



# T-TIMES

Summer 2023

# *Chairman's report-Summer 2023*

We have a lot to be thankful for in the summer of 2023. It's the 100th anniversary of MG year and there have been many fun MG related activities worldwide and there are plentiful events still to come. The weather has been lovely for MG driving, if a bit smoky from the wildfires up north. The club is doing well, even growing! It is wonderful going back to "normal" events and seeing friends that we've lost touch with during the pandemic.

In the midst of all this happiness, however, we have some sadness. We lost one of our stalwart MG cheerleaders, Shari Pelic, on July 18. Shari, may your roads be always smooth, your MG never leaking and all the tow trucks busy with someone else! Shari never turned down any assignment, despite it always being "her last year doing it."

She has left some big shoes to fill, namely the newsletter editor position and treasurer. Fortunately John Deikis has volunteered to be the new editor (many, many thanks John!). If you are looking for a relatively easy job in the club, at least in non-GOF years, treasurer is it. We write less than 10 checks a year and other than going to the bank once a month for deposits and telling me what the balance is, it is not a big time commitment.



GOF Central in South Bend was a great event, well attended and excellently planned. It went by very quickly; for Melody and I it was extremely busy with MMM activities and volunteer "opportunities"; we needed a vacation when it was over. Next year's GOFC is deep in planning and promises to be just as good, taking place in nearby Newark, Ohio. I often went to Newark when Holophane streetlights were manufactured there and the surroundings should prove to be good driving.

Lately Melody and I have been involved in GOF and MMM planning meetings and not only is GOFC becoming the most popular T event in the country, but the operations of the event are in process of changing as well. The host state's responsibility is moving away from "everything" and primarily focused on venue and accommodation arrangements. The logistics and volunteer effort of the event is becoming broader, taking in all the participating clubs and states, in order to not over-stress smaller host clubs. MMM (which we are also heavily involved in) is also considering being a standard presence at GOF Central. What does this

mean for us? We might consider taking on a GOF Central in the near future, especially since we have much of the planning done from our 2020-2021 efforts. I welcome any input towards a Michigan event possibly in 2026 or 2027.

We hope to see all of you at the Alden Sports Car show on August 10/11!

Safety Fast,



*T Times* is the official publication of the Michigan Chapter, New England MG T Register Ltd. All members are encouraged to submit articles or information for articles to the editor. Any member may advertise cars, parts and related items free of charge.

The Michigan Chapter was established on March 30, 1971 to provide local activates for Michigan area members of the New England MG T Register.

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 annually.

Membership dues are \$25.00 annually and includes the electronic version of *T Times*. (\$35.00 with newsletter mailed to you), payable by April 1st. Further information is available by contacting the Membership Chairperson.

## Editor's Bully Pulpit

It has been some time since a copy of *T Times* has dropped into your inbox and most of us have known that Shari Pelic, who wrote and edited our newsletter for many years, had been struggling with health issues. When she passed away, many of us were in shock. Those who did not know of Shari's illness may have wondered where the newsletter went. Well here it is.

I was asked to take over as editor although I have not done that job since I edited the Delaware Valley Chapter's newsletter in the early 1980's. You would think Microsoft Publisher would be a lot easier than typing, cutting, pasting pieces of columned paper on white sheets, and running them on an old Xerox machine in the basement of machine shop. Wrong! I'm a computer dolt. And when the power went out for a few days recently, I worked at the public library. I never realized different versions of Publisher don't really play well with one another. Okay. I'll start over! Without my wife's assistance, this effort would never have seen the light of day. But, for the next year, you will have to put up with me.

Do send me stuff. You can scribble an article or just send me the information and I'll do the writing in your name. Just like those books that stars and politicians are always publishing. Like you, they're too busy to write. And, like you, they still have good ideas.

deikis@gmail.com

Be kind! John



# Shari Pelic

**February 18, 1959 - July 17, 2023**

Shari Pelic, age 64, passed away on July 17, 2023.

Shari was a long-time member of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club and our Michigan Chapter and has been described as “the glue that held the chapter together.” For the past many years she has creatively edited our newsletter, created table place settings for our meetings, planned driving events, chaired committees and taken on club officer roles. She was always willing to step up— especially when no one else raised their hand.

