

Judging Mistakes Frustrating To Competitors

Experience in anything is a valuable asset, but only so long as it doesn't result in complacency.

After looking at hundreds of Mustangs and filling out reams of judging sheets, there's a temptation to go through the motions like a worker on an assembly line, without devoting a great deal of concentration to what you're doing.

I raise the point because we have had an unusually high number of complaints during the just-completed national show season about errors made by judges in evaluating cars.

And, unfortunately, a surprisingly high number of these errors are being made by MCA Gold Card Judges, who are expected to be the most knowledgeable people around on specific models of Mustangs.

It is irritating enough to get your judging sheet back and find that an obvious mistake has cost you points at a national meet, but the implications of those errors goes beyond that. It not only discourages Mustang owners from future competition, it reflects on the credibility of the MCA in general.

No one can know all there is to know about any specific model of Mustang. And we've all had the experience of being certain about a specific part or application, only to come across new evidence that proves us totally wrong.

The danger comes when our judges assume they know all there is to know about a particular show class, and fail to question a unique or unusual deviation from the official rules.

What does it hurt to ask? And isn't it within the realm of possibility that a particular deviation might be a legitimate exception to the norm?

The whole purpose of judging Mustangs, and of compiling, refining and maintaining a set of national rules, is to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the Mustangs that Ford Motor Company has turned out over the years.

Our cars have gotten better and better over the past 15 years because show participants have learned from and corrected their mistakes in an effort to return their Mustangs to original, right-off-the-assembly-line condition.

We not only complicate things, but we frustrate car owners, when, as judges, we make mistakes in evaluating these cars.

In baseball, the rule is simple: in a race for the base, the tie goes to the runner.

We ought to take that same attitude when we judge members' Mustangs. Give the



Jack Yeager
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owner the benefit of the doubt. No doubt you'd like the same consideration from the guys and gals judging your Mustang!

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What I thought was going to be a happy coincidence over the Labor Day Weekend turned out to be a very sad occasion.

While vacationing with my family at Isle of Palms, SC near Charleston, I unexpectedly ran up on Bob Deale, president of the Georgia Regional Mustang Club and a

member of the MCA Board of Directors.

I was not only happy but completely surprised to see Bob so far away from home.

Unfortunately, his presence at Isle of Palms was due to the sudden death of his father, Robert C. Deale, Jr., who was a resident of that South Carolina resort.

Naturally, my pleasure at meeting Bob so unexpectedly turned to sadness when I learned of the death of his father.

I know all members of the Georgia Regional Mustang Club and the MCA Board of Directors join me in extending heartfelt sympathy to Bob and his family in their loss.

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We'd like to wish a speedy recovery to Jim Johnson of the MCA's Board of Directors, who recently underwent triple-bypass heart surgery.

J.J., the owner of J.J.'s Mustang Parts, is reportedly doing nicely after surgery, and we hope to see him back in action soon.

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