

# CELEBRATING THE FORD MUSTANG

Fall Foliage Cruise | Website Easter Egg Hunt | Feature HMC Car



## Introduction

Welcome to our monthly newsletter. This newsletter will chronicle the activities of the *Hoosier Mustang Club* that has its members centered in and around Columbus, Indiana. Articles for this newsletter will showcase the Ford Mustang both within and outside of our club. We hope you enjoy reading the *Hoosier Pony Times*.

## HMC "Feature Car"

This month's "Feature Car" belongs to Zach Hunter. It is a 1986 red Mustang GT that Zach has a very full history with. See the full article of this feature car on pages 3 & 4 of this edition of the *Hoosier Pony Times*.



## Fall Foliage Cruise

Sixteen members of the club gathered together with their beautiful cars and set out on a cruise from Columbus to the "Tulip Trestle" train track. The trestle is a 2,295 foot long railroad bridge that spans Richland Creek near Solsberry Indiana. The bridge was built in 1906 and at the time was the longest rail viaduct in the United States and third longest in the world. It has 18 towers for support. The original cost of the viaduct was \$264,504 and was built by Italian immigrant laborers. It was built for train travel to transport coal from Greene County to large cities, like Chicago. Passenger service also ran until 1948.

After visiting the trestle, the ponies were fired up and we drove to Bedford to have a wonderful lunch at the Golden Corral. This was our last official club cruise of the 2025 year.



“Blast from the past pics”

July 24, 2012 Ritter’s Cruise-In



October 1980 General Butler State Park



**Upcoming Events**

November 12 - **HMC Monthly Meeting** - 6-8pm - Chicago’s Pizza (last monthly meeting of the year)

November 15 - **HMC Thanksgiving Meal** - 5-7pm, Villas of Stonecrest 5055 Boca Grande Blvd, Columbus, IN

December 6 - **HMC Christmas Party** - 11am-1pm, Seasons Lodge & Conference Center 560 SR-46, Nashville, IN

**Website Easter Egg Hunt**

What is an *Easter Egg*, when it comes to computing and websites? It is a *hidden feature* that you have to hunt for and when you click on it, then you see something else. On the HMC Website we have hidden some Easter Eggs. There are 5 of them on the Front Page, one of them on each of the following pages: About Page, Meeting Minutes Page and Club Cars Page. The 1st person to find all 8 of the Easter Eggs and email me the answers before our Thanksgiving Meal on November 15 will win the competition. Email to: [dave\\_sell@me.com](mailto:dave_sell@me.com)



**Charities - Thank you letters**

The following letters were sent to the HMC to thank the club for supporting these charities:

Nancy  
Linda  
Karrre  
Michelle  
Sandy  
Jeff  
Keith  
maria  
Kaye  
m eg  
Captain Amy Tompkins

Thank You for your blessed donation. It is truly heart felt and helps many people. Donations like yours help feed the hungry, fund youth programs, help with rental and utility assistance, and that's just to name a few. Because of you and your generous blessings, we can be a blessing to others. God Bless You!

DO Fish

**Love Chapel** (812) 372-9421  
311 Center St.  
Columbus, IN 47201  
office@columbuslovechapel.com  
columbuslovechapel.com

September 29th, 2025

Hoosier Mustang Club Inc.  
10240 S US Highway 31  
Ellettstown, IN 47232

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1000 check #1034. Each contribution helps Love Chapel's ministries assist thousands of individuals in our community in need. These needs have continued to grow as gas and food prices have spiraled, leaving so many individuals compromised financially. Your donation helps our community by meeting a need, providing grace, and offering encouragement. Here are some of the ways your money is used.

**Regular Steps:**

- Offering emergency shelter for many individuals nightly, including case management services to get those who are homeless back on their feet.
- In 2024, Single Step was able to help 27 individuals find permanent housing.
- **Food Pantry**
- In 2024 Love Chapel distributed over 2 million pounds of food to those in need.
- Visits occur monthly – in 2023, we averaged 1,049 households a month – this increased to 1,683 households by the end of 2024 at the Food Pantry and at Outreach Pantries around the county. Approximately 13% of the county's population is served through our pantry and outreach pantries.
- Care packages to school aged children are made to 13 elementary schools and Buoy Bees Academy – the year ended with over 25,000 packages going out to children.
- A Christmas Feast giveaway was completed with 1,673 baskets of food being distributed during December. Love Chapel to make sure everyone receives a well-rounded cart of groceries.
- Financial assistance
- Appointments are provided for help with rent, deposits, utilities, bus passes and other emergency needs. In 2024, 344 households were helped with financial needs.
- We are blessed with over 300 volunteers, but continue to need additional help. If you have a skill or a desire to help a few hours a month, we have a place for you.
- Volunteer? Email [volunteer@columbuslovechapel.com](mailto:volunteer@columbuslovechapel.com)
- Questions? Email [assistantdirector@columbuslovechapel.com](mailto:assistantdirector@columbuslovechapel.com)

Again, thank you for your support.

Kelly Daugherty  
Kelly Daugherty, Executive Director

Thank you for your kind support, not just 24 years, but through the years!

For the purposes, we verify that you received no tangible benefit, other than knowing that you are helping to improve the quality of life for others. We are a 501(c)(3) Corporation.

