

Valve Clatter



THE EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA

Regional Group 96

New Web Address: www.nvrg.org

Volume XXV, Special Edition

December 1, 2007

Dave Gunnarson, Guest Editor

Special Edition

Thank You Cliff Green!

Celebrating 11 years as Editor-In-Chief of the Valve Clatter!

January 1997 to December 2007







Early Ford V-8 Club of America - 1st Place 2003, 2004 Early Ford V-8 Club of America - 3rd Place 2005 Winner of Old Cars Weekly Golden Quill Award - 2003, 2005

Presidents Message

As Dave Westrate once said, if we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot. Well, I will add to that by saying that when one person does more than a little for a very long time, a great deal can be accomplished.

This special edition of the *Valve Clatter* is a tribute to the efforts of Cliff Green over the past eleven years as Editor-In-Chief of the *Valve Clatter*. That's 132 issues for those who are counting. Assuming an average of 10 pages per issue, that's at least 1,300 pages of material. We are fortunate that Cliff put his talents and skills towards this task for so long and he has received several awards for his efforts and creativity as shown on the front cover. This is no small achievement and a great value for all of the NVRG members who rely on the *Valve Clatter* for the latest news about our club. We especially have enjoyed the way Cliff wove together all of the input from members and his own sources to make each issue entertaining and informative. The *Valve Clatter* is certainly the glue that keeps our widespread membership together as a team.



Cliff will tell you that he relies on input from everyone else for content and ideas, and while that may be true, he is the one to probe, prod, and make assignments to ensure information keeps flowing to him. He will also tell you that others are part of the *Valve Clatter* team, namely the Assistant Editor, John Girman, who has assembled a number of issues when Cliff was away, and Bill Simons, who manages the "snail mail" hard copy production and distribution. I'm sure that if you ask John or Bill how big their role is, they will probably tell you that they have had very small parts in the process. The credit for the success of the *Valve Clatter* sits squarely on Cliff's shoulders.

I have appreciated Cliff's imagination and creativity to make some dull topics interesting and the routine messages eye-catching. He is always getting photos, assigning stories, asking for someone to write up every event, and choosing photos to illustrate things from his library collection of Early Ford books and reference materials to create interesting layouts and designs for each issue.

In his tenure, Cliff initiated the transition to electronic distribution and color content in mid-2003. This transformed the look of the *Valve Clatter* and the distribution process that many members take for granted today.

While Cliff is deservedly stepping down as Editor, he's not leaving us and has assumed the active role of Secretary and will be helping our new Editor-In-Chief, Jim LaBaugh take the helm. I appreciate, and have every confidence in Jim's ability to take on this big role for our club. Please give Jim every bit of assistance possible by sending him your articles, email, tech tips, photos and everything else that makes our *Valve Clatter* so special.

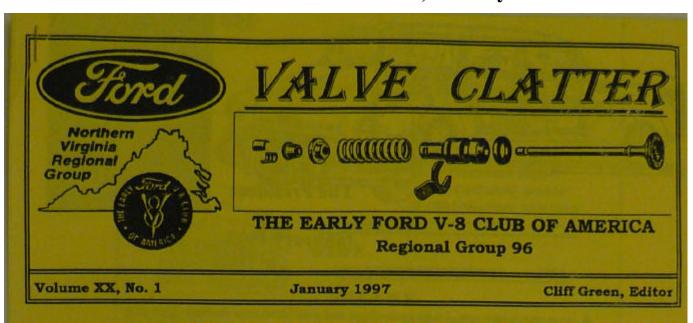
Like many of you, I have enjoyed my friendship with Cliff for a long period of time. In 1999, he was over to my house the afternoon of the day he learned that I had joined the national club, before I even knew anything about a Regional Group. He pre-paid my dues and left his copy of the 1936 Ford Truck Dealers Showroom Album in my hands to be returned "whenever." At the time I had no idea how valuable it was, both in content and as a collectible item, but Cliff handed it to a stranger trusting it would be returned. Hopefully, I emulate his style and return some of that kindness to him and others as well.

With this issue of the *Valve Clatter*, I now have some idea of the amount of time and effort required to create just one issue, and my admiration of Cliff goes up another notch. This issue starts with a reproduction of the cover page of Cliff's first *Valve Clatter* issue; it makes for some interesting reading. Note the yellow paper, it was printed by a friend of Mike Gall, and the paper was of the printer's choosing. The remaining pages include a reproduction of every *Valve Clatter* issue produced under Cliff's tenure and a few words from some members about Cliff and what the *Valve Clatter* has meant to them.

This issue is dedicated to Cliff, and I hope both he and everyone else enjoys it.

Dave Gunnarson

Cliff's First Valve Clatter Issue, January 1997



Happy New Year from your new editor

First of all the club must give a big thank you to Jim McDaniels for the super job he did with the newsletter - he brought the computer age to the paper - each issue was on time and informative. His shoes will be hard to fill.

I volunteered to do this, even though I had the job before for five years, because of the capabilities of the word processor, my new found free time (retired) and the production, assembly and mailing courtesy of Bill Simons insurance Company's office staff. The logistics of using the free printing service was always a hassle along with the folding, labeling and mailing.

What helps the editor the most is the contribution of articles for publication.

