



LAP 45 — IT'S A MATTER OF PRIORITY

Owning a Mustang provides a great deal of personal satisfaction and happiness. Sometimes, just walking out in the garage and looking at your ride can put you in a better mood. There are many benefits to owning a car with the performance and popularity of the Mustang. In addition to the obvious things like driving and ownership, the personal relationships created with those that share our common interest can be even more valuable. I share my common interest in the Mustang through Vintage Racing where the personal relationships are sometimes stronger than the need for speed. This can be observed through the large number of drivers attending a race weekend even when unable to compete because their car is broken. Enthusiasts attend other events like car shows and cruises without cars that are undergoing restoration and others may have the goal of owning a Mustang someday. With the closing of 2011 and the beginning of a new year why not make it a priority in 2012 to do the things you've always dreamed with your Mustang and work to strengthen the relationships with others that share your common interest? Let me share with you some good reasons to act now.

Recently, my club lost two members during one race weekend. Although neither death was the result of an on-track incident, one did result in an accident because the driver succumbed during an actual race and crashed into a retaining wall. The other was a cardiac event that occurred in the pits when the driver exited the car after a race. I knew both drivers well and one was a close friend, needless to say the impact on our club was significant. After the shock wore off we began to realize both drivers died while doing exactly what they enjoyed most, racing their cars and sharing quality time good friends that have a common interest. Our club makes an effort to spend time together after the track closes during a race weekend. After racing concludes, we gather and discuss the day while helping those that need repairs completed for the next days races and share something to eat. The bonds created through these activities strengthen with each event resulting in an extended family that supports each other during good times and bad. I just returned from our first race weekend after the loss of these important members and I must say the atmosphere was much closer than before. As it was the last race of the year we had our annual points championship awards presentations where the lost members were honored. The sense of community spirit amongst our membership has never been stronger.

So, the next time you're at a Mustang or automotive-related event, make it a priority to take the time to meet someone new. Ask them about their car, let them tell you how they acquired it and what they intend to do with it next. Find out if they've ever had it on the track and if so how did it go? Have they ever been to driving school or ridden in a car at speed on a track? Maybe they have a nice street car, what is the longest trip they've taken? Has it ever been displayed in an MCA event? Better yet, are they a member of the MCA? Doing this will potentially make a new friend and make you an ambassador for our Mustang passion. If you're at a track event, make it a priority to meet a

volunteer and tell them how much you appreciate what they do. Ask them to explain what they do at the track and ask them to explain what you as a driver can do to make it easier. You'll be surprised what can be learned listening to an It might even make you faster.

There are probably a number of things you'd like to do with your Mustang that you've been putting off, so why not make it a priority to accomplish them in 2012? Maybe it's taking a long road trip, attending a national show, entering a judged competition, or getting your Mustang out on the track. Pick one and make it a priority

in 2012, don't wait, do it now and make a memory happen.

For me, the priority item in 2012 is to finally take our editor, Mary Jean Wesche, for a ride, on the track, in the Shelby. What's yours?

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Charlie Jones, a.k.a.

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