

Mustangs at the Marriott

SAMC brings 150 Mustangs & Fords to the Marriott Hotel at Folsom Blvd and Sunrise Blvd in Rancho Cordova, California on June 20th, 2015

Text and Photos by SAMC Member Ron Bramlett

The Sacramento Area Mustang Club (SAMC) held their annual benefit Mustang & Ford Car Show on Saturday, June 20th, 2015 in the east-side parking lot of the Marriott Hotel located on the corner of Folsom Blvd and Sunrise Blvd in Rancho Cordova, California. The SAMC is a Mustang Club of America (MCA) Regional Club and therefore this was an MCA Regional Show. Proceeds from the show go to many different charitable organizations in the Sacramento area. Over the years, the SAMC has donated thousands of dollars to these organizations which they have raised through this annual benefit show.

The setting, was a clean, blacktopped parking lot that made it easy for the participants to park and clean their cars before the judging took place. Shade was abundant thanks to the fact that this parking lot is lined with trees in concrete planters with curbs which make great shade in the morning and afternoon hours. Although there are always a few stragglers, most of the cars were in place by the time Cindy and I arrived at 8:20 am.

Although prominently Mustangs, there was a great showing of other Ford cars and trucks at this year's show. Everything from Model T's to newer Ford trucks that had been tricked out. And, Ford service vehicles. One of my favorites was a 1950 Ford Fire Chief's car. Red with all of the newest gadgets to help direct the firemen to fight fires. The newest gadgets for 1950, that is! And, all of us in California remember when the California Highway Patrol was using Mustangs to give speeders tickets! Well, we got up close and real personal with one of these very collectable Mustangs at the show. As I said, there was a little something for everybody at this year's show.

There were also several vendors to serve the participants while enjoying the show. DynoJet is always a big hit. This year, for \$40.00, you got 2 pulls, meaning that after hooking the car up and making sure that it was secure, DynoJet would run the car up to speed and measure the horsepower and torque two times so that you didn't just have just one reading to rely on. And, I believe I saw them actually do more than two pulls on several cars just to make sure that the readings they had were correct. They really did a very thorough job. Anyone who has had a car dynoed before knows what a deal \$40.00 is! Once completed, they printed out the readings and sealed them in plastic so that you could put them in your records.

Towards the end of the day, Cindy and I noticed an opening in the DynoJet line so we decided to have her 2006 Expedition dynoed. It put out over 225 horsepower and over 300 foot pounds of torque at the rear wheels. I didn't feel this was too bad for a 10 year old truck with 160,000 miles on it! Many people know what horsepower is, but not torque. Torque is what makes a car accelerate or a truck pull a load. Simply put, Torque is how much work an engine will do and horsepower is how fast it does it. That's why I was pleased to see the 301 foot pounds of torque. As a truck to pull a trailer, which is what Cindy's Expedition does a lot of, torque is more important than horsepower.

Other cars that found their way to the dyno was a Tesla, a Sunbeam Tiger, a turbo charged T-Bird, and various Mustangs of all years, makes and models. There was almost a continuous crowd looking on at the dyno and all were curious as to what numbers were going to come up on the screen. Cindy and I looked at the wares of the other



Flying the SAMC colors. SAMC is a Mustang Club of America Regional Club.



Early morning at the registration and raffle booths.



Gotta clean the car before the judging starts!



A true Mustang enthusiast. His VIN number is tattooed on his arm!



Tim Toy's 1965 GT Fastback has been all over the country. He drove it on the Pony Drive to Oklahoma and back to Las Vegas for the 50th.



To help support the sponsors and vendors, Cindy had her Expedition rated on the dyno. It produced 225 hp and 301 ft lbs of torque.



The Marriott Hotel parking lot is lined with shade trees. Very cool! No pun intended...

vendors, ordered food from the BBQ in the parking lot (the food vendors are all provided by Marriott as a part of the contract, not the club. That's why the burgers and hot dogs were \$7 & \$8...) and looked at all of the beautiful Mustangs and Fords. In all, I counted 172 cars. I later found out that 155 had registered and 149 showed up. I would assume that the difference was that some of them didn't register but came and parked in the parking lot or registered and wasn't counted. But, anyway that you slice it, it was a great show with the best participation ever!

In spite of being one of, if not the, largest SAMC Annual Shows ever, it was extremely well run by the SAMC staff and they deserve a big pat on the back. SAMC President Mark Shephard and Vice President Traci Thaler stepped up and led the club to a very successful show. They, and the dozens of other SAMC volunteers who spent their time and energy to make this show happen, deserve a very big "Well Done!" You know who you are so don't be shy about taking credit!

As a last thought, a big part of any car show is to reconnect with other enthusiasts and friends that you may not have seen for awhile. That's what it's all about for me and Cindy. Cindy and I saw many of these people and spent a lot of time renewing those friendships. We have never come to any show just to win a trophy. For us, the reward is in being there with our friends and seeing the new things that they have done to their cars. That's how the excitement lives on for us.

So, "Thank You!", Sacramento Area Mustang Club, for making this years' show one that we will always remember. It was grand!

Ron and Cindy Bramlett



A drone flew overhead to capture the show from the air.



It's rare to see a nice Cobra II displayed at any show. This one was very nice indeed.



When was the last time you saw a Ranchero like this at a show?