

# FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

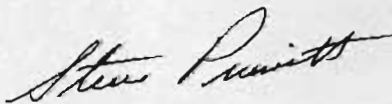
Let it begin ... 2011 National and Regional Show Season!

To paraphrase the words from a popular Country song, "It's time to fire up my Mustang and let the horses run!" What a slate of fantastic and varied places for National Shows this year. We start off in April at Mesquite, TX, just outside of Dallas with the Wild West Pony Show hosted by the North Texas Mustang Club. In May we move to Jacksonville, FL, for the River City National hosted by the Jacksonville Mustang Club. Next we head up the East coast to the Big Apple and Mustangs at The Beach on Long Island, NY, hosted by the Mustang and Shelby Club of Long Island. Swinging westward to Des Moines for the first ever MCA National show in Iowa, we're set for the Midwest National Mustang Show. The National Show season is capped off with a visit to Waldorf, MD, just south of our Nation's Capital for the Monuments and Mustangs Grand National on Labor Day weekend, hosted by the National Capital Region Mustang Club.

But, you know the National shows are really just the tip of the iceberg. As you read this, literally hundreds of Regional Mustang and Ford shows have already been held, being executed, or planned for 2011. And don't forget the Open Track activities. The Carolina Regional Mustang Club hosts a driving school each year at Carolina Motorsports Park in Kershaw, SC. The Music City Mustang Club host a number of driving events each year at Nashville Super Speedway, and The Mustang Club of Central Iowa host a driving event at Mid America Motorplex, Pacific Junction, Iowa, each year. The Silver Springs Roundup in Silver Springs, FL, was held January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This event, sponsored by National Parts Depot, regularly draws over a thousand Mustangs and Fords. Mustang Club of America had a presence there this year to promote the MCA and it's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Additionally during the week of January 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, MCA was in Phoenix, AZ, for our Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers. During that week Ford Motor Company and the Barrett Jackson organization invited MCA to be a part of the auction and festivities at West World. We had an MCA promotional display in the Ford booth and a separate booth closer to the actual auction stage. A special thanks to the MCA Regional Club members who volunteered their time to work in the displays and promote the Mustang Club of America and it's significance to the Mustang hobby. Having a presence at an event such as Barrett Jackson goes a long way in positioning MCA as the recognized source of information and data on Mustang authenticity and judging. We've already seen the impact on auction prices when the auctioneer points out that a particular Mustang is a Mustang Club of America Gold winner.

I want to go back and touch on an aspect of the National Shows that we are working hard to address. The Mustang Club of America is just that, specifically a National Organization. But, unfortunately for 2011 all the National Shows are in the Eastern half of the country. Des Moines and Mesquite are right at the nation's midpoint. For 2012 and 2013 prospects are good to change that. We have already approved the Northern Utah Mustang Owners Association for a National Show in April 2012 to be held in Southwestern Utah. Additionally we are working closely with other Regional groups for West coast shows in 2012 and 2013. I was asked at a National show several years ago, "Why doesn't MCA assign more National Shows in the Western USA." The answer is simply this: MCA does not assign National Shows. Regional Groups must apply to host a National Show. It's not difficult to host one but the idea of organizing and executing a National can be intimidating for some. But think about it, if your Regional Club does an Annual Regional show with upward of 100 or more cars attending, you in all likelihood already have what it takes to host an MCA National Show. A Regional Club hosting a National show has the opportunity to raise a significant amount of money to support local charities plus purchase equipment for the club for use at future events. My own local club in Augusta, GA, was able to donate over \$11,000 dollars to local charities plus purchased a new club trailer and PA system for use at our Regional shows. The National organization is here to help with your planning and logistics. At your next regional club meeting ask the question, "Hey why don't we apply to host a National Show?" If you have never hosted one, allow 18 to 24 months for planning. Most clubs that have hosted Nationals before can easily reduce that time to 12 to 15 months. I encourage every Regional Club to consider applying for a National. We have the resources to help you be successful and add a new aspect of Mustang enthusiasm to your area of the country.

Enough of my talk! Hey, let's go have some fun in a Mustang!




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