

**"THERE IS A FLOOD
OF IDEAS OUT THERE
AND I NEED TO HEAR
FROM YOU, SOME
WE WILL BE ABLE TO
INCORPORATE SOME
WE MAY NOT."**



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**WHAT A LONG AND WINDING ROAD WE LIVE,
THANK GOD WE DO IT IN A MUSTANG.**

For those who don't know me, please allow me to introduce myself. I have been a Mustang enthusiast since I saw my first one back in 1964, and owned my first one in 1969. I won't say what model year it was just that it was Signal Flare Red. Look it up, it was a one-year color. I was the MCA National Head Judge for 2nd-5th Generations from 2002 until the end of 2006. They were great years; I met so many people and made so many friends. I have always been passionate about all years of Mustangs, from pure stock to heavily modified. I have the same respect for the proud owner of a daily driver as I do for the proud owner of a perfectly restored Boss "9." As head judge, I tried to focus mainly on growing the judging community and updating rules for the later model Mustangs. We had some successful and some not so successful projects, but we always stayed focused on the goal to build the knowledge base and accuracy of the judging rules.

Steve Prewitt approached me around Thanksgiving, asking for my thoughts on what I felt was needed to continue the process, and as Emeril always says, "Kick it up a notch." Good friend Allen Stewart made many positive changes and I truly believe he is leaving the National Head Judge for 3rd-5th Generations position in a much better condition than when he started, and I thank Allen ever so much.

So where are we going from here? It's easy to say we need to improve the rules and judging staff for later model Mustangs, but I believe it goes much deeper. In a volunteer organization, where people come and go, said organization has to develop a system that self perpetuates the outcome desired. What I mean is, we can't rely on one, two, or even three people to make it happen. We need a process and everyone's involvement, which includes you.

I am presently working on a "Task at Hand" which identifies critical areas that need the most attention. It explains trends and brings into light some weaknesses we must resolve. From that, we will be focused on the most important weaknesses like later model judges and judging rules. But, most of all, we need to look at the big picture—the entire judging system.

Thank the heavens that Ford Motor Company never gave up with the Mustang. It was approximately 20 years ago that we almost lost the Mustang to the Probe, (Probe, what's that?). Today Ford is coming out with more models with significant technological differences, and it's imperative that MCA follow the changes, and stays true its very purpose, "...to serve as an accurate and technical source of information concerning these automobiles for the benefit of its members as well as the general public." —MCA By-Laws, Article 1 Section 1

There is a flood of ideas out there and I need to hear from you, some we will be able to incorporate some we may not.

During the show season we will be looking for perfect examples of low mileage Mustangs from the 4th and 5th generations. We will be asking select individuals if we can spend a few hours with their car, not to judge it but to document what we see. This endeavor will include all models: six cylinder, GTs, Cobras, Shelbys, and all iterations. It will take time, but with good planning, good communication, and teamwork the job will get done. Well let's say the job is never done, so it will be a good start. Part of my vision is to develop some type of team approach with the owners of these original Mustangs, such along the line of an advisory team of owners for each year, model, or generation. The MCA has a fantastic treasure trove of unrestored, original Mustangs. Over the past three years, 3rd generation Mustangs accounted for almost 46% of all unrestored cars, and 4th generation Mustangs accounted for almost 35% of the unrestored cars on average at MCA national shows. The 4th generation participation increased by one third each year. We need to tap into the great resources of Mustangs and their owners to be part of the advisory team. The 5th generation, I expect, has as many if not owners more ready to be part of this advisory team; we need your help.

I plan to personally call the Gold Card judges. The Assistant Head Judges and I will also be communicating with the certified judges by phone. I feel they are the other untapped resources of information and may even own that jewel of a car.

I am excited to be given the opportunity to work with you all for the betterment of MCA and our hobby.



**Jim Silverman
National Head Judge
3rd-5th Generations**