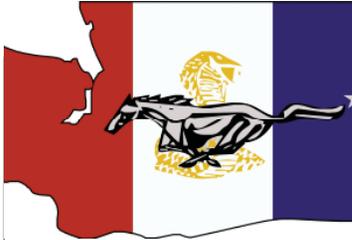


# IEMC MUSTANG



Kim Frank's 1996 GT



## 'Stang of The Month

The second 'Stang in my stable was added about two years ago. I spotted an ad in Wheels Deals, by Gus Johnson Ford, for a 1996 Custom Mustang GT convertible. I was intrigued by the advertised ghost-flame paint and supercharged engine, but mostly, I was nostalgic for a convertible since the time I bought a little Toyota Celica GT convertible for one of our daughters many years earlier. I remembered how fun it was to cruise around in the summer in an open-air car. There's just something very liberating about convertibles.

The test drive was surprising because the car had more power than I expected, but handled like a 1973 Galaxy 500 in comparison to my 2002 Roush Stage 2. The ride is relatively soft with a little body roll which is somewhat reduced by a set of lowering springs and bump stops that hit hard at their limits on some of Spokane's worst streets. The slotted disc brakes look good and stop the car at respectable distances.

The engine is the standard 4.6 liter V-8 which has been enhanced with a Paxton Novi 1000 centrifugal supercharger and methanol injection system. The power-adders in combination with custom computer tuning brings the horsepower around the 400 mark while maintaining good street manners and drivability. The best part of the power-plant though, is the sweet sounding whine of the supercharger at idle. Oh, and the scent of the exhaust when the menthol injection is at work. (I hope I'm not the only one that will admit to liking that smell.)



I was told that the former owner of the car traded it, along with a F-150, toward the purchase of a new Taurus SHO. About a week after the purchase I met the previous owner at the dealership during a small car show hosted there and found out that he...

(cont. page 2)

### In this issue:

'Stang of the Month 1-2

Activities Recap 3-4

Nov Birthdays 5

Nov-Dec Calendar 5

The Prez Says 5

Oct Meeting Minutes 6-7

Classified Ads 8

Contacts 8

General Information 9

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## 'Stang of The Month (cont.)

was the original owner of the car but had sold it, only to re-purchase it again several years ago. Soon after reacquiring the car it went through an extensive restoration in which the car was disassembled and repainted. The paint quality is shown in the added touches, like the painted side mirrors and hood cowling, and the ghost flames applied to the underside of the fiberglass hood. The previous owner operates a garage in the Clayton area and had used his professional mechanical experience in installing superchargers in the majority of his personal vehicles and this one was no exception. He has this '96 tuned to run at a maximum of 8 pounds of boost on 92 octane fuel.

I have added a few cosmetic items to the car (after all, Mustangs are never completely "done"), including the styling bar (can't call it roll bar you know, for legal reasons), interior lighting and undercar lights for those evening parades. Speaking of parades, the car has appeared in the last two Lilac Festival and Valleyfest parades carrying local dignitaries or honored veterans.

Another fun part of owning a Mustang is that I get to share the experience with other enthusiasts—the proud members of the Inland Empire Mustang Club!

-Kim Frank

