

WE TRIED!

For several months, we've been working on co-mailing *Mustang Times* to save money for the MCA. This was not an overnight decision; it was a decision made after much exploration, weighing the pros and cons. The pros outweighed the cons, and after discussion with *Mustang Times'* publisher Austin Craig, we decided to begin the co-mailing process with the November 2009 issue.

A simple explanation of this procedure is this: *Mustang Times* would be mailed along with other publications on the same day, from the same Post Office to take advantage of the decreased Postal rates based on volume. Co-mailing the magazine also meant that my editorial deadline would be much earlier each month to facilitate the delivery of the magazine in a timely manner. It was a concession I was willing to give, to help save money! Also, we anticipated that members would continue to receive their issues the first week of the month.

Well, all I can say is, "We tried!" The November issue went to our printer on time, the magazine was printed, bound, polybagged, and delivered to the post office on time. However, what happens after it gets to the post office is out of anyone's control. The short story is that you may have received your November issue of *Mustang Times* barely one or two weeks before you're reading this—in the December issue. For that, I apologize, although it was out of my control!

Co-mailing meant saving money. Saving money for the MCA means saving money for every member. It means the dues wouldn't have to be raised higher than was already necessary. It means so many good things, which is why I am so disappointed that it didn't work. I'm SO disappointed that I'm not willing to try it a second month to see if the process improves. That being said, with the blessing of *Mustang Times* publisher, Austin Craig, we are going back to the original way of mailing each month.

The increase of dues may not sit well with many people. But I know how hard the Board of Directors worked to get the finances in line so that an increase wouldn't be necessary. However, dues for the MCA had not increased for many years prior to 2008, while everything else that the MCA pays for to keep the club going did increase. The Board deserves a round of thanks for the work they do. That being said, I'd like to personally thank all those who ran for the Board for the 2010-2011 term. Congratulations to those who won a position on the board. Those who did not win, hang in there, your name stays in place and you may find yourself on the board before you know it. I would also like to say "Thank You" to those who are leaving the board after several years of service: Patsy Brown, Bill Dillard (one of the founding members of the MCA), Jim Chism, Elizabeth Cofer, Millicent Moye, and Jim Silverman. Several of these wonderful people have served for many years. We thank you for your service and dedication to the MCA and its members. You will be missed on the Board, but we know we'll see you on the show field in the very near future.



I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas! To those who do not celebrate Christmas, Happy Holidays! It's been a busy year, and the schedule for 2010 is already filling rapidly. For me, that means MCA shows, meeting more MCA members, and seeing more of your beautiful Mustangs. Look for me on the show field, and remember—stop me to say hello!



One last note: if you've sent in text and photos for My Mustang and you haven't seen your Mustang on the pages of *Mustang Times*, there are two reasons why: 1) I haven't gotten to your Mustang yet; or 2) the photos are just too small in resolution to be able to reproduce in magazine print. I don't pick the Mustangs based on my likes or dislikes. I like all Mustangs. As your editor, I have a responsibility to print the best possible images. If the photos would be no bigger than a postage stamp, that simply won't do! By the way, that also applies to Show Notes and Regional Spotlight.

Your perpetually optimistic and slightly off-center editor,

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