From an MG family, many of us have seen the photo of her and her sister, Sandy, as young kids, perched on their dad’s T car. She was always up for driving events in her white TC which famously came home on a flatbed tow truck 17 consecutive times one year. She remained undaunted and eventually completed a round trip!

Lee Jacobsen remembers offering to trade her the TC horn on his TA for the TA horn on her TC. She listened to the tones of both horns and said “Nope!” I like the sound of mine better.” A real purist! Andy Hanzel, the chapter’s former “artist-in-chief” recalls Shari making a beautiful stained glass window for

him depicting the characters “Cyril and Nuffy.” It was an unexpected gift and the kind of thing Shari did.



A Memorial Gathering for Shari will be held Saturday, August 18th, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Friends will gather to laugh, cry, and share memories of a wonderful life well lived.

Memorial contributions in Shari's name may be directed to the [American Cancer Society](#) or a charity of your choice.



# Gathering of the Faithful-Central 2023

I'm not sure how it could have been better. It certainly was one of the best GoFs I have been to on either coast or here in tornado country. South Bend???. I originally thought. Why drive to northern Indiana except for family weddings or funerals. Actually, the Three Floyd's Brewery in Muncie is one good reason. And, as it turned out, the GOF-C was another.

The location was the Embassy Suites, right across the street from the Notre Dame Campus and within sight of the football stadium. Maybe not of that much interest to UofM fans, but I was impressed. I was also impressed when the bar maid at the roof-top lounge where the pizza party occurred told me that during home games the Embassy Suites room rent for \$3,000 per night. And we were there at almost Motel 6 prices! Breakfasts were made to order (not just Fruit Loops and a waffle machine) and every evening there



was a "managers open bar reception" in the lounge. Friday night added entertainment with a bluegrass band featuring an award-winning banjo player and Old Speckled Hen MG Club member Tim Scheerhorn, known nationally for his custom-made resonator guitars.



The hotel was in a newly constructed "neighborhood" serving a N-D student and visitor population with bars, eateries, and gentrified 2-3 story apartments. It was about a 10-minute drive to the other side of South Bend to the Studebaker National Museum where groups of 4-6 of us were assigned to our own docents for private tours. A special feature at the museum was an exhibit of the work of legendary designer Brooks Stevens. Included in the GoF ticket was also a tour of the Oliver Mansion across the street. This elegant 38-room home was built in 1897 by 19th Century industrialist J.D. Oliver, known to most for the Oliver tractor and farm implement company. As the house was just for a family with four children, this works out to a bit over 6 rooms per person. Not too shabby if you don't have to dust and vacuum yourself.

The car show was held in a pleasant grove on the campus of St. Mary's College, a short drive from the host hotel. It was sunny and hot but pop-up awnings had been erected and there was plenty of bottled water. A catered barbecue lunch was served and no one seemed disappointed.

The national gathering of the Triple M Register meant that there was a photogenic array of pre-war MGs. A special treat was another Midwest

showing of Joe Gunderson's unique EX186 MGA-twin-cam-powered factory special all the way from Colorado. This racer never made it to Sebring where it was destined and was slated for the crusher in the UK. Somehow it got spirited away by California dealer-importer Kjell Qvale, was street driven until the engine blew, and then dropped out of sight. Gunderson, a self-described "Colorado hippy" at the time, purchased what was left of the car years ago and has gradually brought it back to life. Interestingly, he actually found the original motor but the owner refused to sell it despite the significance of EX186.

High points of the weekend included a "walk through MG history" with illustrative cars displayed in the alley between the hotel and the garage, a silent auction, a live auction conducted by our own Art Lewis, and a very well-attended valve cover racing event coordinated by our famous VCR impresario, Lee Jacobsen. Lee also preceded the racing with a workshop where folks new to this type of competition could build or "tune" their racers. Your humble scribe was certain to win as Lee had provided a set of larger wheels for what was hoped would be a podium finish. And although the chassis was tweaked to run straight as an arrow down the Chapter's track during the evening, by morning atmospheric conditions had changed and my car kept turning left and heading for the men's room across the hall. I was saddened and mortified, but I knew the "manager's reception" was just a few minutes away. Hell, if I had wanted to go fast and straight, I wouldn't have driven to South Bend in an MG-T!

