

All Brands Survivor®

by Larry Jewett

A concept that has worked well in the world of Corvettes is going to be implemented to other types of cars with Mustangs figuring heavily in the plans. It will happen on June 29 with the first "All Brands Survivor® Show," bringing GM, Ford, Mopar and other makes together, providing the car is over 20 years old.

The idea is the brainchild of David Burroughs, who has nurtured his success at the Bloomington Gold Corvette show and now stands ready to invite others to the party. "We had our first Survivor® show in 1990 and we logged the standards and had the name trademarked. I saw an interest in the unrestored cars. These cars were going to shows and as nice as they were, they would only get silver or bronze metals, losing out to the cars that were taken to professional restoration shops."

Burroughs is getting the ball rolling at the Pheasant Run Golf Course in St. Charles, Illinois. The show will be nothing but unrestored original cars that are over 20 years old. The first show will serve as the foundation for what could be large for car enthusiasts.

"We have a three-year rollout plan," Burroughs explained. "We're extending the open invitation to all makes and not just domestic cars. There won't be any classes. It will be a field of history."

"We want to get the media, owners, and interested people to take a look at these cars. There will be four major tents representing Ford, GM, Mopar and Sports Cars with four examples in each. Those in the tents will be able to explain our objective."

To avoid comparing apples to oranges or Camaros to Mustangs (Our rules say I can use the C-word if Mustang is in the same sentence), each mark is going to have its own judges. "We're challenging the Mustang community to create a set of certified judges. The key, though, is standardization. Unrestored can mean anything, but the Survivor® standard has specific values. It's important that we protect the standards for now and beyond. There needs to be a degree of credibility. We're seeing if the collector

"We have a three-year rollout plan," Burroughs explained. "We're extending the open invitation to all makes and not just domestic cars. There won't be any classes. It will be a field of history."

car community as a whole wants this."

The plan calls for certified judges to be a part of the event in 2009. They'll do a dry run, a walk through of the cars. There will be training and testing of the judges and their ability. As it has been in the Corvette world, cars that are certified would then have a template of photography in a file to serve as a deterrent to false claims. The records exist for each car that has been certified as a Survivor® in case an owner wants

to back up his claim or a buyer needs to investigate.

By the 2010 show, the first Survivor® cars that are not Corvettes could be reality. It will only happen, though, if there are certified judges.

"We need four judges in order to get the mark recognized," said Burroughs. "This avoids any hint of politics. There has to be a clear majority (three judges) before anything is rejected. We have worked decades to plug the holes in judging and the system is self-correcting. On the day of the show, no one can overrule the judges. We can judge anything, based on having standards. It works, it's specific and it's simple. It's common sense. Judges can get done in a very short amount of time."

The idea is directed at original unrestored cars for a reason, but the

reason does not include making a car owner do something other than what they choose with their car. "If they don't want to do it, fine. It's not our goal to make people do it," said Burroughs. "Nobody has really tapped the unrestored market. It's all about paint and chrome and that hasn't changed, but there is a market that is interested in preservation and conservation. It's your car and your choice of what you do." ■