

"I EXPECT THAT FEW MUSTANG ENTHUSIASTS REALIZE, OR APPRECIATE, JUST HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TAKES TO PUT ON A NATIONAL SHOW."



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THE ANATOMY OF AN MCA NATIONAL SHOW

The work that goes into an MCA National or Grand National Show is huge. I expect that few Mustang enthusiasts realize, or appreciate, just how much effort it takes to put on a national show. It all begins with a local or regional chapter's volunteering to host such an event. After gaining the MCA board's approval, the host club begins the process of finding a site, arranging hotel accommodations, searching for local sponsors, choosing show committee members, and holding a series of meetings during the usual two-year process of preparation. Countless hours are spent on this initiative, which includes advertising and other media promotion prior to the event. Work for the host club intensifies as the show date approaches, making final preparations such as laying out the show field, reserving vendor spaces, arranging for participant and visitor parking, setting aside an area for washing vehicles, picking spaces for the tally room and judges' meeting, putting up a PA system, and establishing vehicle corridors for registration and classification. And when the big weekend arrives, host club members work tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of multiple show activities. These include such things as cruises, hospitality rooms, Saturday-night entertainment, drawings for prizes, and many club-unique activities to make certain that show participants are kept busy. This effort is huge and involves many hours of activity by dozens of host club members.

The judging community is also hard at work to ensure each show will be a great event. During the year assistant national head judges are involved in the process of certifying those MCA members who aspire to become judges. And when the big weekend arrives, MCA's Assistant Head Judge for Classification works with her team of helpers to register and classify each Mustang as it approaches the show field. The National Judging Secretary and her assistants begin the monumental task of monitoring entrees, setting up judging sheets, and ultimately entering scores in the database for awards. Meanwhile,

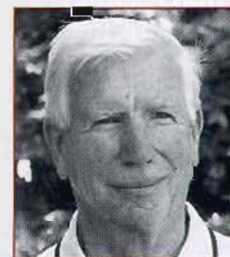
Assistant National Head Judges and Gold Card judges start assembling the numerous teams required to judge the several hundred cars in the 61 show classes. The judges' meeting provides an opportunity to outline judging etiquette and protocol to be followed by all judges. At each show upwards of 70 Mustang enthusiasts volunteer to judge. It isn't difficult to do the math to determine how intense the judging of several hundred cars during a five-hour period becomes.

Also, during most national shows, one or more judging seminars are held judging volunteers to help understand the judging process and how best to go about it.

As mentioned earlier, the work required in putting on a national MCA show is huge. The elements in this article describe much, but certainly not all, of the effort involved with many others assisting at shows and behind the scenes. While my job is not necessarily easy, it is made less difficult by all those who help.

My hat is off to all of you!

Allen Stewart



Allen Stewart
National Head Judge
3rd-5th Generations