



The Judge

August 2025 • Number 168



Team Captain Awareness

By Dave Bowman, VP Judging, bowman_d@bellsouth.net



Each Team Captain serves a critical role in our judging system. During the Judges Breakfast, he assigns team members to each of the categories and designates an Assistant Team Captain.

Before judging begins, the Team Captain should review each of the cars to be judged, reminding the owner that the fire extinguisher must be visible, windows up, items cleared out of the trunk, etc. This is also the time to determine if the vehicle is in the wrong class and notify the Chief Judge. Any changes must be given to Judges Administration at least 30 minutes before judging starts, so don't delay this process.

As judging begins, the Team Captain acts as our judging ambassador to the vehicle owner. The captain's greeting to the owner sets the tone for the process and puts the owner at ease. As the judging team begins, the Team Captain needs to be aware of the actions of the team members. Is the team member performing an adequate review of the assigned areas? For inexperienced judges, the Team Captain will need to provide additional oversight and guidance as needed.



Thank the owner for bringing the car out and move on to the next car. Any further discussion with the owner, outside of judging issues, should wait until the team's paperwork is turned into Judges Administration. Then feel free to return and chat with the owner.

*As always, thanks to all our judges
for the excellent job you do!!*



Team Captain Check In

By Vicki Bolton, VP Judges Administration, vickibolton@bellsouth.net



I have had the pleasure of serving this past year as the VP of Judges Administration. The Administration team strives to help the team captains check in quickly and efficiently. I hope that the team captains have found that to be the case. If you have any suggestions for us to improve the check-in process, please let us know.

There are a few things that we ask the team captains to have completed before they come to the check-in table. If you have these few things done before you get to the table, it will help us tremendously:

1. Double check to be sure the fire extinguisher circle is checked.
2. Double check all math.
3. If you have taken a mandatory deduction, please make sure that the deduction matches the circled number and check the box if you notified the owner of the deduction.
4. Make sure all sheets are signed.
5. Please print your name, cell phone number and email address on the first sheet of each class. If you don't have room to print all of this information, you can print it on the back, but please print SEE BACK OF SHEET on the front so we are not looking for it.



These few things can make the check-in experience much easier for everyone.

Thank you and see you down the road!

Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA**October 7-10, 2025****DEADLINE: September 15**

Name (Last, First, M.I.): _____ AACA Membership # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

I wish to judge class: _____ Second Choice: _____ Third Choice: _____ Fourth Choice: _____

Is this your first time judging (YES) _____ (NO) _____ / I plan to take a CJE course (YES) _____ (NO) _____

Neither I nor anyone in my family will have a vehicle registered in
any of the above classes, but I plan to register a vehicle in class _____ Honor Society Accepted (YES) _____ (NO) _____

My total AACA judging credits are _____ / Do you wish to take part in judges administration? (YES) _____ (NO) _____

YOU MUST ATTEND THE JUDGES BREAKFAST at the Giant Center – Friday, October 10, 7:00 a.m.

I (will) _____ (will not) _____ attend Judging School at the Giant Center – Thursday, October 9, 2:00 p.m.

I (have) _____ (have not) _____ previously served as a Team Captain. Do you wish to serve as a Team Captain? (YES) _____ (NO) _____

Host Hotel: No host hotel. Hotel options can be found here: www.visithersheyharrisburg.org, 877-727-8573

Please enclose the \$10.00 Registration Fee with this application. Make checks payable to: Hershey Region AACA

Parking: Send SASE to Stan Kulikowski for parking passes for _____ Thursday Judging School and/or _____ Friday Judges Breakfast.

Mail to: Stan Kulikowski, 636 Lincoln Road, Lititz, PA 17543, 717-715-9744, stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com

Central Fall Nationals – Galveston, TX**October 23-25, 2025****DEADLINE: September 26**

Name (Last, First, M.I.): _____ AACA Membership # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

I wish to judge class: _____ Second Choice: _____ Third Choice: _____ Fourth Choice: _____

Is this your first time judging (YES) _____ (NO) _____ / I plan to take a CJE course (YES) _____ (NO) _____

Neither I nor anyone in my family will have a vehicle registered in
any of the above classes, but I plan to register a vehicle in class _____ Honor Society Accepted (YES) _____ (NO) _____

My total AACA judging credits are _____ / Do you wish to take part in judges administration? (YES) _____ (NO) _____

YOU MUST ATTEND THE JUDGES BREAKFAST at the Moody Gardens Resort & Spa – Saturday, October 25, 8:00 a.m.

I (will) _____ (will not) _____ attend Judging School at the Moody Gardens Resort & Spa – Friday, October 24, 2:00 p.m.

I (have) _____ (have not) _____ previously served as a Team Captain. Do you wish to serve as a Team Captain? (YES) _____ (NO) _____

Host Hotel: Moody Gardens Resort & Spa, One Hope Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554, 409-683-1299 (Antique Auto Club group rate)

Please enclose the \$10.00 Registration Fee with this application. Make checks payable to: Gulf Coast Region AACA

Mail to: Norm Hutton, 767 McCoy Rd, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417, 201-264-8969, normhuttonracing@gmail.com

Judges Needed for Central Fall Nationals

By Norm Hutton, Chief Judge Galveston,
normhuttonracing@gmail.com



I am honored to be the Chief Judge for the Central Fall Nationals in Galveston. Having been in this part of the country before for another AACA Nationals, I am excited to return and see all the great cars that our members have in the Southwest.

