

Teens 'Belt It Out' to Win Ford's Distracting Driving Contest

DEARBORN – Five lucky teens have won a national Ford song contest that focused on distracted driving.

The public selected the five finalists on www.drivingskillsforlife.com from among videos by teen musicians performing original songs. Shawn Wilson, president of Usher's New Look Foundation, chose the first-, second- and third-place winners.

Distracted driving was the theme for the 2011 Ford Driving Skills for Life "Belt It Out" contest.

The winning musical group – from Germantown High School in the Memphis area – has five members: Nathan Waters, Eric Rulerman, Elijah Berry, all 18, and Jared Dover and Sophia Frantz, both 17.

Each won a \$5,000 U.S. sav-

ings bond and a free trip to Usher's New Look Foundation World Leadership Conference. They also were invited to join Usher and John Rich, country music star and "Celebrity Apprentice" winner, in a conference workshop on July 20 on how music can create awareness and inspire social change.

Earlier this year, Ford Motor Company Fund invested another \$1 million to expand Ford's fight against the No. 1 killer of American teens – vehicle crashes.

Working with the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), Ford is bringing its free driving skills clinic this year to high schools in 15 states.

"Ford is taking a leadership role in educating teens about

safe driving," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.

"Ford is passionate about helping young drivers, which helps keep the roads safer for all of us. We are proud to partner with Usher's New Look Foundation on the 'Belt It Out' contest."

More than 3,000 teens, ages 15-19, are killed on American roads each year, according to government statistics.

"Usher's New Look Foundation is committed to engaging our youth in programs that support their future success," said Wilson.

"We are proud to partner with Ford Driving Skills for Life once again to help keep teens safer on the roads."

The second-place winner in

the Belt It Out contest – Kori Caswell, 17, from Hannibal (Mo.) High School – won a \$3,000 savings bond. Third place winners Colby Benson and Rachel Look – both 16-year-olds from Hawaii – each won a \$1,000 savings bond. The three winning videos will be posted on www.drivingskillsforlife.com.

Ford developed Ford Driving Skills for Life in 2003 in partnership with GHSA, delivering one of the nation's most comprehensive teen driver safety programs.

Ford DSFL builds young drivers' skills in four key areas: driver distraction, speed and space management, vehicle handling and hazard recognition. These four areas are contributors to more than 60 percent of teen crashes.

In addition to free hands-on driving clinics at high schools and community events, the program offers learning tools on its interactive website (www.drivingskillsforlife.com), including educational modules and car care and driving tip videos. Free educator packets also are available.

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works with community partners to advance driving safety, education and American heritage and community life.

The Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 60 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company.

The award-winning Ford Driving Skills for Life program teaches new drivers through a variety of hands-on and in-

teractive methods. Innovation in education is encouraged through national programs that enhance high school learning and provide Blue Oval college scholarships and university grants.

Through the Ford Volunteer Corps, more than 27,000 Ford employees and retirees each year work on projects that better their communities in dozens of countries. For more information, visit www.community.ford.com.

Ford Driving Skills for Life was created in 2003 in partnership with the Governors Highway Safety Association. It is one of the nation's most comprehensive teen driver safety programs.

In addition to hands-on events, it offers learning tools such as an interactive sites.



Katie Haddad, of Livonia, had her blinged-out 2007 Ford Mustang on display at the Detroit Historical Museum car cruise last week.



Robert Bury, executive director and CEO of the Detroit Historical Society, with his personal 1975 Lincoln Continental.



Don Nicholson of Westland organized the museum's classic car cruise. More than 30 cars turned out for the first-time event.

Livonia Woman Enjoys Driving 2007 Mustang

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.



Many of the cruise awards she has won recently are displayed in the engine compartment of Katie Haddad's 2007 Mustang.

Nothing quite like a local actress or model with a hot car to turn heads.

So it was last week at the Detroit Historical Museum's first-ever car cruise, one in which Katie Haddad of Livonia showed up in her 2007 Ford Mustang and effectively stole the show.

"I own it, I bought it brand new, I did pretty much everything to it," she said in an interview on Kirby, where her car was parked with the hood up and a half-dozen or more trophies gleaming on top of the engine.

"There's actually a story behind the car – it saved my life twice," she added.

"Somebody ran through a red light and hit the driver's side of my car . . . the second time somebody ran through a stop sign, doing 60 mph, ran into the driver's side door, the door swung open, if it hadn't done that I would've been crushed – so that's my baby."

A native of Livonia, Haddad said she was home-schooled by her parents, but otherwise would've attended Stevenson High School under normal circumstances.

She has appeared as an actress in a variety of TV shows and movies including "Detroit 187," "Hostile 3," "Machine Gun Preacher," as well as a number of fashion shows.

"I bought it brand new in November of 2006 – it's a 2007 car," she said. "I did the lime-green paint, I did the calipers, painted them lime-green and orange, the shaker is not factory, all the hosing inside is

green, it's got a DVD player, sound system in there with 4,000-watt speakers and amps, it's got a lot going on."

