

Book Review by Mitch Mitchell:

Mustang Boss 302 From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car

By Donald Farr with foreword by racing legend, Parnelli Jones



Of the legendary names in the history of the Ford Mustang, one stands apart: BOSS. Originally created to homologate the new Boss 302 engine and option package for SCCA Trans-Am racing, the Mustang Boss 302 debuted for the 1969 model year and was built in limited numbers for the street. Designed by the legendary Larry Shinoda, the Boss cars were easily distinguished from their less potent stable mates by their race-bred power plants, standard spoilers, and bold graphics.

With no small amount of fanfare today, Ford is paying homage to its performance past with the reintroduction of the 5.0-liter V-8 in the Mustang GT. Though no longer the iron-block, pushrod Windsor engine of yore, Ford's newest iteration of a DOHC, modular V-8 is the most potent base Mustang GT motor yet, topping 400 horsepower.

For the 2012 model year, Ford is at long last reviving the most revered of all Mustang models: BOSS. With a new racing counterpart and a modern street version that makes more than 440 horsepower, the Boss is truly back!

Some of you may remember the original Boss 302 book by Donald Farr that now sells for big bucks on eBay. This is a book that builds off of the original Boss 302 Mustang all the way to the development and testing of the new 2012 Boss 302.

I enjoyed this book because it starts out with the history and racing of the 1969 Boss 302. There are several vintage photos of the racing Boss 302's that I have never seen before. The detailed vintage racing stories between the manufacturers are very interesting.

The second part of the book deals with the development of the new Boss. The prototypes and the testing on the race track leading to the Boss 302R (racing) and street Boss 302 and Laguna Seca. Interesting to hear how they tried to tie the new Boss into the vintage Boss heritage. A lot more than you would think went into the development and proving of the new Boss.

Overall a very good easy read whether you are a vintage or modern Mustang fan. A ton of great photos, old and new. I would recommend adding this book to your Mustang library.

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