



microCHIP

the Newsletter of the **Mid-Hudson Computer User Group Inc.**

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March Main Meeting

Dan O'Connor on Social Networking Strategies

By Linda Ritch

The MHCUG General Meeting was held at the Mercury Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie, March 11, 2010. We were delighted to have Dan O'Connor with us, presenting Social Networking, Web 2.0 Do's and Don'ts.

He first shared with us his background as a musician (guitar player and song writer) and Web developer. Dan went to the Hartt School of Music Business and the Hartford Conservatory of Music for Jazz Guitar and Vocals. He gives private guitar lessons, sings and writes songs and calls himself, a Music Producer. You'll have to visit his site (he didn't play or sing for us <smile>).

He developed and manages his Web site - <http://www.danosongs.com/>. It offers free music that you can use with a link back, or credit to danosongs.com.



Dan O'Connor

Social Networking

Social Networking is a means for connecting with others with the same interests. Some popular Social Networking sites are: *LinkedIn*, which is basically used for professionals seeking business connections, and *Facebook*, which is great for connecting with friends and family. *Facebook* makes it easy to find long-lost friends and associates. *Twitter* works best if you have a purpose, such as MHCUG using it to notify members of a cancellation. *YouTube* is used to share videos. There are videos such as setting up a computer or music videos with lyrics. *Flicker* is a photo sharing site. *Ning* has everything that Facebook has, but it belongs to you... it's your site. Dan demonstrated how his site uses Ning. *Niche Forums*, such as Warrior Forum, is much like any forum, where a topic is discussed between users. *Yahoo Answers* is a very useful site where you can ask or answer questions on any topic. *MySpace* started out for musicians and attracted mainly teens, but has declined in popularity. Dan suggested checking out *Alexa.com*, where you can see a graph of site usage.

Why use Social Networking? Dan listed the reasons as such: Job hunting, Drive traffic to a Web site, Market products and services, Make business connections, Find new employees and contractors, Share hobbies, Collaborate on projects, and Find out inside information.

Social Networking Profile Basics

Use a great picture. This makes a really big difference.

Make your user name real, short and meaningful. Use your brand if applicable.

Add information that directs your connections to your goals.

Friends, family, employers and co-workers will definitely look you up on social sites.

You can use a pen name for hobbies and experiments.

Always set up your profile with maximum privacy. Only friends should see your information and pictures.

Do not add random people that you do not know or have not communicated with.

Do reach out to people in a group or via private message for on-topic discussions.

Do advertise your product, service or Web site in your signature.

Do not make discussion posts that are all about you unless you genuinely need information or have something meaningful to add.

Do use Facebook and Twitter to drive traffic to your site or blog, and get mailing list sign ups.

Do not post links to Facebook and Twitter on your site. This will drive away traffic and decrease sign ups on your own mailing list.

Do be visible for people to add you as a connection/friend because they found your response to a post and loved what you have to say.

Do not be self-promoting and behave as a salesperson. Attract, don't promote.

Do post status updates and content that are of high value on a weekly basis.

Do not do hourly updates with low quality, frivolous content.

Social networking should be treated as a live social situation and not an advertising venue. It is way more effective this way.

Dan ended the evening by answering questions from the audience. He stressed that Social Networking is a huge potential for making real world connections that you could never make offline. Also, Social Networking can also be a major source of traffic for your site or blog, if done appropriately.

One last comment, Dan used free online software from Zoho.com, named Zoho Show, to do his presentation. □

Upcoming Main Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Graphics Arts Specialist: Alice Page

Alice is a master in the use of graphics arts software. In particular, she will demonstrate software that you can use to make embroidery and other craft projects. Over the last five years, she has become quite proficient in using three different software packages to create her art. She will discuss and demonstrate her use of Adobe Illustrator, Corel DRAW, and Wilcom Embroidery Studio as they apply to her crafts.

[see map and directions on next page](#)

February MHCUG Sign-In Question

The sign-in question at the MHCUG general meeting held Feb 11, 2010 consisted of 2 parts:

- Do you own a GPS unit?
- Do you use it?

