

# talk to the judge

With OCA Chief Judge Mike Pruitt



## Looking Back, To Look Forward: Part 4

**This is the last of four articles about the Oldsmobile Club of America judging program.** In the first two articles, Greg Childs provided an historical perspective that addressed how the judging program started and how it evolved during his tenure as OCA Chief Judge. The third article provided information about recent changes to the judging program.

This article focuses on revisions that are being considered by the Judging Committee and also provides some suggestions for preparing for the 2017 OCA National Event in Albuquerque.

### REVISIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE JUDGING COMMITTEE

This year, members of the Judging Committee will be considering revisions in the Judging Program that include:

- Expand Class 18 Unrestored Original by retaining the current 100% original certification award, and adding separate certification of preservation of original features using the original Class 18 criteria.
- Establish a class for Oldsmobiles driven to the National Event that are subject to standards that are less rigorous than those of the restored classes.
- Create a database of judging sheets.
- Expand the Judges' Recognition Program to recognize the contributions and efforts of judges who have more than six years of judging experience and have provided additional support of the judging program.
- Continue updates of Judging Rules, Judging Sheets, and Classes.

### PREPARING FOR JUDGING – 2017 NATIONALS

#### *Judging Sheets and Classes*

When you get your event packet, please confirm that the class for your Oldsmobile is correct. If you are not sure if your car is a Junior, Senior, or Senior Preservation and/or if it should be in a Performance Class, Modified, or Street Stock, please ask.

Don't forget to fill out an envelope with your name and address and enclose \$1.00 for your judging sheet to be mailed to you.

#### *Invitation to Judge*

The following summary provides perspective and understanding of the judging experience and establishes a level of expectations before going to the Judges Clinic and the show field.

If this will be your first time (or first time in a number of years), you will be a part of a team with an experienced Team Captain and other judges with varying levels of experience.

While you cannot serve on a team that will judge your car, there are a number of other classes that are similar to yours and will allow you to use your expertise. One of the benefits of judging is that you will know a lot more about authenticity,

**Journey with Olds • July 2017**

condition, and workmanship, and will give you insight into how you can increase the value of your Oldsmobile and prepare it for future shows.

On Friday morning, you will participate in a mandatory judging clinic. During that session, we will review judging rules, discuss specific issues related to this show, provide additional information about various Oldsmobiles, and address questions and concerns. The Clinic is a great opportunity for you to see what the judges look for and how to read and score a judging sheet.

Immediately following the Clinic, judges will have breakfast with their fellow team members. This will allow you to know the other judges on your team and work and determine how responsibilities will be allocated.

#### ***On the Show Field***

After breakfast, you will join your team on the show field. The first step will be surveying all the entries in the class that you will be judging making sure all cars in the class are accounted for and all are classed correctly.

To help you prepare, you can go to the OCA website and see the various judging sheets and understand how the judging process is done and how scores are determined. When judging, you will work closely with the team to look at each car in detail and agree on a score for each of the areas on the judging sheet.

#### ***Judging Procedures***

While we address these issues at judges clinic, we want to remind members who volunteer to judge that:

- Judges should not touch or enter any car without the **owner's permission**. We must treat all cars with respect. In addition, it is very important that judges avoid carrying pens or other objects that might scratch or mark the show cars.
- Judges will use the "one knee rule" for judging the undercarriage (for more information see Judging Rules at [www.oldsmobileclub.org](http://www.oldsmobileclub.org)).
- Owners should have GM documentation for options or accessories that are unusual for their car.

#### **Summary**

We encourage you to join us in the judging process. You will have an opportunity to meet others who have been judging for many years and will likely learn a lot about your Oldsmobile and judging. In addition, you will be making a contribution to the preservation of Oldsmobiles.

I look forward to working with all the past and future judges in Albuquerque.

Remember, most of, all let's have fun!  
Mike Pruitt  
[pruitt@glasgow-ky.com](mailto:pruitt@glasgow-ky.com)