



# PONY EXPRESS



Celebrating Mustang Hobbyist and Their Cars Since 1977

## SEPTEMBER CAR OF THE MONTH



### 1964 FORD FAIRLANE THUNDERBOLT

#### HERE'S WHAT MAKES THE FORD FAIRLANE THUNDERBOLT SUCH A BIG DEAL

American automaker Ford was lording over Chevy and fellow automakers with its magnificent Y-block flathead V8 engine during the mid-50s. In response, General Motors and Chevrolet introduced its small-block V8 engine in 1955 — the precursor to the brand's lineup of LS V8 engines that we know today. Ford debuted its Fairlane lineup of full-size coupes and sedans that same year, equipped with an inline-six or Y-Block V8.

But as the muscle car scene grew traction in the 1960s, Ford experimented with a two-door Fairlane hardtop explicitly built for drag racing. According to Motor Authority, Ford wanted a

Fairlane equipped with its next-gen FE series V8 engine that could win professional drag races and take home an NHRA title.

Based on a fourth-generation Ford Fairlane coupe, the Fairlane Thunderbolt was born to conquer the drag strips, which it did. It won the 1964 NHRA Top Stock award in its first year of production, further cementing its reputation as the baddest of track-only 60s muscle cars.

The 1964 Ford Fairlane Thunderbolt is a bare-bones machine typical of race-prepped production cars. It may resemble a standard Fairlane from the outside, but the Thunderbolt is a different car underneath its body shell. It had a reworked front and rear suspension with modified traction bars and asymmetrical leaf springs. It had no radio, heater, back seats, or sound insulation, and Ford engineers utilized fiberglass for the doors, hood, and bumpers to save more weight. Moreover, the initial batch of Fairlane Thunderbolts had Plexiglass windows to reduce heft (per Motor Authority).

Other mods include a trunk-mounted battery, a set of drag radials by Goodyear and Mickey Thompson, an electric fuel pump, tubular exhaust headers, a locking differential, and an aluminum scatter shield. According to Modern Driveline, an automatic-equipped four-speed Fairlane Thunderbolt ran the quarter-mile at Lions Drag Strip in November 1963 and posted 11.61 seconds at 128 mph, tremendous numbers for a factory-prepped drag car.





**OFFICERS**

President – Joe Rondone  
 Vice President – Rob Lee  
 Secretary – Les Dougan  
 Treasurer - Rick Rose

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Carol Rose  
 Don Houk  
 Kathy Riccardi

**VOLUNTEERS**

Membership – Charlie Wilson  
 Webmaster - Vacant  
 Events – Pauline Maciel  
 MCA – Tom Hasenberg  
 Car Show – Kathy Riccardi  
 Newsletter – Rod Davison



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



Ken Mannina – 01

Charlie Wilson – 07

Nancy Marino – 13

Cole Reif – 23

Lousie Gibino – 24

Shaun Ryon – 26



## MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2025

Meetings 2025	Date	Time	Notes
General Meeting	September 5	7:00 pm.	Frontier Ford 3701 Stevens Creek Blvd. Santa Clara, CA
Board Meeting	September 16	7:00 pm.	
General Meeting	October 3	7:00 pm.	Frontier Ford 3701 Stevens Creek Blvd. Santa Clara, CA
Board Meeting	October 21	7:00 pm.	
General Meeting	November 7	7:00 pm.	Frontier Ford 3701 Stevens Creek Blvd. Santa Clara, CA
Board Meeting	November 18	7:00 pm.	
General Meeting	December 5	6:30 pm.	Holiday Party
Board Meeting	December 16	7:00 pm.	

### REOCCURRING AREA EVENTS

2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday each Month	Ronnie's Coffee & Cars	5566 Cottle Rd. San Jose, CA
1st Saturday each Month	Mt. View Coffee & Cars	Starbucks 2410 Charleston Rd, Mountain View, CA 7 to 10:30am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday each Month	SJMCC Cars and Coffee	859 Bloosom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday each Month	Morgan Hill Coffee & Cars	990 Cochrane Plaza, Morgan Hill, CA
1st Sunday each Month	The Gilroy Coffee & Cars	Gilroy Donut House 703 First St, Gilroy, CA 8 to 11am
1st Sunday each Month	Willow Glen Coffee & Cars	Lincoln Ave. Between Willow & Minnesota

### VINTAGE MUSTANG OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (VMOA)

#### General Meeting Minutes Notes

**Friday, August 1, 2025**

#### **Officers and Board Attendees:**

President Joe Rondone, Vice President Rob Lee, Treasurer Rick Rose, Secretary Les Dougan, Board Member, Carol Rose, Charlie Wilson.

