

LETTERS TO MUSTANG TIMES

Dear Mustang Times,

Another letter from that crazy guy in Texas. Last letter I challenged people to become involved in the club instead of showing their dissatisfaction by quitting. What I would like to point out in this letter is that two of the prerequisites for membership (other than appreciating Mustangs) are: 1. to maintain the perspective that this is a "fun" hobby and club and 2. you need to maintain a sense of humor. Anyone who drives a 20-year-old car needs a sense of humor — need I say more.

I am serious about Mustanging. I feel that it is serious FUN. I enjoy the car, the memories and the comradery. Many people take Mustanging too seriously. It has become a "business", a competitive sport requiring a fortune to pursue. Analyze your reasons for your dissatisfaction with the club. What are they?

The club has done a great job. They unified a bunch of individuals and have been directly responsible for the availability of correct reproduction parts. Ask anyone what it was like trying to find, say, door panels in 1976. They have come up with rules but these are intended to be a guide not a source of dissatisfaction or bickering. Let's face it, if no one put down in writing what a stock Mustang was supposed to look like, what would future restorers have to go on. It would be like trying to restore a Model A using only cars that had been customized in the '50's. "Flames — was that a stock item or an after market accessory?"

I like the club, it has done a lot for me. I can once again find parts, I can find other people who like Mustangs. I can go to shows and find bunches of Mustangs. I can find a place to take my car that specializes in Mustangs (how many times did your local Ford dealer not understand that you wanted an antenna exactly like the one on your 1966 and not the square based, single mast replacement, etc.).

I am including an attempt to add humor. Maybe something like this could be a regular part of the *Mustang Times*?

Thanks again for listening.

Bruce Andrews

Thank you very much for your comments. When I read a letter such as this one I realized how fortunate I am to be a part of this fantastic hobby. It is always nice to know that someone appreciates what we try to do. The "attempt to add humor" Mr. Andrews refers to is entitled "Trials and Tribulations of a Mustang Owner-Enthusiast" and appears in this issue. I certainly look forward to hearing from Mr. Andrews again in the near future. — Editor.

Dear Officers and Directors,

I would like to see printed in *Mustang Times* a list of car games, rallies, tours, etc. and how to run them. This would be of good benefit for all clubs. You might request in the *Times* from all clubs the different types of games they use and compile from for publishing in the *Times*.

Also I would like to see printed in the *Times* an outline or guideline on how to put on a National Show with details on different events.

Sincerely,
Terry Tacker
Abilene, Texas

Not a bad idea. Okay regional groups, how about sharing some information with us? — Editor.

Dear MCA members,

I just finished reading a "Letter to the Editor" in *Fabulous Mustangs and Exotic Fords*, January 1986. Matt Ditchey from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania points out that "... in 1988, Mustang, the great American car we have grown to love over the years will be getting some Japanese influence in the name of Mazda. There will remain the standard Mustang, but the Japanese version will be called Mustang III to distinguish it from the American one. True lovers of the Mustang should write Ford and tell them of the dissatisfied people they will be making by doing this. You can write them at: Ford Division, Ford Motor Co., 300 Renaissance Center, PO Box 43303, Detroit, MI 48243."

I think Matt has a good idea. My letter is started — how about yours? Save the Mustang!

Thanks for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,
Terri Mateer
New Kensington, PA

An excellent idea that definitely deserves our attention. Whether you like the new Mustangs of today or not I believe most everyone would rather see the Mustang remain totally American than show foreign influence. We hear so much today concerning "Made in the U.S.A." let's share our opinions with Ford Motor Co. If Mustang owners don't do it, who will? — Editor.

Dear Sirs,

I am the owner of a 1967 Mustang with 289-V8 engine and want to restore the car. It was still not possible to find the necessary parts in good condition direct in Austria, even not with the Austrian representation of the Ford Motor Company.

I tried to import few parts direct from J. C. Whitney & Co. of Chicago, based on their catalog, but they refused to ship because they don't have export facilities.

I would be very much obliged if you could inform me about addresses of Mustang parts and accessories dealers which are able to export the required parts to Europe.

I wish you and your Club members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you very much in advance for a quick reply.

Yours faithfully,
Werner Obermuller
Friedr.v. Walchenstrasse 13
A-5020 Salzburg
Europe/Austria

If anyone out there can assist Mr. Obermuller, please contact him at the address listed above. We have such an abundance of parts readily available to us here that I think we tend to forget the difficulties of our fellow Mustangers in areas outside the U.S. — Editor.

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Dear Mr. Harrell,

I've been contemplating your response to Dean V. Ricci in the December 1985 issue of MT, page 10. Even though Mr. Ricci is not an MCA member, his "vote or get out" concept might have some merit. The vast majority of MCA members are into Mustangs as a hobby, so it will be relatively difficult to get people to respond. That is because they have "clout". Somehow, we have to develop more "clout" in order to get people to respond to the issue of '74 and up Mustang acceptance. This is an important issue, and I'm sure it will come up again. I would like to offer a possible solution to the MCA Board members.

I would like to see a special membership renewal form included in the *Mustang Times* for a period of one year. This form should address the '74 and up Mustang issue, and it should have a simple yes/no ballot box. Whenever

people renew their MCA memberships, they must use the renewal form. This form should be filled out completely before membership cards are mailed. Just include a notice in big bold letters on the renewal form cautioning people to check either yes or no in the ballot box. I would like to see this form included in all of the 1987 issues of MT. This would permit people to take extra time (1986) to express their views in MT before making a decision.

As a possible alternative to the MT renewal form, this ballot could be included on the computer generated renewal notice that we are currently receiving.

I am looking forward to a reply by the MCA Board, either pro or con. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,
Robert B. Henry
President
Mustang Club of Maryland

I must admit that I was very hesitant at first to print another letter concerning the 1974 and up Mustang acceptance issue. I honestly feel that the issue has been pretty well run into the ground. But this letter is not a general comment letter but one that offers not only one but two workable solutions to gaining member response to this issue. After the disgustingly poor response previously received we might wish to consider taking action such as this. This is an important issue as Mr. Henry states and will more than likely come up again in the future. I hope our Board of Directors will seriously consider this letter. — Editor.

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