several of the club members arrived early on Friday for a luncheon at the Bubble Room. Upon returning from the Bubble Room, the party continued in John and Marci's room where the adult beverages were "free flowing". The "we don't have to drive anywhere" mentality ruled. "Which was the point of the whole weekend," said FLMC President Mark Patterson.

Tropical Storm Debby looming large by Saturday morning, threatening the group's boat trip to Lover's Key. The two designated skippers for the three hour tour was Mark and George. Both arose relatively early to pick up two fairly new 24' pontoon boats at the marina. Upon the skippers' return from the marina, the group boarded the two tiny ships, and the weather actually held up on the way to Lover's Key. "We set ground on the shore of the fairly deserted isle," Patterson said, "everyone piled out and went exploring, fishing or whatever it is that people do on the beach." After a quick picnic lunch at Lover's Key, the weather did start getting rough. The good news is the tiny ships were not tossed, and there was even time made to follow a small pod of dolphins, albeit at a legal distance of course. The group made it back from their fateful trip, (Editor's Note: Does anyone else notice the recurring *Gilligan's Island* theme in this piece?) with no time to spare, all was not lost. The bar was then set up and preparations were made for the much anticipated evening BBQ.

Despite Debby's threat; it turned out to be a great weekend. A good time was had by all.

An evening at Marlins Park hits a homerun; Marlins fall short

Marlins fall to the Rays, 13-4

On June 9, 2012 there was a club outing to the new Marlins Park in Miami. The Miami Marlins took on the Tampa Bay Rays. There was a total of 40 attendees between the FLMC and America's Corvette Club. FLMC member, Arlene Chejanovski organized the outing and bus transportation to the park was provided by FLMC members

Derrick and Shelly Boroday. The group met at Boroday's office in Pembroke Park, and rolled out at approximately 5:30, arriving at the ballpark in plenty of time for the 7:10 game.



The evening did not turn out to be such a good one for the Miami Marlins though. While the first inning was a one-two-three inning for both the Marlins and the Rays, that is where the equality ended.

The Marlins' defense started to derail at the top of the second inning. Marlins' starting pitcher, Carlos Zambrano (2012 season ERA 3.71), gave up five runs on four hits in the top of the second inning. Zambrano was sent to the bench at the top of the third inning; and reliever Chad Gaudin (2012 season ERA 4.89), ascended to the mound. Things went from bad to worse during Gaudin's four and two-thirds-inning reign; giving up another four runs on three hits, resulting in a 9-4 score at the end of the seventh.

The Marlins' offense made a valiant attempt to salvage the game in the bottom of the sixth inning. Outfielder Justin Ruggiano, was the big hitter of the game, after hitting a three-run homerun. The bottom of the sixth was the beginning and the end of Miami's scoring spree.

Even with an additional two Marlins pitching changes late in the game, the damage had been done. Miami lost with a final score of 13-4.



Fireworks at Marlins Park

Despite the train wreck on the field, the evening was capped off by the roof opening and a spectacular fireworks display. After the close of the fireworks show, a handful of

members from both clubs congregated around the TV's on the concourse to see the Miami Heat, win their playoff game against the Boston Celtics.

All in all it was a great time for both clubs and fun was had by all. Thanks Arlene!

Pennies for the parking meter

Beginning this month, at our monthly meeting, members are urged to bring in their spare pennies. Those members that bring their spare pennies to subsequent meetings, will turn them over to Barbara Gauch, who has provided the parking meter. She will also keep track of the amount of pennies in the meter.

The meter will be used for a contest at the FLMC's annual car show. Contestants will have to guess how many pennies are in the meter, and the winner will win the meter and all of its pennies. The car show is slated to be held at Maroone Ford in Ft. Lauderdale later this year.

FLMC Members win trophies at PNC Open Car Show

by: Gene Barrineau

All of the FLMC attendees of the PNC Open Car Show on May 12, 2012 won trophies for their entries. The four FLMC attendees, with three cars, were: Gene & Carrie Barrineau, Blake Angrove, and Frank Incorvaia.

The well planned and free event featured free food and soft drinks courtesy of Smokey Bones BBQ. There were approximately 80 cars of various years, makes, models and modifications on hand. For each car registered at the show, PNC Bank donated \$10 to the Broward County Children's Center. The event was enjoyed by all.

Please remember to check our website www.flmustangclub.com for updates on club events. The bottom of the first page is continually updated with all the latest information regarding club targeted shows, rally locations & times and much more. It will also be posted if a last e-mail was sent. If you are not receiving blast e-mails, or do not want to, please contact Mark at admin@flmustangclub.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Board of Directors would like to welcome the following new members to the club...

Mike Saviano - '11 Mustang 5.0

From the Editor's Desk...

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the newsletter this month. Keep them coming.

Thank you,
Bruce H. Solov, *Editor*

Feature: Member's Car Spotlight

Each month, *The Pony Express*, will showcase the car of a current member as well as the story behind that member's car.

Larry & Carol Wechsler 1964½ Ford Mustang Convertible



Wechsler's 1964½ Mustang Convertible

(photo by Larry Wechsler)

This month's Member Car Spotlight Larry & Carol Wechsler's 1964½ Mustang Convertible. Larry and Carol have been members since July 2010.

"My Mustang Convertible was built on June 26, 1964, which makes it one of the first Mustangs ever produced and one of the oldest on the road." said FLMC Member Larry Wechsler, "The title and registration say '65 for the year, but it is commonly referred to as a '64½." Wechsler's car has a 260 cubic inch V8, which was the same engine used in the Ford Fairlane and only used in the Mustang from April to August 1964.

