

MUSTANGS AT THE BEACH:

By John Dettori

The MCA's National Show for June 2011 will be held in Sands Point, NY, at the beautiful Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY. Set at the northern tip of Great Neck in the town of Port Washington, it's 16 miles from the heart of New York City; 35 minutes by train. But a car show set just outside of New York City? That's quite a large and busy place; "how in the world would I get there with my Mustang and/or trailer?" you may ask. Don't panic, because this segment was written to help you do just that.

For those unfamiliar with the area, New York City is made up of five counties or boroughs: one (the Bronx) is attached to the mainland bordering the state of Connecticut and the Harlem River, two (Brooklyn & Queens) are the western most portions of Long Island. The remaining two (Manhattan & Staten Island) are themselves islands. Many people think of New York City as the island of Manhattan—which in fact it was until 1898 when the outer boroughs were incorporated into New York City in order to build the subways. The New York metropolitan area is typically described as a circle centered in midtown Manhattan with a 50- to 100-mile radius. Thus, many people who work in New York City live in the suburbs of the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; an adventurous few even travel from eastern Pennsylvania). Some of those suburbs are on Long Island, so you'd be following a path traveled by many every day.

Eight bridges, at least three ferries, and two tunnels connect Long Island to Manhattan, the Bronx, and Connecticut. Additionally, three bridges and two tunnels connect New Jersey to Staten Island and Manhattan. If the thought of driving or towing your classic steed through the heart of New York City (Manhattan) worries you, take heart: **You don't have to drive through Manhattan to get to Long Island!** Yes, you can avoid driving through the heart of the Big Apple.

There are several alternative ways to get to the National Show on Long Island—some don't have to use a bridge or tunnel at all. We can divide the path to the show into three basic groups, each of which has several options. They are: those coming from North/Northeast, those coming from the West, and those coming from points South.

A quick note about the roadways in the state of NY: The road system includes high-speed expressways and parkways, state and county highways, and county/local roads. While most are toll free (a few parkways still have tolls, as do most of the bridges and tunnels), parkways are restricted to passenger cars only, due to their relatively low overpass structures. Vehicles towing a trailer and any vehicle with commercial tags may not use the parkways. Passenger cars may use any roadway, including the lovely scenic parkways, which actually are state parks, and patrolled by NY State Troopers. But, you will be pulled over and ticketed if caught with a commercially described vehicle on a parkway, so don't let that happen! Some expressways also feature High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, i.e. "car pool" lanes that require at least two passengers from 6 – 10am and 3 – 8pm Monday thru Friday, and have designated entrance and exit points. Bring your EZ-Pass; bridge and tunnel toll lines can get long!

FROM THE SOUTH:

If driving from points south of Philadelphia, PA/Camden, NJ, including DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, or any of the south eastern

states where you could get to one of the above mentioned Atlantic border states, your basic path is I-95. As a point of reference, from Charlotte, NC, plan 10 – 12 hours, 650 – 680 miles depending on route and traffic; longer if trailering. Once entering the state of NJ, I-95 is the NJ-Turnpike for the great majority of its length across the state south to north, \$4-\$6 in tolls. From the NJ-Turnpike (NJTP), you can get to Long Island by:

-Southern/Staten Island Route: (Recommended/best route)

Crossing from NJ into NY (\$8 toll) via Staten Island (SI), you have a choice:

Outer Bridge Crossing: NJTP Exit 10 takes NJ-440 east toward Perth Amboy/Metuchen; continue across the Outer Bridge Crossing, entering SI heading north on NY-440 to I-278/West Shore Expressway/SI Expressway east. This is often the fastest route.

Goethals Bridge: NJTP Exit 13 takes you east across the Goethals Bridge into SI, heading east on I-278 across Staten Island / West Shore Expressway / SI Expressway (east).

