

# ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3  
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## VEHICLE EVENTS

FORD MUSTANG 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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NEW 2015 CHRYSLER 200 | DODGE DART GT

NEW 2015 HYUNDAI GENESIS SEDAN

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GOODGUYS SPRING NATIONALS

FORD ECOBOOST CHALLENGE

BRIDGESTONE TEENS

2015 Ford Mustang  
50 Year Limited Edition



# SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

If you're going to celebrate a 50th birthday, you have to do it right. For the Ford Mustang's anniversary, that meant a trip to New York City. The original 1964-1/2 Mustang was revealed in April 1964, at the 1964/65 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, during the New York International Auto Show. Then in 1965, they planted a brand new Mustang high atop the Empire State Building—then still the world's tallest—on its 86th floor observation deck.

The stars aligned this year for a repeat performance. It was New York show time, a celebratory event was held next to the Unisphere at the old World's Fair grounds, and the new 2015 Mustang—one of the most highly anticipated launches in recent years—was again brought to the 86th floor of the Empire State Building, where dignitaries

and media braved a polar vortex to be among the very few to see the car in this lofty perch.

They did not chopper the car up there, swinging in the chilly breeze. (Nor did King Kong have any part in the operation.) "The deck is too high to reach with a portable crane from the street, and the spire that towers more than 400 feet above that narrow deck makes helicopter delivery impossible," said Ford design fabrication manager George Samulski. In fact, the car—a Mustang convertible in Triple Yellow—was built in place. Originally, it had been built the regular way, at a Ford assembly plant, but it was cut down into sections, each sized to fit in the Empire State Building's elevators—a freight elevator and two separate passenger elevators.

After carefully measuring the elevators and doors—the building is a historic landmark, with priceless art deco wood and brass trim in the elevators—a team in Dearborn took a scale model of the new Mustang and started drawing lines with a marker, figuring where it should be cut. DST

Maybe you've seen a car stripped in New York City, but you haven't seen one done this intentionally, nor put back together so carefully. The sliced and diced Mustang arrived from Ford in this big rig, then was staged for its bits and pieces ride to the top. Crews worked through the night. Lower left, Ford executive chairman Bill Ford and Anthony E. Malkin, Empire State Realty Trust chairman, president and CEO, admire the result.



Industries, of Romulus, Michigan—the same outfit who accomplished the sky-high 1965 event—did the work. "The band is getting back together," said Mustang chief engineer Dave Pericak.

The car that would make the trip to New York was completely stripped down and the surfaces cleaned, sectioned and perfectly painted. A second donor body was used to determine where to best make the cuts. Custom rolling carts and wooden crates were built for each section, and a custom-built tubular steel subframe would hold all the sections together.

A thousand feet above the street, a team of engineers worked feverishly—fingers freezing—to put it all back together in time for the event.

"The observation deck is open to the public from 8am to 2am, leaving our crew of six with only a six-hour window to get everything out onto the deck and get the car assembled," said Pericak. "Before we shipped the crates to New York, the crew spent several days practicing the entire assembly process—timing everything down to the minute—much like a NASCAR or Formula One pit crew."

The Mustang was on display for observation deck visitors on April 16-17. When the deck closed to the public at 2am on April 18, the crew jumped right in to perform the entire process again, in reverse, and was out of there by 8am. ■



## Where the roads are dry and the cars are slick.



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## Ford Mustang 50 Year Limited Edition

The 2015 Mustang 50 Year Limited Edition is based on the Mustang GT fastback and available in either Wimbledon White (the same color as Mustang No. 0001, in 1964-1/2) or Kona Blue—both exclusive to this model. The list of included features is extensive; the only decisions a buyer needs to make are between the two colors and whether to opt for a six-speed manual or automatic transmission. Only 1,964 examples will be built (that's right—no half example for 1964-1/2). "Chrome trim was much more prevalent on cars in the 1960s than it is today, so we added some discreet highlights for the grille, side glass and tri-bar taillamps," said Moray Callum, Ford vice president of design. Chrome bezels surrounding the taillamp blades (see cover) reflect an original 1962 design study that became the basis for the production car. The Limited Edition is the only 2015 model with the large faux gas cap badge on the rear fascia, with "50 Years" added to the GT designation. Louvered rear quarter-windows are another unique element—using layered sheets of glass developed for this car. Inside, aluminum trim with axel spin finish spans the double-brow instrument panel, with a serialized "50 Year Limited Edition" badge on the passenger side. A cashmere-stitched, leather-wrapped steering wheel reflects stitching also used on the instrument panel, shifter boot, center armrest, door inserts and two-tone cashmere and black leather seats with a "Mustang 50 Year" logo on the seat backs. The Mustang 50 Year Limited Edition will be available this fall. ▼



2015 Ford Mustang 50 Year Limited Edition





# Pony up

## Historic 50th anniversary cross-country road rally passes through Arizona

Story by Jennifer Johnson  
Photos courtesy of Sam Haymart / Mustangs Across America



**I**t's the year of the Mustang. At least here in America, it is. And on April 11, the Mustangs Across America 50th Anniversary drive cruised through Arizona, with approximately 200 Mustang enthusiasts stopping in Phoenix on a cross-country trek that had begun in Los Angeles the day prior.

The epic journey, which included 500-plus registered Mustang drivers from more than 45 states and 13 foreign countries, took seven days to cross the United States along a southern route beginning in LA, and then stopping in Phoenix; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Midland, Texas; Dallas; Jackson, Mississippi; Atlanta; and finally arriving in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 16.

Event coordinator Sam Haymart, a resident of Gold Canyon, Arizona, has organized the event since its inception back in 1994. "What started on a whim really has grown into a huge celebration, including Mustang enthusiasts from across the country and around the world," Haymart said. "This year's event was extra special, since it marked 20 years since our first drive and, of course, the 50th anniversary of the Mustang."

It was also special for Haymart because he drove the pace car this year, a restored 1995



Mustang nicknamed "Mustang One" that was nearly identical to the 1994 model that paced the inaugural Mustangs Across America drive. He also had his 17-year-old daughter, Savannah, join him for the trip, and his 19-year-old son, Sidney, participated for part of it.

At the Arizona stop, Mustang enthusiasts gathered at Rawhide Western Town & Steakhouse in Chandler on the evening of their arrival, for dinner and entertainment. Tom Raber of California was there with his "Legend Lime" Mustang convertible named Gator. For Raber and many others, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel across country celebrating a significant milestone for a vehicle that has won the hearts of many over the years.

"We're having a blast," Raber said, posing the question, "What other manufacturer has kept a vehicle in production for 50 years?"

Upon arrival in Charlotte, Mustang enthusiasts participated in the Mustang Club of America's Mustang 50th Birthday Celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Filmmakers who traveled along on the drive documented the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Participants received a commemorative coin, dash plaque, printed travel guide, windshield placard and post cards as part of the national drive. For more information about Mustangs Across America visit [www.MustangsAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.MustangsAcrossAmerica.com).