The reason for the 2nd question is that some people, probably using cheaper/older models without getting updates, have gotten frustrated with the directional errors and now leave it in the proverbial drawer.

Results:

- Do you own a GPS unit?

Yes = 68.75%

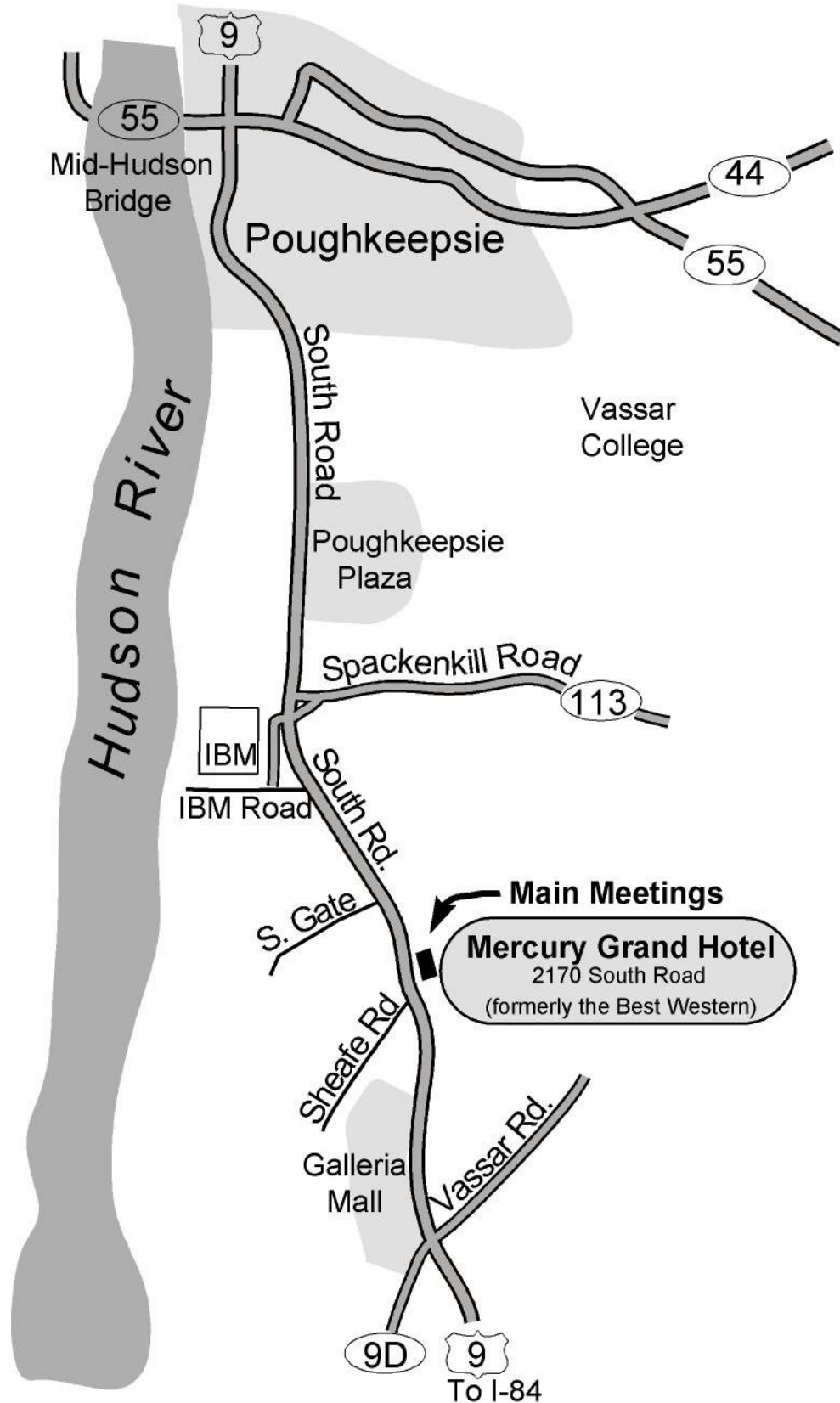
No = 31.25%

- Do you use it?

Of those owning a GPS unit, 100% said that they use it.

