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Rocket City Mustang Club

www.rocketcitymustang.com

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2009-2010 Club Officers

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Vice-President:
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MCA Regional Club Representative
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Board of Directors
Mark Stafford Mark Dorner Billy Hammonds
Terri Schmitt Michael Foley Skip Hamer

RCMC Web Site

Our web site is: RocketCityMustang.com. If you would like to put information on our web site please contact our webmaster Doug Stainbrook at webmaster@rocketcitymustang.com. Pictures of club member cars in whatever condition are always welcome.

Officer's Note

Ah, February. What else can I say but it is a great time to huddle inside and watch hockey, football, and now we can keep our eyes on the Olympics. Like a lot of you, my eyes are focused towards Vancouver as our athletes join our closest neighbor as Canada hosts the 21st winter games. I always have a feeling of pride for our athletes, their supporting organizations, and our country.

And as I look out the window I am seeing large flakes of snow fall onto the ground. Snow? Wait, isn't this Alabama? Why torture us with this white (4-letter-word-that-begins-with-s) when what we want to do is build, polish, and drive our cars. If you did not know, Saturday also showed us with snow on the ground of 49 of the 50 states. Along with that I keep hearing that we are having one of the colder winters that we have had for a while. Ah, maybe now would be a good time for one of you to come in and explain the best way to replace the heater core in a classic Mustang? Or do you have to listen to me talk about how to do it in a Fox? Again?

Well, while I am lamenting about how cold it is and about that 4-letter-word-that-begins-with-s, March is quickly coming upon us. And if you do not know, there are several events that are happening in that month. One of those listed here happen to be a jaunt to the Jack Daniel's distillery. If you have not seen or heard anything about it, head on over to our Forum and take a look at the thread that is there. And if you do have a good heater, go ahead and sign up for it and join us!

I also want to remind everyone that dues are... well, due. The club historically takes dues to the end of March. Then, email addresses start to be dropped off the list. I wanted to let you know this so that it does not slip your mind and then you wonder why you are not getting any more SPAM emails from me. ☺ Twelve dollars is certainly not much to ask. Please think about sending it in – along with a new membership form – and I will ensure that you get all of my annoying emails.

And, as you know, this section will also hold reminders of our upcoming show. This is our 30th show. Think of it – 30 years! This club always pulls together and ends up putting on a wonderful show for the community. I already have emails from folks across the US that are planning to come. I am actually in awe that this club has donated time and money to events and charities around this community and surrounding areas. If you think back, we have contributed a lot of smiles and helping hands to those not as fortunate, or in need. Please keep this in mind. The officers, Board Of Directors, National Director and all of you will make this another great show for folks to display their pride and joy. Please give Mark Stafford your utmost support as he asks for your help.

I ask again that you send me your biography (two or three paragraphs) along with a few pictures to keep up the Member Spotlight. I appreciate the ones that have come in and would like to see several more. I want to tell the club a little about you and your interests. So, send those in any format (I'm a computer guy) and I will see that you are introduced to the club!

And to end this President's Note, I want to send thoughts and prayers to one of our long-standing members – Cynthia Kennedy. I am hoping that you join me as well. We are all behind you!

This is your club. Your participation is the breath and life of this club. I hope to see you out and about this year!

Ralph Bischof
President RCMC

Member Bio – Skip Hamer

My name is Skip Hamer. I joined the RCMC back in 1988 when the show was held at the old Mall parking lot. I've served as club VP then President so I've done my time. I currently own a 1993 5.0 LX convertible, but have previously owned 12 other Mustangs ranging from a 1965 coupe (first car) to a 2004 Mach 1. One of my hobbies is collecting diecast cars and Mustang artwork, my other hobby is bowling. I met my wonderful wife, Deborah, through our bowling league, in the fall of 2000 and we married 1 year later. One thing she did like to do, even though she said she wasn't much of a car girl, was to drive whatever Mustang we had at the time and the stories she would tell me when she would get home were a joy to hear. Seems every guy in town wanted to race her and she apparently wasn't too shy about doing it. Deb was diagnosed in the fall of 2006 with esophageal cancer, stage 4, and she passed away 17 months later. We were very grateful to the club for the January '07 Car Show they put on to help us financially. Though she is gone she will never be forgotten.

As I said before, my current Mustang is a '93 convertible and it was redone this past year in her memory. I bought the car back in the summer of 2005 with 112K miles. The motor was replaced with a Ford 302/340HP crate motor; I had a gear drive installed along with new BBK shorty headers, an Explorer intake and 65mm throttle body. The automatic transmission (Aamco transmissions) was rebuilt with a mild shift kit, a new steering rack; front cross drilled/slotted rotors and pads, new master cylinder, Russell braided lines and a new emergency brake cable were installed. The rearend was rebuilt and an aluminum differential cover was installed. All this work was done by my friend, Deron Shady. I also bought a complete set of '01 Cobra convertible seats off Ebay and had a new cloth top installed by Rod's Customs. The car was painted a two-tone, Black over Red, and a Saleen ground effect kit a rear spoiler were installed. So far the car has been on several trips without any problems.

Back to the club. I've enjoyed my years as a member and look forward to being one for many more.