Take I-278 East to the double-decker Verrazano Bridge (\$11 toll), which exits onto Long Island in Brooklyn, where you have a choice:

If towing a trailer you will need to take exit 35E toward I-495E/48th St. Follow the signs for Eastern Long Island/Riverhead, taking I-495 (Long Island Expressway) east. If not during rush hour (5-10am or 3-8pm), this route may take less time.

Passenger cars crossing the Verrazano Bridge have their choice of the above mentioned towing route or heading directly from the bridge to the Belt Parkway east. Travel across the shore of Brooklyn about 20 miles to the Cross Island Parkway north to get to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Note: This route takes you closer to the hotels, which are 7 to 14 miles south of the show site. Directions will appear in your registration packet.

Continue east to exit 36 north (Searingtown Road / Rt.101) which will take you right to the show field.

-Manhattan Route: Traveling further north provides breath taking views of the Manhattan skyline riding up NJ's coast, crossing the Hudson River through a tunnel, which exits you in lower Manhattan. While there are no commercial traffic restrictions, the Manhattan Route is not for the faint of heart due to the volume of traffic, taxis, and other commercial vehicles navigating the heart of New York City, although it is a breeze if traveling between 10pm to 5am. This route offers two paths to from NJ to Manhattan, then several paths across the East River to Long Island:

Lincoln/Midtown Tunnels: NJTP Exit 16E takes NJ-495E, directly across the Lincoln Tunnel (\$8 toll) into Manhattan, exiting toward Dyer Ave. Turn right at Dyer Ave. (0.1 miles) then left on West 34th St. for 1.3 miles to the entrance for the Queens Midtown Tunnel (\$5.50 toll), which exits you on the Long Island Expressway (I-495,) east.

Holland / Williamsburg: NJTP Exit 14E takes I-78E toward Jersey City/Holland Tunnel, directly across the Holland Tunnel (\$8 toll) into Manhattan. Slight left turn right at Laight St., which turns slightly right becoming Canal St., then left at Center St., right at Kenmare St., continue onto Delancy St. for 0.4 miles to the entrance for the Williamsburg Bridge (no toll) into Brooklyn. Take I-278E to exit 35E toward I-495 E / Eastern Long Island, merging onto the Queens Midtown Expressway; then merge onto I-495 east.

Continue east to exit 36 north (Searingtown Road / Rt.101) which will take you right to the show field.

-Northern / Bronx Route: (Recommended/good route)

Traveling NJTP still further north (stay left for I-95N Express Lanes)

GETTING THERE

following the signs toward the double-decker George Washington Bridge, through the Bronx. Whether upper or lower level, continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll). Exiting the bridge, you are on Long Island, and again have a choice:

If towing a trailer, exit the Throgs Neck Bridge at the Clearview Expressway South to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Passenger cars can take either the Clearview route above, or the shorter Cross Island Parkway (saving about 4 miles) south to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east. Continue east to exit 36 north (Searingtown Road/Rt.101), which will take you right to the show field.

FROM THE WEST:

If driving from points west of New York City, including NJ, PA, OH, WV, mid-western states west of OH; other great lake states or anywhere you could get to OH, PA, or NJ, your basic path is either I-78 (southern route) or I-80 (middle route) across PA into NJ. If traveling from points north and west, e.g. Up State New York Finger Lakes, Buffalo, Syracuse, or other places west of I-87, we will connect your path in "From the North / New England." Once entering the state of NJ, you can get to Long Island by:

-Southern PA / I-78 Route: (Recommended/best route)

I-78E will lead you to the Gothals Bridge (\$8 toll), into SI, heading east on I-278 across Staten Island/West Shore Expressway/SI Expressway (east). Then, take I-278E to the double-decker Verrazano Bridge (\$11 toll), which exits you on Long Island in Brooklyn, where you have a choice:

If towing a trailer you will need to take exit 35E toward I-495E/48th St. Follow the signs for Eastern Long Island / Riverhead, taking I-495 (Long Island Expressway) east. If not during rush hour (5-10am/3-8pm), this route may take less time.