Submitted by Rolf Nijhuis □

MHCUG MAIN MEETING LOCATION



Map created with OCAD software. Courtesy of Orienteering Unlimited.
(914) 248-5957 www.orienteeingunlimited.com

Upgrade and Repair – February 2010

By RayPolivka

On February 18th, the Microcomputer Club's Upgrade and Repair Special Interest Group met with over 16 people in attendance. The meeting opened with a warning concerning anyone who is using the release candidate of Windows 7. Starting on March 1, this version will start shutting down after an hour and a half. This will occur without warning, and you will have no opportunity to save. Microsoft would really like you to purchase a copy of Windows 7.

Some Windows XP users were coming up with "blue screens". The cause was that such folks had been infected by a Rootkit installed on their system, and it was incompatible with a recent Microsoft patch. To avoid this, install Microsoft 10-015 fix. However, you still have to be careful. It seems that later versions of the RootKit can bypass the update patch. a RootKit is a virus which takes hold of your system at a level below the operating system. It is difficult to remove.

Acronis' Disk Director version 10 is apparently about two years old. There has been no announcement of a later version. It can be used within Windows 7, but sometimes it will fail. If you go to the Acronis website, they are talking about a version 11. When it will appear is not clear. Also, the Linux program Gparted was also causing similar problems. One person reported trouble using Acronis True Image Backup version 10 to make a backup under 64 bit Windows 7. When he asked for the backup to be done "now", it never did it. What was annoying was that you could get a 'Completed' message, but it never happened. To get it to work, he had to schedule a backup to take place about five minutes from the current time. The True Image Home Backup version 10 has several new features. They have added cloning and partitioning additional hard drive configurations. You can copy a hard drive to a new hard drive while expanding and changing the partition sizes.

Windows 7 issued a new update on January 17. It says that you should "phone home every 90 days". (I guess that implies using your computer.). If you do not, Microsoft will disable you.

They assume it's system was stolen. If you go more than 90 days without taking an automatic download via Windows Genuine Advantage, they will disable you completely. The patch that contains this feature is optional.

One person who has a Garmin 885T GPS found that when he changed the voice to a male one, he could hear better (as one ages one tends to lose one's higher frequencies first.) To satisfy the need to play a few CDs, an MP3 player was suggested. They have become quite inexpensive.

It was noted that there was a sale on Malware-Bytes. They charge a one-time \$15 for a lifetime personal use license. It currently is up-to-date in handling Tracking Cookies, Root kits, and Spyware. You may run the free copy of it manually, but you need to buy a license in order to run it proactively. We discussed how one receives their e-mail. While several receive it directly via Outlook; others let it come via Yahoo, Thunderbird, Juno or other ISPs. Using ISPs to receive your e-mail allowed them to use their protective features. One person reported that using a parallel to USB cable, he was able under Windows 7, to print on an old printer via a parallel output port. However, he still was not able to print a PDF file. PDF readers were briefly discussed. Among those mentioned were PDF 995, Foxit, and PDF printer. Not getting a WIFI wireless connection here in the Guardian Storage building, but being able to get it at home was a mystery. He may need a more up-to-date driver to allow him to get a connection anywhere.

Then a discussion followed concerning running DOS on a rather old PC. He was getting a run-time error. Following a lengthy discussion related to the use of DOS on rather old equipment, it was suggested that one go to Google with the problem. Getting a DOS manual would also be helpful

Being in the market for a new laptop, one person was looking for opinions and advice. Brands, sizes, and weights were discussed. Tiger Direct was mentioned as a good source. Someone also mentioned that Dell classified as refurbished any of their machines that were purchased, but were canceled. One can go to Dell auctions.com. There you can supposedly get some good deals on such machines. These machines also carry a

year's guarantee. Another suggestion was to go with mainstream vendors such as HP, Dell, and Lenovo, rather than Gateway.

In a discussion about routers, it was said that a lot of them now have USB ports.. A router with a USB connected 1.5 TB hard drive could be set up for network access storage for under \$200. The hard drive would show up as another drive letter. This approach is in contrast to purchasing a home server at a cost of over \$400. The home server also requires software, which is another expense. Of course, a home server has other extra features like automatic backup. The latest routers are of type N. Such routers run faster and reach over a greater range. Recently, the code for an N router has been stabilized. Also in passing, the Seagate 1.2 TB hard drive was mentioned as having some problems.

