

WINTER 2015

# CCOA EASTERN NATIONAL SHOW

Full Coverage with Lots of Photos of Great Cougars

## Regional reports:

- Mid America Classic Cougars
- A Message from Cascade Cougar Club
- 2016 Arthritis Classic Autoshow, Dublin, Ohio
- A Message From Fordnutz Cougar Club
- Lone Star Cougar Club





## AT THE SIGN OF THE CAT

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**ATSOTC** welcomes publishable material for future editions. Send your submissions to the above address or to the Assistant Editor at [assistanteditor@cougarclub.org](mailto:assistanteditor@cougarclub.org)

Our next issue is planned for the Spring. **Please send your submissions no later than February 28th, 2016.**

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To join or renew, point your internet browser to:  
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Members receive this publication with the understanding that the Cougar Club of America, its officers and volunteers, cannot be held responsible for its content. The CCOA reserves the right to edit all submissions. The CCOA does not necessarily endorse views and opinions expressed in ATSOTC. Your mileage may vary.



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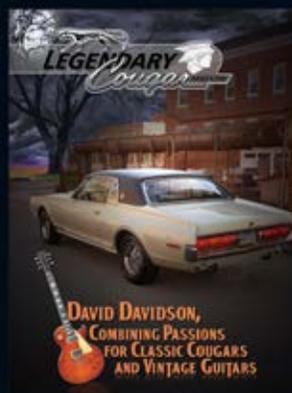


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# VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



By Gavin Schlesinger (#5780)



2015 is the 35th Anniversary of the Cougar Club of America.

*"We are dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the Mercury Cougar."*

With the holidays upon us, I can't help but take a moment and reflect on the year. I am extremely thankful for my family and friends and all of the amazing people who dedicate their time and energy to help foster our hobby.

I want to thank Thierry, Pam, and Kamran for a successful first issue of the new and improved ATSOTC. Several members have sent emails complimenting the team for their great efforts. To keep the newsletter interesting and informative, we need your help submitting photos, articles, and events to [editor@cougarclub.org](mailto:editor@cougarclub.org). If you have something exciting in your area or have photos from a recent event, please share the details with our membership.

It is amazing that this is the second issue with CCOA Event coverage. The last issue featured coverage from the June 2015 CCOA Western National Event hosted by the Mercury Stray Cats ([www.classiccougar.com](http://www.classiccougar.com)). This issue features coverage from the October 2015 CCOA Eastern National Event hosted by the New England Cougar Club

([www.necougarclub.com](http://www.necougarclub.com)). I, like many of our members, was not able to travel to the event in Massachusetts. The photos I have seen look to be amazing and a great time was had by all who attended. Hats off to the many volunteers, sponsors, attendees, and, of course, the photographers. I am looking forward to seeing coverage of the Eastern event in this issue of ATSOTC.

John and Phil have been working hard behind the scenes to enhance your experience on our website [www.cougarclub.org](http://www.cougarclub.org). The entire CCOA website has had the code rewritten including the VIN Decoder. We have reached over 100 transactions from the e-store!

The 35th Anniversary membership renewal discount will be available for a few more weeks. It is never too soon to renew for next year...even if it's 2017. Hurry before the anniversary special is over. For the holidays, look for discounted pricing for all of the merchandise available on [www.cougarclub.org](http://www.cougarclub.org).



"We are dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the Mercury Cougar."

The CCOA has survived 35 years, and we are certainly thanking the past BODs, volunteers, registrars, and most definitely all of the club members.

I am looking forward to the next major milestone in our club's history.

**Gavin Schlesinger**  
Cougar Club of America Chairperson  
#5780

<http://www.cougarclub.org/>

Look for us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Cougar-Club-Of-America-CCOA-www.cougarcluborg-472976009430890/>

# 2017 - 50th Anniversary Events



For the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Mercury Cougar in 1967, we are a little ahead of our planning. 2016 events have not yet been discussed as so many people are stepping up for this amazing milestone. In addition to the events and all of the components needed, we need people willing to step up as volunteers and coordinators to put together events that our fellow Cougar enthusiasts will want to take part in. Below is a sneak peek of dates and cities that have been discussed. Many clubs have already begun the groundwork for 2017 and are seeking volunteers to help them turn their plans into memorable events.

\*\*Until registration forms are officially circulated, the dates below are tentative. I wanted to get them out as soon as possible to allow our members to start making plans as to which events they will be able to attend. There are still lots of people planning memorable events and ways to market and develop souvenirs commemorating the 50th anniversary milestone.

1. Mid America @ Tulsa, OK: April 21 & 22, 2017
2. Delmarva/PA Club @ Carlisle, PA: June 2, 3, 4th, 2017
3. SoCal @ Cypress, CA: June 23 & 24th, 2017
4. Cascade @ Tacoma, WA: August 3, 4, 5, 6, 2017
5. Michigan event is in discussion
6. New York event is in discussion: "Party Like It's 1967"

There are lots of possible locations still being discussed. It would be ideal to start with Michigan at Ford, and California, as the Dearborn and San Jose plants are the birthplaces for everyone's Cougars. We will need to continue event planning and coordinating with the regional clubs across the country. I want to recognize CCOA photographers and recruit representatives to submit photos and give all of our members a look at the cats around the world. This is an exciting time and I want to start planning now to ensure we honor these

important dates.

If you are interested in hosting a CCOA 50th Anniversary event and willing to be on the planning committee for the National Club, please email me directly [chair@cougarclub.org](mailto:chair@cougarclub.org)

To fund events, we need your support. Through membership renewals and merchandise sales the CCOA is able to sponsor and invest in events for our membership, which in turn helps to promote our hobby.



## **Top 10 Reasons to Join and Contribute to the CCOA**

1. Share your passion with people "Dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the Mercury Cougar."
2. Expert technical advice on how to fix your Cougar, or ideas and advice for your latest project.
3. Receive the club newsletter.
4. Website access to preferred parts and services lists, as well as the registry groups.
5. Free classified advertising on [www.cougarclub.org](http://www.cougarclub.org)
6. Cougar gear access to official CCOA Merchandise.
7. A network of people to help locate hard to find NOS and used parts.
8. Access to the national database information: When was my car reported and what was its condition?
9. Event sponsorship funds for your club or organization to host regional or national CCOA events.
10. CCOA member discount to events and membership discounts to members of regional Cougar clubs to join the CCOA.

# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

By Thierry Frisch (#9342)



**T**he holidays are approaching at a very high speed. A few more weeks till we hit 2016. The days are getting shorter and darker. That's the perfect time to cuddle up at home and read through the ATSOTC's winter edition.

It features great coverage of the CCOA Eastern National as well as plenty of news from the regional clubs. I am sure you are going to love the wonderful story about Jeanine and Jack Martin and how their son Greg gave them the coolest possible 50th wedding anniversary gift.

I would like to thank everyone who made this edition possible. Thanks to all the contributors, the volunteers, the photographers and to everyone involved in setting up events and shows. Without your time, your commitment, your content and photos, this newsletter would not be possible. So keep the stories and the high resolution photos coming.

**Our next issue is planned for the spring. Please send your submissions no later than February 28th, 2016.**

*I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful, and, above all, a healthy new year.*

I, for my part, will be celebrating the holidays with my wife in California this year, far away from the European cold. And who knows, maybe I'll meet a few of you while I'm on your side of the big pond?

## CCOA WEBSITE CHANGES

By Phil Parcels (#2554)

During 2015, there have been several changes to the CCOA's website. Some are visible, some invisible. The first change was the implementation of the new CCOA VIN and Dataplate decoder. While the old decoder worked well, it had its limits. So the decoder was completely re-designed. Features of the new decoder include expanded decoding coverage: we now can decode any Cougar VIN and dataplate from 1967 to 2002. Next, the decoded output is printable, so you can print it and display it with your car at a show.

Another visible change to the site was to upgrade the CCOA store to an actual e-store. All CCOA merchandise is available on the store including joining the CCOA and membership renewals. You simply add an item to the cart just like any other modern e-store. You will receive email updates when your order's status changes, for example when your order ships.

These changes have all been achievable because of the invisible work that went on behind the scenes. The web site was moved to a new, modern, faster server. While this sounds like a minor thing, it actually is a very difficult task. The team of our webmaster, John Rotella, and php programmer Chad Blackburn made the change seamless, so no one would notice. But you may notice you no longer get any "access denied" errors, or decoding errors when you enter a 1977 or a 1987 VIN.

The decoder is free to use, and it is located on the home page [www.cougarclub.org](http://www.cougarclub.org) and also on the registry page [www.cougarclub.org/registry.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/registry.htm)

The store is accessible from the CCOA home page or directly at [www.cougarclub.org/store.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/store.htm)

# REGIONAL REPORTS AND EVENTS

## Mid America Classic Cougars

By Randy Christian (#9216)

**T**he big news from middle America is that Mid America Classic Cougars and Lone Star Cougar Club are going to host a National Cougar Show for the 50th Anniversary of the Mercury Cougar in 2017.



