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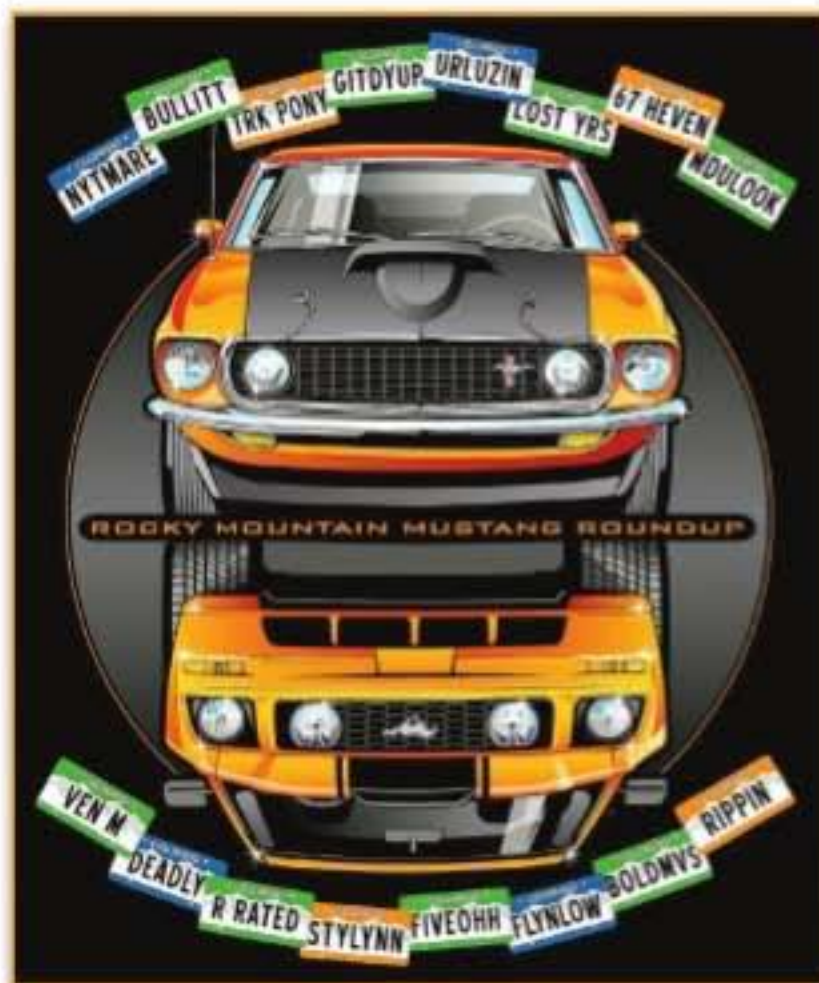
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN RIDING

RMMR 21

Text and photography by Michelle Hurni



Bob's Daily Driver

Bob Cloutier is Mustang Bob to everyone at the Rocky Mountain Mustang Roundup. He doesn't like to talk about himself, but ask Bob what he drives and the clubs he belongs to and you have to set a timer to get him to stop talking. As his story unfolds, it's obvious Bob got bit hard by the musclecar bug when the first Mustang entered his life in 1973.

Over 100 Mustangs have passed through his garage since he bought his first Mustang at age 18, a 1964½ six-cylinder coupe. He found the car in a junkyard in Maine, then mixed and matched parts to make it his first daily driver. Shortly after that, he found himself homeless and drove that coupe across the country before settling in Colorado, where he has lived since. He claims to have started out as a musclecar enthusiast, then "grew up" in his 30s and became strictly a Ford guy. It's all performance, of course.

His daily rides have ranged from a 1965 K fastback and 1970 Boss 302 to a 1985½ SVO to his current 2004 Cobra. One of his favorites was his Boss 429 that had been confiscated from a drug runner. He bought it at a police auction for \$4,000, then sold it five years later for \$15,000.

Rocky Mountain Mustang Roundup

The Rocky Mountain Mustang Roundup (RMMR) is in its 21st year. After bouncing around between a few Colorado mountain towns for the first eight years, it stampeded into Steamboat Springs, Colorado, 13 years ago. When it first rolled into the mountain town, gas stations ran out of gas. Now, "Ski Town USA" is

better prepared for the parade of 600 Mustangs from 17 states.

What started as a local car show with fewer than 150 cars has grown into a major event. RMMR hosts an autocross, pony tour, car show and social events. U.S. Highway 40 is closed down so Mustangs can line the streets for the Show 'n Shine. Everyone comes home a winner, with 40 percent of the field winning a prize for showing and racing and everyone else treated to door prizes ranging from T-shirts and jackets to an engine.

For 20 years, Bob has shared his passion for Mustangs by volunteering to run registration for the Rocky Mountain Mustang Roundup. He started his company, ProTech Computer Systems, around the same time, and the two have grown up together. Modest to a fault, he claims his company is "the little guy," and he uses ProTech as a base for RMMR, including hosting the server and website to printing up fliers and making up the registration packets.