One person who does not run any antivirus or firewall programs, finally got a Trojan called ControlCenter. After he rebooted his PC, it comes up saying he had multitude viruses. It acts as your background wallpaper. You are without icons and can do nothing, getting only the infamous blue screen. He put in a second hard drive on which he had backed up his operating system. He quickly found CCMain. It even had an uninstall which he ran. After rearranging his system to its original form, he ran HiJack. Both HiJack and ComboFix are programs that scan your computer for known Malware. When some are found, they attempt to clean it up.

The question "How do you change the boot order on your PC?" was asked. The way to accomplish this on his system was to use the F2 key when the computer was coming up. Once you get to the resulting screen, you can tab over to find the boot tab and change the boot order. As to the question of why the boot order was changed, it was said that any change or addition of new hardware could change this boot order. One person wanted to use a Linksys router as a port replicator to put more than one computer on his network. When he attached it, correctly he thought, it worked once! After some discussion and board work, several suggestions were made including turning off DHCP and DNS. Apparently there are several versions of the Linksys router WRT54G. They are currently up to version 7. Each version has different hardware, software,

and amounts of RAM. OpenWRT and TOMATO are Linux routing code that you can get that will load on almost all models of the WRT54G. Another suggestion for one looking for a router, would be to buy a version 2.2 since it has the most flexibility and features. Such a router would be labeled GL.

Having purchased a copy of windows XP Pro at a computer fair, this person contacted Microsoft to get a proper key, since the package was probably an OEM version. It ran properly on his computer. He removed Windows Genuine Advantage from his computer. Now if he attempts to do an update, Microsoft refuses since it thinks it is an illegal copy. Removing Windows Genuine Advantage seems to cause that response. He needs to contact Microsoft again to correct the situation.

The discussion about Windows XP not recognizing a CD drive in a drive drawer occurred. The drive was recognized and ran correctly under Ubuntu. One suggestion was to right-click on drive image and give this CD drive a letter. A drive letter conflict could also be a problem. Also, the CD drive could be malfunctioning, since Windows XP exercises drive logic that others do not do. Another user commented that he had a drive which would not run under XP, but it ran fine under Vista and on Windows 7.

An older version of Microsoft Works was giving another person an Out-of-Memory error message, even though there was a lot of available memory. Several at the meeting recognized that message and suggested going to Google to find the solution there. A discussion then followed concerning the enlarging of the page file size. This can be done through the following sequence: System -> Advanced -> Performance. In the discussion on defragging, 'Ultradefrag' was mentioned. It will defrag page files. Be cautioned that it will take a long time. Also, before changing page file sizes, do a defrag first to avoid having the system jumping around memory sections. The tool for checking your activation account under XP is known as XPINFO.EXE, a 22 KB program. The program will give you an integer 10 or less. If you get an integer less than seven, Microsoft will not like that.

Some people are replacing Copy in Explorer with TeraCopy. It is a smarter program. It provides

additional information like how long the copy will take. It will note what it could not copy, but finished other copies. It is also supposed to be faster than Copy in Vista or Windows 7. It does not replace Copy; it exists separately.

These are some of the discussions at this recent Upgrade and Repair gathering. Come join us.

Postscript

The March - April issue of the American Scientist has an article in its computer science section entitled "Avoiding a Digital Dark Age" by Kurt D. Bolacker. It is a nice introductory article concerning the issues in preserving digital data. Also there is a full-length article entitled "The Race for Real - Time Photorealism" by Henrik W. Jensen and Tomas Muller. As the title implies, it discusses the problems and techniques in achieving photographic realism.