Haddad said she was recently at a big car show in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where her Mustang won the Most Outrageous and Best in Show award categories.

Haddad, 24, said she was self-taught about blinging up cars even though her father, Bill Haddad, worked tool-and-die for Ford Motor Co.

Otherwise, she enjoys the attention that the brightly painted vehicle brings her way.

"I take it to Cruising Gratiot, Downriver Cruise, Michigan Avenue Cruise, Dream Cruise, I'm everywhere," Haddad said.

She especially enjoys taking her Mustang to the annual Woodward Dream Cruise because she's able to park her car in the Mustang Corral set up along 9 Mile Road, east of Woodward, every year.

"When we've done with that, I cruise up and down Woodward," Haddad said.

"I always wanted a Mustang," she said. "For my 17th birthday I got a 2004/40th anniversary yellow GT."

"He (her father) leased it, so when it went back, I said, I'm going to get another one so I got that for myself." She says she has about 80,000 miles on the 4-year-old car.

First-Ever Detroit Historical Museum Cruise a Hit

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GERALD SCOTT

For all of the talk about Detroit being the "Motor City," we generally don't see that many motors or specialty cars south of 8 Mile Road.

But aha, last week, on Wednesday, July 27, the Detroit Historical Museum hosted its first-ever car cruise on Kirby, adjacent to the museum, and a respectable 30-plus cars turned out for the endeavor.

Considering this was on the same day that the GM Tech Center employee car show in Warren had over 1,000 cars registered, well, the Museum counted it as a good turnout of vehicles and interested people after all.

"It was sort of a combination between MotorCities Heritage and the Museum, to talk about doing different things they could do to help raise awareness of the automotive industry, of what they're doing here in the Museum," said Don Nicholson of Westland, a car cruise organizer and promoter.

"I do events throughout Wayne County, automotive events, plus I'm a member of MotorCities Heritage – I'm an ambassador, so they called me in and asked me if I could put together something like this.

"So this is brand new and from what I'm hearing today, they're thinking this might become a yearly thing – it's very exciting.

"We've got a wide range of autos here from the 1930s to 2010, it's got a good variety of different kinds of vehicles from classics to hot rods.

"Our original idea was to get 10 Chevys, 10 Fords, 10 Chryslers and 10 orphans, but this is the first year. . . so we hand-picked what we felt were the top of each category," he added. "This is still a nice-sized show. The people have been coming around since 9 o'clock this morning."

Indeed, vehicles from the 1960s and 1970s held sway as any number of visitors walking along Woodward, Cass and Kirby took in the mid-week car show.

Museum officials, including Communications Director Bob Sadler and Executive Director and CEO Robert Bury were seen up and down Kirby ensuring that everything associated with the cruise was going right.

Bury was proud of the initial endeavor.

"It is new for us, we thought it would be a great idea," Bury said. "It's part of a weeklong celebration we're doing here at the Detroit Historical Museum, to really celebrate the exciting plan we have for the fu-

ture – to transform and reinvent what we have here."

Some Detroiters may not know that the Detroit Historical Museum, Woodward at Kirby, has a great auto exhibit inside its doors as well.

"One of our favorite attractions is the 'Motor City Exhibit,' which talks about Detroit's role in the automotive indus-

This Ford Retiree Loves His 1969 Plymouth Muscle

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Okay, so what's a Ford Motor Co. retiree doing savoring classic Chrysler muscle cars from the late 1960s?

Not just any muscle car, either, but a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner, the pride and joy of Tony Gramer, who had it on display at the first-ever Detroit Historical Museum car cruise.

His affection for Chrysler chrome and muscle goes back to his youthful days.

"Actually, when I came out of the military in 1968, November, I purchased a 1969 GTX same color as this car – T7 Saddle Bronze Metallic," Gramer said.

"My son was born and we sold the car. But ever since then I've been looking for a car. I came across this car five-six years ago, it was partially done.

"This past winter, Nov. 8, my son and I tore apart the whole car. We put it all together, had it all done, the day before Autorama (in March)."

Like many such classic cars for guys his age – 63 years old – it became a labor of love to finish it in time for Autorama and then to savor it afterward.

"It took about three months of work, I was working 12-16 hours per day, sometimes," Gramer recalled.

"I'm retired from Ford Motor Co., I was a machine repairman by trade. I was actually a project coordinator at the Dearborn Assembly Plant, the new truck plant in Dearborn (at the Rouge)."

"I put in 39 years at Ford." Like many such classic car owners, Gramer is particular about his car ownership pedigree.

"Well, I purchased the car before I started at Ford in May of 1969 while I bought the GTX back in December of 1968," he recalled.

"And I happened to come across this car here in Michigan, we searched all over for this car."

Also like many such Baby Boomers his age, Gramer is a Vietnam veteran, too, something that Boomers born in

try – what it was, what it is today and what it can be in the future.

