

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

First of all, I want to congratulate the Mustang Club of Central Iowa on the presentation of their first MCA National Show. The weather could not have been better for the 300-plus Midwest ponies to prance around and strut their stuff. I talked to numerous first time MCA National Show attendees that were highly impressed with the event and how an MCA National show is formatted and executed. Show Chairman Cecil O'Neal should be very proud of his entire show staff and the professional manner in which they presented the show. We look forward to a return engagement in the years to come.

One of the most asked questions was when another MCA National Show would come to the Midwest. Hopefully, I stirred enough interest in a couple of MCA Regional Clubs in that area of the country to land an application from one of them soon.

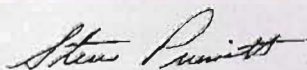
Moving from Des Moines to Waldorf, MD, just southeast of Washington, DC, we wrapped up the 2011 National Show season with a smash at the Monuments and Mustangs Grand National. With approximately 500 ponies showing off, it was truly a Grand event. I am convinced, more now than ever before, that the good Lord is definitely a Mustang fan. Had Hurricane Irene been one week later going up the East coast there would not have been a Grand National this year. I'm just thankful the devastation caused by Irene was not any worse than it was. Our thoughts and prayers are with all affected as they clean up and try and get things back to normal.

At the Grand National, I had the privilege of presenting the Lee Iacocca Award for the second year in a row. This award is reserved for a person who, over time, has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to the classic car hobby through vehicle preservation, club participation, and one who unselfishly assisted and encouraged others in perpetuating an "American Automotive Tradition." This year's recipient was none other than Allen Stewart, MCA's National Head Judge for 1st and 2nd Generation Mustangs. Allen has always exhibited the attributes described above, and many more, in his years as a Mustang enthusiast. Always there and available to help, Allen more often than not offers his assistance long before anyone asks for it. Please take the opportunity to extend your congratulations when you see him on the show field.

Since I drove my Shelby to the Grand National, Beverly and I took advantage of being in the DC area to do some sightseeing and spent three additional days just being tourists. My last trip to Washington, DC, was in 1969 as a GI on leave from Fort Bragg, NC. Three Army buddies and I took off for a weekend and caught a Greyhound bus to our Nation's Capitol. Things such as the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument hadn't changed in 41 years, unless you count the damage to the Washington Monument caused by an earthquake in August which resulted in it being closed for repairs. We did make it to the Smithsonian and Museum of Natural History though, both of which I missed in '69. I also took the opportunity to spend some time at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. I spent six years in the Army, from 1968 to 1974, and there are some things one simply never forgets. The hardest thing about vacationing in the DC area is deciding what you want to see the most, because there is no way to see it all in a reasonable amount of time. If you plan to visit Washington, DC, take some advice and spent time planning your itinerary and places you want to see.

I thought things were going to slow down a bit after the Grand National Show but after looking at the calendar, I see that a car show or cruise is lined up for every weekend through the end of October except for two, with the Regional Directors' Summit and our last Board of Directors meeting of the year being on one of those. Speaking of that, as you read this I'm preparing to head for Dallas, TX, for the second Regional Directors' Summit on October 8th. I recently found out that the Mecum Auto Auction is in Dallas the same weekend so I definitely need to leave the checkbook at home. This year's Regional Directors' Summit is actually a continuation of what we began last year. We still have much to accomplish and will need the help of all Regional Directors and the clubs they represent. Many of the programs we have plans for, will be launched at the Regional Club level as well as the National.

Well, I guess I've rambled on enough for this month. Maybe I can find time to work on my cars in November and December... no wait, I forgot about Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hey, time to get that Pony out and go have some fun in a Mustang.




Steve Prewitt
President

Phone: 706.860.4535
Email: gtpony94@aol.com



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