Did you know that in Vista by holding down the right shift key for 8 seconds, you can turn on "Filter Keys"? This allows you to ignore brief or repeated keystrokes and slows down the keyboard repeat rate. You can go to the "Ease of Access Center" to disable this keyboard shortcut. I wonder if there are any others? If there are, let's hear of them. □

Upcoming April Meetings

Thursday, April 1, MHCUG Board meeting

5:30 p.m. Guardian Storage Building

Thursday, April 1, Technology Workshop

7:00 p.m. Guardian Storage -

Thursday, April 8 MHCUG General Meeting

6:30 p.m. Hudson Room, Mercury Grand Hotel-
See page 2 for details

Thursday, April 15 , Upgrade and Repair

7:00 p.m. Guardian Storage Building

Thursday, April 22, Digital Media

7:00 p.m. Guardian Storage Building

All meetings at Guardian Storage are in room A23B □

Minutes of the MHCUG Board of Directors meeting Thursday, Feb 4, 2010

by Dan Sullivan

Officers and Directors members attending:

Dick Kranz, Bob Morales, Eli Cohen, Linda Ritch, Ed Terpstra, Jeff Dowley, Jim Peabody, Ray Polivka, Dan Sullivan

Guest: Jerry Clark

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by president Jeff Dowley.

Minutes for the January meeting and the Treasurer's were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes and Treasurer's report was made by Dan Sullivan, and seconded by Jim Peabody. The motion was passed unanimously.

As Bob Gieseler's and Bob Morales' nominations to the MHCUG Board of Directors were not presented to the members at the General meeting in December; a motion was made by Dick Krantz, and seconded by Ed Terpstra to approve their appointment as Directors to the Board. The motion was passed unanimously.

Following a discussion of the Monies, \$45 for the Ulster Library for 2009, a motion to approve these Monies was made by Bob Morales, and seconded by Ray Polivka. The vote was passed, 8 approved, 2 against and one abstention.

As a follow on to this discussion a motion was made by Jim Peabody, and seconded by Bob Morales to fund the Ulster library meetings on a per meeting basis. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion to adjoin the meeting was made by Dick Kranz, and seconded by Jim Peabody. The motion was passed at 6:56 PM □

Minutes of the March 2010 MHCUG Board of Directors Meeting

by Jim Peabody

The March 4th meeting of the MHCUG Board of Directors was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Jeff Dowley, President. This is a regularly scheduled meeting held on the first Thursday of each month in Conference Room A23B of the Guardian Center at 3 Neptune Road, Poughkeepsie. This, and all Board Meetings, are open to the public.

Officers and Board members in attendance were Jeff Dowley, Dick Kranz, Bob Morales, Ron McDermott, Rolf Nijhuis, Jim Peabody, Ray Polivka, Linda Ritch, & Dan Sullivan. Gerry Clark our Webmaster, was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Dick Kranz to accept the January minutes with minor typographical corrections. Motion was seconded by Rolf Nijhuis and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ron McDermott to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion was seconded by Rolf Nijhuis, and carried unanimously.

Dick Kranz, our contact with Smart Computing magazine, advised us that seven subscriptions earned by our club must be claimed by the end of March. After discussion the following was decided:

On a motion by Jeff Dowley, seconded by Bob Morales, one subscription will be awarded to a new member. Three subscriptions to any other new members or dues renewals or extensions. Any remaining subscriptions will be raffled off at the end of the General meeting. Passed unanimously.

A motion made by Ron McDermott to adjourn was seconded by Rolf Nijhuis and carried unanimously at 7:12 p.m. □



The March MHCUG Survey Says...

Submitted by Rolf Nijhuis

The sign-in question for the MHCUG's General Meeting, held March 11, 2010 was to assess the membership's interest in netbook computers. So the following 2 questions were asked:

# Members Signing-in	# Members: w/o Netbooks	# Members: With Net- books
26	22	4

1) Do you own a netbook computer...specify brand?

2) If yes, above, specify its operating system

With only a 15% of attendees indicating that they owned Netbooks, this indicated a low interest in these small devices. Their primary purpose is to *get you onto the internet* using a wireless connection.

