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STANDARD OF RULES
COVERING ALL VARIOUS
MUSTANG CLASSES.”



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Inside Look: Judges' Meeting

Let's pretend you're a fly on the wall for a few minutes and learn what goes on at an annual Judges' Meeting. The vast majority of our members haven't a clue as to what goes on at these meetings and least of all, their intended purpose. Before I get into the details of these much needed and extremely useful meetings, let me tell you of their purpose.

As a worldwide club recognized for having the number one icon of all cars, the Mustang, our purpose is to have, simply stated, the world's highest standard of rules covering all various Mustang classes (Daily/Occasional Drivers; Concours; Thoroughbred; Unrestored; Modified; Restomods; Race/Drag; and Popular Choice). This is not easy to do as it requires much hard work and research by many dedicated Mustang hobbyist throughout the world.

Since the founding of the Mustang Club of America, pony car aficionados have been good about sending in documentation to the Head Judges concerning data, corrections, etc. pertaining to existing and new Mustang rules. As a National Head Judge, I have been constantly reviewing and verifying such submissions with my Head Judges and Assistant National Head Judges. Elements that are considered valid are saved to be agenda items for the next Judges' Meeting. The Head Judges also analyze all statistics from our ongoing database. We look for trends wherein we consider consolidating classes, expanding growing classes, and establishing new classes as we see the need.

For 2007, MCA had an ever-growing number of car classes creating a heavy burden for clubs hosting National and Grand National shows. The increased paperwork and trophies plus scoring in the Tally room became cumbersome. The Head Judges made recommendations to consolidate, reducing classes to approximately 60. Not only did the judges at the meeting approve, but the MCA Board of Directors also approved the changes for the 2008 show year. This proved to be the correct thing to do as 2008 was a successful year in terms of a minimum of complaints and a maximum of happy and pleased host clubs and contestants.

I'm getting a little ahead of my story, here. Every year, we invite all MCA members, regardless of whether they are judges or not, to attend and participate in the annual Judges' one-day meeting. These annual meetings are held in various parts of the country in order to give as many different members from various far flung geographical areas the opportunity to attend, without

breaking their budget. These meetings start out with briefings concerning useful data and trends on car class numbers, how many Gold, Silver, & Bronze; 1st, 2nd & 3rd awards were given by individual car classes, etc. Also presented are a series of Power Point charts covering new rules, changed rules, etc, which are thoroughly discussed and voted upon. These results are presented at a later date to the Board of Directors for approval. We also break into specialty groups (Concours & Occasional; Modified) to refine old rules and write needed new rules which are voted on by the judges who are present. It is a very democratic way of giving everyone a chance to voice their opinion and vote. We feel this is the best way to have only the highest quality of rules.

After the Meeting, the National Head Judge presents the results of the Judges' meeting to the entire Board of Directors for approval. Given the green light by the BOD to implement the new rules, the Judges and their computer specialists diligently go to work. This is where blood sweat and tears come into play. The new Judging Sheets are made up; new general written rules and Judging Rules by each car class are constructed and put on the MCA website, just in time for each new show season. The new Judging Sheets are printed for the show year and held in stock by our Pensacola, FL, office manager.

I didn't yet mention that MCA furnishes amenities such as lunch and refreshments during the breaks. This years Judges' meeting was held in Dallas, TX, at the Sam Pack Automobile Museum. We were all treated to a tour of Mr. Pack's private collection of 100 truly classic automobiles. That alone made it well worth attending the meeting. I also haven't mentioned the enjoyment of meeting and making friends with some of the best and most recognized Mustang authorities in the USA.

Please give serious consideration to attending the 2009 Judges' Meeting and participating in one of these self rewarding get-togethers. Who knows, maybe you just might become one of the top Mustang gurus.

Wally Short



WALLY SHORT
Chief of Judges