Scenic Drive

Two hundred and twenty musclecars roamed through historic old western towns and up Elk River Road for the Scenic Tour. Joe Dietz, the RMMR Planning Committee Chairman, corralled the Mustangs into a staging area, letting them loose in small packs. In 2009, they swaggered up the winding road, drivers waving to each other as they passed under the ominous storm clouds hovering over the ranches. Horses grazed in fertile green pastures on the hillsides while drivers banged gears alongside the rushing Elk River.

The 65-mile tour on curvy, paved



1 Seventeen-year-old Morgan Krebs cruises the Scenic Tour in her first car, a 1966 six-cylinder.

2 The event featured ponies of old and new. Roland Smith's Ski Country Special coupe rests at Steamboat Lake Outfitters before heading back to town.

3 The president of the Rocky Mountain Mustangers takes the scenic drive up Elk River Road. Vonda Fowler has been going to RMMR for six years with her 2000 Mustang. The car was in the rental

program in Hawaii before being relocated to Colorado.

4 Ashley Seyfarth drove her "Badash" 2003 GT from Farmington, New Mexico, for the roundup. She would dominate her autocross class and win a Show 'n Shine award.

5 "MINN3SOTA MIKE" Pollman gets the first 21 of the day, fitting since he's 21 years old. His 2005 has an added GT rear bumper, 18-inch fan blade rims, BBK cold air and Magnaflo dual exhaust. He's the founder of the Mustang Militia.

roads was dominated by the roar of Mustangs. Commemorating the 21st year of the RMMR, drivers played Blockjack, aka "21," at the three checkpoints.

Autocross

Bob originally designed autocross timing for the Shelby Club, then started the Autocross event for RMMR in about 1992. The event now hosts over 200 cars on the adrenaline-pumping course and is run by the SCCA.

After winning over 200 trophies in drag and road racing, Bob says, "I'm strictly into it for the fun now. If someone has a faster car, good for them."

While he used to spend money making sure his car was fast, now he shows up in his daily driver, bolts in a fire extinguisher, and takes to the track. One of his favorite rides was a 1986 Shelby, which he vintage-raced for about 12 years.

Jack Tarhat, owner of one of the major event sponsors, Bill-Tarhat Motors, Inc., showed up for autocross in a 2006 Ford GT. The Supercar is in a trust for his seven-year-old grandson, Parker Ertl, but Jack put over 125 miles on it during the 2009 autocross, giving rides to anyone who asked.

6 Here's Bob Oustler, propped and ready for autocross. All he adds to his daily driver is a helmet and gloves. He's worked hard enough that he deserves a little fun.

7 Pat Chambers of Denver won the Unlimited class with this 2007 Shelby GT

8 Dan Ambrosio navigates the maze of cones in his 1965 fastback, earning a second place in the Early Street Modified class.



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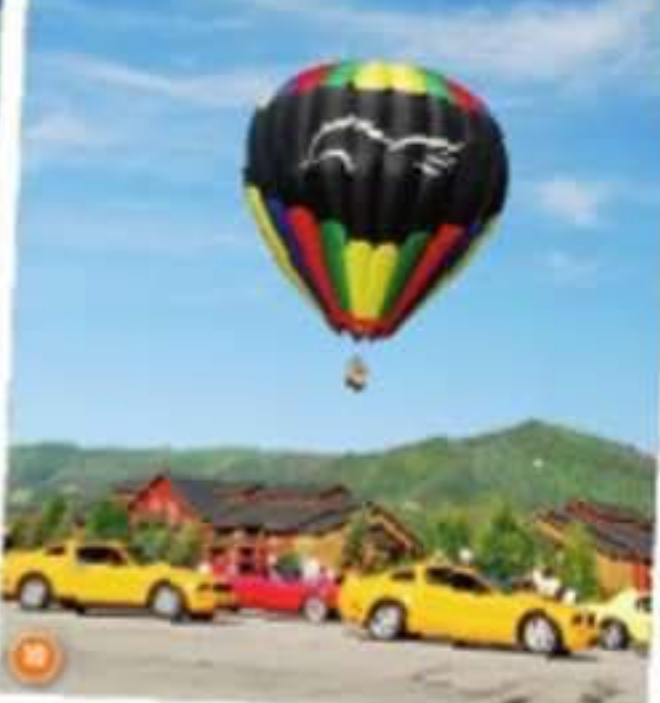
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9 George Hemi stops off in the staging area after the Scenic Mountain Tour. His car won an award at Show 'n Shine.

10 A hot air balloon is coming in for a landing at the Show 'n Shine staging area.

11 Hoods raised, ready for inspection. The field covered five blocks of downtown Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

12 A yellow Focus, proudly showing its birth year.

Show 'n Shine

Mustang owners proudly polished, waxed and detailed their cars for the local judges at the Show 'n Shine. With sulfur wafting through the air from hot springs along the Yampa River, owners strolled along the five blocks of Lincoln Avenue talking about engines, restorations and paint jobs.