We will have a big job in front of us, so please consider coming out to judge in late October in Texas!



Judges can register online by visiting <https://members.aaca.org>

Stuff Happens

By Dain King, Judging School Instructor, dainkingv8@gmail.com



You are getting ready to compete for the first time to earn a First Junior. You will leave home in two days for a National show. Those wheel covers just arrived in time to cap a three-year labor of love. **OOPS! STUFF HAPPENS!** Right model – wrong year. And it's too late to reorder. They sure look a lot nicer than the dented dog dishes you have used for the past two years. Maybe you decide to pop them on anyway, and maybe the chassis judge won't notice. Hopefully, you will be exonerated at the Awards Banquet.

That was one mistake (or four matching wheel covers) and one way to overcome it. One step in the judging process that might get missed. But what happens when one mistake is missed by the owner, the team captain, and all four field judges? And how can one mistake make a difference at the Awards Banquet?

At a recent National show, a Mercury was registered as a Ford. It was the correct year and model, so two out of three isn't bad. The windshield card and the vehicle judging form stated it was a Ford, when indeed it was a Mercury. The Team Captain didn't cross check the windshield card with the judging form. The owner might have had another vehicle on the show field and just mixed up the paperwork. That has happened in the past, where an owner had multiple vehicles being judged and the only difference was the model year. Now remember, the owners are

the most nervous individuals on the show field. We have to make sure we all work together. Each one of the field judges had to look at the windshield card to copy the vehicle number onto their worksheets – another cross-check missed. But what if a judge did notice and said nothing to the Team Captain?

This mistake was not caught until the Chief Judge was canvassing the field to ensure that all vehicles had been judged. In this particular case, Fords and Mercurys are judged in different classes, meaning the impact of the scores by the judging team might have an effect on the other vehicles in the class that it should have been judged with. The paperwork indicated it would receive a First Junior, but what if its score knocked another vehicle down to a Second Junior? What if the Mercury had been judged in the proper class, and another vehicle in that class would have knocked the Mercury down to a Second Junior?

As a club, AACA got lucky. The owner was lucky as well and was happy at the Awards Banquet, where he received a First Junior for his efforts. There were no other vehicles in the erroneous class, nor were there any vehicles going for a First Junior in the class he should have been judged in.

Lesson learned... Always cross-check the vehicle with the windshield card, then cross-check the windshield card with the information on the vehicle judging form. We got lucky on this one, but we cannot rely on luck every time.

Continuing Judges Education (CJE) News

By Rick Lay, Chairman Continuing Judges Education, layco@bellsouth.net



So far this year, through the Auburn Nationals, we have had more than 300 of our AACA judges take advantage of our over 20 different CJE course offerings. For those new to judging, our CJE courses are taught immediately after judges' breakfast and typically last 30 minutes or so and... you get to earn one annual CJE credit (and a CJE chip)!

You may also receive an additional CJE judging credit by attending a second CJE course the year you reach a judging milestone (e.g., 10 judging credits, 25 credits, 50 credits, etc.). CJE course instruction is available at all Nationals (except for the Grand Nationals), and I encourage all judges to attend a CJE class at **EVERY** Nationals to improve your professional knowledge.

I hope to see all of you at a future CJE class!

Register Now for Hershey, Thank You

By Stan Kulikowski, Chief Judge Hershey, stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com



The 2025 show season is flying by at a blistering pace. It went so fast that I didn't even get a chance to prepare an article for the spring issue of The Judge. Hershey is just around the corner and will be here before we know it. The registration form to judge is in this newsletter or you can always go online to sign up. Do not wait! We will need all the help we can get to execute another successful Hershey, so please get your registrations in early.

I just want to say that it has been a pleasure working with Dave Bowman, VP Judging, this year to plan further improvements to our judging schools. You all have done a fantastic job in taking the information from the Team Captain CJE and the Senior Master Judging School and applying it to your judging on the field. It's one thing to be able to put a training program together to illustrate some of the issues that are observed on the field, but our judging system could not be maintained as one of the premiere programs in the hobby if you didn't incorporate that learning into your judging activities. Thank you for all your efforts!

AACA Judges protect the heritage of the past & preserve the standards for the future.



AACA — The Judge
800 W Hersheypark Dr
Hershey, PA 17033

Editor: Stacy Zimmerman, szimmerman@aaca.org



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Nationals	Eastern Fall Nationals Hershey, PA October 7-10	Central Fall Nationals Galveston, TX October 23-25
Judging School	Giant Center 550 Hersheypark Dr Hershey, PA 17033 Thursday, October 9 2:00 p.m.	Moody Gardens Resort & Spa One Hope Blvd Galveston, TX 77554 Friday, October 24 2:00 p.m.
Judges Breakfast	Giant Center 550 Hersheypark Dr Hershey, PA 17033 Friday, October 10 7:00 a.m.	Moody Gardens Resort & Spa One Hope Blvd Galveston, TX 77554 Saturday, October 25 8:00 a.m.
Chief Judge	Stan Kulikowski 636 Lincoln Road Lititz, PA 17543 717-715-9744 stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com	Norm Hutton 767 McCoy Road Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 201-264-8969 normhuttonracing@gmail.com



**Hershey
&
Galveston
need
YOU!!**

**Register
today!!**