Thus our story begins. Wechsler, who at that time was a living large, 23 year-old college junior, bought his in Miami in March 1976 for a mere \$200. Two years earlier, he paid \$200 for a 1967 Coupe. He conceded that the '67 Coupe was a more comfortable car because it had A/C, power steering and a 289 cubic inch V8 engine. The convertible belonged to a good friend of Wechsler who was arrested for DUI. Because of his friend's arrest, his friend lost his driver's license and the car was impounded. Florida law in 1976 required vehicles to pass an annual safety inspection, and the owner needed to produce a valid driver's license to get the inspection decal. It just so happened that the friend lost his license in March which was the same month that the decal on the convertible was to expire. When Wechsler brought the '67 Coupe in for inspection, he did the deal for the convertible.

After graduating from college, the Mustang was already 12 years old, and beginning to get old as well, and he wanted something newer. He then bought a 1977 Toyota Celica, with fully intending to sell the Mustang, asking the same \$200 that he paid for the car in 1976. He was unsuccessful at getting that price for the car, and out of frustration kept the car with the intent to sell it privately. He never did sell the car, "it wound up being the best thing I never did," Wechsler said.

The Mustang was kept in his garage, only to be driven on the weekends, but not without it being used to pull a 22' boat, and being parked on the street, outside the Orange Bowl with the top left down. In fact, there was times where

he went months with leaving the top down. In 1979, he brought it to a paint and body shop in Lakeland, owned by the man who was the best man at Wechsler's wedding. Throughout the years, he had almost sold the car many times, viewing it as a luxury because it was a third car. At one point in 1984, he stopped at a local Ford dealership to look at the 1984 Mustangs. The owner of the dealership happened to have been there, and offered a brand new Mustang Convertible as an even swap for the '64½.

The restoration efforts were placed on hold after the birth of his first child in 1987. It was rare that the car was even driven. Between 1987-2007 a total of around 2000 miles was put on the car, Wechsler said. After his oldest son graduated high school in 2005, and always being asked about restoring the Mustang; he realized he needed to take action to prevent the car from hauled off on a wrecker. This began the long, arduous and sometimes painful journey to restoration of a classic.

Wechsler had many trials and tribulations, and even some bumps in the road along the restoration journey. It seemed that everything that he touched was connected to something else that needed to be repaired. He did some of the work himself, and the rest he paid others to complete. A lot of 1965 & 1966 parts, as well as some Chinese auto parts found their way on to the car, but he was also able to buy a lot of '64½ parts at a junk yard. At one point, everything on the car had been rebuilt except the engine. The car had only been back together for only weeks, when the car began to blow blue smoke, which indicated a failed ring. The result of that was the engine needing to be rebuilt as well.

In the six years since the restoration, the car has been regularly driven on the weekends. It also gets lots of love at the car shows that Wechsler attends, with people always telling him how they or a relative of theirs had a car like his. It even got the attention of a seven or eight year-old, at a gas station, who pointed out to his father the car is a Mustang.

"If I had known what it was going to cost, before I started, I probably wouldn't have done it," Wechsler said, "Having spent the money, I'm really happy I did. It was worth every penny." He then concluded by saying, "It runs better today than at any time since I've owned it. I could get in it tomorrow and drive it to Alaska without any worries."

Stay tuned for next month's Member's Car Spotlight. If you would your vehicle spotlighted, please let the editor know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3, 2012: Miami Springs Annual Independence Eve Car Show. Miami Springs. 6 - 9:30 PM.

July 4, 2012: Flamingo Gardens Old Fashioned Fourth Car Show. Davie. 10 AM- 4 PM. Free.

July 7-8, 2012: Stars & Stripes Car Show. Museum of Discovery and Science. Fort Lauderdale. A Russ G Event.

July 12-15, 2012: Key West Power Cruise. Begins in Lake City, spending the night in Key Largo, continues to Key West.

July 21, 2012: 40th Anniversary of Jack's Old Fashioned Hamburgers. 4-8 PM. 591 S. Cypress Road, Pompano Beach. Open to all cars 20 years or older. Presented by AACA. Food discounts for entrants. Cruise-In No registration.

July 25, 2012: Club Targeted Event. Christmas in July, benefiting CDTC. 6 PM - 9 PM. McSorley's Beach Pub Upstairs 837 North Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. A NON-CAR EVENT. \$10 cover + new unwrapped toy gets you one free drink and appetizers.

August 12, 2012: Tattoo Exp Car Show. Hosted by Cruisers of South Florida.

August 24-26, 2012: Club Targeted Event - Caladium Festival, Lake Placid. No definite plans yet but typically the club rents a house on the lake. More details TBA.

August 25, 2012: Battle of the Brands (Ford v. GM) Car Show. 4 - 9 pm. Strikers Family Sportscenter, Sunrise.

September 2, 2012: Seminole Casino Hollywood Labor Day Weekend Car & Truck Show.

As a reminder, FLMC Monthly Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, starting at 7:30pm at:

Maroone Ford of Fort Lauderdale
1333 North Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

Meetings generally last about one hour, for more details and directions, visit our website.

Monthly Mustang Factoid

In 1979, Ford offered Indy 500 pace car replicas, in commemoration of the Mustang's second appearance at the Brickyard. They were powered by either the 5.0 liter V8 or Turbocharged four-cylinder, which only featured a four-speed manual transmission, while the V8's were offered with the four-speed or an automatic.**

**The Complete Book of Mustang, Every Model Since 1964 1/2, by Mike Mueller, p.187, 2010 MBI Publishing Company.



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