

Presidential Exhaust

October 2016

Transparency and openness is always an important virtue, if it's in politics or in a car club. As volunteers, in this great club, many put their heart and soul in doing what is right for the club and its members.

Over the past many years we have been judging Mustangs at our shows, instead of a popular vote system.

It is easy in many ways to have a popular system of voting, because it takes the responsibility of the results out of the hands of the club itself. Unfortunately it is not a fair way, nor a way of truly rewarding the cars and the participants who have the cars that most deserve the recognition. In fact many times popular vote recognize cars of the owner who has the biggest group of friends voting for their car.

Many years ago, we made the decision, and accepted the challenge, of developing a judging program that we all are proud of. Paul Groppi took the lead in developing the team and judging criteria to best represent a balanced and fair process.

Over the years we have tweaked the system, to constantly keep improving it. Paul and the team spent hours and hours on training the judges to be consistent in what the criteria is for each aspect of the process. He and the team keep pressing the importance of no matter who judges your car, that if it was someone different from the team the results would be consistent.

Is it perfect? No,

Are we continually trying to improve it? Yes.

Judging cars for condition and cleanliness in many ways is more difficult than judging in a concours class under MCA nation's rules. MCA rules of judging are basically divided into two general areas:

- 1) Correctness, this is that the car best represents how the car originally came out of the factory, with parts that look like and operate like the original part. What that means a fender can be original, NOS (New Old Stock), or a correct looking reproduction or aftermarket part. The main thing it looks like the original. (Just as a note, Concours classes parts must look like original, and in Unrestored or Thoroughbred they must be original FoMoCo. And to take it one step further, in Thoroughbred if a part is replaced and has a date code on the part, the date code must be on or before the build date of the car.
- 2) Cleanliness and condition is the other part of the equation in judging at a MCA level

The reason I mention MCA is that of the two areas of judging the Correctness is basically easy, if you have a good knowledge of what the correct parts are, it's very black or white. But and this is

the key in cleanliness and condition it's in many ways much more difficult in keeping it consistent. What is clean to me maybe much different than clean to you. What is in good condition to me maybe different in what you perceive.

That is the reason in our judging process, just judging for cleanliness and condition is the more difficult approach, but the best in shows like ours.

Remember this, our shows typically have registration open till twelve noon, and we try to have awards by midafternoon. The quantity of cars at a show vary from show to show, and most times we do not have any idea how many cars will be there for competition. The judging staff is a finite number and trying to be a fair as we can and judge the cars in a way that's fair to all. This can get increasingly difficult as the number of cars that come to a show go up or down. We try to start judging early, and the team does the best they can.

Every once in a while we have people that are not happy with the results of the judging. The volunteer staff does the best they can, and with that said, we are always open to hearing concerns and addressing them quickly.

We invite members to attend a judges meeting if they would like to get involved, and see the dedication our judges have in doing it right.

Jim Silverman

President MCCNE Inc.