



# T TIMES



November 2008 Edition

Website: [www.michiganmgt.com](http://www.michiganmgt.com)

## **Chapter Officers**

The Michigan Chapter was established on March 30, 1971, to provide local activities for the NEMGTR members in the Great Lakes area. In addition to driving events, membership meetings are held regularly. Board meetings are scheduled intermittently (generally monthly) throughout the year. An annual business meeting, which includes the election of officers, is held in the last quarter of each year.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year, payable by December 31st. Michigan Chapter members are required to be members of the New England MGT Register, Ltd.

The T Times is the official publication of the Michigan Chapter. Generally any member may submit articles and may advertise for cars, part and related items free of charge. Permission is hereby granted for use of any written material in the T Times, provided the author is credited.

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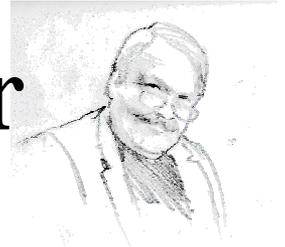
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# Chairman's Corner



I've tried to write this column several times as I find it extremely difficult to separate my personal sense of loss following Cliff Schnell's passing, from my official duties as Chairman of this organization.

Cliff was our most senior active member having joined the club shortly after its inception in 1972. I believe I **met** Cliff at Hudson Ohio in 73, a year before I relocated to Michigan.

While I don't remember that encounter, I was fortunate enough to get to know Cliff and the entire Michigan gang after running into Weber and Malcolm near my home in 1978...Cliff and I shared some incredible memories from those days and I was fortunate enough to rekindle our mutual regard this year. While we were a little greyer and had added an X to our size chart we managed to jump right back into the same spirit which we shared all those years ago. I shall be forever grateful for the short time we were able to spend together this year 'on the road again' and was so looking forward to spending the last third of my life fiddling with old MG's and boatin' down the road with my old friend...

*"When the years are heavy, and my heart is growing cold,  
Well I wish when the evening comes that there'll always  
Be...some old friend who'll miss me too..."*

*Well I do, so old friend I'm coming*

*through...*

*Yes, for you I'll always find the time, we will have a bottle*

*Of wine, old friend, I'm here by your side,  
oh, to the very end,*

*Old friend...I miss you too...my dear old friend...*

*Old friend...old friend..."*

Chris De Burgh - Old Friend

Moving on and in the spirit of Cliff's legacy of camaraderie, it is time to pass the baton to a hopefully (at least partially) re-invigorated organization. While Cliff was reluctant to hold a 'stand up and speak' position in the club, no one was more dedicated to preserving and promoting the fundamental aims of the club and few have been as unselfish in their willingness to offer help and encouragement to others.

Nominations from the Nominating Committee are merely an attempt to encourage people to step up and there is nothing implied in this expression...

Chairman: Sandy Kuivenhoven  
Roger Melton

Vice Chair: Lou VanKoningsveld  
Sandy Kuivenhoven

Treasurer: Dick Bremer

Communication Chair: Cary Gersh

Membership: Andy Hanzel

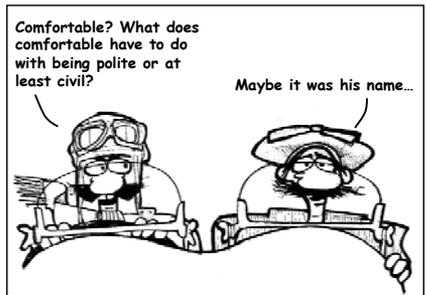
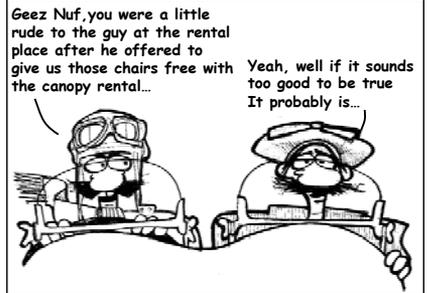
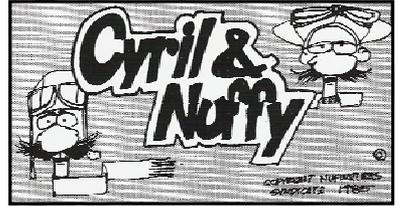
Member Services Chair: Lee Jacobsen