The show is going to be April 21 & 22, 2017, in Tulsa, OK. The show will be held at the Exchange Center which is part of the larger Tulsa Expo Center, and our host hotel will be the Marriott Courtyard.

This will be an all indoor show, and we will have room for 100+ cars. This will be an all Cougar and Mercury show. We have formed a show committee, and are working on getting all our ducks in a row so we can have a great show in 2017.

We plan to start preregistering cars for the show in early 2016, and plan to have a web page up and running shortly for our club and the National show.

Our club now consists of 16 members, with more Cougars showing up all the time. We encourage all Cougar owners and enthusiasts out there in middle America to join our club. You can contact the club at [midamericacougars@gmail.com](mailto:midamericacougars@gmail.com) or through our facebook page: [Mid America Classic Cougars](#).

## 2016 Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show Dublin, Ohio

By Ben Brace (#2796)

**T**he 2016 dates for the Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show in Dublin (Central Ohio), Ohio at the Metro Center adjacent to I-270 Northwest are:

**Thursday, July 7th, 2016** - the Legend Cruise & Tour

**Friday, July 8th, 2016** - the Cruise-In with over 100 6-foot trophies to give away!

**Saturday, July 9th, 2016** - the Classic Car Show with the following marques:

Mercedes-Benz - 90th year

BMW - 100th year

Shelby

Nissan's "Z" cars Regional Meet!

And, of course, the Mercury Cougar Show within in a show!!

Check it all out at [www.arthritisautoshow.com](http://www.arthritisautoshow.com) or on

facebook. **And, in 2017, the Mercury Cougar is the Marque!!**

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUGAR CLUB



Photos by Larry Quay (#9460) and Gavin Schlesinger (#5780)

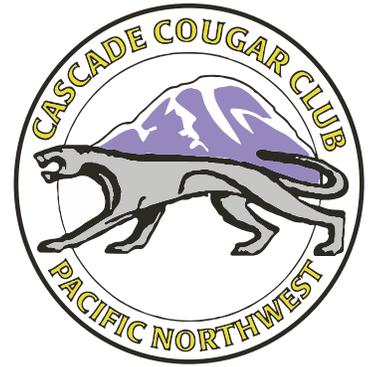
On October 3rd, 2015, the Southern California Cougar Club held their annual Fall Car Show located this year at 5865 Katella Ave, Cypress, CA.

Here are some photos of the show.  
Find more infos and more photos on our [facebook page](#)



# A MESSAGE FROM CASCADE COUGAR CLUB, PACIFIC NORTHWEST

By Heather Whitaker (#7477)



## PONIES IN THE SUN, YAKIMA, WA, SEPTEMBER 19TH-20TH:

Although there are many Pacific northwest events throughout the autumn, many of us consider the road trip to Yakima to be our last of the season. An added bonus to attending this event is that the weather is almost always guaranteed to be terrific while the coast has often begun its slow, damp descent into winter.

This year, we were greeted with eighty-degree sunshine east of the Cascades and members from all over Washington (and Scott Ferguson and I from Canada) got together for a delicious lunch at Miner's Café on Saturday before taking a short rest. We then headed off to a cruise-in at Major's Drive-in. Our six Cougars hung out with lots of Mustangs until dusk and each participant was given (not sold) a door prize ticket (nearly everyone won something). But the big surprise of the evening was when the owner of the drive-in came out and presented Steve Goulding with a three-foot-high "Best of Show" trophy for his Aqua 69 XR7 convertible. With official festivities over for the day, we cruised down Yakima Avenue to El Mirador for a hearty Mexican dinner. Afterwards, several of our group took their cats out for one final cruise before tucking them in for the night while the rest of us simply waddled directly to our rooms.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny for the show itself at Sarg Hubbard Park, just a short drive away. As I've mentioned before, this show has plenty to keep patrons entertained throughout the day. It began with a Word Search puzzle in our goodie bags, followed by a poker walk, fan belt toss, "What is it?" contest, 50/50 draw and masses of door prizes. Lunch was served at noon and what a bargain it was: six dollars bought us a pulled pork sandwich, bowl of brown beans, bag of potato chips

and a soft drink. If one was still hungry after all that, peach smoothies (made fresh on sight) were on sale at an additional cost.



Around 3pm the wind suddenly kicked up, forcing us to literally pack up our tents and move on...on to the awards ceremony where every one of our Cascade members cashed in. In the "Stock Cougar" class, Jim Compton from Richland snagged third place for his burgundy 69 XR7 convertible, Scott Ferguson from Delta, BC took second place for his familiar Madras blue and white 68

XR7-G and Steve Goulding from Spokane picked up another first place trophy for his 69 XR7 convertible. In "Modified Cougar", Neal Jacobson from Camano Island took second place for his white 70 XR7 and Jeff Bingaman from Federal Way took first place for his Competition green 70 standard. "Best of Show Cougar" was



awarded to Chris Osborne of Pacific, WA for his 70 Competition yellow XR7 and as if the trophies weren't enough, Chris won a six-pack of apple juice, Jim Compton won a great big bucket of car care products and Zana Goulding won another big door prize consisting of a hand-made quilt, a basket, plant pots and seeds. What a great weekend!

Next on the agenda will be our annual Christmas party in December then we'll begin some serious planning for Prowl 2016 next August. Our Prowl director has already been working behind the scenes nailing down details and developing a brand new design for all our show-related extras. Keep your eyes open for details as we wade our way through winter to emerge relaxed and raring to go next spring.

Have a fantastic holiday season everyone!  
Heather Whitaker, Chairman  
Cascade Cougar Club



# Lone Star Cougar Club

By Matt S. Slay (#5002)  
Director, Social Media  
Lone Star Cougar Club  
[www.mercurycougars.com](http://www.mercurycougars.com)



The LSCC has had a busy summer and fall with our shows and various cruise-ins.

**Horse Power at Lone Star Park** was held over Fathers' Day weekend at the Lone Star Park horse track. Despite spotty weather, the club brought seven cars with Gene Mullenberg's '72 convertible, Dwain Barker's '73 convertible, Clay Olmstead's

cars and vintage warbirds, how could it miss? Gene Mullenberg, Dwain Barker, Joe Valenti, Dan McKeithen, Barry Rowe, Cliff Talley, Mike Hogue, and Alan Easley all brought their classics and the club had a great turnout with nine cars. It was a hot day in Texas with most of the participants staying in the shade, but the LSCC again won the best club participation award. Joe Valenti had fun with his 1969 428cj car and no air conditioning. Gene Mullenberg won first place with his 1967 coupe, while



The Lone Star Cougar Club



Barry Rowe, Dwain Barker, Dan McKeithen and Gene Mullenberg

'68 Calypso, Richard Bartow's '78 Cougar, and Matt and Alicia Slay brought their '69 Cougar convertible and '64 Comet convertible. It was a fun day of fellowship on the edge of the horse track watching the horses thunder by. Our youngest member, Sydney, even won a couple of dollars at her first horse race. At the end of the day, Dwain Barker won best of class for



The LSCC and their rides



Dwain Barker with the awards

his 1973 convertible and the LSCC won the best club participation trophy. It was the inaugural year for this show put on by member, Jimmy Austin, and it was such a success that Lone Star Park has given him a date for next year. We are looking forward to it being bigger and better!

Over Labor Day weekend, several club members ventured over to the airport for **Warbirds at Lancaster**. With a joint show of classic

cars and vintage warbirds, how could it miss? Gene Mullenberg, Dwain Barker, Joe Valenti, Dan McKeithen, Barry Rowe, Cliff Talley, Mike Hogue, and Alan Easley all brought their classics and the club had a great turnout with nine cars. It was a hot day in Texas with most of the participants staying in the shade, but the LSCC again won the best club participation award. Joe Valenti had fun with his 1969 428cj car and no air conditioning. Gene Mullenberg won first place with his 1967 coupe, while both Barry Rowe and Dan McKeithen won class awards for Barry's 1967 GT and Dan's 1963 Galaxie. New members Pam and Cope Countryman won an award for their recently acquired 1970 convertible. Congrats to all!

One of our newest events was put on with the help of Dr. Joe Valenti on his own turf, **Antiques and Autos Denton on the Square**. It was an all-day event featuring three hundred classic cars around the recently revitalized Denton courthouse square. Twenty club members, their cars and drivers met at 7:00am at Dr. Joe's to make the drive over to the show. We enjoyed live music played by local bands throughout the day on the



Gene Mullenberg sporting his new CCOA 35th anniversary shirt



Dr. Joe Valenti with his 1970 428cj Eliminator and LSCC club members

courthouse lawn. The day featured Woody's Rampage, High School Caesar, and the fall festival atmosphere was complete with tasty treats from any of the downtown's coffee houses, candy stores, ice cream shops, restaurants, and vendors selling a variety of cuisines and festival foods. Last year, Dr. Joe Valenti won the best of show for his 1969 Cougar 428cj convertible. This year, the club was fortunate to have a side street all of their own, where it was frequently commented that "they had not seen so many Cougars together before." Randall, the host of "Car Show Radar", stopped and interviewed members. He also videotaped for one of their upcoming webisodes. What great exposure for the club!



