

**"WE HAVE COME TO
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JUDGES' MEETING REPORT

This year's Judges' Meeting was a departure from the meetings of past years. In the past, much of the focus has been on fine tuning the written rules that help remind judges what is correct and what to deduct points for, basically a tool to remind us of details. This year we began a new tradition. The Judges' Meeting format was designed to be more like a seminar where information is shared and lessons learned from presenters and other participants. At the same time, we did not neglect slight adjustments to the rules based on new information and findings as well as learning more details that would improve our methods of judging.

This year's meeting took place at Bob Perkin's shop, Perkins Restoration, located in the farm lands of Wisconsin, west of Milwaukee. His shop and showroom are located around a center courtyard area and made for a perfect spot for this year's meeting. On Friday night, participants were provided an opportunity to view Bob's large collection of unrestored, low-mileage cars. The showroom is decorated in period showroom memorabilia and literally piles of NOS parts.

Mustang Monthly editor Donald Farr was in attendance, shooting pictures of the cars, the group, and the exercises for an upcoming article.

Because we had considerable information to share and cover at this meeting, we set aside more time than we have in the past, taking about a day and a half for almost non-stop activities. On Saturday, our main focus was a day-long class on judging.

The MCA judging cadre, over the past decade, has noted that standards have been slipping and that a focus should be placed on improving consistency across all of the classes in our **concours???** judging. We have come to realize that we have never placed enough focus on training our judges. So, we looked upon this as an opportunity for improvement.

We first determined that we needed to concentrate on consistency in scoring and deductions. Utilizing a Power Point presentation, exercises were conducted to identify areas of need. The judges present scored between 9 and 56 points in the first exercise. During the second exercise, which allowed the participants to apply what was taught, the judges scored within one or two points of one another. Each subject presented was fol-

lowed by discussion to assure that the information was clearly understood and applied. The group applied the lessons presented and quickly demonstrated how they could be used to improve our judging consistency.

Since attendance was great, the attendees were broken into groups and various stations were set up. Each group rotated through the stations and exercises. Jack Brooks conducted a session in which he shared information on driveline details as well as alternator restoration. Our host, Bob Perkins, covered original finishes, a phosphating-at-home demonstration, and parts identification. Each stop allowed for questions and much discussion.

The Head Judges plan to include a short version of the class at each of next year's National Shows with the goal of bringing all judges up to speed. We hope we can expand the program in years to come, reaching all certified and Gold Card judges. We expect next year to be a transition year, but the end result should be greater consistency and higher award standards that the MCA officials and members can be proud of earning.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Perkins for the use of his excellent facility for the seminar and to all the Judging Staff that made it possible. I hope everyone that attended went away with a clear vision of where MCA judging is headed and is committed to seeing the practices carried through. For those that could not attend, you missed something special, something positive and different than what we have done in the past. Hope you can attend in the future as we hone our skills, share our information, and reward the best Mustangs and Shelbys on this planet.



Jeff Speegle

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