

Mustang Lovers' Cruise!



Text by Alan Faber

Photo courtesy of Carnival Cruise Lines

On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, the First Annual Mustang Lovers' Cruise set sail from Miami, FL, for a seven-day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean. Nearly 200 Mustang enthusiasts experienced a fun-filled, informative trip.

The first day started off with a special Mustang Lovers' Breakfast. We talked Mustangs over a sit down, cooked-to-order breakfast. Most even brought pictures of their Mustangs. After Breakfast the group assembled in the Winston Room, dedicated to World War II leader Winston Churchill. It's a beautiful room with pictures of Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and World War II British warships on display.

The presentations' began with Kevin Marti, publisher of the Marti Report. He briefed us on various Marti Reports and how they can be used to show a Mustang's authenticity. Kevin also told how he first got the information for '67 to '73 Mustangs from FORD. The company dumped all information for '64 1/2 - '66 Mustangs before Ralph Nader (of all people) forced car manufacturers to

keep all their production records.

Mark Fletcher—a Collector Car Appraiser for 25 years specializing in early Mustangs—spoke on the value of having an antique car properly appraised, what to expect during the appraisal process, and the importance of having an evaluation done on any vintage car you plan to purchase. He also told us the difference between Market, Replacement, and After Damage Values.

Next, a representative from Ronae Inc. showed pictures of the company's Mustang models including an all-electric Mustang Muscle Car that produces more than 500 hp.

The next two days were spent exploring several ports in the Caribbean.

Friday started out with another Mustang Breakfast and more car talk. After Breakfast we again assembled in the Winston Room. Arley Whitsell and Steve Prewitt made joint presentations covering evolution of the MCA and its development of era-specific Authenticity Judging Standards and Rules for the preservation of the Mustang. They also explained MCA's First Generation Judging Rules, how to present the interior, exterior, trunk, behind the rear seat, the engine compartment, and undercarriage.

That evening, Travelink, the Cruise spon-

sor, hosted a fantastic cocktail party.

On Saturday, the group got together for the last Mustang Lovers' Breakfast, then assembled for the last seminars of the cruise.

Arnold Marks told what to look for when purchasing a vintage Mustang, how to find the best shop to have a car restored, how maintain it, where to look for hidden rust, and how to decide whether to go through with a deal or walk away from one that would cost more to restore than the car would be worth.

Larry Jewett, *Mustang Enthusiast* editor, told how to get your Mustang into a magazine. He outlined what owners need to do and how to contact the right party to get their Mustang photographed and later published. He explained Lead Times, how to prepare your Mustang for a photo shoot, and gave an insight into publishing processes.

Later on Saturday, the group assembled one last time for a group photo shoot. The group was so large that it took almost a half hour to get everyone into the picture. We all wore our special Mustang Lover's Cruise T-Shirts.

Next year, Travelink plans a second Mustang Lovers' Cruise. Look for ads in the upcoming issues for dates and information so you can make your plans. **MT**