Richard Bartow and Dwain Barker man the beverage tent!



President, Ken Stovall

Our last surprise of the day was to stop by Dr. Joe's vintage warehouse and gas station off of the square. Inside, he had a 1970 Cougar, 428cj non ram-air yellow Eliminator, a 1969 Cougar Eliminator Hertz orange sunroof car, and several other

surprises. What a great day and such a gracious host. Thank you, Joe!



Club members had a great day at the State Fair of Texas

Finally, the club had their largest event of the season which we all look forward to with the opening day for the **State Fair of Texas**. The LSCC is traditionally the host club for the classic car corral on opening day of the fair. This year we had over twenty Cougars in attendance, which was a record. The weather was fantastic as members enjoyed the rides, food, games and exhibits that have been a tradition for generations.



Matt, Alicia, and Sydney Slay



LSCC members and guests with a record turnout

# A MESSAGE FROM FORDNUTZ COUGAR CLUB, VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

By Heather Whitaker (#7477)



## **GVMA ROUNDUP, LANGLEY, BC, AUGUST 23RD:**

Most Fordnutz who regularly attend this show were unavailable this year, but Jason Wiseman was on hand to represent the club. Not only did he attend, but he won 2nd place honours in the "Non-Mustang Ford Stock" class with his white 69 standard Cougar. Congratulations, Jason!

## **CANADIAN FALCON FAIRLANE COMET CLUB PICNIC IN THE PARK, LANGLEY, BC, SEPTEMBER 7TH:**

Four Fordnutz members attended the show this year: Harry Unruh with his Competition orange 69 Eliminator, Bill Ronalds with his red 69 convertible, Guy Stromsten with his 68 XR7 GT race car and Tom Wood who trailered his 64 Comet Cyclone. All three Cougars came away from the event with trophies: Harry took first, Bill second and Guy third in the Cougar class. Even though Tom didn't get a trophy, I'm sure his Comet got lots of attention because "Just A Breeze" has a long and impressive race history from drag strips on both coasts.

## **GOOD TIMES CRUISE IN, LANGLEY, BC, SEPTEMBER 12TH:**

Harry Unruh once again took advantage of the great weather, entering his Eliminator in this huge event. I heard that John Edwards had his classic truck there as well but with thousands of people on the streets, John could not be found. Dean and Liane Henschke were also on site. Dean did not drive either his Cougar or the Mustang but chose instead to ride with Liane in her 68 Camaro convertible.

## **OCEAN PARK FORD SHOW, SURREY, BC, SEPTEMBER 12TH:**

Scott and I attended this annual event but were the sole club representatives. We parked next to our friend's 31 Ford hotrod and were visited briefly by the Hadlands but otherwise looked over the two or three hundred cars (and the newly-renovated building) on our own. Hot dogs and soft drinks were sold by donation and there was live entertainment – all in all a very relaxing, enjoyable day.

## **END OF SUMMER CAR SHOW, LACEY, WA, SEPTEMBER 19TH:**

Olympia members, Karl and LaDonna Gehlhaar attended this show, and although they left early due to inclement weather, Karl did win an award for his beautiful, black 67 XR7. "Favorite FoMoCo".

Congratulations to all this year's winners, wherever they happened to be over the summer and thanks to everyone who represented our club by participating in events large and small. Even if you didn't come away with a trophy, you treated the public to a glimpse of some beautiful, and in some cases, rare examples of what I consider to be among the finest 60s muscle cars ever produced.

Before we know it, Christmas will be here and I know many of you will be hoping Santa has a sackful of those hard-to-find Cougar parts just for you. Then, before we know it, 2015 will be behind us and we'll be looking forward to plenty of activities in the new season. Have a great holiday season everyone!

Heather Whitaker, Events Director  
Fordnutz Cougar Club

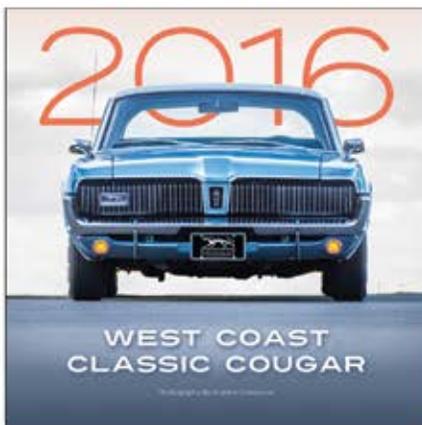


# WEST COAST CLASSIC COUGAR 2016 CALENDAR



## WORLD'S BEST COUGAR CALENDAR

All new for 2016! Enjoy art-quality photos of classic Mercury Cougars all year long with the West Coast Classic Cougar 2016 Calendar. This calendar follows the content-rich format of our previous 2015 version, with multiple photos of every car and written details to complete the package. It also measures a generous 12" x 24" for maximum visual impact, and includes a punched hole for easy hanging. Sprinkled throughout the month pages are some notable dates in Cougar history, too. We're proud to say that this calendar is produced entirely in-house, and we don't think you'll see anything like it in your local bookstore.



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WEST COAST CLASSIC COUGAR

# COUGAR OWNERS UNITE!



Join with hundreds of **Cougar Club of America** members to celebrate the Mercury Cougar. As a member, you will receive the CCOA's publication, *At the Sign of the Cat*, an official membership card, and an eye-catching mirror hanger for your car that identifies you to fellow Cougar enthusiasts wherever you go.

Use this form or the online registration form at [www.cougarclub.org/join.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/join.htm) today. Annual dues are **\$20** for members who receive the newsletter by email. For members who want a printed newsletter by mail, the dues are **\$30 for U.S. addresses** or **\$35 for non-U.S. addresses** (payable in U.S. funds only). Become a member of the club that is *exclusively* dedicated to the preservation of the Mercury Cougar.

\*New\*— if you are a dues-paying member of an approved regional Cougar club, take \$10 off the price of your CCOA membership. Approved clubs are listed at [www.cougarclub.org/regional-cougar-clubs.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/regional-cougar-clubs.htm)

**New Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_ (make changes below)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly and include email even if choosing regular mail membership)

**E-member (\$20)** \_\_\_\_\_ **U.S. mail member (\$30)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Non-U.S. mail (\$35)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$10 discount for Membership in** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Regional Cougar club name)

**May we share your contact info with regional clubs and other event organizers?**

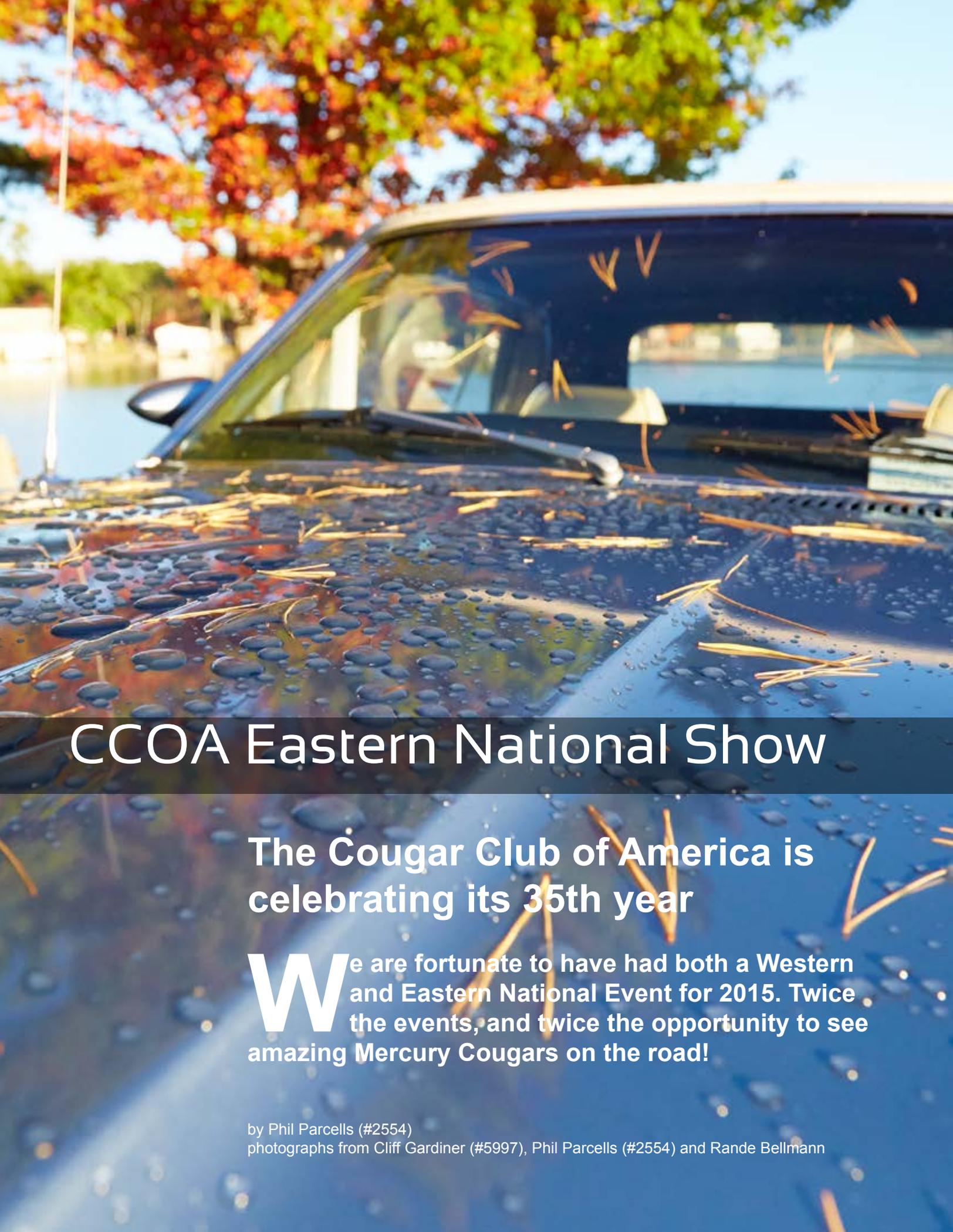
**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

