

# SO-CAL THROWDOWN, LONG BEACH STYLE!

NOV/DEC • MUSTANG DRIVER 35



## Formerly Mustangs at the Queen Mary, Ponies at the Pike is now the go-to Mustang show of the year in Los Angeles

STORY Marc Christ PHOTOS by the author and Justin Fivella

### WITH SO MUCH DRAMA IN THE LBC, IT'S KINDA HARD FINDING AN AWESOME MUSTANG SHOW.

Yet every year, on one Sunday in September, the perpetual carnival that is Long Beach gives way to a pony car stampede. Hosted by the Beach Cities Mustang Club (BCMC-Mustang.com), Ponies at the Pike is a must-go destination for So-Cal Mustangers. Formerly Mustangs at the Queen Mary, the new show takes place just across the harbor from the retired ocean liner landmark that once was the show's centerpiece and now serves as a magnificent backdrop.

The Queen Mary is a nautical beast. If she were a real person, say a musician, she would rival Elvis. After serving for years as a civilian transport, the Queen Mary took on

military duty, hauling troops from the U.S. to Europe during WWII. She made 1,000 trans-Atlantic voyages, carrying over two million passengers nearly four million miles. She once carried 16,082 American soldiers from New York to Great Britain—an unbroken record for the most passengers ever transported on a single vessel.

But in the world behind the docks, we'll argue that the Mustang is a much more exciting mode of transportation. If you drive one, and you're within striking distance of Long Beach, California, then Ponies at the Pike is an event you owe it to yourself to attend.

Limited to about 350 entries, this free-to-the-public show attracts all generations and styles of Mustangs and Fords. The venue, Shoreline



**ABOVE** The Pledge of Allegiance **LEFT** This was our first time seeing a V-8-equipped Shelby GT5. Most were V-6s. **BELOW LEFT** Jill Kraus valets her Mustang GT at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach. **BELOW** Show promoter and Beach Cities Mustang Club President Jon Schultz explains to the participants the rules and procedures at the beginning of the show.



Aquatic Park, is a peninsula that juts into the Queensway Bay, and is marked at its highest point by a lighthouse. By 9:30 a.m. on the day of the show, all manner of Blue Oval iron surrounded this landmark.

Some of the more notable entries that we saw included a group of Lincoln Mark VIII's (sixteen of them), a wickedly modified SVO, several interesting V-6's, a few big-bodies, and some of the most well-restored first-generation Mustangs on the West Coast. Modified S197s (2005-'14) were plentiful, and as you might expect, there was no shortage of Foxes and SN-95 ponies (including New Edges).

With so many participants, the awards ceremony was understandably lengthy. Door prize winners chose their gifts from a table of sweet picks. Steve Saleen walked the show field hand signing dashes, and California Pizza Kitchen worked the grounds, doing a brisk business in spite of the dozen restaurants within walking distance. Jon Schultz, Pres-



**TOP LEFT** How can you not admire this CHP SSP cruiser?

**TOP** There were over a dozen Lincoln Mark VIII's on hand, but this one caught our eye with its Terminator lower fascia grafted onto the front bumper.

**ABOVE** Everyone seemed to enjoy Dave Rittel's pristine '69 Mach 1 appearing the way it was meant to appear—with hub caps, no wing, and no rear window louvers.