Passenger cars crossing the Verrazano Bridge have their choice of the above mentioned towing route or heading directly from the bridge to the Belt Parkway east. Travel about 20 miles to the Cross Island Parkway north to get to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east. Note: This route takes you closer to the hotels, which are 7 to 14 miles south of the show site. Directions will appear in your registration packet.

-Northern PA / I-80 Route: (Recommended/good route)

I-80 takes you to the double-decker George Washington Bridge. Whether upper or lower level, continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll). Exiting the bridge, you are on Long Island, and again have a choice:

If towing a trailer, exit the Throgs Neck Bridge at the Clearview Expressway South to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Passenger cars can take either the Clearview route above, or the shorter Cross Island Parkway (saving about 4 miles) south to the Long Island Expressway (I-495, aka LIE) east. Continue east to exit 36 north (Searingtown Road / Rt. 101) which will take you right to the show field, 127 Middle Neck Road, the Sands Point Preserve, Sands Point, NY.

FROM THE NORTH / NEW ENGLAND:

If driving from points north of New York City, including CT, VT, NH, RI, MA, ME, Canada, Westchester, Orange, Rockland or any other

"up state" locations north of NYC, you have two "up state" paths if in NY, and two New England paths:

-New England - Land: (Recommended/good route)

If east of the NY boarder, head south to CT, staying on or merge onto I-95 south down the coastline into NY. Continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll). Exiting the bridge, you are on Long Island, and have a choice:

If towing a trailer, exit the Throgs Neck Bridge at the Clearview Expressway South to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Passenger cars can take either the Clearview route above, or the shorter Cross Island Parkway (saves about 4 miles) south to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Continue east to exit 36 north (Searingtown Rd./Rt.101), which will take you right to the show field.

-New England - Sea: (Recommended / Good Route)

Up for a thrill? Head south on I-395 or I-91 to I-95, to New London, CT, where you'll find the New London Ferry Service (2 Ferry Drive, New London, CT). A passenger car and driver will cost \$99 for a round-trip ferry ticket, \$13/additional person (children are discounted even further). A trailer will cost you a little more. This alternate gateway to Long Island not only avoids traffic on the 80-minute boat ride across the sound, saving time by cutting miles off the trip, but is a more pleasant ride through LI's wine country, produce, farms, and small shops, often traveling an opposite direction to rush hour commuter traffic. Once disembarked in Orient Point, NY, (the east most tip of LI's North Fork), follow NY 25 for 25 miles to the Northville Turnpike south, making a left, to Rt. 58 west, through the town of Riverhead, to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) west. Continue west to exit 36 N (Searingtown Rd./Rt.101), which will take you right to the show field.

-Upstate NY/ Canada: (Recommended/good route)

A few routes will get those driving from far north, northeast, and northwest to the show:

Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton: Go east on I-90 or I-86 to I-81 South, to I-380 South, to I-80 East, right to the double-decker George Washington Bridge. Whether upper or lower level, continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll).

Montreal, Albany: I-87 South to exit 15 NY-17S into NJ (stay on Rt. 17) to NJ-4 E, left at fork to I-95N onto George Washington Bridge. Whether upper or lower level, continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll).

Fishkill, Armonk, Mt. Kisco: I-84 South to I-684 South to I-287 West to I-95 South. Continue to the Cross Bronx Expressway, I-295S. You may choose the Whitestone or Throgs Neck Bridge, but we recommend you take the Throgs Neck Bridge (\$5.50 toll).

If towing a trailer, exit the Throgs Neck Bridge at the Clearview Expressway South to the Long Island Expressway (I-495, aka LIE) east.

Passenger cars can take either the Clearview route above, or the shorter Cross Island Parkway (saving about 4 miles) south to the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east.

Continue east to exit 36 N (Searingtown Rd./Rt.101), which will take you right to the show field at the Sands Point Preserve.