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# FORMING A REGIONAL GROUP

After the holidays have passed, the activities of most people slow down considerably. This is the time when those serious restoration projects are in full swing and plans for warmer weather are made. This is also an excellent time to consider forming a chartered regional group in your area. The Mustang Club of America currently has 75 chartered regional groups and is anticipating adding many more across the country in 1984. While we want our club to grow as much as possible, we need an enthusiastic growth with regional groups that are both active and prosperous.

As is the case with most hobbies, you get back exactly what you put in. If you do not participate and support your hobby then you will not get any satisfaction from it. Several of our groups have chosen to help support charitable organizations with monies earned from car shows and related activities. The First Tennessee Regional Group, the Mississippi Coast Mustang Club, the Georgia Regional Group, and the Volunteer Regional Group are just a few of the groups that contribute to such charities as the county rescue units, the Cancer Society, and Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. There are many reasons to form clubs in addition to the obvious one which is to enjoy and further the Mustang hobby.

It is really very simple to form a regional group. More than likely you have three or four friends who are also Mustang enthusiasts and wanting to form a club. To contact potential members

you can place a classified ad in your local newspaper announcing a new club with information on a meeting place and date for organizational purposes. Be sure to include the name and phone number of a contact person for those who may wish additional information or directions to the meeting location. You may also want to print flyers with this information to leave on Mustangs you see around town or in your favorite auto parts store.

Before your first meeting it is a very good idea for the "founding members" to become acquainted with the National Club by-laws which govern all chartered regional groups. These by-laws can be found in the current roster under the heading "Mustang Club of America Regional Groups." By becoming familiar with these regulations you will be aware of National Club requirements while forming your club rather than having to make changes later on. During your first meeting you may wish to discuss these by-laws with your potential members so everyone is aware of the requirements.

Now that you have established the fact that there is enough interest in your area to form a group you will need to submit to the Board of Directors a written petition signed by five persons who are members in good standing of MCA along with a map outlining the 50 mile radius of the area your group will cover. This information should be mailed directly to our National Regional Group Director, Mr. Horace Wood, at 3653 Altadena Drive, Birmingham, Alabama

35243. Mr. Wood will check the information on the petition and also the map to make sure the requested area does not conflict with any existing groups. Include in your information an address and phone number for a contact person in the event Mr. Wood needs additional information. After everything has been checked, Mr. Wood will present the petition and map to the Board of Directors for approval. Once approval has been granted you will receive your group charter and also a package of "goodies" containing such items as membership application forms (both national and regional), membership cards, etc.

As a chartered regional group you are entitled to any of our Mustang accessories at wholesale prices, supplies such as national and regional membership applications, and regional membership cards, space in the regional group news section of the *Mustang Times*, the right to use the name Mustang Club of America in conjunction with your chartered group name, a trophy sponsored by MCA to be used at a show or rally as well as back issues of the *Mustang Times* to give to potential members and anything new we come up with, such as the 1983 membership rebate drive.

Now is the perfect time to get things underway, so don't delay. To obtain additional information and forms contact Mr. Horace Wood at the address listed above or at (205) 967-1705. Good Luck!