

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I just read the April Mustang Times and I enjoyed reading "In Search of Mustangs" very much.

I have one of the few 1965 T-5's. I bought this car in 1967 and it is almost mint condition. I have just joined the Gate City Triad Club in Greensboro, North Carolina.

I would like to know more about the T-5 Mustangs.

Eugene Shoffner
2100 Red Forest Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

"IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS" FOLLOW UP PART V

We ask that everyone that submits their VID information please send all the information off you VID plate. Many are sending just the serial/warranty number or just the date and nothing else. The most important information to this project is your serial number, date code, DSO code and body serial code (55A, 76A, 63A, etc.). All is important and sending complete information is a great help to us. For those that have already sent in just your warranty number, don't worry about it unless you have a rare and unique Mustang. 1965-67 Selby owners are encouraged to find the original FOMOCO VID number if at all possible, including your Shelby number as well.

I would like to thank people like Clay Holland of Alabama, Paul Moore of Arizona, Glen Armstrong of Oklahoma, The Hoosier Mustang Club of Indiana, the Raders of Wisconsin and others for the surplus of vehicle ID information you forwarded to me. All of it has had a tremendous impact on this project. All regional groups are encouraged to participate. Again, all information is kept confidential!

All MCA members are urged to participate in this project. It is difficult to determine when this project will reach completion. I'll be departing Altus, Oklahoma in Spring of 1981 and will relocate to the Atlanta, Georgia area if all goes as planned. I look forward to meeting many of you then. As we all know, Atlanta is the MCA capital, also an aviation capital as well, this is the sole reason for my relocation. I'll give all of you my new address upon receiving it, there will be lots of advance notice and this project should still be going strong then. Like I said, it's as strong as we make it so let's hear from y'all. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Thanks
Jim Smart

"THINKING ABOUT FORMING A REGIONAL GROUP?"

You're sitting there thinking about lots of Mustangs, Mustangs as far as the eye can see! Now, how to go about bringing all these Mustangs and Shelys together? The first thing that enters your mind is "How?", Read on and I'll fill you in!

The first thing any Mustang enthusiast needs in forming a club or regional group is people, members and Mustangs. The first thing is interest devoted people! You must have this first ingredient. What? You don't know anyone with a Mustang? Well, now is the time to find them. First thing is to visit your local newspaper(s) and see about either by the Want Ads or Meeting Announcement section, you'll want to word it with few words and a "to the point" statement like: "Mustang enthusiasts, anyone interested in forming a club devoted to the 1965-73 Ford Mustang and Shelby call 477-0160. Ask for Jim". It worked for me! But! You don't stop here, you continue onward. Radio! Yes radio. Many radio stations have community announcements or public service announcements for all non-profit groups, visit your radio station or stations! Between newspaper and radio, you've got it in the bag!

What to do now after all that hard work! You sit back for about a couple hours, have a beer, coffee, whatever. Soon the phone starts ringing and ringing! Have your format laid out ahead of time so you can tell people what you have in mind. Take their name, address and phone number. Even if only 5 or 6 people call, this is a good start, don't be discouraged! Try the announcement treatment again on local radio and newspaper, more calls will come in.

Now you decide on the meeting time, but where? Your local Ford dealer is the man to talk to first, if he/she pulls turkey and isn't interested, you check other places like your civic places, fire house meeting room, city hall or auditorium, local bank meeting rooms, even the local greasy spoon like Mel's Hamburgers or McDonalds, you name it. Meeting places are endless. You make advance plans, it works. You call most or all of your perspective members and ask them when they feel the best day in the week is for them, you take all the suggestions and average them out. Usually Saturday or Sunday afternoons are best for most. You make arrangements with the meeting place, tell them you are non-profit, there is usually no charge.

At your first meeting, you'll want to see who is serious and who is just checking you out. You get all the names, addresses, etc. of all in attendance, This way you have a way of contacting them.

Did you remember to contact the radio stations and newspapers to announce your first meeting? Many will attend that didn't call this way and it serves as a reminder for those that plan to attend. Those ads that tell you to use radio aren't all bullhockey! Radio messages will work for you! Think about how much you listen to the radio each day, probably more than television! At your first meeting, you'll pick up your members, Upon the members joining your club, pass out MCA applications and urge them to join, sell MCA! Show them all you get upon joining and have copies of the Mustang Times there to display. You may want to purchase some MCA accessories to give as door prizes to your members, like T-shirts, hats, etc. Don't put yourself in the poor house, just purchase a minimum of accessories to sell MCA and to make your meeting more interesting. Once everyone is introduced and seated, you must start the ground work for your club's foundation. You must elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Also a board of directors consisting of 5 people. All of these people must join the MCA. Upon everyone receiving their MCA packet and officially being recognized as members of the MCA, you then start your regional group homework!

