

More History On Watkins Glen's Mustang Corral

Editor:

After reading Blaine Overacker's article in the January issue of *The Mustang Times* regarding the Mustang Corral at Watkins Glen International, I felt it was necessary to write as it gave no accounting of the chronology leading up to Ford's involvement in the Corral.

Following the 1981 running of the Glen 200 Indy car race, Watkins Glen declared bankruptcy and closed its gates to professional auto racing. The track reopened in 1984 under new management and Fords were chosen as the "official" pace cars. Fords previously paced the action at the track from 1961-67 when it first began hosting the U.S. Grand Prix. Dedicated Mustangers will recall that it was at this event in 1962 that the prototype Mustang I made its debut.

With Ford's renewed involvement at the track, a dedicated Mustang enthusiast from Seneca Falls named Neil LeRoux recognized the need for Mustang owners to have a Corral area at the track similar to that which the Corvette owners had. Neil took it upon himself to organize one, seeking assistance from Ford at the regional level. Shortly after, Neil met another Mustang enthusiast from Rochester, Ken Corpus. They joined forces to promote the Corral for the next few years.

I first became involved in the Corral following the 1988 season. Ken had enlisted the assistance of Tim Kilinski of Syracuse, Bill Brown of Elmira and myself in preparation for the 1989 season. Two major milestones in Ford history would be celebrated at the track that year, the 25th anniversary of the Mustang and GT-40. The track was commemorating these events with Mustang Parade Laps at all major race weekends and a GT-40 reunion in conjunction with the Fall Vintage Races. Ken worked with Lee Maas of Ford and was able to arrange for free tickets and other gift items to be donated to participants.

A meeting was held in the spring of 1988 with WGI Marketing Director Don Murphy and Director of Operations Peter Widynski. It was at this meeting that we learned of their decision to move the Corral to a permanent location outside the circuit.

More than 25 Mustangs were on hand for the Camel Continental in July and more than 40 for the Budweiser at the Glen in August to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Mustang with parade laps of the historic circuit. The Fall Vintage Races saw a large contingent of "Blue Oval" products on hand, both on the track and in the paddock car shows to mark the occasion. The New York

500 closed out the 1989 season but only three Mustang owners braved the rain, sleet and chilling wind. In spite of this, we were encouraged by the overall excellent showing for the year.

In the spring of 1990, Neil, Bill and myself once again met with Don Murphy and Peter Widynski with hopes that they may have reconsidered their decision to move the Corral outside over the winter months. This was not to be the case, however. Attendance was down over the previous year — due in large part to complications arising from the location. Nonetheless, more than 30 Mustangs participated in the Corral and Parade Lap for the Budweiser at the Glen.

Following the 1990 season, Bill Brown embarked upon a massive letter writing campaign to anyone even remotely connected with Ford in an effort to get the Corral moved back inside the circuit. It was this letter which ultimately caught the attention of Andy Deas, Ford Car Club Program Administrator. In the spring of last year I received a letter from Mr. Deas detailing Ford's planned program at Watkins Glen and asking if we would support it. Our prayers had finally been answered.

While I am deeply appreciative of the Twin Tiers club's efforts, I feel that it is necessary to give credit where credit is due — first of all to Neil LeRoux for having the vision to get the ball rolling, and secondly to Bill Brown for his relentless efforts against seemingly insurmountable odds to find a sympathetic ear within Ford. We as Mustang enthusiasts are deeply indebted to both these gentlemen and owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

John B. Woodman
MCA Member No. 20151

MCA's AACA Liaison Praises Judging Rules

Editor:

As I finish my second year as liaison between the Mustang Club of America and the Antique Automobile Club of America, I have been amazed to see the results of this effort. In the first year, very few Mustangs were participating in AACA shows. The judging at first was based on quality and workmanship, as AACA had no personnel to evaluate authenticity.

With the entry of more MCA people into the show circuit, the judging of Mustangs has improved immensely. The AACA's policy is when you register for a National Meet and want to judge, you are requested

to state your choice of which class you prefer to judge. This has enabled us to get knowledgeable people on the judging teams. The AACA people have extended every courtesy to us and wholeheartedly welcomed us.

The cars prepared under MCA rules have definitely had an advantage in AACA competition. We have many cars that have earned their First Junior, Senior and Preservation Awards. Thus far, some have earned these awards in one year.

I think the MCA can be proud of its judging rules and procedures. In traveling around the country to these AACA meets, we have been witness to the fact that MCA has probably the best and most accurate set of rules of all the clubs. We have certainly made our mark on AACA National Meets in 1990 and 1991.

The AACA National Convention was held in Philadelphia, PA February 14-15. Richard Porter and I again presented a seminar on 1964½-68 Mustangs. This has been highly successful.

David L. Zimmerman
MCA Liaison to AACA
Peapack, NJ
MCA Member No. 7993

Northwest Arkansas Club Is Seeking New Members

Editor:

Here in Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri, the true Mustang enthusiasts are coming out of the hills and unitedly starting what I believe will be the best Mustang club anywhere.

Steve Sanders and his wife, Donna, originated Northwest Arkansas Mustang Club about four months ago. In just a few months our new club has grown to more than 50 members. What great satisfaction they must feel in doing such a fine job! They assumed all responsibilities as president, secretary/treasurer, reporter, etc. until our board of directors was elected.