Skip Hamer
RCMC Member





Events (March)

Jack Daniel's Cruise (March 13th) –

There is an impromptu cruise of Mustangs heading up to Jack Daniel's on Saturday, March 13th. We will meet up at the Shoney's on North Parkway, then head to Jack Daniel's for the tour. Once the tour is over and we all have a sufficient buzz from inhaling the fumes, we'll have lunch in the Square. Afterwards we can cruise back to Huntsville and surrounding areas. If you would like to join us, please leave an email to onegreedy@gmail.com. For more information and a map of the cruise route, see the Forums at this URL - <http://forums.themustangsource.com/showthread.php?t=480146>.

MCA Pensacola National Show (March 26th-28th) –

This national MCA show is being held in Pensacola, Florida, for the weekend listed above. Classification, Registration, and Vendor Setup opens on Friday at 8AM. 10:30 has the NAS museum cruise. Saturday opens again at 8 with Classification, Registration, and Vendor Setup. Judging is 11-5. On Sunday, judging completes from 8-10 with the awards presentation at 2PM. This show is being hosted by the Gulf Coast Regional Mustang Club. For more information, please see the email that I forwarded or go to <http://www.gcrmc.com/>.

Tupelo Cruise (March 13th) –

Last year Shoals Mustangs and Mid-South Mustangs sponsored at cruise-in at the Tupelo Automobile Museum. It was a great success with Clubs from Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi participating. We had over eighty Mustangs in attendance with only a couple of weeks planning! This year we have decided to crank it up a notch and include a show and shine. There is also a meal planned that evening with special guest speakers Steven McCarley MCA president and John Clor with Ford Racing and author of Mustang Dynasty. All of this will take place March 13th. Please check out our website www.tupelocruise.com for further details. If you have any questions about this event please give me a call. Byron Randolph, Shoals Mustangs, MCA Regional Director 256-603-5145.

J. F. Drake State Technical College 9th Annual Car Show (March 27th) –

This show will be held in the Drake State parking lot located at 3421 North Meridian Street here in Huntsville. The show runs from 9AM – 3PM with Registration 9AM – 12PM. The entrance fee is \$15 for contestants and vendors. Judging will be performed during the show with trophies and prizes being awarded at 2PM. In case of inclement weather, an alternate date will be April 3rd. For more information, contact Scotty McLaughlin at 256-551-3143 or email scotty.mclaughlin@drakestate.edu.

January meeting

January 19th meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

Presided over by Ralph Bischof – President

Guests\New Members: Mark and Donna Dandurand, Mark and Garret Strep

Old Business

- Treasurer's report read
- Web site traffic
 - January Report on web site
- BOD report
 - No report
- Mailbag
- Past Club Activities
 - Veterans Day Parade – Eight club cars participated in the event
 - Christmas parade was attended by the club. This year Ralph had a nail in a tire, and Mark Stafford had some problems and another member had lug nuts missing from a recent service.
 - Christmas party was held at Holiday Inn in Madison again this year. A truck full of gifts was collected for the Toys for Tots charity.
 - Club made donation to the Wreaths Across America.

New Business

- Activities
 - Mustang Magazine (new magazine), they allow clubs to submit info for free to help get information out about their clubs.
 - MCA is looking for Regional drive events. Some club members have taken the initiative to look into this and see the options and cost associated with them.
 - March 13th, a Show-n-Shine show will be hosted by the Shoals Mustang club. It will also consist of a cruise to Tupelo, MS.
 - Pensacola Show is March 19th - 21st, and this show is a Grand National.
 - Possible Jack Daniels cruise in March. According to web site looks like this will be held March 13th.
 - 30th Anniversary show will be held May 9th
 - BOD and officers will meet to start discussions and ideas for the show.
 - April meeting will be held on a Saturday, and will go over the basic judging, and will attend a local restaurant afterwards to eat lunch.
 - Club is looking for ideas to make the 30th anniversary show special. For any ideas please send them to Ralph. Some of the ideas mentioned at the meeting are:
 - Cruise Friday afternoon, followed by dinner
 - Movies?
 - Balloon toss
 - Club shirts are in and are \$8 a piece.
- Trivia given by Ralph and won by Jake.
- Did You Drive Your Mustang? Bill Ruffer did and won \$10 pot. Next month's pot will be \$10.
- Did you wear any Club apparel? Patrick Sergeant did and wins \$5 out of the Presidents pocket.
- Meeting Adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Last notes

We are moving ahead with our 30th show. Even though the snow on my car is keeping me from going out and enjoying any driving today, May is right around the corner when it comes to planning and preparing for a show. Our Show Chairman is working hard to get the details together and is actively working with several club members. If you would like to help in any aspect of the show, I ask that you contact Mark Stafford at markandshuai4ever@hotmail.com and offer your assistance.

Please have a thought about supporting your club events. Come out and meet the people that make this club unique and one to be proud of. We have several meets and events that will be happening this year. And if you want to arrange one yourself, feel free to contact me and we will discuss what you would like to do.

According to the MCA (Mustang Club of America), you should be a member of the MCA to be eligible to be a member of a regional chartered club. If you have not done so, submit your membership to the MCA. You may find them online at <http://mustang.org/>.

I hope to see you at our next meeting – February 16th at the West End Grill. Although the official start is 7PM, come early and have a little dinner and drink with the folks. I hope to see you there!

Ralph Bischof
President RCMC