

talk to the judge

With OCA Chief Judge Mike Pruitt

Looking Back, To Look Forward: Part 3

I would like to start out with sincere thanks to Greg Childs for providing the history and his insight into the judging program as it began and evolved. We appreciate the commitment to creating the Oldsmobile Club of America Judging Program and addressing the many challenges that Greg encountered and resolved.

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We also want to recognize the efforts of Chief Judges Bob Casey and Ed Kosmo to refine the Judging Program, to expand and align judging classes, improve recognition for judges, expand the National Car Show Rules, revise judge training, and make other refinements to improve objectivity and create new approaches to evaluation of the unrestored Oldsmobiles.

Another very important element of the OCA Judging Program is the participation and contributions of the Judging Committee. Having multiple points of view and a range of experience has been very helpful in building a better judging experience for members who have their Oldsmobiles judged as well as for the judges.

The historical perspective provided by Greg Childs provides a foundation on which we can build and continue to perfect. The balance of this article focuses on recent changes and some guidance for preparation for judging at the 2017 OCA National Meet in Albuquerque next month.

In the past couple of years, the Judging Committee has made changes including:

- Realignment of class numbers for Junior, Senior, and Senior Preservation
- Amend Class 10b to include 1970-1972 All (other than Full Size and Performance),
- Addition of Class 10c for 1973-1977 All (other than Full Size and Performance), and
- Amend Class 11b to include 1978-1988 Rear Wheel Drive (other than Full Size and Performance).

In addition, the Judging Committee has expanded the Judges Recognition Program to provide special pins for judges only.

As the Judging Committee continues to review the Judging Program, and respond to needs expressed by members and judges, we will work to make the process more efficient and time saving in the future. In the last article in this series (July, 2017), we

will outline some of the changes that are being considered.

Next month, we will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 2017 OCA National Meet. As time draws closer to the meet, members will be preparing their Oldsmobiles for judging.

One of the primary considerations as you prepare your car for judging is to remember that the standard is "showroom condition." Things judges will be looking for include:

Detailing (cleaning) of your car. Remember to clean around the door jambs, interior, trunk, engine compartment, and wheels.

Items on the judging sheet that are not part of the car including, but not limited to:

- A fire extinguisher that must be placed at the front driver side wheel. If it is not present, there will be a 20-point maximum deduction.
- Three spirit items which may include any Oldsmobile-related items such as decals, badges, cap, jacket, or shirt that promotes "Oldsmobile" or "Oldsmobile Club of America." Each spirit item is worth five points.
- Three literature items that might include an Owner's Manual, Service Manual, Assembly Manual, model-specific literature prepared by Oldsmobile or other items that were published by Oldsmobile. Each literature item is worth five points.

We suggest that you consider keeping a fire extinguisher in your car for purposes that are much more important than judging. If you forget any of the spirit items, or literature items, they should be readily available near the registration table and/or the Swap Meet area.

Make sure to get every point you can, it could make the difference in your car being a First Place award winner, or Best of Class.

Remember, most of, all let's have fun!

Mike Pruitt

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The GM Color & Trim Room, 1957. Photo courtesy of the GM Heritage Center, © all rights reserved.

