

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

What is up with Mother Nature this spring? Turn on the Weather Channel and another front is moving across the country with its cross hairs on an unsuspecting community with thunderstorms and tornados bearing down. I heard one report of a tornado headed toward Mustang, Oklahoma, but it veered off. Other Oklahoma City suburbs were not as fortunate. Flooding along the Mississippi river states, unlike any seen for the past 60 or 70 years, has literally washed away everything in its path. Sometimes we get so caught up in things we take for granted that when disasters such as these strike it becomes unbelievable. We can only pray that the families devastated by these events can begin to rebuild and get their lives back.

We attended the River City National Show last weekend and the Jacksonville Mustang club hit a home run with their first National Show. I want to thank Show Chairman Steve Collins, Jacksonville Mustang Club President Diane Norris, show Head Judge Billy Biggs, and all the members of the Jacksonville Mustang Club for their hard work in making their first National Show a success. Held at the River City Market Place on the north side of Jacksonville, there were plenty of stores and eateries to get out of the heat. Oh, did I mention it was hot? Average temperatures on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday hovered around 95-97 degrees, but after all it is Florida. That didn't stop that special group of individuals that volunteered to judge the 340-plus cars attending the show. All was completed with the exception of a handful that were addressed first thing Sunday morning. Those who were adventurous participated in the Saturday night cruise to Jacksonville Landing on the River in downtown. Many of us have had a variety of experiences with cruises in conjunction with National events. Some were good and some were, well, maybe not so good. After participating in Nashville in 2004 and Birmingham in 2006 and 2009, I can't help but be a little apprehensive with cruises. There is simply so much that can go wrong resulting in a bad experience for participants. Well, that was not the case in Jacksonville. My hat is off to the law enforcement of Jacksonville that conducted the escort. They indicated that we would own the road and that was exactly what we did. With about 200 vehicles in the group the road occupied by the cruisers was completely absent of any traffic not in the cruise. All access to the route was completely blocked as we rolled through. Once downtown, the area was totally reserved for Mustangs. The Jacksonville police were apprehensive, too, as they stated they had done this on numerous occasions with motorcycles but never with cars. They made it look like a walk in the park. We hope that once the club gets recovered and rested we have another opportunity to visit Jacksonville at a National in the future.

Our 2nd Annual Regional Directors' Summit is only a few more months way. Last year we had approximately 50 Regional Directors in attendance. I would like to see that number at least double for this year's Summit. Also remember that you don't have to be your club Regional Director to attend. Last year's Summit had many MCA Club Presidents and members-at-large participate. Our tentative schedule is on page 32, and you will note that we are reserving most of the afternoon for Regional Director/National Board of Director interaction. We need to examine our score card on what we indicated last year needed to improve. Call it check and adjust. Your feedback and input is vitally important. While I'm on the subject of interaction with the National Board of Directors, Bill Johnson and his nominations committee are seeking candidates for this year's election to fill up to 13 vacancies coming up for election on the National Board of Directors. A number of the people in the positions coming open will surely run for re-election but historically not all do. Please consider becoming a part of the National BOD.

Well in just three short weeks I make my first ever trip to New York. I'm really looking forward to the Mustangs at the Beach National Show on Long Island and although I'm a little intimidated by the sheer size of the city and surrounding area, I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience. I just wished I could go earlier and stay later and do the tourist thing. That will have to wait until next time.

I got home from Jacksonville last Sunday night, pulled the car into the garage and shut the door, so I better do the right thing this weekend and give her a bath. On top of that my granddaughters are coming over on Monday of the Memorial Day weekend, which means I need to get the pool ready for them. Maybe I'll blow dry the car with a fast run down Interstate 20 before I get on to cleaning the pool. Hey, I've got to have a little fun in the Mustang first....



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