

## FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

**W**ow, where does the time go? I just returned from the Mustangs at the Beach National show hosted by the Mustang and Shelby Club of Long Island at Sands Point Preserve on Long Island, NY. Reflecting on the experience, I'm reminded that the National Show season is more than half way complete and as you read this I'll be preparing to head for Des Moines. This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> National of 2011; one of the biggest pluses for me was the new and different Mustangs I saw. Having attended National shows for the last 20 years, I've seen many of the same vehicles over and over again. So attending a show where so much new horse flesh was available for feasting my eyes on was a special treat. I own a '68 Shelby GT350 that I hope one day will have a complete rotisserie restoration. It was originally sold at Gotham Ford in New York City. With a number of Shelbys attending the New York show, I spotted a beautiful GT350 and struck up a conversation with the owner Bill Woolsey. He had a treasure trove of historical documentation on the car including the original dealer order form to Shelby, a flyer from the dealer promoting the cars, and not one but two build sheets he found when restoring the car. The best part was the dealer that his car came from was the same as mine, Gotham Ford, and it is still in business today. What is it they say about this being a small world? I now have a new friend in the Mustang world to exchange information with, which is what I've always said is the best thing about this hobby—love of the Mustang and friends with a common interest.

While I was at the Mustangs at the Beach National, along with five members of the National Board of Directors, Past-President Steven McCarley, VP Ed Hockaday, and three additional members of the Board were at the Mid-America Ford and Team Shelby Nationals in Tulsa, OK, promoting the MCA. They came away with some exciting news concerning corporate sponsorships. Needless to say it was a busy and fun weekend for us all.

In the September issue of *Mustang Times* you will find a ballot for the election of National Directors along with biographies of those seeking the up-to-13 Board of Director positions that will be available at the end of 2011. An additional item on the ballot is something I promised to members voicing their opinions on the MCA web site concerning holding the Grand National in the same location each year. Your votes are important. In recent years the number of ballots returned in each year's election has declined to an average of 700 - 800. With 11,000 members in Mustang Club of America, the number of ballots being returned is highly disappointing. The return postage is even pre-paid, so I ask everyone to please take the time to read the bios, and mark your choices. This is your club so make your vote count.

Recently, the Judging community brought a recommendation to the National Board of Directors concerning the requirement for fire extinguishers in show vehicles at National shows. As I remember the fire extinguishers in cars at National shows came about after the late Jim Osborn experienced a fire in his Shelby while on the road traveling to or from a show. With nothing available to fight the fire, he watched his car be destroyed while he stood helplessly by. After this incident, the Mustang Club America added an incentive to judging at National Shows by allowing participants to earn a point on the judging sheet if they had a fire extinguisher in the car—cheap insurance and a bonus point to boot. Well, over the last couple of years, several clubs have experienced a number of vehicle fires at their events. No doubt some have had fires on the road as Jim did. These fires were able to be safely mitigated because someone had a fire extinguisher available. As a result, beginning with the 2012 National Show season, a fire extinguisher in the car will no longer be an incentive to earn a point but a mandatory requirement. No vehicle will be allowed on the show field without a fire extinguisher on board. We are recommending the host clubs have a few extinguishers available for sale at classification for owners to buy instead of being turned away until they can go get one. An adequate Kidde or similar brand extinguisher can be purchased for \$10 to \$15 at Walmart or a local hardware store, depending on what capacity and size you want. I've even seen them at grocery stores, as having one in your kitchen and garage at home is also an excellent idea. I'm sure all will agree: It's better to be safe than sorry.

I just got a new front bra for the Shelby and it requires replacing some wheel well screws with snaps for installation. Think I'll go take care of that and then take her for a spin to see if the bra is going to flap around. Hey, it's a good excuse to go have some fun in the Mustang ... but then we don't need excuses for that, do we?



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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Steve Prewitt.....	President.....	2012
Ed Hockaday.....	Vice President.....	2012
Vacant.....	Secretary.....	2012
Ron Bramlett.....	Treasurer.....	2012
Steve McCarley.....	Past President.....	2012

### NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Rodney Brown.....	Stokesdale, NC.....	2012
Bill Bradford.....	Norman, OK.....	2011
Thomas Champagne Jr.....	Mableton, GA.....	2012
Craig Chesley.....	Tyler, TX.....	2011
Austin Craig.....	Parkland, FL.....	2012
Randy Cunningham.....	Hueytown, AL.....	2011
John Dettori Jr.....	Smithtown, NY.....	2011
Stu Dunkel.....	Jefferson City, MO.....	2011
Russell Duvall.....	Arlington, TN.....	2012
John Farmer.....	Arlington, TN.....	2011
Norton Foskett.....	Birmingham, AL.....	2012
Bob Frender.....	Tacoma, WA.....	2011
Chris Hall.....	Ottsville, PA.....	2011
Tim Hahn.....	Tomball, TX.....	2012
Charles Hampton.....	Anderson, SC.....	2012
Bill Johnson.....	Lopez Island, WA.....	2012
Jim Keenan.....	San Antonio, TX.....	2011
Kerry Lawrence.....	Long Beach, CA.....	2011
Jeff Mays.....	Sugar Hill, GA.....	2012
Chris Neri.....	Lakeland, TN.....	2012
Kristy Neri.....	Lakeland, TN.....	2012
Pete Sigwardt.....	Katy, TX.....	2011
Laurie Slawson.....	Tucson, AZ.....	2011
Rick Umberger.....	Milledgeville, GA.....	2012
George Valeri.....	Worcester, MA.....	2011
J. P. Weber.....	Lincoln, NE.....	2012

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