

At Mustangs Unbridled, the MCA National Show in Louisville, Kentucky, a grand demonstration of camaraderie took place.

Mark and Beth Cooper have been coming to MCA shows for several years. Mark is a founding member of the Chrome Pony Mustang Club, having served in the past as president and board member. Beth also previously served as secretary, president, board member, and MCA Regional Director.



On Thursday evening, after arriving from North Carolina in Beth's '97 Coupe, they unpacked, washed and covered the car, then went to view the show site with traveling companions Tim Warden and dad, Sunny. Tim brought his 75+ year-old-father to enter to his Mustang in a show for the first time. As they left the site to go to dinner, Mark became ill. They found a local policeman who called an ambulance to get Mark to a hospital. He was having a heart attack.

Baptist East Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, is a highly rated medical facility. For that we will always be grateful. Mark wouldn't be alive today if not for their fine staff. He was rushed into the ER and then to the Cath Lab where they discovered a 100-percent blockage and implanted a Stent into a major artery in Mark's heart. By midnight Mark was awake and alert.

Other than Tim and Sunny, Beth was virtually alone. On the trip down to Kentucky they all met Jake Jerrell at a rest stop. Jake is Assistant Head Judge for 1st-2nd Generation, Occasional & Daily Driven. They struck up a conversation (about Mustangs, I bet) and discovered they were all on the way to the National. On Friday morning, Jake spotted Beth heading toward him at breakfast. When he called out her name, she did her best to explain what had happened the night before without becoming too emotional.

Jake suggested to President Bill Johnson (a retired Methodist Minister) that they go to the hospital to visit with Beth and Mark. When they came back to the showfield and reported on Mark's condition, the Mustang community sprung into action. Some even went to visit and offer their support to both Beth and Mark. The Coopers asked that friends at the show be informed why their car was there and they weren't. Beth was promised that her Mustang would be as clean as if they detailed it themselves.

Friend Tim had already taken her Mustang to be registered at the show. On Saturday morning, a large contingent of the Cooper's friends gathered around Beth's White '97 Coupe to complete the detailing. Although it is entered into a Driven Class and didn't need to have the undercarriage and engine cleaned, it was done anyhow. You can see in the photo that these wonderful friends were having as much fun helping out someone else as they did in preparing their own vehicle (even someone who might have been competing in the same class).

It's so heart warming to know that people reacted in this way. Everyone banded together and pitched in where help was needed. Kristie, our MCA Office Manager spoke to the management at the host hotel to see if there was a way to give the Coopers a break on their room since they would have to stay longer.

Virgil Griffith and Larry Simpson, friends of the Coopers from North Carolina drove (non-stop) to the show to drive Beth's Mustang back home. I hear they aired out the speakers on her stereo, too! The Cooper's children drove down in a van to bring them back home.

Mark was released from the hospital on Sunday and made it to the show just in time to see his lovely wife receive a Gold award in her class. She needed one more point for her Grille Medallion. Jake Jerrell is planning to be presenting their Grille Medallion at the Grand National in August. Bring your Kleenex®.

It's just amazing how the Mustang community takes care of its own. As Beth said, "It's what we're all about."

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Mustang Times (ISSN-0744-2572) is published monthly by the Mustang Club of America, Inc., 4051 Barrancas Ave., PMB 102 Pensacola, FL 32507.

Membership dues are \$30 per year which includes \$20 for 12 monthly issues of *Mustang Times*.

Periodical postage paid at Pensacola, Florida, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Mustang Times*, 4051 Barrancas Ave., PMB 102, Pensacola, FL 32507. It is requested that any transaction with the Club, including dues payment, be made by check or money order payable to Mustang Club of America. Cash must be sent at your own risk. Please notify the Club immediately of any address change; allow a six week minimum for processing.

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