**LEFT** A Poppy Red GT Fastback? Yes, please.

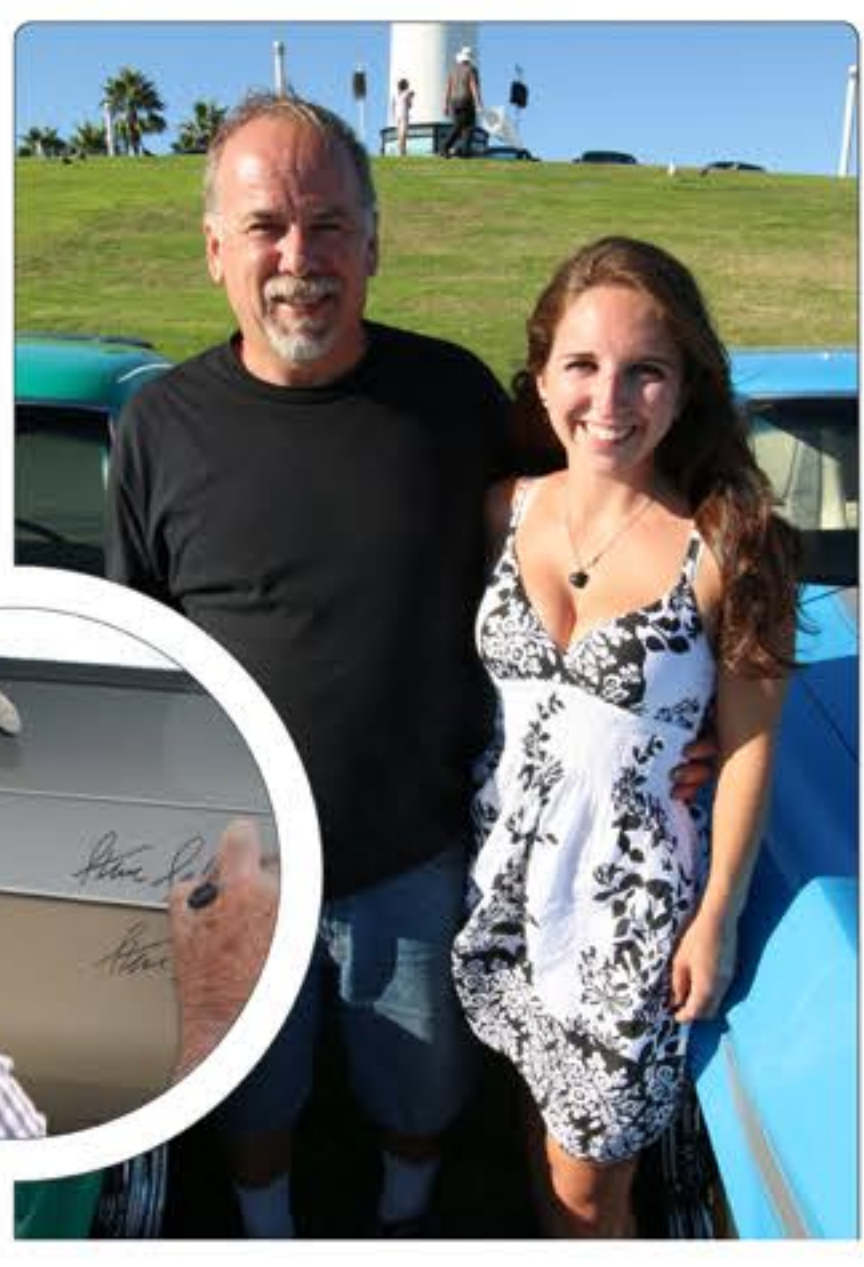
ident of the Beach Cities Mustang Club, was in charge of the show, and has been since its inception. Jon has his finger on the pulse of the Mustang lifestyle, is well-known by the repeat attendees, and he is a great ambassador for our hobby. We were as excited to meet Jon and to get his take on the southern California Mustang scene as we were to be the first print publication to ever cover this waterfront show. Count us in for a return visit. We look forward to seeing you there! —MC



**ABOVE** There was many door prizes for winners to choose from, including this remote-control 2015 Mustang.

**RIGHT** Father and daughter duo Donnie and Amberlee Ritchey displayed '70 and '71 Mach 1s. Nineteen-year-old Amberlee caught the bug from her dad, and purchased her super-nice Grabber Blue Mach 1 earlier this year. She snagged a Second Place plaque. Donnie's Grabber Green Mach 1 won First Place in his class.

**BELOW** Steve Saleen was on hand to sign dashes. He signed this one in two places.



NOV/DEC • MUSTANG DRIVER 32



**ABOVE** Andrew Nier competes with his Lava Red GT in the Optima Batteries Ultimate Street Car Challenge. Look for a road trip story on Andrew's car in Mustang Driver. **BELOW** We met the folks from MustangMedic.com, who operate a Mustang restoration shop and document the builds on their YouTube channel. These guys are a trip, so be sure to check them out. ■



# MUSTANG DRIVER

PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE, PASSION!

NOV/DEC • MUSTANG DRIVER 31

SO-CAL THROWDOWN, LONG BEACH STYLE!