*To join or renew, please fill out this form and mail it with payment  
(Make checks payable to **CCOA**) or use the on-line form at [www.cougarclub.org/join.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/join.htm)*

Rob Merritt  
Membership Director  
28 West 8th Street  
Duluth, MN 55806-2515

Tell us about your Cougar!

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# CCOA Eastern National Show

**The Cougar Club of America is celebrating its 35th year**

**W**e are fortunate to have had both a Western and Eastern National Event for 2015. Twice the events, and twice the opportunity to see amazing Mercury Cougars on the road!

by Phil Parcels (#2554)  
photographs from Cliff Gardiner (#5997), Phil Parcels (#2554) and Rande Bellmann

Sturbridge is a small town in southern Massachusetts, very near the Connecticut border, in the United States. It is home to Old Sturbridge Village, located on Route 20, which is a living museum that re-creates life in rural New England from 1790s to the 1830s. Another local site of historical interest is the Tantusques (meaning “the place between two low hills”). This is a rural area mostly undeveloped and entirely forested with oak-hickory forest and red maple in the wet areas and mountain laurel. Parts of this area were graphite mines in the 1900s. Sturbridge was first settled in 1729 by settlers from Medfield, and was officially incorporated in 1738. The town was named after Stourbridge, England.



U.S. Route 20 runs through Sturbridge, and the junction of Interstate 90 (the Massachusetts Turnpike) and Interstate 84 is less than a mile away. The show venue, the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, is located on Rt 20 (Main St) Sturbridge, with very easy access off the MA turnpike. It is on a peninsula surrounded on three sides by beautiful Cedar pond. It was an excellent choice for a Cougar show. Between the fall foliage, the beautiful location, and this hotel has hosted other car club shows, so they “know the drill”.



On Thursday, October 8th, the early people began to arrive at the hotel. It



was a good day to informally chat and re-acquaint ourselves. Bruce and Rob Wallace and the Hammerslays arrived from Florida. They had reservations on the Autotrain, but they were cancelled because of the flooding in SC. So they boldly decided to drive directly. That’s a show of confidence!





Friday, October 9th, more cars began to arrive. Registration was going full speed and there was coffee and donuts in the hospitality room. Mike Blum began to set up the field for cars that their owners concurred were ready were placed in their classes. Dave Wyrwas and Craig Keith unveiled their recent accomplishments: Dave brought a very original 1970 Boss 302 Eliminator with only 30,000 miles on it. It was found in Waco, TX, and had been parked in 1980. Craig Keith had just completed his 68 XR7 GT-E restoration. It is done to the same high level as his XR7-G. It's a beautiful car. There was a heavy rain during the night, but the soil must be very sandy, as the show field was still in good condition.



Saturday, October 10th, was showday! We had absolutely beautiful New England weather; a little chilly early, but it warmed up nicely. The skies were blue all day. There were 70 Cougars total, ranging from 1967 to 1973.

**Some highlights of the show:**

Two tribute cars: Mike Derosé's "Fast Eddie" car, and Rick Kelbaugh's "Dyno Don" car.

Four GT-Es: Craig Keith (red XR7) & Al Juraco (calypso coral) fresh restorations, Chris Carney (nordic blue) and John Holt's red XR7 which incidentally appears in the Mark Donohoue book: *Becoming a Professional*. John unfortunately suffered engine trouble on the way to the show, but like a true enthusiast, had the car flat bedded to the show. He won the hard luck award which I'm sure is no consolation compared to the cost of rebuilding a 427 engine.

Two XR7-Gs: Pat Nawrocki (burgundy) and Bob Brothers (lime frost) fresh restoration.

Five Eliminators, three of which were 428CJ cars.

Four Dan Gurney Specials, one with the bench seat.



Judges were very busy. For those who have never been a judge, participation is a very good experience. You become intimately aware of some of the minor points of what makes and/or breaks a restoration. However, this is a thankless job; the judges, (who are volunteers), do not get a good opportunity to see the rest of the show. By the time they are done, and the results are given to the statistician, the show is mostly over. People are back in their rooms, cleaning up for the banquet. Maybe at a future show, we should give all the judges trophies? Or at least a pitcher of beer!

There were attendees from relatively local states: MA, CT, VT, ME, NY, NJ, VA, MD, PA and several from further distances: IA, FL, TX, OR, NV, ON, GA, AR and IL. I apologize if I missed anyone.

- AR - Chris Carney
- FL - Jack & Jeanine Martin, Bruce & Rob Wallace, Julie & Keith Hammersley
- GA - Bill Farrington, Sam Jiminez
- IA - Greg Martin
- IL - Al Juraco

- ON - Deigo Vitello, Jim, Suzanne, & Owen Voteary
- OR - Andrew Chenovick
- NV - Paula Grant-Hermansky
- TX - Matt Slay & family

The banquet, which featured chicken, prime rib or swordfish, was followed by awards given by Dan Houde, Dan Goldsmith, Rich Clark, and Mark Piechowski. To speed things up, the kids in attendance were the “runners”, delivering the trophies to the winners.

John Aiken, who was the head of the L-M Advanced Styling Studio, was in attendance but did not have a speaking role. John was responsible for the Cougar's European design. His design studio team focused on the concept of “European design with a strong Lincoln-Mercury identity”. John chose Diego Vitello's blue 70 XR7 convertible for the “John Aiken Pick”. I sat at his table at the banquet, and we chatted about the “bailout years”, which Ford successfully managed without needing a government bailout. <sup>1</sup>

On Sunday morning, people were packing for their trip home. We all said goodbye until next time. It was a great show and was good to re-acquaint with old friends and meet new ones. Many thanks to Cindy, Dan, Dan, Mark and the entire New England Cougar Club for all their hard work hosting this show.

<sup>1</sup> Suggested reading: *Once Upon a Car*, by Bill Vlasic





## Class 1 1967-68 Standard Coupe



Steven Chernow, Syosset, NY  
1967 Standard 6.5L



Greg Martin, West Liberty, IA  
1967 Standard - Parents were original owners,  
restored for their 50th wedding anniversary



The Votearys, Wellsley, ON  
1967 Standard

## Class 2 1967-68 XR7 Coupe & XR7 GT



Charles Nason, Norton, MA  
1968 XR7



Paula Grant-Hermansky, Hardwick, MA  
1967 XR7 DGS



William Pratt, Millbury, MA  
1967 XR7 GT

## Class 3 1969-1970 Standard Coupe



Cliff Gardiner, Centerport, NY  
1969 Standard



Bill Thompson, Nashua, NH  
1969 Standard Sports Special Package "B",  
purchased in IN in 1969



Don Ward, Vernon, CT  
1969 Standard Sports Special -  
Grandparents were original owners

## Class 4 1969-1970 XR7 coupe



Phil Jamieson, West Yarmouth, MA  
1969 XR7

## Class 5 1969-1970 Standard Convertible



John Griffin, East Sandwich, MA  
1970 Convertible

## Class 8 1971-1973 XR7 Hardtop



Ken Jacobs, East Brookfield, MA  
1973 XR7

## Class 6 1969-1970 XR7 Convertible



Steve Polansky, Cherry Hill, NJ  
1969 XR7 Convertible



Michael Prunty, Pleasant Valley, NY  
1969 XR7 Convertible



Steven Palmer, Kensington, MD  
1969 XR7 Convertible

**Class 9**  
**1971-1973 Standard Convert.**



Bill Farrington, Greensboro, GA  
1973 Convertible

**Class 10**  
**1971-1973 XR7 Convertible**



Steve Calautti, Manchester, CT  
1973 XR7 Convertible -  
Originally a FoMoCo executive car