Again, these are merely recommendations and if you or someone you know would like to participate in the executive please let the

chair know prior to 12NOV08 so your name can be included in the ballot. I would prefer to hold the election by e-mail as the result would reflect a greater number than those attending the Hibernation Party. If you are not able to attend the Hibernation Party but would still like to vote please send your choices to the editor by 21NOV08. The final ballot will be sent out by e-mail on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

Finally, I have enjoyed renewing old friendships and getting my hands dirty again with you all and, while we got off to a bit of a rocky start, and have suffered a devastating loss, it appears we have achieved a modicum of momentum in increasing active participation as well as attracting new members to our ranks. As Cliff and I had agreed in a conversation a few days before his departure, the future of this club lies in the infusion of new members with new ideas along with a renewed sense of commitment from those of us who have benefited for so long from what this organization contributes to our lives; that of bringing us all together in a sense of fun, fellowship and celebration of the marque MG.

Motor on...  
Andy



# PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE NEW ENGLAND MG "T" REGISTER

This past summer, at the pleasure of the Chairman and the other Executive Officers, Cliff and I were asked to review the Club's Constitution and By-laws to see if any updates would be in order. Our goal was to interview many of the members and get thoughts and suggestions. The following proposals, if ratified, are intended to better organize the rules for operating this Club and to lessen individual interpretation, misuse, or complete non-observance. We felt that since they had not been looked at in over 15 years, there was much cause for updating. Cliff also felt that the membership should have more say in the running of the Club and its expenditure practices. While I agreed with him, I must confess that I feel "a dictatorship is the most effective way to go."

Cliff polled many Club members, and the following proposals resulted. As dictated by the Constitution, these were confirmed by at least ten members and turned over to the Chairman for your vote at the upcoming 2008 Annual Meeting.

It was our goal to keep this Constitution simple and to the point. We submitted only six of a dozen suggestions and believe that many more changes will be needed in the future.

You will be asked to vote yes/no at the 2008 Annual Meeting on the following:

## PROPOSAL 1.

### **Article 9, Section A. Chapter Property (New)**

*Chapter property includes but is not limited to the following: regalia inventory, books, tools, parts, videos, recurring awards, computer hardware and software, photographic, artistic, and written materials, financial and membership materials, indoor and outdoor equipment, and all other sundries, whether purchased or donated.*

## PROPOSAL 2.

### **Article 9, Section B. Chapter Property (New)**

*An annual inventory of Chapter property shall be performed by the Executive Board, recorded, and reported to the membership in the December Newsletter. Any or all property of the Club must be returned and receipted on request of the Chairman or Executive Board.*

## PROPOSAL 3.

### **Article 5, Section C. Second Vice Chairman Second Vice Chairman.**

*Now reads: The Second Vice Chairman will assume the duties of the Chairman if the Vice Chairman is unavailable.*

*Change to: Delete this section December 2008.*

## PROPOSAL 4.

### **Article 7, Section A. Expenditures**

*Correction: Add "A" before existing paragraph.*

## PROPOSAL 5, Article 7, Section B. Expenditures (New)

*Now reads: Nothing.*

*To read: Add new Section B. Expenditures over \$500.00 for one item, event, or meeting shall be approved in advance by a majority vote of the membership present at a regular monthly meeting.*

## PROPOSAL 6.

### **Article 8, Section A. Amendments.**

*Now reads: Constitution. Proposals to amend the Constitution shall be presented in writing to the Chairman and signed by at least ten members not later than two months prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed change must be circulated to the full membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.*

*Change to read: Constitution. Proposals to amend the Constitution shall be presented to the Chairman, signed by at least ten members not later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed change must be circulated to the full membership at least 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members may vote either in person or by proxy.*

Respectfully submitted for Newsletter Publication,  
Nov/Dec 2008. Pat McHugh

Researched, prepared, and edited by: Cliff Schnell  
and Pat McHugh

If you have questions, phone Pat McHugh at (734) 671-9013

# BATTLE OF THE BRITS 2008



Sunday, September 14th started out wet, but as the morning progressed, the sun came out and with it, brought out lots of Little British Cars! The Battle of the Brits was held at soggy Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights.

