

Happy "Tenth" Anniversary Mustang Club of America, Inc.

That's right, ten years ago a small group of far-sighted people got together at a small town (and a great big rock) east of Atlanta called Stone Mountain, Georgia with a few fairly nice Mustangs and some that weren't so nice. They talked Mustangs for awhile, swapped stories back and forth for awhile, and finally decided to start a Mustang club which a few months later, became incorporated in the state of Georgia as The Mustang Club of America, Inc.

I often wonder if these far-sighted people had not gotten together and started this Mustang club what would a Mustang (early model) be worth today? As my memory strikes me, back in March 1976 you could buy a fairly nice old 1965 or 1966 for around \$500 to \$600. After all they were ten and eleven years old at that time. The 1973's were worth more then because they were only three years old. Boy, how times have changed since then. Forgive me, that's not what I really wanted to write about. I just kind of got carried away there momentarily. (More on this in a future issue.)

We have a situation that's been developing for months now in several different areas of the country and I think it is time to address it "up front and above board". It concerns regional groups.

Let me say up front before I start my constructive criticism that the Mustang Club of America has at this time 100 plus regional groups throughout the country and believe me we are proud and honored to have all of you aboard. I like to believe that a great majority of these groups has an 85 to 100 percent National membership. They continually correspond with National Headquarters sending newsworthy items, pictures, events, how-to articles, etc. To all of these groups I say thank you for your continued support and the National Club appreciates you very much.

But let us look at the other side of this coin for a moment. Unfortunately we have a small amount of groups out there who received their Mustang Club

of America charter with the necessary five National members and haven't increased their membership in the National Club at all. As a matter of fact, some don't have five National members any longer, yet their local membership seems to be doing okay and still they have their charter. I think perhaps it is a misconception on the part of some of these groups. They think that five National members is all that's required for a group to maintain a charter. That is not the case now, nor has it ever been that way.

The five National Club member requirement is meant for "new" Mustang clubs getting started from zero and was never intended for existing clubs. When the National Club by-laws were originally adopted, there were not any other clubs. I think the by-laws spell it out fully. Under Regional Group By-Laws titled A-Formation; Section 4-"Membership in good standing in the National Club shall be a prerequisite to membership in a regional group". Isn't that plain enough?

I would say the National Club would be 8,000 to 10,000 members strong if this was followed by all groups. How about at your next regularly scheduled regional group meeting inviting your friend or neighbor to join the Mustang Club of America. You might be surprised.

I ask you, should the Board of Directors change the membership requirements for an "existing" club to be granted a charter or should it be changed for "new" clubs as well or should we leave it like it reads? What do you think?

There are other complications as well with a few of these groups. For instance, we have approximately a half dozen inactive groups in different sections of the country who hold a charter from the National Club. In three separate situations there are active Mustang clubs who wish to become affiliated with the National Club but due to the outstanding charter with the inactive group there is not a lot that can be done, and unfortunately, I've been unable to contact any of the past officers. Some of these past officers are still members of the National Club and

if you read this please contact me by phone (collect) or by letter so we can get this matter resolved for the benefit of these active clubs and the Mustang Club of America. I will not name these chartered clubs at this time, but I'm sure they know their identity.

I hope we can get this resolved in the near future. To the clubs who want to become affiliated with the National Club I'll say as Regional Group Director, I'm working on it and hope it won't be too much longer.

Well, would you believe it is almost show time again; that's right, March 28th and 29th the Gulf Coast Regional, MCA in Pensacola, Florida. If you have never attended a Mustang show at Pensacola you don't know what you have missed, so don't miss this one.

Until next time —



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