

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

What a contrast between now and last month when I was complaining about the cold, rain, and snow. As spring approaches the trees are budding, the temperatures are in the mid 70s, the azaleas are starting to bloom and, here in Augusta, preparations for the Masters are well underway. Oh, and by the way the top is down and we're cruising again.

A lot of Mustang Club of America members were extremely busy in March promoting the Mustang and the MCA.

Members of the Mustang Club of Houston wrapped up 20-plus days at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo hosting a display in conjunction with Ford Motor Company to spread the word about Mustang and MCA. Special thanks go out to Horace Collums and Keith Howard for manning the display for almost the entire event. They were also assisted by MCA VP Ed Hockaday, and Board members Pete Sigwardt and Tim Hahn, along with many of the dedicated members of the Mustang Club of Houston. My hat is off to all who came out and supported this event.

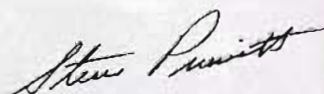
On the last weekend of March, the 3rd Annual Tupelo Cruise was held in Tupelo, Mississippi. This annual Mustang event continues to grow each year with participation and support by at least nine different MCA Regional Clubs and the area Team Shelby group. It demonstrates the magnitude of what can be accomplished when Regional Clubs combine resources to promote the Mustang to all Mustang enthusiasts in their areas. This year's event included an Autocross and an MCA judging seminar presented by Jeff Speegle, MCA Assistant National Head Judge for Shelby classes. As the organizers of the event say, "Some people buy cars to admire... But cars were made to be driven! Get in your car and drive!" It's what a cruise is all about.

We have been receiving a great amount of inquiries concerning the Youth Program implementation plans. A lot of feedback has been received from Regional Clubs and what they already do to promote participation in the hobby by young Mustangers. Several even noted efforts underway in local High Schools ranging from how to host a car show at their school to defensive driving presentations. I would add that the program is progressing with membership packets being put together that we will have available at the National Shows this year, hopefully in Mesquite, but no later than Jacksonville, and available online by midyear. Just remember as with any new program, there are logistical issues to be dealt with and processes to be sorted out. Trust me it will be well worth the wait.

We have been told Ford Motor Company is developing special accents for the 2012 MCA Edition Mustang. Word is the side strip will have "Club of America" added below the word Mustang, and the floor mats will be embroidered with the lettering "MCA Edition." The lack of MCA exclusivity in the car was one concern owners were voicing. Ford heard and responded. Also an available option (thru Ford Racing) will be lighted sill plates, which will indicate MCA Edition, and a Certificate of Authenticity.

By now I'm sure that many of you have become aware of the resignations of Charles Turner, Head Judge for 1st and 2nd Generation Mustangs and Mike Murray and Pete Morgan, Assistant National Head Judges for '64 1/2 thru '66 and '67-'68 classes, respectively. The expertise and knowledge all three provided to MCA and the judging community can never be disputed or understated, but, I respect their decisions and state unequivocally that they will be missed. Knowing all three, I am confident they will continue to provide technical advice and support to any Mustang enthusiast that may request their assistance.

Hey, it's Sunday afternoon, the weather is beautiful and the top is down. Let's go have some fun in a Mustang.




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