The T-Club proudly displayed its new tent and club banner at the event. The booth recruited new members and passed out MG logo lollipops to people that day. Members turned out for a great day of cars; car discussions, car voting, car admiring, car advise, and car photo opts.

Club member whose cars placed this year included Allen Bachelder, Jim Bauer, Ted Hight, Tom Norman, Shari Pelic, Cliff Schnell and Collin Stafford.

Rain returned in the late afternoon, but the Little British Cars were well on their way home to the safety of their dry and warm garages. Great event!



# Cliff Remembered



Clifford Schnell  
Enthusiast

(734) 427-6679

15730 Oporto  
Livonia, MI  
48154-6226





# HOW SWEET HE WAS...

“How sweet he was” as Jackie Gleason and millions of other people would have described Cliff Schnell (but I always referred to him as ‘*Honey*’), he was simply wonderful.

One of my favorite experiences with the man was in our travels back from Bay City in June of this year. He and I were the only two MGs returning home and we made a pit stop together. As we were about to hop back into our cars and hit the road again, he came over to my TD. Honey handed me a small bag of M&M’s and said “Just in case....”.

This gesture was so typical of his thoughtfulness. I really appreciated the little acts of kindness that he was all about.

I thanked him and we traveled on, but at every red light, I took the opportunity to hold up a M&M in my hand to let him know I was about to enjoy another piece of candy, and of course, Honey always smiled back.

*By Sandy Kuivenhoven*



# Cliff Remembered

We all have our Cliff stories, many were related at the memorial service. There were many between Cliff and myself, from sharing Fish and Chips at our favorite local restaurant to finding him at my door the morning after my break-in with all of his spare tools, he said I needed them more! Very thoughtful, and he did get them all back once I replaced mine, at the tech seminars. Speaking of the tech seminars, Cliff spent several evenings with myself working on the Diva cars, just to share the fun of working on MGs together, and trying to get them somewhat roadworthy as they needed more work and time than just a tech session or two but that's another story.

Cliff enjoyed conversation and people, and involvement with MGs was a natural outlet. I knew him from the 70s, and just expected him to go on forever, like our MGs.

Cheers,  
Lee



Dear Friends,

Yvonne and I were away from home when the sad news of Cliff's passing reached us.

If there is but one word to describe Cliff it is 'Gentleman'. His gracious, soft spoken, kind manner rarely wavered. Cliff loved his MG almost as much as he loved his many MG friends. He enjoyed people, always speaking positively about them. I will remember Cliff as a genuine, honest, humble and warm hearted friend and will miss him.

Art Lewis

## WHY CLIFF STOPPED FOLLOWING GEORGE

Coming back from a fall event, we caravanned with Cliff. Cliff behind our 1953 MG TD and we are on M24 South of Lapeer.

Rita said, "Cliff is not back there."

George said, "Yes, he is the sixth car."

Going through lights, no sign of Cliff.

Rita said, "Stop the car or I'll jump out. Cliff is not back there!"

Rita opens the door, the wind grabbed it and George stops.

No sign of Cliff, we turned around and went North on M24 looking for Cliff. No Cliff!!!!

Cliff never followed us ever again.

Rita and George Patrick

*(Additional information - the passenger door to this day still hits the fender when you open it.)*





# 2008 FALL COLOR TOUR



The 2008 Fall Color Tour was dedicated to the memory of Cliff Schnell, whose absence will be greatly missed for a long time to come. The group met at the Franklin Cider Mill, enjoyed donuts and cider. Pugley was driven by John & Catherine and Charli & Dave (Cliff's sister and brother-in-law) also joined the caravan. George & Rita Patrick drove their TD as did Roger Melton. The T-



Divas both had issues with their MGs but drove in a Mustang for the event. Andy and Tonya also had Healy problems, so they were "MG-less" as well. Bob Leinen arrived at the cider mill with his TC, but due to complications, he went back home (we all have

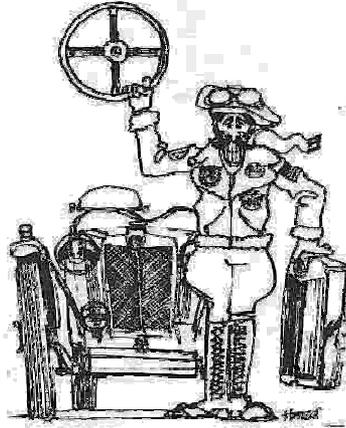
been there, done that). Charli brought along a Clifflie Teddy and passed out M&Ms to everyone for the drive to Chelsea. We spent an hour exploring the shops in Chelsea, visiting the Teddy Bear Factory, and sharing stories and tattoos. Then it was back on the open road, fall leaves dancing on the bonnets of the cars as they

headed for the Kodiak Creek Inn. It was a wonderful day for a drive!