Chapter members attending this year were Jim & Patricia Bryan, John Deikis, John & Mary Gervasi, Lee Jacobsen (who won a prize with his duo-green MGSA Tickford Drophead

Coupe), Ken & Melody Klemmer (who were also prize winners with their fabric-bodied M-type Midget), Art Lewis, Roger & Beverley Melton, Rick Peet, and Don Westphal.

GoF Central 2024 will be held at the Cherry Valley Hotel near Granville, Ohio (a hotel built in the shape of two octagons!) June 17th-21st. Not too far to drive. Great MG roads in SW Ohio, and plenty to see and do. Not too early to plan!





*Michigan Chapter members at the GoF-C banquet*



*Racers awaiting hot competition*



*Pre-war cars on the field*





*History of MG walk-through commentary*



*Rick Peet arrested and booked*



*Ken and Melody being honored at the banquet*



*MG EX 46 from California then....*

*....MG EX146 from Colorado now*





Triple M Register out in force



*Midget ready for competition*

## ***MOTOR MUSTER 2023***      *at Greenfield Village*

A cross section of MG cars were represented at this year's Motor Muster to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of MG. The weather was perfect, if a bit on the hot side, and two of our Michigan Chapter crew succumbed to the sun and heat but appear to have recovered well. Fortunately, our assigned area was surrounded by a row of trees and we had access to shade.

Through the influence of Lee Jacobsen, we were given a piece of prime real estate in the Village, right on the green across the street from the white "courthouse." We also had a featured pass-in-review with MC commentary. Our car's ranged from Eric Richardson's J2 to Bob Humphrey's MGC. That's quite a span of years. Later in the day, we were joined by someone with an unrestored MG Magnette "Farina," a rare and arguable ungainly badge-engineered BMC saloon based on the Morris Oxford. One does not see this model often in the U.S. and perhaps some might say the little fins are cute.



Lee Jacobsen's SA Tickford won an award as did Dirk Van den Muijensberg and Heather Moser's very shiny TC. John Gervasi was on duty as a Henry Ford Museum employee chauffeuring visitors around the Village in one of the fleet of Ford Model Ts. But on Sunday he and Mary were joined by their extended family and he got to show off his beautiful supercharged TD.

Superchargers were well represented as Linda Northrup drove in from Ypsi with her ivory "blower" TD with Jim navigating. In addition, Linda's car typically carries two lawn mower batteries for starting power and one of these turned out handy when it was discovered that Eric Richardson's J2 had a non-functioning dynamo. The short drive from the parking area to the green depleted the motorcycle battery Eric had dropped in that morning, with battery cables attached by scotch tape and bubble gum. A lawn mower battery was a step up in power and soon there were enough electrons moving to energize the ignition and get the car moving again.

Motor Muster entrants were allowed to drive around the Village streets and this turned out to be a lot more fun than I would have expected. But, I guess I'm a bit of a curmudgeon. In the end, one could say "A good time was had by all" — except maybe Eric who had to make a visit to the local hospital for some forced hydration and bad food.

In addition to those already mentioned, the following were present for this great two-day event: Carol Blotter & John Deikis, Chairman Ken & Vice-chair Melody Klemmer, John Marsh and his son, Mike & Kim Mohn, Rick Peet, John & Monique Magee, Dick & Connie Roth, Paul & Carol Smith,

Roger & Beverley Melton, and Tom Booth.  
My sincere apologies if we have missed any  
one.



Unrestored Modern Magnette



*Crowd favorite: Eric Richardson's J2*





*Dirk and Lee receiving awards. Packard and Cadillac drivers barging in*



*What cars?! We  
SCREAM FOR ICE  
CREAM!*

*Only Mad Dogs and Mosquitos Linger in the Noonday Sun*

***Mad Dogs & Englishmen at the Gilmore Classic Car Museum***





*Modern Midgets enjoying "featured" status*

*Lee enjoying winner's status*



*The Klemmer M-type next to a J2*



*A very collectible steering wheel center*





## ***MAD DOGS & ENGLISHMEN* Recap**

It couldn't have been a better day for Brit car lovers to fry their brains in the noon-day sun. *Mad Dogs* this year was over the weekend of July 8 and 9, with the car show on Sunday the 9th at the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners. MG Midgets and Austin Healey Sprites (Spridgets) were the featured marque and generated a nice turn-out.

