

History – Mustang Club of Ohio

Cars were always a passion for Francis (Frank) Fust. Frank had always owned Ford products, and he fell in love with the Mustang when they first came out mid-year 1964. His first Mustang was produced in April 1964 and it was a hardtop, bronze with a black vinyl top. Frank and his family were living in New Jersey at the time.

Frank was an FBI Agent and he met his wife, Laverne, when they both worked for the FBI in Washington D.C. They were both from Louisville, Kentucky, but they did not know each other when they each lived in Louisville. Frank spent his entire career working for the FBI. The FBI transferred Frank to Columbus in 1965, and he was the assistant executive in charge of the Columbus FBI Office until he retired in 1974.

After moving to Ohio, Frank collected various Mustangs over the years. He had three Mustangs stored in a building in Xenia, Ohio when on April 3, 1974 a tornado hit Xenia and demolished the building in which he was storing his Mustangs. All three Mustangs were crushed. Frank was able to prevent the National Guard from demolishing the building until after he was able to recover his Mustangs from the building. He then had all three Mustangs totally restored at Medic Krieger Ford. After the tornado experience, Frank decided to build a six car two story garage at the back of his house in Columbus. He then stored all of his Mustangs in that garage. Frank had a complete Mustang parts storage area on the second floor of his garage. He probably had enough parts to build two Mustangs from scratch.

George Krieger was a former FBI agent and he owned Medic Krieger Ford in 1974 when Frank retired from the FBI. Frank and George had been close friends over the years. When Frank retired, George convinced him to work for Medic Krieger Ford part time in the Parts Department. Frank eventually decided to start a Mustang club and he created the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio on November 14, 1974. George's son, Doug Krieger, was working for the dealership when Frank started working in the Parts Department. Doug was also a fan of Mustangs, and Doug and Frank connected on their love for Mustangs. As a result of this close relationship, the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio held its first show at Medic Krieger Ford in 1976 on the grass in front of the Used Car Lot. The grassy area was larger at that time. There were about 30 Mustangs at the first show. Back then, the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio did not have judging as part of the show. It was mainly a bunch of guys and gals who loved Mustangs who got together for fun and friendship. Medic Krieger Ford became Krieger Ford in 1977.

Frank was a very good writer. He had one of the first word processing computers which he used to prepare the newsletters for the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio. Mustangs were Frank's passion. He organized parts swap meets, shows and road rallies for the Club. Frank was an extrovert who liked to interact with people from all walks of life and all backgrounds. He also had a wealth of knowledge about Mustangs. The members of the Club enjoyed interacting with Frank because of his personality and his knowledge of Mustangs. One of the early members of the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio was Paul Tibbets, the pilot of Enola Gay who dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima. Paul was President of Executive Jet Aviation (now NetJets) at the time. Paul was also one of Frank's many friends and he too owned a first generation Mustang. Jim Shaw joined the

Club in 1990. Frank and Garland Gills ("Gilly") were both very helpful to Jim as he restored his 1965 barn find convertible.

Krieger Ford has been a sponsor of the Mustang Club of Ohio (formerly the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio) and has hosted a Mustang Show at its dealership every year since 1976 (except for 2015 when The Mustang Club of Ohio hosted the MCA Grand National and the show dates conflicted that year) and 2020 (due to the Covid pandemic). Krieger Ford provides the trophies for the Krieger Ford Mustang Show each year.

In 1991, Mark Morley had a 1973 red Mustang convertible. He was at a car show at Alum Creek Park in Westerville where he met Jim McLeaster who also had a 1973 Mustang. Jim had joined the Club in 1987. Jim told Mark about the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio, and Jim got Mark to join the Club. Frank Fust was the President at the time Mark joined and the Club had about 60 members. Frank had a stroke in 1993 and Mark took responsibility for the newsletter to take that duty off Frank's shoulders. Frank had a second stroke in 1994 and he passed away in May 1994 after the second stroke. Frank had been President of the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio for twenty years. The Club had no leadership at that point. The Club met and no one wanted to be President. Mark took leadership of the Club to keep it going. That is how Mark became President in 1994. Jim McLeaster became Vice President of the Club at that time and continued in that role during the period that Mark was President.

