



Aloha non-club Special Events Section

On the Road Again . . .

Barrett Jackson ~ by Chris DeBone

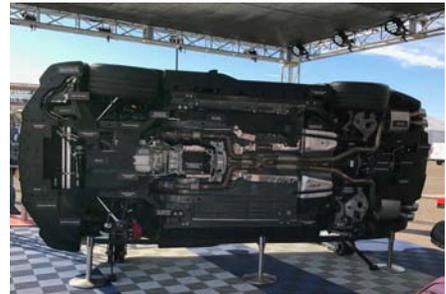
Jade and I kicked the roaring 20's off to a great start!. This was the year we decided not to sit at home and just watch the Barrett-Jackson auction on TV. We went to go see it live. After getting a good rest after arriving into Scottsdale AZ late Monday evening, we hit the road first thing Tuesday Morning and went straight to the WestWorld Event Facility located on 386 acres of land. The entire facility was taken over for this single auction event. It is hard to describe the size of the event in words, so I looked up the size of the Neal S. Blaisdell Center (NBC) to help put it into perspective. The entire NBC is located on only 22.4 acres. Wow.

The prime auctions days don't typically start until Thursday and eventually peak on "Super Saturday", so we spent our first day just getting familiar with the event grounds, checking out the auction cars, and checking out the vendor booths. Speaking of vendor booths, the first vendor booth that you see when you enter the indoor facility is the Ford booth. They had the best booth space...by far. The first thing you see when you enter the doors are 2 new 2020 Mustang GT's on chassis dyno's with a drag strip "Christmas Tree" between them. They picked people from the crowd and allowed them to virtually drag race each other in real cars. Each time they raced, the sounds from the engines would fill the entire room, pissing off the adjacent booths of competing manufacturers. I think that was the idea. Very cool. The next thing you see is a 2020 Shelby GT350R Heritage Edition dressed in Wimbledon white with classic guardsman blue stripes parked right next to a 1965 GT350R in the same colors scheme. Members of the Original Venice Crew "OVC" were even on hand to sign autographs and take photos. The new Mustang Mach-E was also on display attracting quite a crowd. A few other notable display cars included 2020 Shelby GT500, multiple Ford GT's, the entire fleet of SVT vehicles, and the new Mustang with EcoBoost HHP High Performance Package.

After a few hours at the show, we got into our rented 2019 Mustang GT and headed off on an afternoon trip to witness the famous sunsets of Sedona. After getting our psychic reading and spiritual guidance counseling (just kidding), we found a parking spot at the end of the Sedona airport runway and were not disappointed. Beautiful!



On Wednesday, we went back to the show to check out more of the cars that were in the staging areas. This year was the highest-grossing auction in its 49-year history with over 1,900 vehicles that sold for over \$141 Million in sales. It literally takes days to see all of the cars. Ford had another display located in the outside area where the cars come on and off the action block. They had a Shelby Mustang GT500 mounted on its side to expose the belly of the car. It was amazing to see all of the technology and engineering that went into the car from this perspective. Right next to it was a 1968 GT500-EXP experimental car called "The Green Hornet" parked next to serial number 001 2020 GT500 in the same cold scheme. The next day, they brought in on another 1968 GT500-EXP experimental car known as "Little Red". Both of these early experimental cars were thought to have been lost until recently found.



On Friday we visited the Manufactures test ride area and took thrill rides in 2020 GT500's and did doughnuts in new Dodge Hellcats. Detroit is Back! The auction cars started to escalate in quality and price by this time, so we started to spend more time in the main tent area. If you have ever seen the action on TV, the American Flag that you see hanging over the action block would cover our entire house.

Well, it's not called "Super Saturday" for nothing. The private jets were dropping off celebrities and dignitaries in droves. There were multiple million dollar cars, with a 2020 Corvette (SN 001) purchased by Rick Hendrick for \$3 million. It was amazing to feel the energy in the room as these cars crossed the block. Towards the end of the day we were able to visit with Gary Patterson from Shelby America and also Jim Owens from Ford Performance. Both of which are long time fans of our club. I could go on for hours with all of the details and experience we had. We will let photos be worth their thousands of additional words. You should definitely this show add it to your bucket list.