Altogether for good.

**Basic Car Info:**

- 1986 Mustang GT
- ~70k miles (~45k when I bought it)
- T-Tops (yes, they leak)
- Stock Mustang Gen 2 Coyote
- 6R80 with Lokar shifter
- Ford Control Pack
- SVE Series 3 in Gun Metal staggered wheels
  - 18x9 Front with 265/35
  - 18x10 Back with 285/35
- On3 Fuel system with Cobra style tank and dual pumps
- Full Hooker Blackheart 3" exhaust
- Full AJE suspension front and back
- Through the floor sub-frame connectors
- Stock rear end with 3.73 gears and fox length 5 lug axles
- 98 Cobra brakes all around
- Volvo electric pump for power steering and brakes
- Owned for 26 years (survived high school)

**Feature HMC car***Zach Hunter's 1986 Mustang GT***History:**

I originally bought an 85 Mustang GT 5 speed from my friend's dad when I was 15. This would be around 1999. I fell in love with that car when he would take me home from baseball practice. It was nothing special but I thought it was the coolest car. He had put it up for sale and some guy test drove it and blew the transmission out of it. I had saved some money from mowing cemeteries with my brother and cousins. I had just enough to get the car. The car just sat at the house for months as I tried to save up for a transmission. The good thing about having a birthday at Christmas is that you can get bigger gifts by combining them and that's how I got the replacement transmission and clutch.

I fixed and cleaned it up in time to have it ready for my permit and finally my license. I drove it for a few months until I was crawling the internet and found this 86 Mustang 5 speed with T-Tops. I was dead set on getting it. My dad was not happy about the situation but I persisted and sold the 85.

The car was in Cleveland so we gathered the MapQuest directions and headed northeast in whatever minivan my parents had at the time. The trip there was uneventful, but long. I remember pulling in the guy's drive and trying to figure out if we were at the right address or not. We soon figured it out because the guy came rolling around the corner down the street in it and parked in front of the house. There was no hiding my excitement. We looked it over, did a bit of back and forth, then we were on our way back home.

If you are keeping up with the time of year you will know that it is early March and I'm less than 2 months with a license. The ice storm that they had predicted starts as we get to Columbus, OH. We stop at a gas station to fuel everything up where my dad also mentions the car has no heat. He gives me some pointers which is essentially don't go over 40 until we hit dry pavement. I remember those roads being slick and seeing cars all over in the ditches. Somehow we escaped all of that and made it home without issue.

I drove the car on a regular basis from age 16 to 22 and then put it in storage. I brought it back out when I was 30. I had made some changes that I didn't like and put it back in storage after a month. It wasn't until 2020 when I decided I was going to spend some money and make some major changes.

**Feature HMC car***Zach Hunter's 1986 Mustang GT***The Build:**

Once again, my dad was not happy about the situation, but that did not stop the parts from showing up at his house (the things I didn't want my wife to ask questions about) and my house (the things she could ask questions about). Almost every weekend I spent at least one day at my mom and dad's house working on it, for 18 months. It was just me and dad working on it so I just set a goal of one thing to complete each weekend and I made sure we had the parts there to make it happen.

We (mostly myself) did all the work except the "through the floor" sub-frame connectors. We did it all in his garage on the floor with jack stands and a cherry picker. The car sat torn apart inside and out for at least 6 months, just to clean up and prep it for what was to come.

We actually got it all together and was checking the fuel system and control pack, when the original motor I bought threw a rod through the side of the block. The car didn't even have tires on it when this happened. It was not a fun conversation with my wife when I had to tell her my budget went to crap over having to get another motor.

In early Fall of 2022, I finally got it all together, off the jack stands, and was able to take it down the road. I was stoked. I spent the next month slowly working the kinks out and building confidence. At this point, I had my own pole barn and decided it was time to move everything to my house.

I spent 2023 driving it around locally and went to a few car shows. I never thought it was nice enough to show and really didn't know any car people since I had been out of it for so long. I had seen the *Hoosier Mustang Club* car show on Facebook and thought why not, maybe I can meet other car people. I joined the club at the show and have been a part of it since.

**Current:**

I still have a lot of things I need to do and buy, but it's on the "nice to have" side of things. The top of my list is getting the fuel gauge to work because I don't have any idea how much gas I have in the tank. I have tried three times now without success, and it looks like I need to go Dakota Digital dash to get it working. I am taking donations.

I attend a lot of shows, cruises and events. It's not uncommon for me to travel two hours away. I just love to get it out on the road and let it run. I have also taken it to several big shows including Motor City Foxfest in 2024 (Detroit, MI) and Ford Takeover (Jackson, TN) this year. Still on my bucket list is PITS, Foxtober Fest, Mustang Week (Myrtle Beach and Galveston) and somewhere on the west coast TBD.

I have been in contact with one of the kids of the guy I bought the car from. They posted in the Westport town Facebook page that they were looking for the owner of a red 1986 Mustang GT with T-Tops that was purchased from Cleveland in 1999 with pictures of my car. My mom sent me the post and I responded. We shared lots of stories and pictures. I plan to meet up with them next year at a show in Columbus, OH.

