

**"I'VE FOUND  
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MATERIAL."**



**NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE -  
1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION**

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## HELPING OWNERS IMPROVE THEIR CARS

**T**he last few years, we have seen growing participation at our National Shows. Folks are interested more than ever in knowing how they stack up to other cars and how to improve them. One of the goals that the Judging Team has set forth the past couple of years is not only to improve our judging consistency, but to change our image from "those picky judges" to something more along the lines of "coaches" for owners. At our Saturday morning Judge's Meeting at the National Shows, we are constantly stressing how important it is to take the attitude of "helping owners improve their cars." Once our judges get in the mindset of "how can we help", things change for the better. I have personally observed relationships being formed between owners and judges, which is how it should be and makes me proud to be a part of MCA. While the love/hate relationship with car show judges will probably never go away, I am impressed that we have made strides in improving the image of MCA Judging. Although, this does not mean that judges are not going to be tough judging cars; it just means that we are following the judging sheets, giving the benefit of a doubt to the car and being fair and descriptive of areas that need improvement. Note that I said "areas that need improvement" and not "areas where points are deducted!" Owners expect these things of our judges at every show!

Of course, we cannot do this without properly training our judges. In the past, we've mostly had on-the-job training, which still holds mostly true today. But the difference now is that we are trying to do more to prepare our judges and teaching them how to use their tools (judging sheets) in doing the best job they can. It's really tough to get consistency, especially when we have judges coming to shows maybe once a year or so. For those that have attended MCA National Shows this year and have been to the Saturday morning meetings, you have sat in on an informative mini-seminar that our Assistant National Head Judge Jeff Speegle has instructed. The feedback that we have received from Jeff's material is very positive. I've found that most of our judges are experts in a certain area and are like sponges with technical material. They are the same with judging information; they are constantly looking for more information to help them with their job. The material that Jeff provides to the judges helps them to make better choices on the judging sheets and also represent MCA in a respectful manner on the judging field. We intend to continue the mini-seminars and highly encourage any judges that have not been to an MCA national in a while to come out and sit in on the meeting. In addition to the Saturday morning meeting, we also typically have "Judging Clinics" on Fridays at National Shows. These clinics are usually conducted by our Assistant National Head Judges, which helps to clarify rules in certain categories and also lends an opportunity to ask questions.

Furthermore, we expect to continue the same style format that we did last year at this year's annual Judges' Meeting. That format was a seminar/training format with hands-on exercises and various demonstrations related to show car preparation and also an inside look at some of the technical details of rebuilding and restoring parts. We plan to have the meeting the weekend of October 16-17, 2010, with a meet and greet on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Judges' Meeting will be held at Ray Skillman Classic Cars outside Indianapolis, in Greenwood, IN. (More information on pgs 16-17.) There are no requirements for anyone to attend; we just ask that you come with a willingness to learn, not only technically, but also a willingness to improve how you represent MCA on and off the show field. Check the website, [www.mustang.org](http://www.mustang.org), for more details.

In closing, I think it is a great time to be involved with MCA. We're making improvements in the judging system that set us apart from other judging organizations. Resources are available, our judges are here to help and we truly want to see each and every car get better from one show to the next!



*Charles Turner*

Charles Turner  
National Head Judge  
1st-2nd Generations