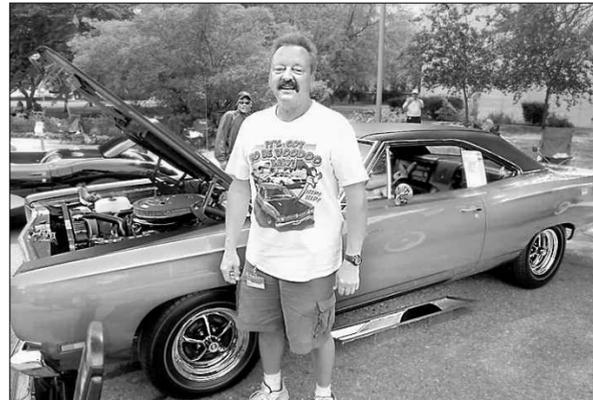
"There's no better way than to celebrate that than for the public to tour our Motor City Exhibit and see the working body drop that we have on display but at the end of the day – everybody wants to see some cars.

"We're really pleased with the turnout, we've got every-

thing from the 1920s to the 1970s and it's a great (sunny) day as well.

"The best thing of all, it's a great way to see the Museum – free through Sunday (July 31)."

Bury had his own 1975 Lincoln Continental on display as well. "You understand and realize the depth of pride in this community that comes from the car culture," he said.



Tony Gramer worked at Ford Rouge for 39 years, and he has always had a fondness for the Chrysler muscle cars of the 1960s. He brought his 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner to the Detroit Historical Museum car cruise.

the late 1940s and early 1950s seemed to experience the most.

"In 1966, five days after my 19th birthday, Uncle Sam said 'Greetings.' I was in Vietnam, I was by the DMZ (demilitarized zone), I was attached to the First Cav, I was at a place called Wonder Beach," he recalled.

"I was in Quang Tri province, I was seven miles south of the DMZ in 1968. When they stopped the bombing in North Vietnam, we got overrun.

"I was on the ground, but I was a (Huey helicopter) door gunner for a few weeks.

"I was there 10 months and 11 days and I spent three months in Thailand before Vietnam."

But Gramer came back home in one piece, even though he was wounded three separate times during his tour of duty in the 'Nam.

Working on the car helps take his mind off those war days, something he can really sink himself into, he says.

"I said (to my son), let's just do the whole car," he said. "So I started at the back end right here, took that bumper off, took the bezel off, took the trunk off, took the back window out – it's a new back window – and I just went all the way through the whole car."

Through his research, Gramer has been able to glean the larger history of his vehicle, which not every car

owner of a 1969 vehicle is able to do.

But his research shows that his 1969 Roadrunner was built at the Chrysler plant in St. Louis on March 10, 1969.

The original new car dealer was the Site Bros. dealership in Kansas City, Mo. The vehicle is described as "Restored to Original" in classic car talk.

The original engine was a 383 c.i./335 h.p. factory powerplant, 8-cylinder.

Options include an N96 Air Grabber, A31 High Performance Axel Package with an axle ratio of 3.91. Also, there is a D21 Transmission with an A833 4-speed manual. He has an N85 tachometer up front and the wheels are Magnum 500.

Gramer said he draws from a variety of sources as far as finding replacement parts for a 42-year-old vehicle goes.

"Actually, Internet is probably the biggest thing, people I go to car meets with . . . the other thing is junkyards, Texas Acres, I purchase a lot of parts from them," he said.

"A friend of mine, Eric Lafata, painted the car and actually Chip Foes is one of the people that intrigued me on this car. There were only 435 cars made like this, with this scheme, also, the sheetmetal on the car is original, the vinyl top is original, the interior is original, the engine is original with a couple of modifications on it but nothing really drastic."

Azure Dynamics Now Integrating Plug-In Technology Into F-550

OAK PARK – Azure Dynamics Corp. announced last week an agreement with Ford Motor Co. whereby Azure will integrate its proprietary plug-in hybrid (PHEV) technology into the market-leading Ford F-Series Super Duty product line.

In collaboration with Ford, Azure's plug-in hybrid technology will be initially integrated on Ford's market leading F-Series Super Duty cab and chassis, the F-550, which is expected to be available in early 2013.

This agreement also allows Azure to perform hybrid powertrain conversions on other Super Duty platforms including F-350 and F-450 models and spans all engine, frame length and regular production

options and configurations.

The Super Duty program will allow Azure to further expand its product lineup in its targeted medium duty, commercial truck segment.

The Azure / Ford agreement includes a "ship-thru" provision that permits Azure to place vehicles in the Ford transportation system and allows qualified Ford Commercial Truck dealerships to sell and service the product in key markets in North America.

With more than 50 percent market share, Ford F-Series Super Duty truck is the most established cab and chassis brand in the North American market. The Super Duty has both diesel and gasoline powertrain options.