Frank Fust is buried in Louisville, Kentucky where he was born and raised. The members of the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio collected money and placed a plaque on Frank's tombstone that reads:

Francis (Frank) Fust
Founder and 20 Year President
Classic Mustang Club of Ohio

Remembered by his many friends, club members and family for his
love and devotion to the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio, and his untiring
friendship that touched all who were fortunate to have been part of his life.

The Club had gatherings and the members would cruise together to attend shows and some routine activities like the Grandview Parade. However, to the best of Mark's knowledge, the Club did not have judging at its shows prior to 1993. The focus was friendship and fun. Ford introduced the newly designed 1994 Mustang during the fall of 1993. Ford contacted the various Mustang clubs and asked the clubs to put on a show to support the introduction of the new 1994 Mustang. The Classic Mustang of Ohio was one of the clubs contacted by Ford. The Club held a show at Krieger Ford in November 1993 and Ford had one of its new Mustangs at the show. The Classic Mustang Club of Ohio then had a show on April 17, 1994 at Krieger Ford in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Mustang.

Being founded in 1974, it is understandable that the Club was initially incorporated for first generation Mustangs. When Mark joined in 1991, the Club had been allowing newer cars, but it was not until May 1995 that Mark amended the Articles filed with the Ohio Secretary of State to

change the focus of the Club to all generations of Mustangs. Sometime in the mid 1990's Mark had the Club apply to become a regional club of the Mustang Club of America. From the mid-90's the hobby began to change with more and later model cars involved. Mark was receiving inquiries as President of the Classic Mustang Club of Ohio asking where there was a club for late model cars. It was obvious the word "Classic" in the name was misleading and, after some discussion, the Club agreed to delete "Classic" from the Club name and operate as the "Mustang Club of Ohio". Later in 2005 the name was officially changed in filings with the Ohio Secretary of State.

Mark pushed to do more shows and wanted to implement judging at the shows instead of participant voting. In 2002, the Mahoning Valley Mustang Club was having a show and members of MCO were planning to attend. Mark, Daryle Damschroder and other MCO members attended a Mustang show in Parkersburg. He met the President of that club, and that President taught Mark about judging. Daryle became a certified MCA Judge and he was the first member of MCO to become a certified judge. Mark made Daryle the MCO Head Judge and Daryle has been the MCO Head Judge ever since. Daryle has been a member of MCO since 1992. That was the beginning of MCO judging Mustangs at its shows.

During the mid-90's the Club also began to get involved with other Ford clubs like the United Ford Owners and the Mid-Ohio Ford Club and they jointly worked together to put on the "All Ohio Ford Show in Plain City." This was a charity event for Earth Angel that ran for several years until sponsorship money dried up.

The current Arthritis Foundation Show was the Len Immke Show in 1996. The Classic Mustang Club of Ohio was contacted in the fall of 1996 and was asked to participate in the 1997 Immke Show. Each year the show featured a domestic car and a foreign car. For the 1997 Show, Mustang and Porsche were the two featured brands. Andy Trux represented Porsche and Mark represented Mustang. They had competition to see whether Porsche or Mustang would have the most cars in the Show. Rick Parker was able to pull together seven Boss 429's for this show. This was before Rick started Signature Auto. It was rare to see seven Boss 429's at one show. Mark recalls that the Club had 75 Mustangs and thought Porsche had the same number. At the end, Porsche had 76 cars and won. Mark always joked that the Porsche people went to nearby Midwest Auto Group and borrowed a Porsche so they could beat the Mustangs.

Mark stated that the Arthritis Foundation Show was one of his favorite shows. He always enjoyed being a part of the AF Show committee and working with Jeff Brashares. Mark feels the AF event has brought great publicity to the Club and has been a contributing factor to the growth of MCO.

Mark started the tradition of the Winter Potluck. The potlucks were held at the Grace Lutheran Church on Schrock Road in Westerville. Mark admits borrowing the "secret" Sloppy Joe recipe from the Youth Director at the church and has entrusted Jim and Doris McLeaster with the "secret recipe". Mark says the Club members had a great time attending shows in Cincinnati, Barnesville, Norwalk, North Baltimore, Lima, Findlay, Delaware, Sunbury and many more. The McLeasters and Morleys even traveled on other trips to the Woodward Dream Cruise, Louisville Kentucky SAAC show, the track in Charlotte NC and all the way to Commerce, Georgia for shows. On the

Georgia trip they took in sites through the Ocoee Valley in Tennessee and in Helen, Georgia. They put their tops down on the return through the Smoky Mountain National park and in Gatlinburg.

