

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2007 Ford Shelby GT500 Coupe Smokin' Fast

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2007 Ford Shelby GT500 is a powerful pony car for the 21st century. Carroll Shelby and the good people at Shelby Automotive have partnered with the Ford Special Vehicle Team to create a high-tech muscle car with a streamlined race-track feel; this is the most powerful factory-built Mustang ever offered.

It's fleeting because this car is the fastest production Mustang ever. The 5.4-liter V8 under the hood is supercharged and capable of 500 horsepower and 480 lb-ft of torque at 4500 rpm. This translates into a 0 to 60 mph time of approximately 4.5 seconds; the Shelby GT500 is definitely not shy and retiring.

The new Shelby GT500 also will be fleeting in its appearance at dealerships because only 8,000 to 10,000 will be built. This is roughly two cars per Ford dealership in the U.S., assuming all 4,400 Ford outlets apply for "certification" to handle and provide service for the high-performance Mustang. The car is in high demand. How much demand? The Shelby GT500 was appreciating in value before its first retail sale could be posted.

Aficionados know they are getting more than a retro-styled sports car, offered as a four-person coupe



Specifications: 5.4-Liter, 500-hp@480 lb-ft. torque, V8, 32-Valve DOHC SMPI Engine; 6-speed manual transmission; 0-60 mph: 4.5 seconds; 15-City 21-Highway MPG; \$43,765. MSRP

and convertible. They're getting an honest-to-goodness American muscle car experience with the special touches of racing legend Carroll Shelby.

The 2007 Shelby coupe has wide, white Le Mans racing stripes from front to rear, side striping and share an almost snarling grille, as well as aggressive front fascia with hood scoops. Yes, these scoops are functional. They help relieve pressure under the hood.

All Shelby GT500s wear large 18-inch performance tires—something that Shelby insisted upon the back tires are slightly larger than those on the front. They're needed to help "harness all the torque." At the back are dual tailpipes, of course, a

rear spoiler and a prominent, round badge as large as a person's hand, with a cobra snake prominently displayed on the trunk lid. A cobra appears on the black grille, in the middle of the steering wheel and is embossed on each of the seatbacks, too.

Inside, the new Shelby GT500 is a throwback to earlier days, when driving was the attraction, not a sidelight as it seems in some of today's cars. Leather seat cushions have the busy, multi-channel look of early Shelys but with some much-needed side bolster support added. Gauges are white-faced with the speedometer located on the left, so drivers can more easily see the rpm readings of the tach.

There's no navigation system in this speedster and no fancy TV-like display screen by which to adjust temperature. Controls are much more straightforward. The audio is a 1000-watt Shaker system with AM/FM, a six-disc CD/MP3 player in the dashboard and Sirius satellite radio. There are 10 speakers in the car.

But the real entertainment here is driving and riding in the Shelby GT500. And it's in watching on-lookers turn when they hear the car's deep, thunderous engine sounds, then stop and stare. Simply, there's no slinking quietly through traffic in this car. A throaty V8 growl emanates virtually all the time, even at neighborhood speeds.

With one turn of the ignition key, all cabin shortcomings of the 2007 Shelby GT500 are forgotten. The gutsy V-8 sneezes into life with the unequivocal message that the main entertainment to be had in this car will be via the gas pedal. With the short-throw shifter in one hand and the Cobra-embossed three-spoke steering wheel in the other.

Under the hood, you'll find a supercharged 5.4 liter, 32-valve V8 engine capable of 500 horsepower. The engine is based on the Triton, but sleekeed down with aluminum heads and unique camshafts. The '07 Ford Shelby GT500 has other high-performance goodies, including a high-capacity cooling system, air intake, and radiator.

The GT500's suspension is tuned for spirited driving, but this does not translate into the bone-shaking ride that comes with many stiffened suspension configurations. The folks on the Ford SVT have really pulled out all the stops on this one.

The 2007 Shelby GT500 is offered with a single transmission option in the form of a heavy-duty TR6060 six-speed manual gearbox. Moreover, the Shelby has a programmable shift light and audible chirp to free your eyes from monitoring the 6000-rpm redline on the tach.

The 2007 Ford Shelby GT500 is a brash, brawny, barn burner.

Under full human control, we shaved 0.1 second from the 60-mph sprint, lowering it to 4.4 seconds. The quarter-mile required only 12.9 seconds at 112 mph, 150 mph came in 30.3 seconds, and an electronic tether limited top speed to 155 mph.

The Shelby GT500 is not only a frighteningly potent car (the 500 horsepower from its supercharged V-8 engine was enough to whiten our knuckles even on legal roads), it also is a bookend to a generation of muscle cars starting with its namesake, the GT500 that made its debut 40 years ago; with the Shelby GT500, the driving experience changes completely.

