

## My Car's Story

As told by Matt Cannizzaro

My Bullitt Mustangs -a story about my adventures with Ford's tribute to the most famous movie "car chase" vehicle of all time.

I've been "Car Crazy "since childhood. In the late 1950's when my friends were buying baseball cards I'm getting the latest issue of

Hot Rod magazine. My interest in the Mustangs began in late 1964 when I had a tour of the Shelby facility in Los Angeles where I attended grad school. I saw the first Shelby GT 350's and got to see testing of the prototype/ test car months prior to the first racing Mustangs he ran in 1965. It took me a number of years to own one, a new 1987 GT. Since moving here to Florida and joining the club I have owned four Fox bodies, two SN 95's and three Bullitt Mustangs. Most members associate me with the Bullitts, a Mustang I longed for from the first time I saw one at a MFMC car show in 2002. My interest in the cars is not so much the connection with the movie "Bullitt". I've been drawn to what Ford had done to engineer a total performance package resulting in a Mustang that drove a little faster, braked a bit better and cornered a little harder than a normal GT. The Bullitts are a descendent, or an offshoot, of the type of cars the SVT division created, such as the Cobras, the F-150 Lightning, and several others.

The unique appearance of the Bullitts and the movie connection are just a bonus. Another bonus is the terrific owners I have meet here in Florida and across the country at the Bullitt national meets or on-line at the IMBOC website. My 2001 Bullitt , DHG # 2064 had been a faithful daily driver for 5 years and a great " hobby " car the past three. I've earned many show trophies with her but the most fun has been participating in two open track events at Sebring International Raceway, most recently in 2015. I have to give credit and thanks to member Ed Traeakner for assisting me in developing the car and acting as my race mechanic. Over the years I improved the car with handling, breaking and exhaust parts to meet the demands of that kind of driving. I've come away with a greater appreciation for the engineering and performance Ford has built into all the Mustang GT's .With over 145,000 relatively trouble free miles it is time to move to another chapter in my life with Mustangs.



Recently I have purchased a 2008 Bullitt with low miles and a good past. They really got this one right. It is a real leap forward in drivability and performance, which is true for almost every Mustang GT since the mid - 2000's. Selling #2046 will be hard but I'm looking forward to many happy miles and memories with DH #5546. I'm just struggling with just how stock I want to keep her.

