

Gold Card = Prestigious Judge

Years ago, in the '80s, I got my feet wet by assisting Mustang judges at our annual Regional car shows here in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I learned quickly for the simple reason that my Club, which is, by the way, a 100%-membership-in-the-MCA-club, used official MCA Judging sheets. These judging sheets gave me a real leg up on knowing what was correct on each Mustang. My hat's off to the old timers who initially developed these Judging Sheets and Rules. They so aptly described all of the correct components of a Concours Mustang, and weighted the optimum value of each judging element, in Authenticity, Quality of Workmanship and Cleanliness. These Rules were so good (You ask, "How Good?"), that I used them when restoring my first Concours Trailered 1966 Fastback to become a winner right out off the blocks—so to speak. At my first Grand National, I had the honor (or dubious distinction?) of having Head Judge, Bob Perkins, and the President of MCA, Charles Hampton (with Gold Card Rating), judge my car. Needless to say, I was on pins and needles until the awards were announced. WOW! What a relief, I won a first and was very close to winning Best of Show. For you newcomers, back then we didn't award Gold, Silver, or Bronze. And yes, we did have a "Best of Show" award. The "Best of Show," however, was quickly done away with because they're so many equally gorgeous cars competing—who could fairly say which car is "Best of Show."

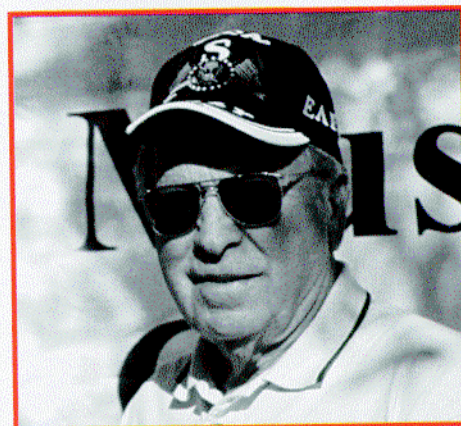
At Nationals, I soon learned that MCA rated their most experienced and best Judges with the coveted title of Gold Card Judge. After my inquiry, I learned that an individual had to first become a Certified Judge in a particular car class of their choosing. Figuring that was easy, I requested all of the tests. Since there was no time limit to complete the open-book tests, I took my time and researched every known Mustang book, article, magazine, etc. that I could lay my hands on. With this ammo, it was easy to answer the True/False, Fill in the Blank, or Essay questions. Of course, with all of this researching, a lot of corollary Mustang technical data was absorbed, which didn't hurt. In my case, I became a Certified Judge in all Classes rather easily. Anyone can become a Certified Judge if they so desire. Bob Perkins and I consider Certification is good for life. It's like learning to ride a bike—you never forget.

Attaining Gold Card status is easily reached by all who love Mustangs, enjoy Judging, and associating with the wonderful people who own them. Gold Card Judges are recognized as individuals who have proven their technical knowledge of selected Mustangs, demonstrated fairness and diplomacy, and support the hobby in many ways such as Judging at MCA shows, write or help write a new Judging Test, etc. To become a Gold Card Judge, you first become a Certified Judge. You must obtain a letter of recommendation from a Gold Card Judge that you have judged with at past National shows. The letter will be sent to the appropriate Head Judge for evaluation and on to the National Head Judge. When approved, your name will appear on the web site. After receiving your 5-year Gold Card, you will be expected to participate in one or more National shows per year to retain your rating.

To start off on the right foot, all interested prospective Judges can contact our MCA Test administrator, Joe Odine, at MCA566060@wyan. Furnish Joe your name, address, phone and MCA number. It's also important to let Joe know what year and Class of Mustang you are interested in qualifying as a Certified Judge.

Good luck to all in your quest to become an elite Gold Card Judge!

Wally Short
National Head Judge



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NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE

Wally Short (10576)
12825 Cedarbrook Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87111
505.299.4573
ShortStang@Integrity.com

**HEAD JUDGE -
1ST & 2ND GENERATION**

Charles Turner (36894)
4208 Belnap Drive
Apex, NC 27539
919.363.6190
Caspian6@BellSouth.net

**HEAD JUDGE -
3RD-5TH GENERATION**

Allen Stewart (2607)
305 Red Oak Drive
Lenoir, NC 28645
828.726.0701
ajstewart6@bellsouth.net

TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO MCA

Bob Perkins (16859)
North 3123 State Road, 16-26
Juneau, WI 53066
920.696.3788
PerkinsRestoration@Hughes.net