

**"WE WOULD ALSO
ASK THAT OUR GOLD
CARD AND CERTIFIED
JUDGES TRY TO MAKE
A POINT TO VISIT
THE FORUMS ON A
REGULAR BASIS."**



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ONLINE INTERACTION

Slowly but surely, many MCA members are finding out about the newly launched mustang.org website. This has been a long time coming and I am excited about the potential we now have before us. In the past, we would have pockets of MCA members and judges alike, participating in online forums throughout the internet. With the new MCA website, we now have our own forums and most importantly to us judges, we have a forum dedicated to MCA judging. Currently, we have a main forum named "Judge's Tent," which is a general discussion area. For now, all of the questions/topics posed about judging have been in that section. We may decide to break up the forum into some sub-forums, which are more meaningful to discuss specific areas of judging. This has worked well in the past on other sites. Let's face it, the Modified folks aren't too interested in the correct finish of fender bolts!

Allen and I will be looking to the Assistant National Head Judges to take an active role with the new website and forums. We would also ask that our Gold Card and Certified Judges try to make a point to visit the forums on a regular basis. We want to be sure that we are available to help others in our hobby and also interact with other judges. For those that have been to MCA shows this year, you know that one of the main things we stress is to have our judges maintain an attitude of "How can I help?" This needs to perpetuate to the MCA website in the same manner. In reality, it's a lot easier and convenient for a broader base of judges to participate in an online forum. More importantly, they can feel like they are more a part of something instead of just showing up to an MCA national once every few years. Family and life can get in the way, we know that, but now we have an easier way to interact with folks that can't make all the shows. Our judges are a wealth of knowledge and I look forward to many interesting discussions online.

Notwithstanding the unique communication tool we now have, I want to get our judges to start thinking about contributing more to MCA judging. While it's a lot of work to judge cars at a national show, your work shouldn't end there. We always need to be learning and contributing to the club. As most everyone knows, we are always looking to receive feedback on the rules to make them the best set of Mustang judging rules out there. We typically like to update the documents once a year to keep things from being so dynamic, but obviously we fix blatant errors as they are found. We normally try to get all of the updates in no later than the end of the year, which gives us time to do all of the inserts to the documents. I would like to see more members take an active role in contributing their knowledge to the judging rules. With the new website, it will be easy to put forth recommendations and I challenge each and every MCA judge to contribute at least one thing before the 2011 show season. For those that don't have internet access or are not familiar with online forums, pick up the phone and call Allen, me, or any Assistant National Head Judge. Or, even a Gold Card/Certified Judge that may be local to you. We need your help and most importantly, we want everyone to be involved. I want to especially challenge those with knowledge of 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation Mustangs. The 3rd and 4th generation rules are getting better each year, but we need help with the 5th generation authenticity rules. We have been gathering documentation and now need to start fleshing out the rules. Remember that we will begin judging 5th generation in Concours/Unrestored in 2015 and we need to be ready!

On a final note, Allen and I want to thank all that volunteered their time to judge at an MCA National show in 2010. We judged nearly 1,500 cars this year and did it with an average of only 75 judges per show. We had about 250 unique judges participate this year with many attending more than one show. For all five nationals, we had a total of 377 judges sign the sign-in sheets. Most provided an e-mail address, which tells me you can get online, so if you haven't done so already, go to mustang.org now!



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National Head Judge
1st & 2nd Generations

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