#### **Welcome:**

President Joe Rondone opened the meeting introducing the Club Officers and welcoming members and guests in attendance at 7:00 PM at Frontier Ford, Santa Clara.

#### **Members, Visitors and Guests:**

There were approximately 20 members in attendance, and 2 Guests, Speaker Visitor, Duane Verhaege from Car Club Alliance (CCA) were present, See New Business below. And Don Arnaudo, (family long time VMOA members) to thank the club for their acknowledging his wife Rose's passing.

#### **Car of the Month:**

John Jussen's Yellow 1970 Boss 302 (past Car of the Month). Another beautiful Boss, very original with many updated with (better performing parts, CHECK IT OUT!  
(For September) Les Dougan's 2001 Mustang Bullitt, (past Car of the Month) with SOHC cams and manual 5 speed. The famous Dark Highland Metallic Green with charcoal interior, enhanced breathing, suspension, brakes, and body details included from the factory with a few extra owner touches. He loves it.

**Committee Reports:**

None

**July 2025 Minutes:**

The minutes were read and were approved.

**Treasurer Report:**

The There was no income but \$ 246.67 for expenses. There were no corrections and the report was approved.

**Birthdays:**

Carol Rose 04, Charlie Robinson 10, Don Arnaudo 17, Greg Ruf 18.

**July Events:**

Saratoga Car Show, 07/27/2025

**Frazier Lake Airport**, see below.

**JOHN GEHRING UPDATE:**

John passed away on June 10, 2025. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, a funeral and reception occurred at the Saratoga Federated Church and the Quinlan Community Center. Both functions were Beautiful!! In lieu of flowers please consider donating to: <https://giving.stanford.edu/how-to-make-a-gift/> Choose: Stanford Medicine / The Cancer Discovery Fund.

**Past Events:**

There were no past events discussed.

**Future Events:**

**-The VMOA Car Show,**

Update, we received the certificate on July 14 and forwarded it to our officers, Kathy (car show coordinator), and Rod Davison (newsletter coordinator) for the school district approval. Still await approval.

**VMOA Car Show UPDATE (as of 08/31/25):** Kathy states that the we still have not heard from Campbell Unified School District a confirmation of the location. Therefore, we do not have a location or date set for the car show. We are thinking of October 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> tentatively, if we can find a location and firm date.

**CAR HAPPENINGS:**

-August 16, Beer Fest & Car Show, St. Francis & Cabrini, 15333 Woodard Ave., SJ, 11am to 4pm.

- August 24 – VMOA Picnic, At Vasona Lake County Park, Gateway Pavillion, is Pot Luck food, see signup list. Open at 8:00 AM. Bring your meat and BBQ there, bring any appropriate Games. Hope a Raffle (\$1/1 ticket or \$20/25 tickets as well. Joe brought up suggestion to invite more guests to the event.

- August 30 – Santos Family Alviso Car Show.

- October 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, – VMOA Car Show. Tentatively October 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> at a To Be Decided location.

- October 4<sup>th</sup> **Cruise to Frazier Lake Airport Car Show, Open House & BBQ \$20 each, (in Gilroy)**, we need a coordinator for this event.

-November 15, Cruise to DeRose Wine Tasting Room.

-December 5<sup>th</sup>, VMOA Christmas Party, Dinner, Gifts, Toy Drive. Pauline to reserve location.

**Website:**

All reports good & bad, good = System is working. Bad = Need better than Word Press format, such as Wick or Go Daddy.

**Buy/Sell/Swap:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

-We need to start volunteering for 2026-2027 officers.

-Duane Verhaege from Car Culture Alliance described the operations of the Alliance. 14 Clubs so far, meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (except Sept. 2025) in Willow Glen, Coffee & Cars Lincoln Ave. between Willow & Minnesota. For all cars, no dues. They offer Safety Inspections, Raffle, and all kinds of cars to love. 1 club hosts each month's gathering. Swap meet coming.

**Open Forum:**

**Adjournment:**

-The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM by President Joe Rondone.

## 2024 CAR SHOW SPONSORS

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