The following chapter members enjoyed the sun and the great barns at the Gilmore: John & Patricia Bryan, Lee Jacobsen, Art Lewis, Ken & Melody Klemmer, Les & Cynthia Miller, John Magee— 3rd Place winner in the Jaguar class, and John Deikis. "Courageous Defender of the Empire" award should go to Ken Klemmer who drove the pre-war Klemmer M-type Midget in the speed event on the go-cart track.

Final unofficial count of MG cars present to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the MG Car Company:

M-type Midget: 2

J2: 1

SA: 1

TC Midget: 3

TD Midget: 6

TF Midget: 5

Y-type Saloon: 1

MGA: 11

Modern Midget: 11

Chrome bumper MGB: 31

Rubber baby buggy bumper MGB: 31

MGF: 1



Nice showing and thanks to the members of the Mad Dogs & Englishmen Club (they have adopted the name of the event for their club now) for putting on the 32nd annual *Auto Faire* at the Gilmore Classic Car Museum.



*MG Cookout & Potluck Monday evening, July 10th...a good time was had by all!!!*

Yes, food! If you are not going to tour or race, you might as well eat. And so we did, hosted by our erstwhile Chair and Vice-chair, Ken and Melody Klemmer at their historic Farmington Hills home.



Grilled burgers and dogs were served up by Ken while Melody ran around making sure everyone was enjoying appetizers, had a beer, a glass of wine, water or soda or...what might she have forgotten!! Mary Gervasi made decadent cupcakes (even the ones that apparently got scrambled while traveling on the luggage rack of the TD). I don't care what you all say— the chocolate cherry ones were the best!

Good turn-out. Lots of shade in the yard. A coach house protecting an M-type, a TC and an Austin 7. House tours. Lots of stories and camaraderie. Largest car award (and best hat) went to Dirk Van den Muijensberg & Heather Moser for their very big Packard Dual-screen Sport Phaeton. Bungee cord award went to Lee Jacobsen whose '55 TF both made it to the cookout and all the way back to the Belden Garage without needing to call AAA.

*Continued on Page 18*





*Not Lee's Tickford for sure!*



*Do NOT carry cupcakes this way*



*Not your ordinary MG-T...Dirk & Heather's Packard*



*Full bellies and wistful thoughts at the MG Cookout & Potluck last month*

The “It’s-a-Cookout—Why-Not-Change-the-Spark-Plugs” award went to John Gervasi. Dave Cook was there too, always quiet but not missed, as well as Craig Faulk and Lou VanKoningsveld who recounted tales of the Michigan Chapter when it was young (and when Lou had an MG that ran). Other folks with cupcake icing on their fingers were Dale & Marcy Becker, Jim & Patricia Bryan, John Deikis, Thomas Gray & Nancy Arbour, Bob & Denise Humphrey, Michael Moon, Rick & Glenda Peet, John & Monique Magee, Matt Smith, Jaimie & Joanne Coobatis from the Austin Healey Club.

What better way to end the evening than everyone packing leftovers— especially those cupcakes!— and driving home in perfect summer evening weather. Thanks Ken and Melody for your gracious hospitality and going above and beyond what was needed. (By the way, we’ll be back next year!)





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# ***What's Coming Up?***

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

General membership meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Mama Mia in Livonia. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Those who wish to order dinner should arrive at 6:30 pm.

Aug 1, Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Mama Mia  
27770 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 427-1000  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

## **OTHER STUFF:**

### **August 12-13**

Alden Sports Car Show, Alden  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

### **September 4**

Franklin Car Show, Franklin  
[Map](#)

### **September 9-10**

Old Car Festival, Greenfield Village, Dearborn  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

### **September 10**

Battle of the Brits, Camp Dearborn, Milford  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

### **September 15-17**

British Invasion, Stowe, VT  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

### **September 19-21**

Put-in-Bay Vintage Road Race Festival, South Bass Island, OH  
[Website](#) | [Map](#)

**SAVE THE DATE June 17-21, 2024**

2024 Gathering of the Faithful-Central

Cherry Valley Hotel between Newark and Granville, Ohio

## ***Who to blame?***

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

Facebook:  
Michigan Chapter: [New England MGT Register](#)

### **Chapter Officers**

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