In 2003, Mark's wife had a job transfer to Florida and Mark and his wife moved to Tampa. Ron Gallagher became the third President of MCO in 2003 and served until Dan Trapp became President January 2006. Ron and his wife Vicky did virtually every function in the club

Dan Trapp joined MCO in 2003. He became President in January 2006 and continued as President until January 2012 when Pat Toderan became President. During Dan's tenure, Jim McLeaster was Secretary, Pat Toderan was Vice President, Ron Gallagher was MCA Regional Director, Dave Roberts was Treasure and Doug Yoder managed the web site. Dave and his wife Sheila prepared the monthly newsletter and handled the membership responsibilities. Marilyn Black became the Secretary when Jim McLeaster gave up being the Secretary. When Dave Roberts passed away, Sabrina Hall became the Membership Director, Steve Vagnier became the Treasurer and Seamus Nicholson took over the newsletter responsibilities. Under Dan's leadership, MCO hosted its first MCA National Show in 2008. That show was a great success, and the headline in *Mustang Times* read, "Buckeye National Show – Raising the Bar." In July 2008, Dan Trapp accepted the Lee Iacocca Award for the Mustang Club of Ohio's "dedication to excellence in perpetuating an American Automotive Tradition." The Iacocca Award is the most coveted award in the classic car arena of which less than 200 awards were ever made. The Iacocca Award is currently on display at Krieger Ford. The club hosted the first ever Fox Body Reunion at the Arthritis Show in 2009. There were 257 Mustangs at the show of which 86 were Fox Body Mustangs. That number of cars at the MCO show within a show is an Arthritis Show record which still stands.

Dan decided to not run for office in 2011. Pat Toderan became President in January 2012 with Seamus Nicholson as Vice President, Steve Vagnier as Treasurer, Marilyn Black as Secretary and Sabrina Hall as Membership Director. Pat Toderan resigned as President in January 2013 and Seamus Nicholson succeed Pat as President. The election of officers was held in the fall of 2013, and John Evans became President in January 2014 and remained the President until October 2019 when Harry Webster became President. The officers during the period of January 2014 to October 2019 were Paul Vogt, 1st VP, Harry Webster, 2nd VP, Tammie Allen, Secretary, Robert Walston, Treasurer and Historian, Sabrina Hall, Membership Director, Norm Silverman, Newsletter and Al Hammons, MCA Regional Director. In 2016 Harry Webster became 1st VP and Greg Smith became 2nd VP. David Rose became the MCA Regional Director in 2018 to replace Al Hammond who was an MCA National Director. The club hosted the MCA Grand National in September 2015 with over 500 Mustangs participating in the show. Dan Trapp was named MCA National Head Judge for 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation Mustangs in January 2017. The Club hosted the Mustang II Reunion II at the Krieger Show in August 2017. John Clor of Ford Performance credits the Mustang Club of Ohio for continuing the Mustang II Reunions which are still ongoing. The first Mustang II Reunion in 2016 was intended to be a "one and done" event. Because MCO hosted Reunion II, the Mustang II Reunions have continued around the country.

John Evans elected to not run for re-election. Harry Webster became President in October 2019. The other officers were Joe Pusateri, VP, Tammie Allen, Secretary, Robert Walston, Treasurer and Historian, Sabrina Hall, Membership Director, Tom Damanti, MCA Regional Director and Norm Silverman, Newsletter. Al Hammond continued to serve as an MCA National Director. The

Covid pandemic was officially recognized in March, 2020, and the club had virtually no activities during 2020 and there were no cars shows that year. Harry and his wife moved to Tennessee and Joe Pusateri resigned in 2021. Al Hammond stepped in as Interim President and David Rose became the Interim Vice President. Club activities resumed for 2021. The Club participated in the Arthritis Show and held the annual Krieger Show. Elections were held and Dave Grawe was elected President, Jed Dailey, 1st Vice President, Tammie Allen, Secretary, Robert Walston, Treasurer and Historian, Sabrina Hall, Membership Director, Tom Damanti, MCA Regional Director and Norm Silverman, Newsletter. The 2nd Vice President position was not filled during the election. The MCO Board of Directors named Sabrina Hall to fill the 2nd Vice President position at their January 2022 meeting.