

# MEET THE DRIVING EVENTS COMMITTEE

**H**ello. My name is Bill Dillard, and I am the chairman of the driving events committee for 2008. In addition to me, other committee members are Jim Chism of Nashville, TN, Ed Hockaday of Richmond, TX, and Jim Silverman of Brockton, MA. We are a diverse group and bring together different experiences to the committee. We are proud to serve you.

A little history is in order. At the 30th anniversary of the Mustang at Charlotte, NC, I was involved in the administrative end of the show. However, I saw a lot of people running open track. I don't know which part of that segment of the event the Speedway handled due to insurance, but I do know that the Open Track certainly added much fun and excitement to the event and a lot of smiles for owners. I noticed not all were in all-out racecars but even the lowliest plain Mustang driver had something in common with the race cars—big smiles. I felt there had to be something to this. I know not everyone has the need for speed, but MCA finally, at great cost, got insurance coverage for Open Track events. Think it is not for you? Last year at the Carolina Regional driving school I was not a driver, my son was. Wanda Whitsell, in her V6 Mustang, participated in the driving school. She had that same big smile that those at Charlotte possessed, plus she told me she learned something.

The "learning something" is why we do it. Both of my children have gone through the driver's school. My goal was to keep them alive. I had a 17-year-old getting ready to go to college away from home. I figured it was inevitable that someday she would have an accident. My goal was that if and when the day came that she'd have that crash, she'd survive it. It happened, and she did. The point to all this is: Driving school does help make one a better driver in day to day life, and the bonus is that the fun factor is way off the chart.

You do not need to have a heavily modified car. I have done three schools and a few open track events in a regular Mustang driven to the track and back home. Just a little safety maintenance is all it takes. We can get into that later.

We have had a good series of articles on driving events, and plan more to come. I am trying to get a group that puts on a good driving school every year to write an article from the administrative end. It's not that different than having a well-run car show. Drivers are like show people in that they help one another, something I saw right up front. Once you get involved you will see it is the same. The only difference is no matter how good you drive, when you get to the gate leave your ego at the gate. It is not all about speed it is about learning and SAFETY. At every event I attend, safety is stressed not only for you but others. I have no problem seeing my children (they are no longer young children, but you parents know what I mean) out there having fun.

We would like to see more groups inquire about having events. By the way this includes drag racing we do realize some like to go in a straight line.

Please talk to members in your local club. If you are near a facility approach them and see what it takes to rent a course for a day or two. Don't be surprised by a price that seems high. Remember the cost is spread over several people and you, just like a static show, can get sponsors to help defray the cost. If or when you have any questions please contact any one on the committee.

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