

In early 2008, the MCA Judging Team introduced a new division of classes for specialty Mustangs which include Cobras, Saleens, Roushes, and Shelys. We established it for the newer Mustangs as "Division VIII, Specialty." Since these Mustangs are relatively newer cars, they are judged for quality of workmanship, cleanliness and condition. To manage this new Division needed an individual who had broad experience and loved to judge Mustangs. I found the person and am proud to announce the appointment of one of our newest Assistant National Head Judges—Billy Henson of Mustang, OK.

Let me tell you a little about Billy and then he can finish introducing himself in his own words.

- Joined the OK Mustang Club & MCA in 1996
- Jumpstarted Club's Website in 1997
- OK Mustang Club Webmaster and President from 2002 thru 2006
- Along with co-chair Steve Hendrix, initiated successful effort to host OK National
- Regional Director for OK Mustang Club
- Gold Card Judge, 5th Generation

*Wally Short*



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## MCA SPECIALTY CLASS

Hello, all of you MCA members, and, for those of you who are not members but ran across this magazine, welcome.

To start off with, I'm older than the Mustang. Heck, I'm even older than microwave ovens, but I'm not too old to judge. My name is Billy Henson, and my e-mail address is MustangBilly@cox.net.

Some of you are probably expecting to hear me tell you about how I fell in love with Mustangs when I was just a little boy and how I couldn't wait until the first Mustang arrived in my town. Well, that is not quite my story. I grew up in a small town in Missouri that didn't have a Ford dealership, so I didn't get in on the excitement.

I did fall in love with a Mustang, but it wasn't all that long ago. I watched them evolve from the 1964 1/2 through the 1990's. I remembered just the other day that I had an opportunity to purchase a new 1973 Mustang at a car dealer when I returned home from a four-year tour of duty in Italy, serving my country in the U.S. Air Force. It was a pretty car, but I just couldn't see myself sitting in a car that nice.

Roll the clock forward 31 years, and once again I was looking at a car that looked too nice to sit in. But this time I didn't wait; I bought it. It was a brand new 1994 Mustang GT convertible. I got so excited over purchasing this car that I couldn't eat, and, let me tell you, that was the first time in my life I couldn't eat.

As a judge, you need to pay attention to everything you are looking at. You need to listen to what you hear about the cars. I was made aware of this when I drove this convertible for the first time. My wife and I drove the 1994 convertible, and we loved it. That's when she said, "I've always wanted a convertible." To be honest with you, I don't remember her ever saying that before, but I can tell you I never wanted to own a convertible until I purchased this one.

I purchased the car a few months after the Murrah bombing in Oklahoma City, which was devastating to our community. My job location was only 500 feet from the blast, and someone above was looking out for me that day. I've never been ashamed to tell people that I wasn't at work that day for the first time in 16 years. I woke up that morning say-

ing "I'm not going to work today." Everyone thought I was sick and asked me several times if I felt well. That day I paid attention, and, because I paid attention, our regular work schedule was altered, and two fellow workers of mine ended up in a safe location during the blast.

The '94 Mustang I purchased put a bright spot in the middle of a lot of gloom for me. I remember not being in a positive mood for days and weeks after the bombing. I also remember how I felt when I dropped the top on the Mustang each day as I drove home and smelled the fantastic clean air. It didn't matter how cold it was—I had a heater in the car and a smile on my face.

That's how I felt when I started judging cars for the first time at a National Show. What a feeling. I had an opportunity to make a difference. My goal is and always will be to do the fairest judging I can. I want people to feel like they have accomplished something for all of their hard work in getting their cars ready for a show. If I write something down that I have found wrong, I don't want it to have a negative impact; I want it to be an opportunity to learn from a mistake, to correct a situation, and to continue to improve one's car until one knows it looks better than the day it was driven off the showroom floor.

Judging for me is looking forward to getting started after the judge's meeting at a National or Grand National. I love meeting fellow Mustang owners, and I love listening to them tell me about their wonderful cars. I love the fact that I'm able to travel to far away locations and enjoy this great country of ours on the way.

When you look at what you could lose, you are thankful for what you have. I'm happy that I have been asked to serve the Mustang Club of America. If you haven't had this feeling, I hope you catch it and pass it on.

*Billy Henson*



**BILLY HENSON**  
National Head Judge  
Division VIII, Specialty