

# I PROMISED

**A**bout 6pm (5:51pm to be exact) on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, a request came in from Ford Racing. They were looking for a Grabber Orange 1970 Boss 302. The Grand Am Challenge was running at Daytona that weekend as part of the Rolex 24. Parnelli Jones was flying in for the race and Ford Racing wanted to have a vintage Boss 302, in fairly good condition, at the track for a photo op on the pit lane.

Now, this doesn't sound like an unreasonable request. And it wasn't, with one exception—this photo op was to take place at 8am the following morning.

Short of consulting my crystal ball, which is more than partly cloudy these days, I went searching on the membership database for an owner who lived near Daytona, and was willing to fulfill this request on short notice. Remember, this was taking place on a Friday morning, a work day for most of us. Do you feel a "motherly" lecture coming up here? If, after reading this editorial, you don't immediately go to the MCA website and fill in the information about the Mustangs you own, I totally give up asking you to do that!

I started to search by zip code, by city, by every possible way I could think of. Time was of the essence. So, I went to the next best source I could think of, the Regional Club listing. I won't even lecture the Regional Directors about the lack of information there... I finally located information on a few clubs, made several calls, and basically it came down to who was home when I called, and who could help me first, if at all. The Daytona Mustang Club came to the rescue. I was provided a name and a phone number for Stu Cashman, who owned a Boss 302. I made the call to Stu, introduced myself, assured him this wasn't a "reality TV show," and asked about his Boss. The short story: Stu had a Boss 302, Yellow, in great condition and he would be glad to take it Daytona the next morning at 8am. I figured Ford would be happy, it wasn't Grabber Orange, but it would still work. I had made a call to the PR person who was the middle man in this, he gave me the number of the contact person at the track. I called her and told her what I'd been working on. "I found you a Boss 302 to be at the track tomorrow," I said. "Where is the Mustang now?" she asked. "Daytona Beach" I answered. She said, "No, I'm in Daytona Beach, where is the Mustang?" (It had been a long day for both of us.) I said, "The owner lives in (an adjacent town to Daytona Beach) and could drive the car to the track in the morning." Then I gave her his phone number, let them talk to each other, and sat down with a Diet Coke and two Tylenol.

Does this sound easy? It wasn't. It took two hours of numerous phone calls, numerous time on the internet looking for information that wasn't there. Gladly, it ended with one final call to a happy man who, along with a visiting friend, was able to spend the day at the Speedway with his Boss 302, Parnelli Jones, Ford Racing and their team, and have a memorable experience.

End of story. I hope you understand what I'm saying—no information, no opportunity. And, these opportunities come about OFTEN! By the way, is your local club listed in your membership info? That is also available on the website.... Enough said!

*Mary Jean Wesche*



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