

Late Model Owners Stampede To Grand National

The 17th annual MCA Grand National held in Atlanta over Labor Day Weekend is now history. Late model Mustang owners have done themselves proud again.

There were 50 judged late model Mustangs, not counting a large number of late model modified cars. Once again the quality of the cars was exceptional. Judges had to work hard to choose among such a fine group of cars.

Harry Dunmire, Raymond Cochran, Randy Powell, Mike Burris, Jason Sloan, Rick Fowler, Tom Bader, Mike Jeter, Brent Smith, and Steve Mote spent all day Saturday in the misty rain judging the 50 pristine Mustangs.

Each show this year has brought an increase in quantity and quality of late model Mustangs. It just goes to show that late model owners are as proud of their Ponies as early model owners.

This increased support for late model Mustangs has justified to MCA the need for a late model judged class. The increasing numbers of trailered late model cars points out the need for a trailered class as well.

Keep up the support for these classes by showing your cars. If you do not show your support for these classes, MCA cannot and will not spend the money to add them to the shows.

Money is not the only issue. Finding qualified judges willing to spend a day, or sometimes two, in the heat, rain or whatever Mother Nature dishes out to judge cars has sometimes been a problem. That is one area where late model owners really shine. They are always willing to pitch in and help out whenever they are needed.

The Saleen Club was well represented in Atlanta with 18 cars from all over the U.S. They were a big help at the show, chipping in wherever they could.

These club members were a source of information for other interested Saleen and Mustang owners. They handed out applications and information about their club. They expect a large turnout of Saleen owners for the Saleen Convention to be held at the Lynchburg, VA National Mustang Show on Oct. 16-17.

In addition to an impressive number of Saleen owners, Steve Saleen is scheduled to attend. We at MCA are fortunate to have the support and help of such a well organized group of Mustang owners.

If you want more information about this fast-growing, enthusiastic group, contact John McCauley, president, or Bob Muesegaes, vice president, at P.O. Box



1079, Sterling, VA 22170, or phone them at (703) 444-2535.

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New members of MCA who are attending a show for the first time may find "the way we do things" to be a bit confusing.

It was pointed out that those of us who are veterans of the show circuit know the ropes and understand the unspoken rules about the shows and showing.

New members may not readily understand the procedures and must ask many questions to find out what they need to know.

Having your car ready is only the beginning. The Popular Vote class is one that many new members do not understand. Usually, you receive a show package upon registration. This generally includes advertisements from show sponsors, give-away items, door prize tickets, and ballots for the Popular Vote Class.

Most shows limit voting in this class to other entrants in the show. Entrants have the opportunity to inspect the cars entered in the Popular Vote class (made up of the two most current year model cars) and cast their vote for the car that they feel best represents that class. Coupes, hatchbacks, and convertibles compete in the same class.

Owners of cars in this class have no less pressure to present their car in the best possible light than do owners of judged cars. Voters in this class and entrants in other classes at the show are generally well versed in MCA rules and do their best to choose a car that best typifies that year Mustang, keeping in mind that these cars will go into judged classes once they are two years old.

Entrants in the judged classes, both early and late model, are parked according to class. Convertible tops should be up so judges can inspect them. Windows should be up for judges to find the Carlite insignia. Trunks and hoods should be open on all except street driven classes. All late model cars are judged on undercarriage and under the hood. Cars must remain in place until judging is completed and the show is over. All cars entered in the show must have a fire extinguisher.

If you are new to showing, ask questions. Most MCA members will be happy to help you understand the rules of showing.

MCA membership carries an unwritten, but understood commitment to fair play and helpfulness. If you are in doubt about what you should do to improve your car for future shows, request your judging sheets to find out what areas you need to improve.

Do not be discouraged if you do not place in the first show you enter. Remember, the person you are competing against may have been showing for a number of years and probably started out right where you are.

If you request your judging sheets, you have a starting place to improve your car for future shows. The judges may find things you did not even realize were incorrect, need cleaning or need replacing. If you have doubts about the originality of a specific part, contact the Gold Card Judge for that class. He or she will be happy to answer your questions.

Many times people spend weeks cleaning their cars prior to a show, only to have it pour down rain as they drive to the show.

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The only consolation is that if it rained on your car, it probably rained on most of the other cars, too. Mother Nature is usually not selective. The solution is to do the best possible cleaning job you can before the judges get to your car.

Many times we have driven to shows in a pouring rain storm and spent the evening and morning before the show begins at a car wash or in a motel parking lot sharing a hose with other car owners, trying to wipe off road grime.



Randy Church
MCA Late Model
Gold Card Judge



MCA has tried to address the issue of trailered and untrailered cars in as fair a manner as possible. Early model cars compete in trailered and untrailered classes. Late model Mustangs compete with a handicap for trailered cars.

We hope to offer a class for late model trailered cars in the future.

In order to help document which cars are trailered, MCA is recording mileage at National and Grand National Shows. If a car is entered in an untrailered class and has the same mileage, or mileage insufficient to justify driving to the show, the owner will be asked to move that car to the trailered class. This mileage is being recorded on a computer after each show. A computer print-out will be taken to each National and Grand National show. If there is a question, this information will be used for comparison. This is being done to help make showing fair and equal for all.

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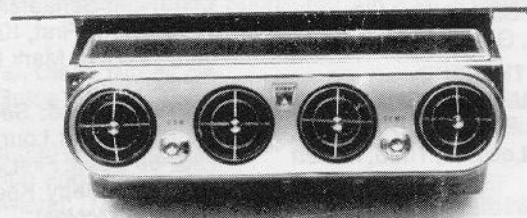
Thanks to all those who participated as entrants, judges, and spectators at the Grand National in Atlanta. Keep those late models coming to the shows.

MCA still has two national shows scheduled for this year: September 25-27 at Oak Ridge, TN, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Mustang Club, and October 16-17 at Lynchburg, VA, sponsored by the Lynchburg Area Mustang Club.

I hope to see the same support by late model owners for these shows as we have had for Indianapolis and Atlanta.

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