

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

So much is happening in the Mustang world and the Mustang Club of America that it's difficult to decide where to launch into this month's Driver's Seat. I just returned from my second trip to Dallas in three weeks. As I reported in the May issue, the North Texas Mustang Club put on one fantastic season opener with The Wild West Pony Show, in Mesquite. Well, this past weekend 25 of your National Directors were back in Dallas for our second National Board of Directors' meeting of 2011. While we got a lot of business conducted, our thoughts and prayers were with our friends and fellow Mustangers across the Southeast as they begin to recover from what is now being reported as the worst one-day tornado outbreak in U. S. History. The U.S. Weather Service indicated 362 tornados were confirmed. Past President Steven McCarley, who works for Georgia Power, was in Alabama on what is referred to as storm duty. It is cleanup and power restoration to homes and businesses hit. Steven reported he had been on storm duty numerous times during his career with the power company, but had never witnessed such devastation as this. National Director Randy Cunningham, who lives in the Birmingham area, was helping friends and neighbors begin to pick up the pieces and restart their lives. Luckily, Randy didn't sustain any significant damage, but said within a few miles of him, entire neighborhoods were leveled with an appalling loss of life. A family member of his was trapped in their home for a period but thank goodness did not have any major injuries. We will continue to pray for a speedy return to normalcy for everyone impacted by the storms.

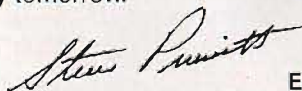
I also want to share that Ron Bramlett was informed by Craig Cunningham of the Mustang Owners Club of California of the untimely passing of Mark Mosteller, the club's Regional Director. Anytime a club loses one of its own, the loss is shared by us all. We send our condolences and prayers to Mark's family and the members of the Mustang Owners Club of California.

National Shows, being great opportunities to see beautifully restored classics and original cars of all generations, are being supplemented this year by Mustang Club of America having a presence at many non-MCA events. I mentioned in my January article about a few events we were planning on being at and would like to elaborate on them a little further. So far this year we have been to Silver Springs in Florida, Barrett Jackson in Phoenix, Knotts Berry Farm in California, and on Memorial Day weekend, Virginia International Raceway for the SVT Superfest and SAAC-36. We will have a booth on the main midway at Carlisle, PA, in June, next to the Ford display, and in July we will be in Myrtle Beach, SC, for Mustang Week. In August, MCA will be at the Woodward Dream Cruise in Dearborn and on Labor Day Weekend while the Grand National is occurring in Waldorf, MD, MCA will be on the ground in Sturgis, SD. One of the primary reasons for these non-MCA events (except for Sturgis, which is an MCA Regional Club) is to promote the MCA while leading up to the biggest Mustang event ever to be held, the Mustang 50th Anniversary. At the Golden anniversary of the Mustang, we want to show the world that the MCA is the Mustang place to be. Over the next three years, as we approach the 50th, MCA will be telling people about our club and what we can offer and do for Mustang enthusiasts, both young and old. While a location for the 50th has not been finalized, several ideas concerning the possibility of multiple celebrations across the country are being floated. Since resources are limited, this would more than likely require the events to be staggered instead of being held on the same date. That said, the 50th may be a year-long celebration of the Mustang. Stay tuned for more to come.

The 2011 Regional Directors Summit will be held on Saturday, October 8th, with the Board of Directors' meeting the next day, Sunday the 9th. Look for a registration form on page 14 of this issue of the Times. The registration form, with a schedule of events will be in next month's issue along with an article on what to expect. Feedback from last year's Summit was very positive so we have a tough act to follow but promise to deliver. We certainly hope those of you that could not make the Summit last year will be able to attend this time around.

By the time you read this the River City National in Jacksonville, FL, will be in the history books. Since I've got a car entered I need to go and make sure all is ready. On second thought maybe a little fun cruising this evening in a Mustang is called for, and then get it ready tomorrow.

Now, I like that idea ...




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