Jeff Dryer, Kingston, MA  
1973 XR7 Convertible

**Class 11**      **1968 XR7-G + GTE**



Craig Keith, Brookfield, MA  
1968 XR7 GTE



Al Juraco, Green Valley, IL  
1968 Std GTE,  
1 of 2 GT-E's ordered Calypso Coral



Chris Carney, Ward, AR  
1968 Std GTE

**Class 12**      **1969-1970 Eliminator**

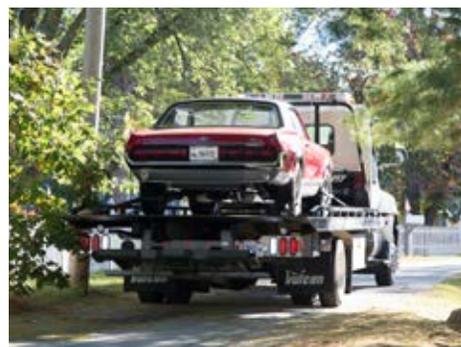


Allen & Jane Murray, Enfield, CT  
1969 Eliminator



Brian McDermott, Queensbury, NY  
1970 Eliminator

**Hard Luck Award**



John Holt, Bethany, CT  
1968 XR7 GTE

**Class 15**      **Unrestored**



Rafael Meneses, Laplata, MD  
1967 XR7



John McGregor, Wakefield, MA  
1968 Standard

**Longest Distance**



Paula Grant-Hermansky, Hardwick, MA  
1967 XR7 DGS, **drove 3028 miles from Nevada**

## Class 16 Daily Driver



Chris Beaton, Ashland, MA  
1969 XR7 Convertible



Julie & Keith Hammersly, Oviedo, FL  
1968 Standard



Frank Vinga, Littleton, MA  
1967 Standard

## Class 17 1967-1973 Modified



Rick Kelbaugh, Boonsboro, MD  
1969 Std, Dyno Don Tribute car



Darrell Bush, Monetta, VA  
1967 Standard



Nancy Pratt, Millbury, MA  
1968 XR7 GT

## Class 19 Mangy Cat



Mike Howlett, Ware, MA  
1967 Standard

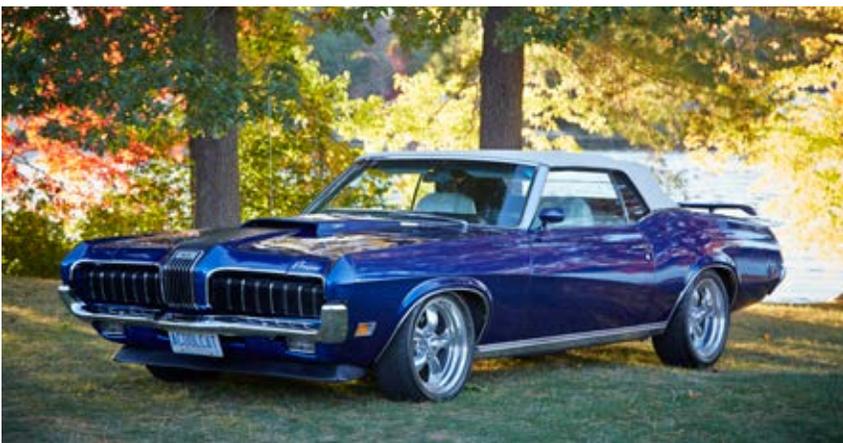


Mark Piechowski, North Adams, MA  
1970 XR7, white, 429, AOD



David Klemenz, New Haven, CT  
1969 Eliminator Drag Pak,  
trunk mounted battery

## John Aiken's Pick // BEST IN SHOW



Diego Vitello, St Agatha, ON  
1970 XR7 Convertible





# SWEET 16



*You often hear of ‘barn finds’ and wonder how many of those stories are true. Well, this one is, although the car I found was stored in a shed on a farm, so technically not a true barn find.*

**By Glen Turner (#9519)**

I had known about a 1956 Ford two door hardtop stored in an old farm garage in a neighboring town. I tried buying it over the years but it was never for sale. One day, my wife noticed this 1956 Ford heading down the highway on a car hauler, so she called me. Not believing it was the same car, I called the owner. He said he had completely forgotten about my interest in the car, as he has had plenty of interest from others too. Feeling bad about not giving me a chance to purchase his car, he said that one of his neighbors has an old car he is thinking about selling. He said it was a 1969 Cougar, but he would have to get in touch with the owner before he would give me the location of the car or the owner’s name. A few days went by, and not hearing from the 1956 Ford owner or his neighbor, I called him back. He said the Cougar was for sale and that the owner had just taken it out of a shed where it had been stored since 1984. I contacted the Cougar’s owner and made arrangements to look at the car that evening.

I have just finished restoring a 1969 Cyclone 428CJ car and was now working on another 1956 Meteor (Canadian Ford) two door hardtop, so I wasn’t really anxious about restoring another muscle car right away. I thought the car would probably be really rusty, as are most that I have seen for sale around here. My thoughts were to check out the car, seeing how the 1956 Ford owner had gone to the trouble of contacting his neighbor, and then politely decline the car purchase.

Well, the car was in surprisingly good condition. What I was looking at was a 1969 Cougar XR7 convertible, medium green metallic. The interior was white leather buckets and the dash was black. The owner told me that he had replaced the white convertible top and rebuilt the transmission prior to putting the car in storage. He had plans on restoring the car someday, but

never found time. I noticed right away that the Cougar’s interior, although extremely dirty, was in nice shape. I couldn’t see any tears in the upholstery, and the dash didn’t have any cracks. The bad thing was that the mice had been using this car as a hotel for the past 31 years. Being stored on a farm gave the mice access to grain which they had neatly stored in just about every crevice in the car. The smell of mice was very overwhelming. I wrote down a bunch of numbers from the Cougar’s data plate, and copied numbers from the Cougar’s engine. I noticed that this car had been “hopped up” in the past, as the 351 Windsor (M code) motor was now sporting a Ford aftermarket aluminum intake, a Holley four barrel carburetor, and a set of headers. The car also had air shocks and traction bars installed, similar to how cars were modified back in the early 70s.



Another interesting item under the hood was a data plate riveted to the top of the radiator cradle. Someone had made an engraved metal plate and riveted it on with all the engine tune-up specifications. The odd thing was that the firing order on the plate was incorrect for a 351 Windsor. It was the same 15426378 firing order that I was used to seeing on big block Fords. Obviously, someone had changed the camshaft and didn’t want future owners to configure the spark plug wires incorrectly.

I made sure that I took plenty of photos of the car and told the owner that I would let him know if I was interested by the next day. I always like to have a day to mentally go over any future purchases and not rush into something I'm going to regret later.



The next morning I woke with one thing on my mind....the Cougar's serial number. I checked my photo of the data plate and it looked like the serial number (consecutive number at the end) starts with a five but it could be a six. It was hard to tell as close-up pictures are sometimes out of focus. If it was a five, then this

Cougar's serial number would end with 500016. It would have been the sixteenth car off the assembly line and built on the first day of production. I made arrangements with the owner to drop around that evening to check the car out once more. I told him that I was strongly leaning toward buying it. So, when I got to see the Cougar again that evening, my suspicions were right and the car was an early build. The serial number did end with a 500016. I bought the car that evening, loaded it on my car trailer and brought it home.

Never owning a Cougar before, I wasn't really sure what I had bought. The car had power windows and funny looking vents in the center of the dash. I had originally thought the car was air conditioned but later found out that it had the power ventilation option. The car's interior is almost 100% complete but it is missing the factory eight track/AM radio. I spent the next three days cleaning and scrubbing this car's interior. Lots of work and a lot of different products were used. But the car was starting to look great the more I cleaned it, and the mouse smell was slowly disappearing. One of the previous owners had painted the lower portion of the dash white as I could see white overspray on the black steering column molding. I'm not sure if this was originally black, but I am assuming so. This individual had also changed the front door arm rests from white to black. I think he was carrying this black and white thing a little too far for my taste. My original intention was to clean the Cougar up and "flip it" for a small profit, but the more I worked on it, the more attached I became. My wife dropped out to my shop and climbed into the now clean, white leather driver's seat. She immediately said, "I really like this car. We should restore it and keep it." So I guess I will be hanging onto it for awhile.