There were 4 different brands of netbooks with 3 different operating systems:

Netbook Brand	Netbook Operating System
ASUS	WIN7
ACER	LINUX
DELL	XP
IBM	XP

All submissions for the Micro-chip must be in the hands of the editors by the Thursday following the General Meeting. Any articles or information received after that date will be held for the following Month's publication. E-mail: editor (at) mhcug.org

Upgrade and Repair – March 2010

By RayPolivka

The March 18th the meeting began servicing a malfunctioning laptop. After booting up, the laptop only displayed a blank screen. There was much discussion and various attempts at repair. It was only after reseating the memory did the laptop behave properly. There followed a discussion on how to recover data from a failing hard drive. That lead to a discussion on the nature of cluster size on a hard drive. A common cluster size is 512 MB. The cluster grouping is done to handle bit failures. Currently there is a register limit such that you can not address beyond two terabytes. Hence there are partition tables to get around this two terabyte limit.

One person inquired why his USB headset worked fine under XP but not under Win7. In Win7 and probably in Vista the audio code has been rewritten in order to support more elaborate hardware. Thus access to audio equipment must now be through the operating system. You can no longer go directly to get general drivers. One of the new features in Windows 7 is the ability to control sound by application. An interesting discussion occurred about the inability of the operating system to install XP SP3. Among the suggestions made were to download and install service packs SP1, SP2, and SP3 individually. That procedure had worked for one person. Another suggestion was to try a direct copy of the full service pack. Also, updating Windows Installer- 4.5 might help since it deals with installing upgrades.

One person found that his 17 inch monitor would not display under Ubuntu. He felt that it was the monitor and not a driver since other monitors worked on this system. Perhaps returning to an earlier version of Ubuntu could help. Several persons reported using Ubuntu 8 satisfactorily. Ubuntu 10 was reported to be out soon.

Using IE8 another person found that going to full screen did not remove all of the various sidebars top and side. However, using Firefox the full screen appeared properly. No one was able to offer a reason.

One person has a DOS space-based program which he uses in his business. He was wondering

if it will run under Windows 7 since it ran on all the earlier operating systems through XP. The real question is whether the Win7 hardware emulation layer will work well enough to work with DOS. When queried as to why he was using DOS, he said he wished to use a DOS based program ENABLE that allowed eight windows to be open without closing any. There was considerable discussion on what he might try.

The discussion moved to the question of adding more memory to older computers. While you may add much more memory, the BIOS will limit how much memory may be used by the system. One suggestion was to dial 1 --800-4MEMORY (1(800)463-6679) and tell them what the hardware is. They should be able to tell you the maximum acceptable memory size that is permitted.

A discussion of Disc Director V10 followed. While someone said that it would not work under Win 7, it was demonstrated to run under Windows 7 at the meeting.

Finally, the problem of getting to Quatro spreadsheets and the Quatro programs was discussed at length. Several suggestions were offered. Usually this Sig's meeting runs from 7 to 9 PM. This time the meeting broke up at 9:30 PM. The heavy discussion over ruled the clock.

PostScript

Almost on a daily basis, Kim Komando on her website Komando.com puts out a 'Download of the Day'. The downloads appear all to be freebies.

Among those she has listed are:

- LockNote: A basic text editor that saves the created file with an embedded encryption program that encrypts the file.
- Duplicate Cleaner: A program that will search for duplicate files.

Has anyone tried any of them? If so please report on them at a future technology meeting. □

Mid-Hudson Computer User Group, Inc.**PO Box 1962****Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-0962****2010 Officers**

President: Jeff Dowley

Vice President of-Programs - open

Vice President of-Activities - Dick Kranz

Secretary - open

Treasurer - Eli Cohen

Past President - Dan Sullivan

BoD members for 2010

Ron McDermott

Bob Morales

Ray Polivka

Ed Terpstra

Rolf Nijhuis

BoD members for 2010 and 2011

Bob Gieseler

Rolf Nijhuis

Jim Peabody

Linda Ritch

Standing Committees

WebSite: Jerry Clark

Database: Dan Sullivan 229-0241

Publicity: Edward Morzen 849-1231

SIG Chair: Jack Marsella 632-1478

Membership: Open

Monthly Meetings - Scheduled the second Thursday of every month. Check **www.mhcug.org** for possible changes to general and SIG meetings. Local radio stations will be advised if a meeting is cancelled unexpectedly.

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