

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Well, my challenge to the Tara Mustang Club from the Atlanta area was met at the 22nd Annual Savannah Mustang and Ford show on October 22. As I previously mentioned, the car club with the most cars in the show gets to be first in line for the Low Country Boil. Just think, all the shrimp, potatoes, sausage, and corn on the cob you can eat. I had symbolically thrown down the gauntlet by saying we had been first for at least the last five years. It didn't take long to get a response that said "You're On Buddy!" I'm happy to report they were up to the task and beat us—14 cars to our eight. Now it's our turn to come back strong next year and take back our place at the front of the line. It's all about having fun with friends and our Mustangs, and we take advantage of that opportunity every chance we get.

I went to Wilmington, North Carolina, on October 15th to re-purchase a car I sold 11 years ago. I had bought the car from the original owner here in Augusta, Georgia, in 1996. It is a 1966 Emberglo coupe with 289 2V, a C4 automatic, and Deluxe Pony interior. I completed a rotisserie restoration in the fall of '98 and subsequently showed in Concours Trailered in 1999 and 2000. I then sold the car in November 2000 after acquiring a GT K Code fastback. I had never met the person I sold the car to until he walked up and introduced himself in Asheville last September at the Mustangs at the Mansion National Show. You see Mark lives in Canada; after he bought the car from me I delivered it to his daughter who lived in Wilmington. The plan to take the car back to Canada never came to pass, so the car remained in Wilmington with his daughter. Well, this Spring his daughter moved to Pennsylvania and he was stuck with selling the car or taking it to Canada. That resulted in the opportunity for me to get my car back. After 11 years, the car remained in amazingly pristine condition so the decision to buy it back was a no brainer.

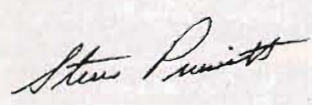
I told you all that to tell you this: The Saturday I drove to Wilmington happened to be the same day the Southeastern NC Regional Mustang Club was having its Annual show. As luck would have it, the car I was picking up was at the dealership where they were having the show. I, along with Don Blackstock, was treated to lunch and a bevy of great looking Mustangs and Fords. The club president, J.C. Edwards, and the entire club was eager to show us all aspects of the show and Don made a number of notes for ideas to use at our local show here in Augusta. I never thought I'd have someone ask me to autograph their car but J.C.'s wife, Susan, has a Grabber Blue 2011 MCA Edition Mustang. You may recall seeing it in August 2010 *Mustang Times* as she hugged it coming off the car carrier at the dealership. Susan has begun accumulating all the essential documentation for the car to include the Certificate of Authenticity from Ford Performance Group. Since my signature is on the Certificate of Authenticity, I was blown away when she asked me to sign the dash. Now I have more incentive to be a good MCA president so my signature doesn't devalue her car. We spent about two hours at the show before pulling out for the five hour drive back to Augusta. It is always a treat to visit with a Regional Club and see them in action, having fun doing what we all love so much.

Our annual elections were concluded and the results announced at the Board of Directors meeting in Dallas on October 9th. Everyone elected were returning Board members with the exception of Donna Arends from the Red River Classic Mustang Club and Sandy Boleware from the Oklahoma Mustang Club. Please join me in welcoming both new and returning members of the Board of Directors; 2012 promises to present us with many challenges as we go forward.

Don't forget to check out the MCA store for Christmas gifts or contact Kristie at the office to setup an MCA membership as a Christmas gift.

Well, with my recent re-acquisition I need to devote a few hours to detailing and getting her ready to drive. Don't think she will be going the Concours Trailered route again because I've really gotten back to driving my cars. After all having fun in a Mustang is what they were built for, right?

Hope your Thanksgiving was filled with family and sharing. We'll talk more next month.




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