

JUDGING SEMINARS

"I ENCOURAGE ALL GOLD CARD JUDGES TO CONSIDER DOING ONE OR MORE SEMINARS FOR THEIR CLUB IN ORDER TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN FEELING MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT ATTENDING A NATIONAL."



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My name is Chuck Wiltens; I am the new Assistant National Head Judge for the Fox-bodied Mustangs (1979-1993). I've been an MCA member since 2001. At first it was just another club that I belonged to but in 2003 I got to thinking what is there to "this club?" Wanting to get more involved, I thought about going to a National. I talked to a few other members of our club and we decided to go to the 2004 Park City National show. I didn't want to go alone as it was a bit intimidating. Besides, it's always more fun to share the experience with friends.

After that trip, I was hooked and so were the others on that trip. I regret that I passed up helping judge at that show. However, we had a fantastic time. After that experience, my friends on that trip and I started thinking about putting on a National in our area. Intimidation was a non-issue, a National at that point was behind us now and we couldn't wait to go to another one.

We caravanned to the Lacey, WA, National show so more club members could experience the excitement. I did judge at that show and had a great time doing it. I was hooked big time! It was at that National that I got my Gold Card for Modifieds and a friendship with Allen Stewart and Wally Short grew. I would see them at future Nationals and work with them. I am very passionate about judging, it is fun but I also take it very seriously. By the time we traveled to the Las Vegas National in '06, our club, the Bay Area Mustang Association, and neighboring club, the Diablo Valley Mustang Association, were deeply involved in planning our National. We used the trip as both a National to show at and one to do research and development.

A few of us flew to the Sturbridge, MA, National to help at the show and do more R&D. We learned a lot attending National Shows and felt ready to put on our own. These experiences were a great asset in making our own show, the Wild West Mustang National in Concord, CA, a success. Although it was a lot of work, it was more than rewarding hearing great comments and seeing folks having fun.

Prior to our National, I held a series of three Judging Seminars with an average attendance of 25. The first one covered the daily drivers and occasional drivers, the second one covered the modified cars and did a little refresher on the DD and OD classes. For the third and final one I enlisted the help of two good friends Jeff Speegle and Richard Ciafreddo. They conducted the seminar for

Shelby and Concours cars. By doing these seminars, we helped to dispell the myth that MCA Judges "tear your car apart." We recruited a few judges to help out at our National and helped everyone to get their cars ready. I'm convinced these seminars helped us better prepare for participating in future National shows.

At the end of our show, Joyce Epperson of the Northern Utah Owners Association asked me to put on one of these seminars for their club in preparation for the upcoming Grand National in 2008. I enthusiastically said yes. We had a great turnout. I was asked to come back and do another one closer to the show date. Both times I stayed with my now "family" Alan and Pam Hamburg. We held the seminars in Alan's huge garage with an average attendance of 25 people. After both seminars, they threw a BBQ party that more of the club came to. What we shared was a great friendship and a better knowledge of the judging process. To date, I have done five seminars and feel that all helped those attending to feel comfortable about being involved with a National in Classification, Registration, Judging, and Awards process. No longer were they intimidated by participating at a National.

I encourage all Gold Card Judges to consider doing one or more seminars for their club in order to assist members in feeling more comfortable about attending a National. Its a way of sharing knowledge of the MCA judging process, encouraging members to share in the pride of showing our cars. We all count on some of the folks attending to help out in some way at these Nationals. There is great reward in knowing that you did something meaningful and worthwhile. You get to better see the cars that you are interested in and then later talk to the owners about their cars. It is a feeling that gets better every time you think about it and makes you anxious to do it again.

The outline for doing these seminars is on the MCA website mustang.org under the judging section. Although you can custom tailor it to fit your club's needs, I feel that by doing the whole seminar as it is outlined will give a more broad knowledge to those attending.

See you at a National,

Chuck Wiltens

CHUCK WILTENS
Assistant.Nat'l Head Judge
1979-1993, Fox Body