I spent the rest of the first week going over the entire car. I pulled the valve covers and checked the date codes on the heads to make sure they were the correct 351 heads. The dates were July 29th and July 31st of 1968, so that was good news. I gave the motor a refresh with new plugs, wires and oil, and then fired it up. It ran well but a little noisy as it was running open headers. I ordered a Marti report too, and it came back exactly as I expected it would. It stated that the car was an "Introductory

Show Unit" and not ordered by a customer. It stated that the car was ordered on June 22, 1968, by a dealer out of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and scheduled for building on July 4, 1968. I later found out after talking to someone at CCOA that this date isn't actually a build date, but a code Ford uses for cars that are going to be built on the first day of production. This car was actually built in mid-August of 1968.

I recently purchased 1969 Mercury Cougar sales brochures so I can see what the standard features were on the XR7 Cougar and what options were available. In this brochure, there's a photo that shows a blonde model and a cougar lounging on the front seat of a new green convertible. I can't help but notice how this medium green metallic Cougar XR7 convertible is exactly like mine. Right down to the white leather interior, power windows and power ventilation option. Wouldn't that be something if this is the same car that was used in those ads? I noticed on my Marti report that my car was built in mid-August as an "Introductory Show Unit" but didn't show up at the dealership until mid-October. Maybe it was used for promotional events like this brochure photo shoot? I'll have to check the interior closely and see if there are any cougar hairs on the carpets (or even long blonde hairs).



I have recently put the car in my storage building, and have plans on restoring it as soon as I finish the project that's in my shop now. I have already started looking for parts as the bumpers will need replacing. I have recently picked up a 1969 Cougar XR7 hardtop (390 'S' code car) as a possible donor for any parts that I may need. It will be nice to see this convertible back in its original condition someday and on the road!

# EBAY CATS



**Year/Model:** 1977 Wagon  
**VIN:** 7H96SXXXXX  
**Miles:** 60,000  
**Condition:** 1  
**Winning bid:** \$13,950  
**Total # of Bids:** 10

**Comments:** A rare find, one owner Cat wagon until recently and has only traveled 60k miles since new. It has the optional 400 2v that runs like new. It has only had one repaint in its original light powder blue with new vinyl woodgrain, the original chrome is very nice. The interior is 100% original and in excellent condition, everything works including the clock. Factory roof rack and has the optional third seat. Has PS, PB, PW, tilt wheel and AM/FM Town & Country stereo and speakers. Has pristine factory wheel covers & newer whitewalls. This rare Cat has been well cared for all its life.



**Year/Model:** 1979 XR7  
**VIN:** 9H93F7XXXXX  
**Miles:** 12,000  
**Condition:** 3  
**Winning bid:** \$4,100  
**Total # of Bids:** Not listed

**Comments:** This XR7 runs and drives like new and is totally stock/untouched. Showing only 12k miles and could be true miles from the condition of the car, but can't be proven. Believe it has a 351, but not sure whether it's Windsor or Cleveland; transmission shifts great. Body is in excellent shape with no rust; does show signs of some paint done, but not a total repaint. The half vinyl top is in good condition with some marks and ground in dirt, but still looks good. The interior is in near mint condition, seats look to have never been sat on. Only flaw in the interior is one crack in middle of dash. This Cat has PW, PL, PS and AC that blows good; not ice cubes.



**Year/Model:** 1969 XR-7 convert  
**VIN:** 9F94H5XXXXX  
**Miles:** 152,000  
**Condition:** 3  
**Winning bid:** \$5,600  
**Total # of Bids:** 3

**Comments:** 152k original miles on this XR-7 convert. The 351W 2v/auto runs and drives great with no smoke or leaks. Has PS, PB, PW and AC. This Cat hasn't prowled the streets in 15yrs, stored the last 10yrs. Body has been redone with new full quarters and the new paint appears to be a base coat/clear coat. Has restored rocker moldings and convertible top moldings. The bumpers have been re-chromed and has new wheel opening moldings. The floors look good and has amateur repair on front torque boxes. Under the hood looks good with a new battery area and a couple of small inner fender repairs. Has new rear leaf springs. Top works fine and the rear glass is good, but top is rough and has been repaired and doesn't leak. No top boot cover. The leather interior is **complete, but needs to be restored**. Power windows work, but need adjusting. Comes with Marti Report, original owner's manual and warranty book.



**Year/Model:** 1968 STD  
**VIN:** 8F91C5XXXXX  
**Miles:** 80,000  
**Condition:** 3  
**Winning bid:** \$4,250  
**Total # of Bids:** 30

**Comments:** This is a one owner Cat and is all original with only 80k original miles on its 289 2v/auto. Bought new from Moyer Lincoln Mercury in Frederick MD on 10/4/68 and has never been out of Frederick its whole life. This Cat starts right up, idles, drives, steers and stops with no problem. Not full of bondo, but has rust in the usual places including the floor pans. The interior is complete and all lighting works. All original paperwork comes with this Cat including its one and only title, retail delivery card, dealer invoice and owner's manual. Also included are many receipts for general maintenance and repairs throughout its life. It has had one paint job in '87 in its original color.



**Year/Model:** 1973 XR-7 convert  
**VIN:** 3F94H5XXXXX  
**Miles:** 93,484  
**Condition:** 2  
**Winning bid:** \$9,999  
**Total # of Bids:** 1

**Comments:** A great example of the last year for the Cat convertible. This XR-7 convert is part of a movie star owned private collection of cars that will be sold. This Cat has been extremely well cared for by a private mechanic who maintained it by visiting the home once a month, always garage kept. The body is straight and looks fabulous with very few issues with a small rust spot behind right rear wheel. The top is in great condition and works good. This Cat has only 93k original miles on its 351 2v and is runs fine, but needs a fresh tune up. The XR-7 emblem on the hood is missing. Tires & wheels look great.



**Year/Model:** 1997 35th Anniv  
**VIN:** 1MELM6XXXXXXX  
**Miles:** 99,014  
**Condition:** 3  
**Winning bid:** \$1,800  
**Total # of Bids:** 7

**Comments:** A rare Cat; first color issued 35th Anniversary with only 99k original miles on its V6 that is quiet and runs great, the transmission shifts perfectly. Everything works; the power antenna goes down part way, but does work and everything else works fine. Has all power options and cruise control & tilt wheel. Has leather/cloth seats with factory 30th anniversary insignia on front seats and 30th anniversary insignia floor mats, 30th anniversary ignition key. There are two minor spots along both sides of the vinyl top where the paint is bubbled & on the very lower rockers as well. There is bondo on the lower rockers in front of the rear wheels. The vinyl top is faded a bit on top & has some bumps underneath it in a few spots, but over all it's in good condition. The paint is showroom shiny. The exhaust is quiet & the shocks & brakes are excellent too. Has new front brake pads & rotors on it and new ball joints on both sides. The trunk is immaculate as well. The tires are in very good condition. The frame & floors are very solid as are the bottom of the doors. An extra set of 30th anniversary floor mats are included as well as an extra 30th anniversary metal logo for the vinyl roof side.

# PERSONAL ADS

## PARTS FOR SALE

429 Police Interceptor heads: cast # D20E-AB, dates 2E5 & 2E18, \$850.00 1969 429 CJ long block: block date 8M7, heads date 8L26, \$3,800. 1969 428 CJ somewhat complete motor: block date 9F24, heads 9F3 & 9C24, intake 9E17, etc. \$6,500. 1970 428 CJ short block: block date 0A14 also comes with intake it has a date of 0A10, \$3,200. 1967 Ford 390 4BL intake cast # C7AE-9425-E with PCV system, heater hose elbow etc. \$450. 1967 Ford/Mercury 390 A/C system: original Ford A/C compressor, A/C clutch, clutch pulley, brackets, idler pulley, water pump pulley, crankshaft pulley etc. \$500. 1967 Cougar or Mustang: stainless steel power front disc brake 6 piece line set. \$75. Boss 302 block, cast # D1ZE-6015-BA, fresh from machine shop, 40 over \$2,000; Boss 302 crank, fresh from machine shop, 10/20 \$550; Boss 302 rods, set of 5 \$150; 1968 302 4V intake, cast # C8ZE-9425-A, date 8A31, with extras \$300. 1968 302 4V valve covers, with extras, \$75. 1968 302 short block, cast # C80E 6015 A, cast date 8B3, machine date 8B13B, \$500; 1995 302 heads cast #E7TE, date codes 4K22 & 4L12, \$150 for the pair. 1967 289 heads, cast # C6AE, date codes 7D18 &

7E2 \$100.00; NEW: AFR small block Ford 205cc aluminum race heads, stud mount, complete with valves, springs etc., CNC machined and ported by AFR, brand new pair \$1,850. 1967 GT 390 carb cast # C70F-9510-A, list 3793, date 784, good core \$250.00; 1966 428 short block \$2,500.00; N.O.S. 87-88 Cougar red headliner part number E7WY-6651916-ABD, \$150.00; 351W heads, cast #E7TE, date codes 5B15 & 5B17, \$150 for the pair. 351C crank, \$75. 1972 351C 4 bolt main block, cast # D2AE-CA, date 2G13, \$895. 1965 289 Hi Po aluminum water pump: cast # C5AE-8505D, \$400. 1965 289: rods, cast # C3AE D, matching set of 4, \$50; 1965 289 2V intake cast # C5AE 9425 D, dates 4K6 & 5A4 \$75 each. 1965 289 original gold valve covers, \$60. 1965-66 289 heat shield, air cleaner shroud, \$75. etc. much more inquire (314)480-2556 Keith Litteken St. Louis MO or email [kslitteken@aol.com](mailto:kslitteken@aol.com)

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To subscribe to Volume Two of **LCM**, visit our website at:

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# Hello, Cougar Club of America Members



**M**y name is Pam Stafford, and my husband Bill and I live in Honey Brook, Chester County, PA, about 40 miles west of Philadelphia. It's a lovely rural area, with one traffic light in the middle of town, and Amish buggies traveling past our home daily. We have two dogs, Kaya, a boxer, and Petey, a boxer/pit bull mix, both adopted from rescue groups.

