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The first person you meet when entering a Mustang Club of America's National or Grand National Show is a man, always wearing short's and always with his trademark Panama Hat. It is none other than our own Lark Bragg, Assistant National Head Judge, Classification. Lark is there from sun up to sun down, greeting and correctly making sure that each Mustang is in the correct car class. Sometimes the novice contestant doesn't see eye to eye with this experienced automotive veteran. However, he is so knowledgeable and diplomatic that even the most contentious entrant is quickly won over by Lark and usually comes back after the show to profusely thank Lark for having their best interest at heart.

Lark and I have jointly prepared some remarks to the right, expressing what we feel needs to be conveyed to all MCA members regarding the Classification program and its importance.

I am proud to have Lark Bragg on my Judging team—

Thanks Lark, for a job well done!
-Wally Short

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CLASSIFICATION - THE KEY TO SUCCESSFULL JUDGING

What an experience the 2007 MCA National Show season has been. We started out in Mustang, OK, then Louisville, KY, and on to the far West, Concord, CA, with Springfield, IL next. We wound up our show season at Augusta, GA, holding the Grand National on Labor Day weekend. MCA covered a lot of country this year and that is exactly what we intended to do by reaching all parts of the great USA. There were some record turnouts, notably Mustang, OK where their local newspaper featured the show and said there were upwards of 30,000 spectators.

Classification is the first stop attending an MCA National Car Show and we strive to make it as trouble free as it can be for the participants. Our goal is to have each and every contestant's Mustang classified and put in the correct and best class for it to win a trophy. To do this important job properly, we have a team of highly motivated and experienced Gold Card Judges that are very knowledgeable in early model to late model Mustangs. The team's main objective is to assure that each contestant has, not only the best chance of winning but also, eventually, a valuable tool in improving his or her car. You ask, "What is it that I am receiving that is so valuable?" It is your Judging Sheet, which is loaded with priceless observations and/or comments on what needs to be improved upon and/or what needs to be replaced or corrected. Remember, you must be in the right class for our experienced MCA Judges to give you invaluable information regarding your prized Pony. This is of prime importance to the "first timer" who is just learning the ropes!

Read carefully. We are about to tell you what happens when a typical Mustang is incorrectly classified and is put into the wrong Class. The Mustang invariably loses because the Judging Sheets are so precisely tailored to specific models and classes, that there is no way that a contestant can win in a highly competitive National show. When there is a gross misclassification, noted early on in the Judging process, it can literally cause chaos! Let us give you a typical scenario of what happens in this case. The judges on this particular car have to stop judging, take the window card back to the Scoring room (also called the Tally room), and interrupt the scoring personnel to inform them that a major error has occurred in the Classification of a Mustang. Everything stops and the information on this car has to be extracted out of the on site computer database. Proper determination is made to assure that the misclassified car is then put into the correct Class. New data is then entered into the database. A new window card is made with the new assignment hand printed on the front. This is still not the end of the dilemma. The scoring secretary has to locate and correct the original Classification Sheet. Next, she puts together a correct set of new Judging sheets for the mis-classified car. The new Judging sheets along with the new window card have to be hand-carried back to the field with the hope of finding the Judging team that is handling this class. This alone is no easy task, especially in a show field of more than 400 Mustangs, parked over a large area.

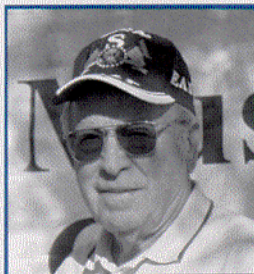
Sometimes a contestant will observe another car class that is small and they feel they will have a better chance of winning if their Mustang is put into the smaller class. We have had cases where contestants have threatened to pull out of the show if they weren't reclassified. Many times it is the newer contestant that doesn't understand the exacting process that the MCA officials go through in order to do the job fairly and accurately. We can honestly tell you that the average Mustang owner doesn't always understand why we place so much importance in classifying your Mustang correctly the first time around.

Remember, once you sign off on the Classification sheet, your Class assignment will not be changed unless there are proven extenuating circumstances brought to the attention of the National Head Judge for review. He must then make a final decision.

There are many classes for everyone, Daily Driven, Occasional Driven, Concours Driven, Concours Trailered, Unrestored, Thoroughbred, Modified, and new model's popular choice voting. I am sure there is a class for everyone's Mustang. So come on and join in the fun and festivities at a 2008 MCA National Car Show.

We want to thank all you Mustang enthusiasts for a highly successful show season. Not only did we have the pleasure of observing some of the best Mustangs in existence but also we met some of the nicest people who share in our hobby.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again next season and hopefully we'll all meet many more Mustang lovers.



WALLY SHORT
National Head Judge

Wally Short

Lark Bragg
LARK BRAGG

Assistant National Head Judge,
Classification