Safety features include standard front and side airbags for front-seat passengers, anti-lock brakes and traction control. There are several anti-theft devices, too, including an anti-tow sensor that detects the car being put on an incline and sounds an alarm, as well as a high-capacity battery that can sound an alarm for a longer period than a normal battery.

The 2007 Ford Shelby GT500 is a powerful pony car for the 21st century. The 2007 Ford Shelby GT is a retro-styled rocket ship that will appeal to driving purists. If cabin comfort is more important than 500 horsepower, look elsewhere. If not, join the back of the wait list.

## BUSINESS directory

**Les Whitworth C.P.A.**  
and bookkeeping services  
5421 NE 33rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97211  
Phone 503-295-1939 Cell 971-344-6414  
Fax 503-295-1065  
www.leswhitworthcpa.com  
email: les@leswhitworthcpa.com

**Charles McCleoud**  
CEO  
516 SE MORRISON ST, STE 540  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97214  
BUSINESS 503.234.4452  
CELL 503.901.1535

**McCloud ENTERPRISE, LLC**

WE SUPPORT YOUTH ANTI-GANG OUTREACH

**Cherry Sprout PRODUCE MARKET**  
69¢ Yams, Sundays!  
722 N. Sumner at Albina  
Portland, OR 97217  
503-445-4959  
(coupon subject to change)

**Effective, low cost Legal Counseling on any legal question you may have.**

\$35 for an hour consultation.

Let me help you with legal questions, ask Attorney Sona Joiner at **503-241-1113**

**State Farm®**  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

**Ernest J. Hill, Jr.**  
Agent  
4946 N. Vancouver Avenue, Portland, OR 97217  
503 286 1103 Fax 503 286 1146  
ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com  
24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

**ACQUIRE**  
Wally Tesfa  
Residential and Commercial Broker  
Oregon-Washington  
503-267-7586 cell  
503-249-1903 office  
503-249-6527 fax  
wtesfa1@comcast.net

**PROPERTIES.** Multi-Million \$ Service

**Kens Mobile D.J. Services**

Weddings  
Birthday Parties  
Family Reunions  
Business Functions  
Concert Promotions  
Private Parties

Night Clubs  
Fund Raisers  
Receptions  
School Functions  
Class Reunions  
Banquet

**Kenneth Scott**  
DJ Service On The Move  
E-mail: dewayn525@yahoo.com **503.442.5089**  
"Tough times don't last but tough people do"

**APRIL JONES**  
Licensed Esthetician  
Nail Tech, Skin Analyst & Make-Up Artist

**Image Consulting**  
CLOTHING  
JEWELRY  
BODY SHAPE CONSULTING  
COLOR MATCHING  
Phone: **503.995.4136**  
aprljns@yahoo.com

**NOW OPEN U-Licious SMOKEHOUSE And grill**  
Specializing in Smoked & BBQ Meats & Seafood  
Beef • Pork • Lamb • Poultry • Seafood  
Lunch \$5.95, Dinner \$9.95 and up  
Pork Rib, Brisket, Turkey, Chicken, Ox Tails & More  
Beer and Wine Available  
Open 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM Monday thru Saturday

**Fried Shrimp Dinner**  
10-Large Shrimp \$10.95 with two sides  
503-493-9414  
4057 N. Interstate Ave.

**Your Care Our First Priority**

**Dr. Marcelitte Failla**  
Chiropractic Physician  
We are located at  
1716 N.E. 42nd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97213  
(Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)

- Automobile accident injuries
- Chronic headache and joint pain
- Workers Compensation injuries

Call for an appointment! **(503) 228-6140**

Car insurance with **PERSONAL SERVICE.**  
No extra charge.

At State Farm® you get a competitive rate and an agent dedicated to helping you get the coverage that's right for you and the discounts you deserve. Nobody takes care of you like State Farm. Contact me. I'll prove it.

**Michael David Holton, Agent**  
7223 SW Macadam Avenue  
Portland, OR 97219-3076  
Bus: 503-517-9090  
www.michaelholton.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company  
Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com®

**New Prices Effective May 1, 2007**

**Martin Cleaning Service**  
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
Residential & Commercial Services

**Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00**

**Carpet Cleaning**  
2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area  
Pre-Spray Traffic Areas  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00  
(Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area • Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs) \$25.00  
(With Other Services)

**Heavily Soiled Area:** Additional \$10.00

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection

**UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**

Sofa \$79.00  
Loveseat \$59.00  
Sectional \$109 - \$139  
Chair or Recliner \$35 - \$49  
Throw Pillows \$5.00  
(With Other Services)

See Flyers for Additional Prices  
Call For Appointment  
**(503) 281-3949**