

## Car of the Month for September 2018

This months car is owned by Brad & Jeanette Wilkins and here is their story.

My 4th mid-life crisis  
2017 Shelby Mustang GT350  
Brad's cell 206.660.0638

### Pony Stats:

The GT350 sports a 5.2-liter Voodoo 32 valve, V-8 flat plane crankshaft engine that spins to 8250 RPMs and makes approximately 526 hp. The exhaust note above 3,000 rpm sounds like Chewy from StarWars gargling. The Voodoo engine is coupled to a six-speed manual transmission. The magna-ride suspension has 4 selectable modes depending on driving conditions, including weather, drag strip, sport and track.

Let me start off by saying that I have a very understanding wife. We dated for 6 years, worked on cars together during the time we dated and have been happily married for over 30 years. In our early years we were General Motors owners which included a 87' Buick Grand National, 89 Pontiac turbo trans am and a couple of Novas.

In 2009 the big 3 car makers announced body style changes to their performance models ...the Dodge Challenger, Chevy Camaro and the Ford Mustang. The Dodge dealer said you could test drive the Challenger after you purchased it. The Chevy dealers didn't have any new Camaro models available to test drive. Frustration sent us to a Ford dealership near our home in July 2010. Those test drive or lack of stock issues didn't exist at the Ford dealer. First the salesman tried to sway me towards a mint used 2007 Bullit ...nice but not really what I was after. They had a brand new beautiful Shadow Black Mustang GT with a glass roof in stock. That was it...mid life crisis solved just before I turned 50 in August! I told the salesman I needed to bring my wife up here to see the car. He said no just take the car home and test drive it alone with your wife. Needless to say we both were giddy and felt like teenagers..., so we purchased that day July 2010. About 7 months later disaster struck. The driver of a F250 made a left turn in front of me in a controlled intersection. His right front bumper collided with the mustangs front end nearly totaling out the car. By the way, the F250 driver didn't have a license or insurance and was taken away in handcuffs by the MLT police. We got the car repaired, but cars are never quite the same after a collision and repair.

Around that time the new 2011 GT's were coming out with a 6 speed 414 hp 302. We traded in the 2010 for the 2011 Brembo GT model with a glass roof as well. More

horsepower ...midlife crisis #2 solved. Unfortunately my wife never got over the 2010 and didn't like the ride and feel of the 2011 so the search continued. We test drove a 2014 GT500 and decided it was more horsepower than we needed.

In 2015 Ford Performance\ Shelby introduced a new version of the GT350. The new S550 body style coupled with the Shelby's tweaks plus the new 526 hp Voodoo engine with an 8250 rpm redline grabbed my attention. I read everything I could on the car and watched every You Tube video available on line. Limited production in 2015 and huge dealer ADM's made ownership impossible. Nevertheless I continued my search for a deal, anywhere in the US was ok with me.

In April 2016 Jeanette and I were vacationing in Germany and while surfing the internet, ran across a Washington State dealer with a 2016 Black GT350 tech package with OTT White stripes for sticker price. Wow no ADM better jump on it! I emailed them and asked what it would take to hold and secure the car before returning to the US. The next day, a salesman replied and said the sticker price was incorrect and the price is \$73k. We went round and round for days and I could see that I wasn't going to win this battle without some help. I filed a claim with the AG along with Gt350 screen shots of the car at sticker from the dealer website About a week later the dealership called and asked when I wanted to pick up the car. Midlife crisis #3 solved.

In March 2017 I took the GT350 in for a routine oil change at the same dealer it was purchased at. One of the dealership employees was backing it out of the service department drive though when suddenly the 16'high garage bay door started closing as the GT350 transitioned from the inside of the service dept to the outside. The heavy door came down directly on the rear window, and the driver continued to backup unaware of the door breaking off the 3rd brake light and causing severe damage to the roof. To make a short story long, I was able to negotiate a good trade in for a new Black 2017 GT350 track pack that looked exactly like the 2016 except for the spoiler, Recaro bucket seats and the tranny, differential coolers. Midlife crisis #4 solved.

By the way Jeanette just had her first mid-life crisis and it's faster than my 4th. To be continued...

Cheers,

Brad & Jeanette Wilkins