"When you own an old Mustang, you're constantly tinkering," Bob says, and he knows. He stabled as many as 15 in his backyard at one time during the 1990s. But now, no matter how many miles he puts on his cars, he

doesn't spend a dime on maintenance. Anything more than a once-a-year synthetic oil change and "I get rid of it before anything needs to be done."

Jack Terhar has been involved with the RMMR since it arrived in Steamboat Springs and says "the cars bring us together." Owners of these shiny dream machines span the generational gap, from his seven-year-old grandson to owners such as Rich Baughn who was 11 when the first Mustang appeared on a Ford lot. Forty years later, he purchased his first Mustang, a 1964½ from his past.

Club Access

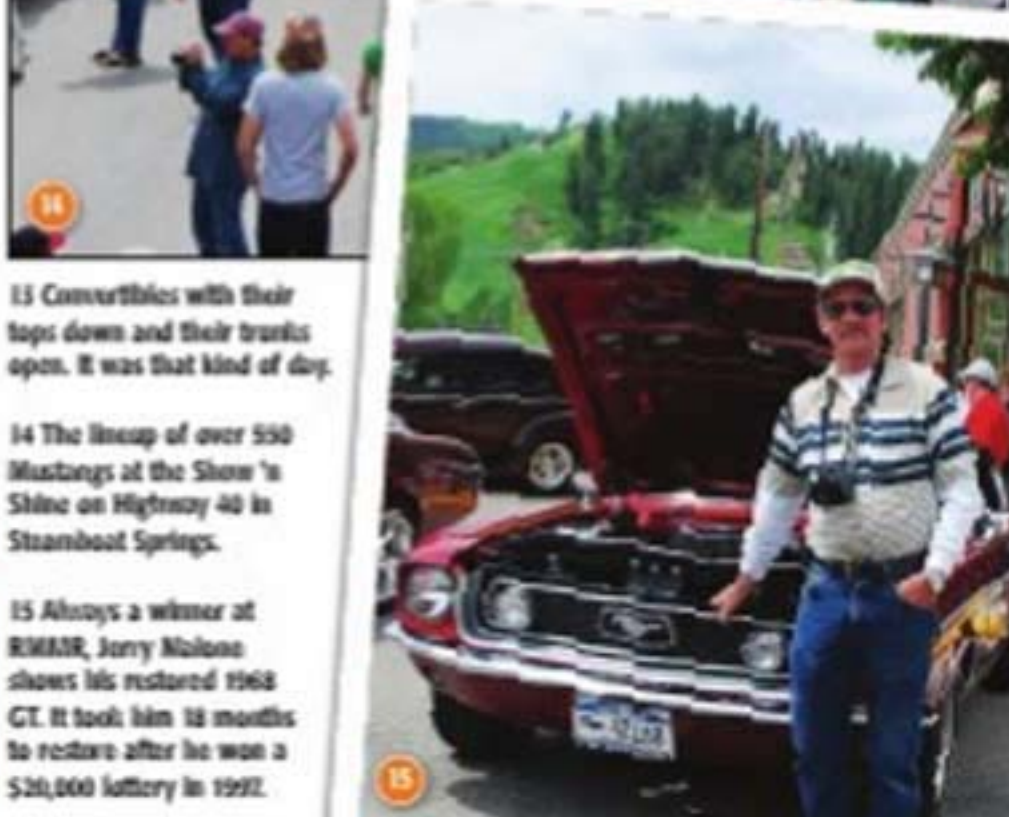
The RMMR couldn't exist without a staff of over 100 volunteers. Most come from the six Colorado sponsoring clubs: Early Mustang Club, Denver Mustang Club, Front Range Mustang Club, High Country Mustang Club, Rocky Mountain Mustangs, and the Shelby American Automobile Club.

Bob and his wife Joan are the longest term members of the Early Mustang Club. He's owned numerous Shelys and has been a member of the Shelby Club since the 1980s. Now, he shows up for gatherings in whatever he's driving (he's got a rare red 2003 Lamborghini) and says, "Once you get in a group, you know who's who. Even though I don't drive a late model car any more, they let you run exhibitions with them."

2010

The major event sponsors for 2010 were: Bill-Terhar Motors, NAPA Auto Parts, Miller Motors Park, Colorado Mustang Specialists, Colorado Mustang Concepts, AER, Associated Photographers, Stang Auto Tech, Chrome Insurance, The City of Steamboat Springs, and The Steamboat Grand Resort.

You can't get in line for the 2010 event until January 2010, but photos and information from past events are available on www.RMMR.org



13 Convertibles with their tops down and their trunks open. It was that kind of day.

14 The lineup of over 550 Mustangs at the Show 'n Shine on Highway 40 in Steamboat Springs.

15 Always a winner at RMMR, Jerry Malone shows his restored 1968 GT. It took him 18 months to restore after he won a \$20,000 lottery in 1992.