The club just had its first picnic outing with a fine neighbor club, Ozark Regional Mustang Club of Harrison, AR. It was a success in spite of the cool, foggy, rainy weather.

We would be very proud if you would publish this letter. Anyone interested in joining our club can contact Steve Sanders, 4324 Falcon Road, Spring Dale, AR 72762. You can also reach Steve by calling (501) 756-2738.

Marion Peterson
MCA Member No. 23680

March, 1992

Reader Wants More Info On New-Generation Pony

Editor:

I have recently become a member of MCA. I greatly enjoy your magazine, the feature articles, the technical information and the club news.

Let me only suggest maybe one article addressed to the development of the "next generation" Mustang. I have read several other magazines to no avail. Any information *Mustang Times* or MCA could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Scott Guinn
MCA Member No. 25628

(Editor's Note: *The latest information on the next generation Mustang was included in the February issue of The Mustang Times. Unfortunately, Ford Motor Company has been exceptionally tight-lipped regarding the new Mustang and, as you noted in your letter, details have been sketchy, even in the auto trade journals. We're just as eager as you to find out more, and we'll be happy to pass on any additional details as they become available. Thanks for your suggestion!*)

New Registry Is Formed For '90 Limited Editions

Editor:

I am sending *The Mustang Times* information about the 1990 Limited Edition Registry which I have started. If you can put this in your magazine it would be appreciated.

The 1990 Limited Edition Registry provides a special late model Mustang membership card with your registry number. The registry is computerized. Those desiring additional information should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to 1990 Limited Edition Registry, C/O Bill Schaefer, 84 Clay Street, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4263.

Thank you for your help.

Bill Schaefer
MCA Member No. 24161

Street Driven Classes Deserve More Respect

Editor:

My wife and I got a lot of enjoyment showing our 1968 California Special in the Street Driven Class last season.

When we first got the car in October, 1990, we looked into the cost of restoring

it to concours and got discouraged. Besides the money, we couldn't drive it and that's why we bought it. I thank Gold Card Judge Ray Boismenu for suggesting the Street Driven Class.

This class is one of MCA's best kept secrets. I don't know why. Maybe the concours purists look at us as second class citizens. There are probably more members with daily drivers than concours cars.

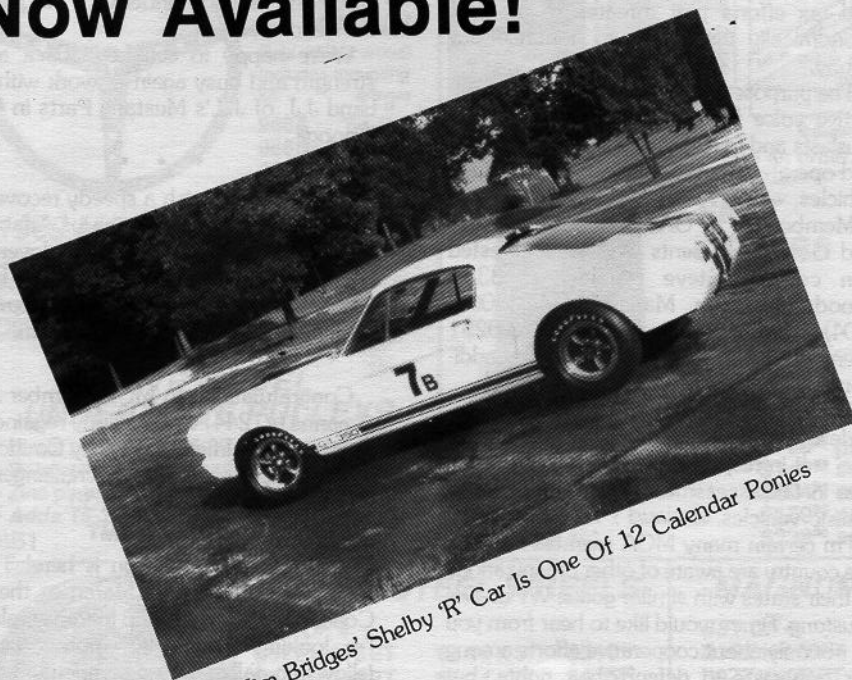
If MCA members realized that their driver may be made competitive in an MCA regional or even a National Show by a few weekends of clean-up and touch-up, the Street Driven Classes may begin to be the most popular classes.

I object to the suggestion to change the Street Driven Classes to Popular Vote Judging. We work hard on our cars, too — probably more frequently than owners concours cars. It's easy to keep a car competitive stored under a car cover in a climate-controlled garage.

Our efforts deserve to be recognized and evaluated by qualified MCA judges, not just whomever happens to walk by.

Bob Stone
Shiloh Valley Mustang Assn.
MCA Member No. 22722

Now Available!



Jim Bridges' Shelby 'R' Car Is One Of 12 Calendar Ponies

MCA's Official 1992 Calendar

The Mustang Club of America's Official 1992 Calendar is now available for purchase.

The 1992 edition includes 12 full-color photos of some of the most outstanding early and late model Mustangs in the nation.

This collector's item also features key dates in 1992 for MCA events, including National and Grand National Shows.

The 1992 calendar is available for \$8.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling and will be sent to you via First Class Mail upon receipt of your order and payment.

To order your 1992 calendar, send check or money order to:

MCA 1992 Calendar
P.O. Box 447
Lithonia, GA 30058