INFORMATION ON THE MUSTANGS AT THE MANSION NATIONAL SHOW IN 2010

By Joe Grace, President Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville

ver the past couple months, I attended the Indianapolis and Raleigh National shows. It was great to see Mustang owners I've come to know over the last two years. I also had the privilege to assist with judging at both shows. I have to tell you, it is NOT an easy job, especially with the sun blazing overhead and temperatures reaching into the 90's. I obtained a new level of respect for the judges and challenge those who have issues with the judging to take some time and assist a certified judge. I promise you, you will find yourself looking at the judging process in a whole new light.

That being said, the real purpose of this article is to dispel rumors that seem to be circulating regarding the 2010 National show to be hosted by the Blue Ridge Mustang Club of Asheville at the Biltmore Estate.

- 1) It is NOT a Grand National even though the show is being held on Labor Day weekend. The Grand National will be held in Bellevue, WA in July of 2010.
- 2) Yes, there IS a charge to be on the grounds of the Biltmore Estate in addition to the show registration fees. The cost for a three-day pass at the Biltmore is \$30 per person. The current cost for entry to the Biltmore is \$55 per person, per day with an expected increase for 2010 due to a new \$13 million dollar expansion, Antler Hill Village, which will be located next to the Biltmore Winery. At \$30 per person for a 3-day ticket, you save \$135 per person. The ticket is good for admission to the house, winery, gardens, Antler Hill Village, and all other locations on the Estate for all three days of our show. We are currently working with the Biltmore people to include a 4th day (Labor Day) for no additional charge. No promises, but we are trying.
- 3) Yes, it is 2.5 miles from where we plan to have classification/registration to the actual show site. After classification, you will be handed a packet, which will include Biltmore passes and information regarding: the rules and regulations of the Biltmore Estate; activities planned for the show; parking information; information on transportation to and from host hotels; transportation information for visiting downtown Asheville; and transportation on the Biltmore Estate. We want you to know exactly what is going on. Our goal is for you to enjoy the Estate as comfortably and safely as possible.

After receiving your packet, you will be greeted by Biltmore Representatives who will scan your tickets then direct you to the show site. And yes, it is about two miles. At the show site, your Mustang will be photographed, then you will be directed to the an area where goody bags and your MCA dash card will be distributed. You will then be directed to follow a golf cart to your designated paved parking space.

Trailer parking (on gravel) will be located less than 100 yards from the show site. You may unload your Mustang from the trailer at the show site and then park your trailer and truck. We highly suggest that those who are trailering Mustangs to arrive as early as possible on the Friday morning of the show.

- 4) The show will not be held on the lawn in front of the house. The Estate will be open to the general public and not just us Mustangers; hundreds of people take pictures of the house and those people may not want to have 500 Mustangs in their photos.
- 5) Hotel rooms are not already sold out due to other events being held in Asheville that weekend. We signed contracts with seven hotels, which are holding rooms for our National Show. These hotels will begin to accept reservations on Labor Day weekend 2009. Visit brmcoa.org for prices, locations, maps, and phone numbers. Make the effort to book your rooms this September if you so desire to stay at any of the host hotels. The main host hotel is the DoubleTree Inn, located two blocks from the Biltmore entrance.

We intend to provide bus transportation to and from the four host and co-host hotels located closest to the Biltmore. This transportation will be for those who wish to leave their Mustang at the show site overnight. There is 24-hour security on site-your vehicles will be safe and sound. Buses will run between the show site and hotels at the conclusion of show hours on Friday and Saturday and to the show site on Sunday morning. Once you're off the property at the end of the day, you will not be permitted onto the property (unless you're dining at one of their restaurants) until the following morning when the buses will run again.

During show hours, there will be transportation to the DoubleTree Inn where you will be able to pick up a trolley to take you to downtown Asheville or Biltmore Village for dining and shopping. At this writing there is a nominal charge for the trolley, but we are working on having that either reduced or become complimentary.

Depending on what agreements can be made, we aren't sure if our Friday and Saturday night festivities are at the Biltmore Estate or off site. Either way, transportation will be provided from the show site to the hotels (to give you time to freshen up) and then to the festivities.

We will have room for up to 380 Mustangs at the main show site. This site will be for judged Mustangs only!

Popular Vote Mustangs and Blue Ridge Mustang Club members' cars will be located at the winery, about two miles from the main show site.

We will provide transportation to and from the main show site to the winery giving everyone an opportunity to see the non-judged Mustangs.

Spectators will be directed to the Deerpark restaurant to park your vehicle. You will then be bussed to the show site Friday-Sunday. You will not be able to visit the house or the other locations, car show site only.

Those towing your Mustang with a motor home and wish to stay on the Biltmore property, note that we are in the process of trying to get that approved. Stay tuned.

Those with a season pass to the Biltmore, you will not have to pay the additional ticket prices for the Biltmore. We ask that you notify us when you send in your registration form.

Registration forms will be on our website and in Mustang Times either in December 2009 or January 2010. We are working on package deals for car registration, tickets, tshirts, and Friday and Saturday night events.

Keep in mind, September 26-27, 2009, our club hosts one of the largest all-Mustang shows in the country. With more than 350 Mustangs attending, the priority is to get our regional event in order before we head into the more intricate details of the Nationals.

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This information was provided to assist with your plans to attend the Mustangs at the Mansion National Show. Any club who has hosted a National Show fully understands it sometimes takes minor miracles to host a successful show. We're excited about hosting a National show at the Biltmore. We felt it best to dispel some of the rumors and to answers some of the many questions that I have been asked at the National shows that I have attended. Visit our website at brmcoa. org for more updates. As we get more details in line, our website will be updated.

If you have any questions, email me at: mustangsatthemansion2001@gmail.com I will gladly respond to your inquiry. MT