At the Kodiak, other club members Lou & Elaine VanKoningsveld and Beverley Martin met up with the touring group for a toast to Cliff and dinner. Perfect day, perfect company, Cliff would have loved every minute of it!



# Wants & Disposals



## MG TD

Email Dick Thomas

([Rsthomas177@aol.com](mailto:Rsthomas177@aol.com)) for details.



I have an original gas tank end (one) in excellent condition, a heater unit which was on my car when I bought it in 1960, and a MGA generator modified as a spare for the TF with a different pulley. (no tach drive, this was intended as an "on the road emergency spare")

I have RT and LFT tail light die cast hsgs which are pitted but original.

I also have a ceramic model of "MG NO 1 1925" which was owned by one of the original members of the MGTREG Michigan Chapter which I outbid someone for at a Christmas Party many years ago.

If anyone is interested call me at 734 455 2263 Jack Secord

## For Sale:

Ralph Morse parts, as is: (2) sets (e & l) TD Front Fenders, Timing Chain, Camshaft, TC-TD Radiator Cap, (2) SU Fuel Pumps, Rough Steering Wheel and more... contact Eric Richardson (313) 274-3739 or email to [b34eric@att.net](mailto:b34eric@att.net)



**1950 MG-TD**

The MG was our go-to-the-movies car at Purdue in 1954-55, our honeymoon car in 1957, and our go-for-ice-cream car for 50 happy years. My reason for selling is that my husband Al died earlier this year, and I may downsize to a simpler lifestyle.

Attached are selected photos of the MG. We have owned the car since 1953, and Al, the automotive



engineer, maintained it carefully. We have new MG parts that can be sold as a package with the car. Although the car is definitely road-ready now, the new parts would help bring it to show-room condition -- new leather upholstery, new door panels, seats and back springs, the original tools, manuals, and miscellaneous parts. 16,894 miles on the speedometer.

**For Sale:**

Early 60's heater. More heat than an Arnolt 12v. TC,TD,TF **\$35**

Brooklands Screens to fit pre-war cars (full Cowling)  
(will fit T-Series). **\$300**

XPAG Starter. Good condition. **\$45**

TC Half-Tonneau. Tan Duck as original (some fading and a few mild stains...could be re-dyed, though not bad) Used only one week (lent to friend). (Moss \$280) **\$125**

Andy Hanzel (810) 434 0216



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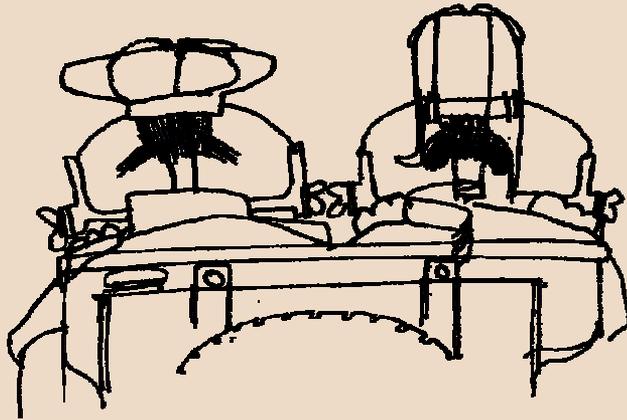
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## **MICHIGAN CHAPTER EVENTS**

- |       |                                   |                      |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| TBA   | HIBERNATION PARTY                 |                      |
| DEC 2 | MONTHLY MEETING-JOHN COWLEY'S PUB | FARMINGTON HILLS, MI |
| JAN 6 | MONTHLY MEETING-JOHN COWLEY'S PUB | FARMINGTON HILLS, MI |