

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Wow, what a kick off to the 2011 National Show season. I spent this past weekend in Mesquite, Texas, at the Wild West Pony Show. While there I realized it's been 20 years since I attended my first National Show in 1991. This was one of the best organized, formatted, and executed Nationals I've had the opportunity to attend. President Phil Sweeney said one of the best things about the North Texas Mustang Club was its members working together to make the event a success. And a success it was with approximately 300 cars on hand for display and judging. Highs were in the upper 80s to lower 90s with each day starting out at a cool 70 or so with a low insulating cloud cover that didn't burn off until about 11am. It was a bit breezy, but that just helped to keep everyone cool during the hotter parts of the day. By the way, sunscreen does not work against wind burn. Just kidding.

Many thought the wind was going to wreak havoc with tents and such but all was well-secured and held tight for the entire weekend, although I did lose my hat once. The wind notwithstanding, the North Texas Mustang Club was well prepared and hosted their guests in high style. Although we have seen a modest decline in 1st generation cars at Nationals shows, a good number of '65 thru '73 Mustangs were in attendance. Second generation was anchored with a lone Cobra II but it was a pristine beauty. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th generations were out in force with numerous Modified entries. Also on Saturday at the MCA tent, participants were able to enjoy a slice of Mustang Club of America 35th Birthday cake along with a wide selection of MCA 35th Anniversary merchandise. But the cars aside, one of the best things about National shows for me is renewing the friendship with Mustangers I haven't seen since last year. It was like visiting with neighbors I had gone to dinner with last week. The friendships that Mustang has brought me over the years are probably the main reason I love this hobby so much. Yeah, the cars are great but Mustang people are greater! Although we did not get the membership brochures for the Youth program printed in time for Mesquite, they will be available at the next National. Chris Hall, Youth Program developer and driving force, will also be on hand to help launch the effort. We did meet a father and son team in Mesquite that will be the next feature for the Parent/Child garage. Mary Jean Wesche was able to get several pictures and information to put it together. So, now it's on to Jacksonville, Florida, and the River City National May 20-22. Hope to see you all there.

Preliminary planning has begun for the 2nd Annual Regional Director's Summit to be held in conjunction with the MCA Board of Directors meeting in Dallas this October. If you missed last year's Summit just ask someone who attended about what went on. The schedule will be similar only different. We are working on some special guest speakers for the meeting. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Speaking of Regional Directors and Regional Clubs, don't forget that the National By-Laws require each Regional Club to report their club membership to the National Club each year. Specifically, Article XVIII Section 5. Reporting Membership Information to National Club states:

Each year a list of all Regional Club members, as of June 1 of that year, shall be mailed to the National Club so as to be received not later than July 1. The list shall identify by M.C.A. membership number all Regional Club members who are National Club members. Club officers, including Regional Directors, must be MCA members.

This requirement can also be satisfied by sending your information via email to the Regional Club Charter/Support Committee Co-Chairs Pete Sigwardt at sigwardtpl@aol.com or Jeff Mays at dicastshop1@bellsouth.net. It is very important the National Club receive this information in a timely manner since not reporting could impact eligibility for insurance and other items furnished to Regional Groups. Also, when requesting goody bags, dash plaques, and other items for your Regional and National Shows, please send all requests to Jeff Mays at the above email address at least 30 days prior to your event.

Well, my home club here in Augusta, Georgia, is having our Annual Mustang and Ford show this weekend, so I better spend a little time cleaning up the car if I expect to compete against the fine examples of horse flesh that are sure to ride into town. And, hey I need to go have a little fun exercising the pony before I wet her down for a good scrubbing.



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President

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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| Ed Hockaday..... | Vice President..... | 2012 |
| Vacant..... | Secretary..... | 2012 |
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NATIONAL DIRECTORS

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