The first step is to develop a name for your group. Of course you'll want to sit down with your board of directors or club as a whole and decide on a name. In our case, we sit on the Oklahoma and Texas border, so what else but Texoma? (Some spell it Texhoma.) You can go by your general location or whatever suits your club. It varies and it's for you to decide. Once a name is decided on, you'll be recognized as the _____ Regional Group once your charter is approved. Here at Texoma, we are locally known as the Texoma Mustang Club but to our National friends we are Texoma Regional Group.

Now what? OK, you then decide how much area you wish to cover. A 50 mile radius should be your limit.

If you have interested folks outside a 50 mile radius, perhaps you might encourage them to start their own regional group. We have members over 50 miles away and they are determined members, but in these days of \$1.25 a gallon fuel, travelling 50 miles requires a second mortgage! Our members in Lawton (56 miles away) attend meetings in Altus and our Altus members attend Lawton meetings, but this 56 mile distance keeps many members at home, this is why we recommend a 50 mile maximum. Our area covers southwest Oklahoma and north Texas, overall a 50 to 70 mile radius.

Once you lay out your area and get your officers and board of directors set up, the next step is your petition! You need to get signatures of your officers, board of directors, and/or five members of the Mustang Club of America. You put all of the previously said "stuff" together and mail to Mustang Club of America, Box 447, Lithonia, Georgia 30058 and you wait, usually about 4 to 6 weeks. Soon a package arrives. Wow! In it lies your regional group charter, sometimes MCA goodies and a nice letter. It varies, but it's worth every bit of effort you put forth. Happiness is showing your group the charter and knowing you belong, it's nice.

In answer to Daniel Caponera of San Bruno, California, Dan I'd like to see more participation out of the West Coast in MCA, I think it's great. There is a Mustang Owner's Club of California, but they are in no way involved in MCA. I'd like to see an MCA regional group in California. As Mustang crazy as California is, y'all need at least one, if not many regional groups, Dan, it can be done. As far as the Western United States goes MCA has much participation from the great West like Montana, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska. There should be more really. MCA is not all East Coast by any means, no sir!

More states need to get involved in the regional group mania! How 'bout you folks in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Minnesota, Delaware, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Wyoming, the Dakotas. There's more I'm sure. I hope this article encourages more people to get regional groups started, it's not that hard, you can do it! Just sit down and write to my good friend Max Epps in Tennessee for further details. Max has been extremely helpful in the tremendous growth of the Mustang Club of America. You can find Max's address in any Mustang Times and his response will help you, honest!

Remember this, anywhere you go, have a few MCA applications on hand. You can pass them out to Mustang enthusiasts. During my time home in Maryland, plus various visits across the country, if I spot a Mustang or Shelby, I'll place an MCA application under the wiper blade, you should too! This accounts for much of MCA's

growth, I hope this article is of help to most of all of you. If anyone desires help, you know my address!

Once you get your regional group underway and establish yourself, you'll want to develop new activities like car shows, dances, dinners, community activities, get together with other regional groups (within a reasonable distance that is!). Each club has its own set up. You must decide on a dues system, rules, regulations. It is all important. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will your regional group. It takes time, that's what it's all about, plus people all getting together sharing a mutual interest, you can't beat it for a favorite pastime! Don't let the rough times discourage you, pass them by and strive to build your club you'll see it works.

Speaking of regional group happenings, listen to this!
"2nd Annual Midwest Mustang & Shelby Show & Swap Meet"
When: June 15, 1980 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Hoover Building, Enid Fairgrounds Enid, OK
Endless Classes: Mustang, Shelby, Boss, Cobra,
Powered by Ford, Pantera

You must not miss the biggest Mustang & Shelby Show ever to hit the Midwestern United States! Enter now! \$4.00 per car, \$1.00 to general public, under 14 free with paid adult! Pre-entry \$4.00, at gate \$5.00. This will be a show to remember, let's all attend! Enid, Oklahoma is just north-west of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Shelby racing films, a Mustang seminar, Mustang and Shelby parts, guest speakers, music for all, loads of information! If you plan to attend, let us know now, don't wait, we can set you up with a place to stay in Enid, Enid has many fine hotels and motels as well as camp sites, you name it! There is nothing we can't help you with. Contact us as soon as possible and we'll set you up for the nicest weekend you ever had. For more information on this grand event, call or write:

Jim Smart	Bob Miller
1094 Elk St.	PO Box 112
Altus, OK 73521	Lamont, OK 74643
(405) 477-0160	

We look forward to meeting all of you!

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

For those of you who were unable to attend the Eastern National Meet sponsored by the Volunteer Regional Group in Knoxville last month, let me tell you that you missed one of the finest car shows I have ever attended. My congratulations, along with those of the National Officers and Board of Director members, to all members of the Volunteer Regional Group who made this show possible.

We are next looking forward to seeing more and more of you at the Mid-Central Nationals in Indianapolis June 27-29th being hosted by The Indy Mustangs.

Welcome to our most recent regional groups:

The Music City Regional Group
President, Robert M. Whitley
P. O. Box 100084
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

and

Mid-Missouri Mustangs
President, Mark Hiatt
2532 Bolton
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Any members in these areas are encouraged to contact these groups for participation at the local level.

George White, President