

Now hold on just a doggone minute. There must be some mistake. This can't possibly be the last issue for 1997! Why, it was just a couple of months ago that we began running show forms for the 1997 Nationals.

Oh well; time flies when you're having fun!

The past year has certainly been a busy one for MCA but the end result has been a successful meshing of ideas and methods to help club membership continue to grow. At long last we once again had the opportunity to visit the West Coast for a MCA National and we had the chance to help the first MCA regional group celebrate their 20th anniversary. We enjoyed the beauty of Virginia Beach and witnessed an entire town take part in a show in Mustang, Oklahoma.

Each show had its own unique personality. The number of cars in attendance varied as did the type of facility chosen for a show site. Some shows incorporated enough extracurricular activities to keep you on the run for a week, while others provided adequate free time to enjoy the local sights and sounds. But the one thing that all these Nationals had in common is that they gave Mustang enthusiasts a chance to show off their prized Mustangs, swap war stories, and generally enjoy each other's company.

It's no wonder that time seems to slip by so quickly these days. We're living in a very fast-paced world and I personally blame a lot of it on the high-tech garbage we are forced to deal with. You know, those necessary evils such as computers, Web sites, E-mail, fax machines, beepers, cellular phones, and so forth. We expect things to happen immediately and can't spare the time for it to take

any longer. I say bah! humbug!

One easy way to get away from it all and truly enjoy yourself is to visit a MCA National show. If desired, the technological wonders of today can be left behind while you enjoy the one thing that so many of us have in common - our love of the Ford Mustang.

This is a time when you can be the boss and set your own schedule. If you want to be a serious

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competitor and put in extra hours cleaning your pony before and during a show, you can do so. Or if you prefer to simply park your car and spend your time socializing with friends and fellow fanatics, you can make that choice. These shows are a chance for us to slow down and relax and take advantage of something we enjoy.

You say you're not into showing your car? No problem. A National event is a great place to people-watch. Remember, Mustang owners come from all walks of life and, believe me, you can meet some

incredibly interesting folks. This is also a chance to check out the vendors area for any parts you may need, or perhaps your having trouble with a particular repair or portion of a refurbishment. You can probably find the answer at one of these shows.

A total of six MCA-sanctioned events are scheduled for 1998. Once again we will be in new territory and also visiting some of our old friends. It may be difficult to decide which one(s) to attend but this is probably a good time to start making your plans. Our event calendar listing on page 37 provides a brief bit of information on the upcoming shows. We hope to supply you with as much needed information as quickly as possible.

If it is just impossible to attend any of these gatherings next year, save your money and make your plans to be at the show to end all shows in April 1999. As we mentioned in last month's issue, MCA will again take over Charlotte Motor Speedway to host a Mustang anniversary celebration. Plans are underway and we will keep you updated on all the pertinent information. Based on the success of the 30th Mustang Anniversary Celebration in 1994 we expect the 1999 version to be even bigger and better.

And speaking of pertinent information I'd like to let you know that there is a surprise in store for you, our readers, beginning with the January 1998 issue. I've been sworn to secrecy by my publisher, but I will tell you that this is something that many of you have wanted for years.

In the meantime, my family and I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season. Sit back, relax, and enjoy this special time of year with those you love.

Happy holidays!