We purchased our 1968 XR7 Mercury Cougar in November of 2013 from a dealer in Michigan. Before Bill met me, he was dating a woman who owned a Cougar, and that started his love affair with the car. We take our car to local shows and attended this year's Ford Nationals in Carlisle, PA. She is a lot of fun to drive and we are thrilled to own such a beautiful car.

I started working in the printing industry right after I graduated from high school. My father is a retired commercial artist, and he got my foot in the door of a printer that he had worked for when I was a child. I started in the bindery and worked my way up into the pre-press department. I have been working in this industry for over 25 years. Part of my job at DavCo Advertising is proofreading, which I thoroughly enjoy, so I eagerly volunteered to look over the newsletter before it goes to print. Thierry is a pleasure to work with and he is doing a wonderful job! I can't wait to see what he comes up with for the winter 2015 edition.



# It Was All About the Eyes, Really

As promised in ATSOTC's fall edition, you get to know a bit more about Pam and me in this edition.

Even though I am from Luxembourg, Europe, I've always been fascinated by classic American cars. Probably because I was born in the 70s and have been exposed to a whole lot of US TV shows that had great cars in them.

When I was a teenager, I watched "21 Jumpstreet" a lot and the main character, Tom Hanson, had a 1967 Mustang Fastback. I consider that the click when it comes to my love for classic American cars.

A few years ago, I started going to US car shows here in Europe and discovered many more different brands and models and then fell in love with the 1969 Mercury Cougar. I was amazed by its sporty, yet elegant, look. But the feature that made my heart go boom was the front grille. It was all about the eyes, really. I loved the concealed headlights, and the way the covers would open and close. The rest is history...

I don't only enjoy classic American cars, I also really love being in the USA. I adore US mid-century modern architecture.



So, basically having a nice mid century modern home in Palm Springs and a nice 1969 Cougar would be a dream come true.



My wife and I have visited the USA nine times in the last five years. We are both photographers and so our latest trip was a photographic road trip on the Historic Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles. I love driving on US roads. Much wider roads and much more relaxed driving than here in Europe. Take a look at some of the photos I took during our visits on my website: [www.trf.photo](http://www.trf.photo)

I currently work in the communications and international relations department of an agency of the federal government here in Luxembourg. I am in charge of the Internet and Intranet site of the agency and create publications, flyers, brochures, etc.

I am really happy to be a part of the CCOA and to be able to contribute to the club with creating this newsletter. It's a pleasure to work with Pam, Kamran, Rob, Gavin, and all you other guys. Thanks for letting me be a part of this!



# FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Greg Fritz (#5269)  
Financial Services Director

<b>Income Statement</b>		
	As of 6/30/15	As of 9/30/15
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dues - Checks	\$755.00	\$4,059.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calendars	\$0.00	\$0.00
Merchandise	\$0.00	\$565.43
Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
PayPal - Dues	\$1,370.00	\$1,395.00
PayPal - Merchandise	\$387.55	\$871.65
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,512.55</b>	<b>\$6,891.08</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Postage	\$393.76	\$326.63
Office Supplies	\$265.76	\$4.24
Membership Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Fees	\$0.00	\$35.00
Checkprint Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$2,906.34	\$2,749.17
Web Site Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00
PayPal Fees	\$74.89	\$95.12
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Merchandise Cost	\$4,324.95	\$1,556.67
Merchandise Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shipping	\$0.00	\$0.00
Postal Express	\$51.05	\$108.34
Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nat'l Show Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
Web Site Pgm Exp	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,016.75</b>	<b>\$4,875.17</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$5,504.20</b>	<b>\$2,015.91</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
	As of 6/30/15	As of 9/30/15
<b>Assets</b>		
US Bank	\$2,784.38	\$17,737.10
PayPal	\$21,962.39	\$9,025.58
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$24,746.77</b>	<b>\$26,762.68</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$24,746.77</b>	<b>\$26,762.68</b>
Inventory Assets	\$877.00	\$877.00
Fixed Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Furniture/Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$877.00</b>	<b>\$877.00</b>
<b>Other Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Computer Software	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$25,623.77</b>	<b>\$27,639.68</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Long Term Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$31,127.97</b>	<b>\$25,623.77</b>
Current Earnings	-\$5,504.20	\$2,015.91
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>	<b>\$25,623.77</b>	<b>\$27,639.68</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$25,623.77</b>	<b>\$27,639.68</b>



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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Rob Merritt (#8323)  
Member Services Director

## NEW LOOK... NEW TECH...

**BRAVO THIERRY!** The new design for our Club's newsletter takes At the Sign of the Cat to a new level. The new look is fresh and professional – just in time as the Club's attention turns to the 50th Anniversary of the Cougar.

The Club's website, [www.cougarclub.org](http://www.cougarclub.org), also got an upgrade - mostly stuff behind the scenes. You can't necessarily see the changes, but if you've suffered through the error messages, you'll be thankful the site was brought up to modern standards. Hopefully, all the bugs are gone and your next renewal or purchase of Club merchandise will be seamless and smooth. Big thanks for Webmaster John Rotella and Special Services Director Phil Parcels.

Interest in the Club clearly is growing as the 50th Anniversary of the Cougar rapidly approaches. Planning is underway for some great events. New ATSOCT, new Web tech, and new members... it's an exciting time for the Club!



## NEW MEMBERS

Joining the Club since the last At the Sign of the Cat, through November 1, are the following new members:

GORD HOWARD	CALGARY AB CANADA
SCOTT MACFIE	EDMONTON AB CANADA
WILLIAM RONALDS	LANGLEY BC CANADA
GLEN TURNER	GRANDVIEW MB CANADA
MATTHIAS KAHLERT	MINTRACHING GERMANY
KENDALL SPEARS	FARMINGTON AR
JAY WILLIAMS	SILOAM SPRINGS AR
STAN OWENS	BANNING CA
ROGER SCHMITZ	CAMPBELL CA
MICHAEL KWOK	DANVILLE CA
RICHARD HOFFSTADT	FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA
PAT & DENNIS VAN SANDT	GARDEN GROVE CA
KENNETH FUNK	GLENDALE CA
KAT BROWN	LA PUENTE CA
ROB MATTHES	LONG BEACH CA
RAY & SKIP SCIARONI	LOS BANOS CA
DONALD STRATEMEYER	MURRIETA CA
SCOTT HESS	PALMDALE CA
JOHN PARK	RIVERSIDE CA
JOEL MURILLO	SANTA MONICA CA
TIM PAYNE	UPLAND CA
PAT MARTIN	YORBA LINDA CA
EARL JENKINS	SAVANNAH GA
DALE THOMPSON	STATESBORO GA
RANDY GEERTS	DAVENPORT IA
DOUG NEECE	DAVENPORT IA
JANICE HAUGHEY	WEST LAFAYETTE IN
JOSEPH A BAUER IV	FRAMINGHAM MA
GERALD B BARR JR	ALLEN PARK MI
PAUL REGNA	MARYLAND HTS MO
THOMAS SATTLER	RUGBY ND



KEN POULIN	ROCHESTER NH
WALT BUTLER	ALBUQUERQUE NM
MIKE SUTTON	BELOIT OH
ROBERT CHASE	BROKEN ARROW OK
JAMES JANOWIAK	SAPULPA OK
BILL TIMMERMAN	SAPULPA OK
FELICIA WHISNANT	TULSA OK
ETHAN JOYNER	BOYERTOWN PA
WALTER NASH JR	PHILADELPHIA PA
MONTE MITCHELL	ALLEN TX
JOEL PADILLA	ARGYLE TX
DAN MCKEITHEN	DALLAS TX
ALICIA SLAY	DALLAS TX
TERRY SHORT	FT WORTH TX
RICHARD BARTOW	GARLAND TX
TODD RICHMOND	GRAPEVINE TX
BRIAN STUMP	MCKINNEY TX
COPE & PAMELA CRISSON	MURPHY TX
ALAN EASLEY	NORTH RICHLAND HILLS TX
CLIFF TALLEY	PLANO TX
KEVIN HYATT	PROSPER TX
CHRISTOPHER BENIS	BELLEVUE WA

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS!

## RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you receive the newsletter by mail, keep an eye on the address label. If your renewal date is coming up, it will show that date on the label. No date – no worry, you’re not coming due for a while. For email readers, the email sending the download link will notify you if it’s time to renew.

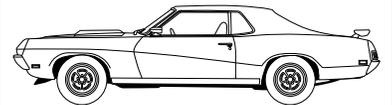
If your renewal is due, use the handy on-line form at [www.cougarclub.org/join.htm](http://www.cougarclub.org/join.htm) or the form printed toward the back of this newsletter if you prefer to renew by regular mail. Remember, if you are a dues-paying member of a local Cougar club, you get \$10 off your CCOA dues. It’s our way of supporting the local clubs while promoting participation in the CCOA.

Be sure to let me know if your postal or email address changes. If you just need to update your information, or have a question about your status, feel free to email me at [membership@cougarclub.org](mailto:membership@cougarclub.org).

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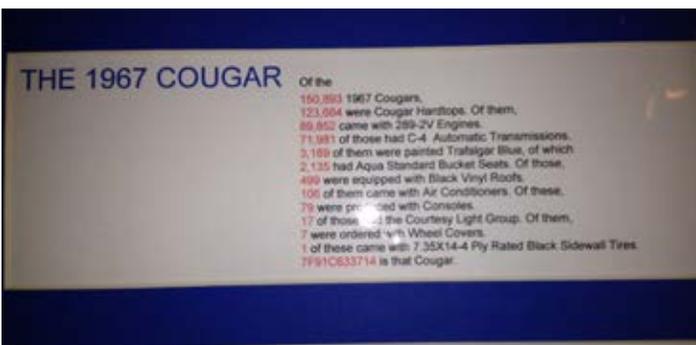


# THIS 50<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GIFT... BETTER THAN GOLD

As told to Phil Parcels (#2554)  
Edited by Greg Martin (#9094)

On June 12th, 1967, Jack & Jeanine Martin walked into Strieter Motor Company in Davenport, IA, and ordered a new 1967 Mercury Cougar. It was their first new car ever. On July 14th, 1967, the order was received by Ford at the Dearborn, MI plant. Approximately six weeks later, it arrived at the dealership and was delivered to the Martins on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1967. The first thing the dealership did was to remove the tires that came on the car and install tires supplied by Jack. At the time, he worked at a Coast to Coast Hardware store that happened to sell tires as well. Jack had ordered the car with

the most basic tires possible, knowing he would replace them immediately. (Per the Marti report, this car is one of one, due to these tires). It became their family car, driving to and from work, dropping off and picking up their children at school, etc. The car was used for family vacation trips to Las Vegas, Ohio, and California, among others.



When their son, Greg, was in high school, the Cougar became Greg's primary driver. Jack and Jeanine's neighbor worked for a body shop and did some restoration to the car in his personal garage in his spare time. Some of the things Greg changed: he removed the black vinyl roof, installed a 4 barrel carburetor, repainted the car a dark aqua metallic, installed slotted rims and white lettered tires, and upgraded the original am radio to am/fm with a cassette.

During these high school years, the cat used one of its fabled nine lives. Greg and his friend were racing a 1/4 mile after school one day. They stopped for a snack and about a 1/2 hour later they decided it was time for some cruising. When Greg fired the car back up he noticed smoke coming from the Cougar. They popped the hood and flames were shooting from the



carburetor. Another buddy of his happened to be washing his Toyota Celica and had a five gallon bucket full of soapy water. Greg ran, grabbed this bucket of water, was able to put the fire out and no serious damage resulted. The minor damage was covered by a small insurance claim that Jack and Jeanine turned into their insurance carrier.

Fast forward to 1990, when Greg is starting his family. He traded the Cougar in at a Chevy dealership on an Astro minivan. It was a sad day, but was a necessary move with kids on the way. An employee at the Chevy dealership bought the car and re-sold it to another individual in the Martin's home town. This individual then sold the car again to his brother-in-law. Greg knew all these people and tried to buy the car back a couple of times from this fourth owner, but they could never settle on a price. The fourth owner then got into a little trouble with the law, and went to jail. But before going to jail, he sold the car. Greg didn't know to whom and lost track of the car.

Time marched on and in Feb of 2012, Greg got a very odd phone call from a total stranger. He asked probing questions: "Are you Greg Martin? Did you have a Cougar at one time?" He said he was getting divorced and had one to sell. In return, Greg quizzed him. After a little discussion back and forth, Greg suspected the car could be their old family car when this stranger said that he

knew the car had been purchased at Strieter's in Davenport, IA. Greg then became very interested and asked for the VIN so he could do his due diligence and make sure the car and sale was legit. The VIN was supplied, and then Greg realized he had given the original glove box folio with the original sale receipts, window sticker, and insurance cards to the Chevy dealer in 1990 so he had no way to verify this VIN was correct. Greg then remembered the fire incident, and the insurance claim. Since Jack and Greg owned their own independent insurance agency, Greg decided he would go look in his dad's insurance file in his own office to see if the claim paperwork might still be there. To his surprise, it was, and the claim document had the VIN on it. The VIN in the report matched the text Greg had received from this stranger. This was their old Cougar! The seller wanted \$3,500 but sadly the car was not in good condition anymore. After some back and forth negotiations, Greg bought the Cougar for \$500. He wanted to restore the car and surprise his parents on their 50th wedding anniversary that the car was now back in the family.

But there was a problem... the first of many... there was no title. In Iowa, a valid title is required for ownership. Where there's a will, there's a way. Greg was determined and had a hunch. So he called his cousin. His cousin's brother-in-law was a police officer. Greg obtained the officer's cell phone number, called him, and asked if he would search the DMV database to see who had the last title. This is not allowed because of privacy



laws, but after hearing the story and plans for the surprise 50th anniversary, he decided that he would help. It was determined that it was still titled to the jailbird from back in the late 1990s timeframe.

Next, he needed help getting the title from this guy and contacted his wife. The jailbird's wife really loved the car, and wanted to see it restored also, so she was very helpful. She was willing to help Greg obtain a replacement title and was to sign the title over to Greg. With this, Greg went to the DMV to get the title. But it was not to be so easy. The DMV worker was able the

verify the title was still in the jailbird's name but then she exclaimed "Oh no..." and it turned out there was a lien on the title. The DMV gal was not allowed to tell Greg who had filed the lien, again due to privacy laws. Greg then told her the history of the Cougar and the plans to surprise his parents for their 50th anniversary. After hearing the story she also melted and whispered the person's name across the counter.

However, the next hurdle was the person holding the lien had passed away. Greg knew her. It just so happened that she was the grandmother-in-law of one of his employees! The DMV had requested that in order to release the lien Greg would need to obtain a copy of their executors' papers and a signed statement from the executors stating they would release of lien. THEN Greg could obtain the clear duplicate title. As it turns out, Greg's employee's father-in-law and uncle-in-law happened to be the executors of the estate. A few phone calls later, they gave the release and ironically, their lawyer was located across the street from Greg's business! All told, it took three months to get the title straightened out. And amazingly, for the whole 22 years the car was not in the family, it was only six or seven miles away from Greg.

Late Spring of 2012, the restoration began. Jack and Jeanine knew nothing about it yet. In June of 2012, they made a trip back to Iowa from their winter home in Florida (at the time) to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends and to spend the summer in Iowa. Greg had planned a surprise dinner at a restaurant located near the restoration shop. On the way to dinner, he told his parents that he needed to stop by a restoration shop quickly to take pictures of a



customer's and personal friend of the family's Corvette for insurance purposes. Greg knew that Jack would not think a thing about this as it is customary for independent insurance agents to take photos of classic vehicles for the insurance carriers. The Cougar was all set up in a separate area of the shop, and when he revealed the Cougar, Jack said "That looks like a Cougar, not a Corvette". Greg told his mom, "Mom, that is your original Cougar" and Jeanine cried. Greg's wife then said "Happy Anniversary".

Greg originally intended to restore the 67 Cougar, keep in Iowa, and let his parents drive it when they came back to Iowa in the summers. Before Greg could say another word, Jeanine turned to Jack and said, "When it's done we can take it to Florida". So Greg had to find another Cougar for himself and found a 1969 Eliminator.



The restoration on this 67 Cougar was complete in May, 2015, just about three years from the start of the restoration. The Cougar was trailered to Florida in June of 2015 where Jack and Jeanine now reside full time. Thus, for this show, Greg had to drive from Iowa to Florida, and then Florida to Massachusetts, and make the same trip back home. Greg logged a total of 5,503 miles to show their restored 1967 Cougar at the CCOA 2015 Eastern Nationals.



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