"The first time I met Jeff Speegle was here in Albuquerque, where my Rio Grande Mustang Club of NM was hosting an annual MCA Judges meeting. The late Jim Osborn, President at that time, was in attendance as well as Bill Johnson, who was there to contribute and learn. I have since seen Jeff at Judges clinics as well as asking him to Judge Shelbys at National shows. I have heard nothing but praise from clubs where Jeff has shared his vast knowledge on Shelbys as well as offering Judging techniques. As a matter of note, Jeff is no beginner as he was Assistant National Head Judge for Shelbys from 1991 to 2001, as well as head man for Modified Mustangs for a couple of years during that period. Charles Turner, Head Judge-1st & 2nd Generation, initially recommended Jeff for this prestigious position. I am now pleased to announce that effectively immediately, Jeff Speegle is appointed as our new 2008 Assistant National Head Judge for all Shelbys. Congratulations Jeff! " -Wally Short



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RENEWED EMPHASIS FOR ALL SHELBYS

he last time I was asked to write a "this is me" article for Mustang Times was September 1995, much time has passed since then. I guess an update is in order.

Prior to my recent retirement, I spent 32 years as a firefighter at a busy metropolitan fire department in Central California. Over that time I raised two great responsible kids with my wonderful and understanding (she has to be) wife, with whom I am enjoying my retirement years. I used my free time to pursue my hobby-cars.

My exposure to the hobby was west coast centered until the early 80's when some of us thought we should get involved with the national club. It seemed logical at the time, since most clubs were using MCA rules, but modifying them. We believed that might change if we just got involved. Since MCA rules, at that time, were based on rules that VMOA had developed, the task seemed easy at the start. The earlier years were bumpy but the bottom line is that everyone had plenty to learn from one another and we did, to the club and members' benefit.

The following years were filled with numerous trips to national shows and swap meets as well as access to thousands of Mustangs in salvage yards. This allowed me to observe the various differences between assembly plants and production years. It has been these observations that have become one of my major focuses during the more recent years. To that end, I started compiling a comprehensive collection of notes and pictures, starting in the 70's, that now fill my bookshelves and computer. This collection is put into daily use as judges respond to questions relating to the most-minute details about these cars we each enjoy.

It is easy to see that the Internet has had a major impact on restorations, as we know them. The ability to collect, discuss and share specific details related to our cars has been a great benefit for many owners, shops, and the MCA. In addition, these exchanges allow restorers to step away from a generic restoration to one more specific to assembly plant and place in time—a giant leap forward from past practices. The opportunity to assist members and non-members "get it right" before they arrive at one of our shows has become something I and other Head Judges

now spend a considerable time doing. This has produced a considerable amount of positive public relations for the club.

There are pluses and minuses to every endeavor, but the benefits outweigh the negatives I believe. There is some unspoken pleasure at helping out people you've never met and may never meet turn out great cars.

It is an exciting time with many opportunities ahead for your Head Judges. Many changes are being discussed; each which could have a great benefit to those showing their cars and those who volunteer their time to judge them. With that said, I would like to invite each car owner to consider becoming a judge. Each of you has a lot to offer. Unlike most think, you don't have to know everything to become a judge. A great place to start is at Judging Seminars, offered before some national shows or Judging Clinics, offered at national shows. Each can provide a glimpse into the world of judging for MCA and get you started. I can promise you judging will be educational and challenging but. in the end, always personally rewarding.

As Shelby owners may have noticed, at the last judges' meeting, MCA chose to condense the three Shelby classes down to a single one for this year, as a test. This choice was based on the number of participating cars over the last few years and in an effort to reduce the load on the tally people. At the end of this year we will have an opportunity to return to the three classes. In the mean time, I want to assure every owner that the cars will continue to be judged as they have in the past. Because of the Gold, Silver, Bronze awards there will be just as many winners as there would be if there were more classes.

With several shows this year we know each Shelby owner has choices. But remember it is not only about taking home a well-deserved award but also about showing others what real Shelby cars originally looked like and how much fun owning them can be. Bring them out to an MCA show this vear and share the excitement with others.

Jeff speegle

Assistant National Head Judge - Shelbys