(Note that this is H. Amster's month) I will be calling you for info about what you are doing with your car restoration or requesting reports on meets and tours. I would like to have photos of these functions. Also, bring interesting articles for my consideration to the meetings - all gossip is interesting to others. (Heard that Benny Bootle, past AACA pres. and avid '40 collector died!)

With the Pres. and I both woodie owners it will be difficult not to bias the newsletters with such beautiful and functional vehicles (instead of police cars). I will try to have representation from all years 32-53 and I will need you guys to send me your best info of your favorite.

Features will include: For Sale, Chatter, Tech tips, Meet reports, board doings, feature cars, calendar restoration progress and lots of pixs. Stay tuned.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP #96

Member No.	Name		
1	Arnold Lees	8	John T. Arington
2	Mike Gail	9	Bob Guthrie
3	Hank Amster	10	Bill Selley
4	Don Rant	11	Cliff Green
5	Walter Richmond	12	Aubrey Hall
6	Tom Arrigaton	13	John Pixley, Jr.
7	Nick Arrington	14	Jack Pixley
		15	John Hinkle





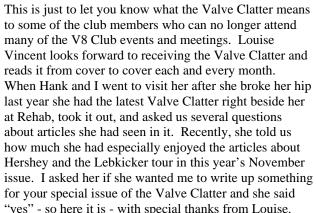


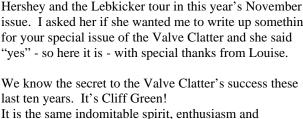


VALVE CLATTER



VALVE CLATTER





It is the same indomitable spirit, enthusiasm and knowledge that you brought to the Co-Chairmanship of the 2007 Eastern National Meet that you also brought to the Valve Clatter to make it so special. We have enjoyed reading the Valve Clatter for the past ten years as you improved and expanded it to an e-mail version in color just like the "big city" papers.

Thank you for all your efforts and for all the memories.













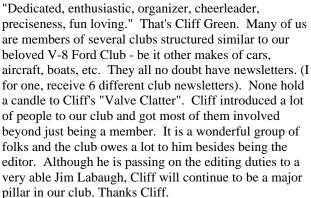
















Steve Pieper

Seven years ago I was in the hospital recovering from bypass surgery. Cliff Green took time to visit me. About that time another friend, a retired Navy pilot also came to visit. As we talked the conversation turned to Naval Aviation and Cliff and my friend did considerable "hangar flying" for the next while. I think my recovery was eased by the thoughtful visit of these good friends.

Bob Wild





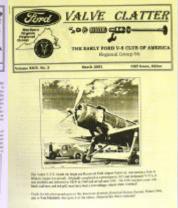






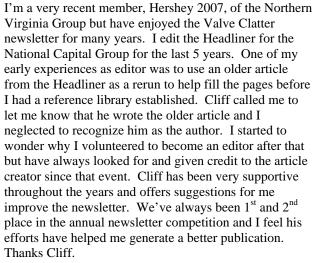














Norm Heathcote

I am a member of the Chapter because Cliff invited me to join when I met him and several other members at the Vernon, New York V-8 show. I live in Roanoke so I don't attend the Chapter meetings or participate in the various tours. I have continued my membership because of the excellent newsletter.

Joe Wright























As the "publisher" of the snail mail version of the VC I appreciate that the VC was always sent to me on time and complete, other than a few typos. I will say that over the years there a number of people in our office that read it and have become interested, [not like we are, of course,] in old Fords. They always want to know "when is the next Valve Clatter coming in?"

That is a tribute to Cliff in that the VC is of interest to many of the "uninitiated".

Bill Simons

It was Cliff who with a hectic work schedule always found time and the means to publish an award winning Newsletter, the envy of many other clubs and did so when he had to beg for articles. And now Cliff is moving on and so he should because as part of the national club's Judging Standards Committee, his time, talents, and treasures will be a blessing to a larger audience. I can assure all who read this he will never forget his "roots" in the No. VA Regional Group cause that's the kind of guy he is. I am proud to call him a friend.

Bill Tindall















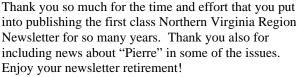












Jeannette and Barry Hall

Car guys love cars. They love to drive their cars. When they're not driving their cars, they like to look at cars. When they can't look at cars they like to read about cars. Thanks to Cliff Green, all the car guys in the NVRG have been able to make it through all the tough times when weather, repairs, restorations, or life's "other" obligations, have kept us sidelined. For Ten years he has performed the job of editor of our news letter and kept the club "glued" together. I for one have taken for granted how good our newsletter is. Every month, without fail, The Valve Clatter arrives full of information, tips, history, culture, art, any and all things Ford. Cliff has taken our news letter from a local black and white copy to a full color, electronic version that now is in circulation across the United States. Cliff, you've done an incredible job! For all the long hours and extra effort you've poured into the Valve Clatter, I Thank you.

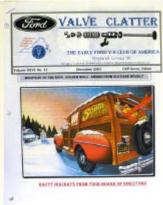


Eric Sumner











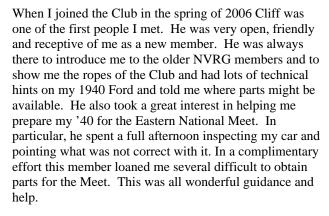




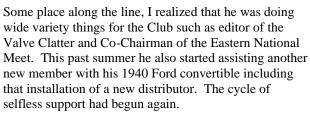




ALVE CLATTER









To my MENTOR, Cliff, I say thank you with deep admiration and respect.

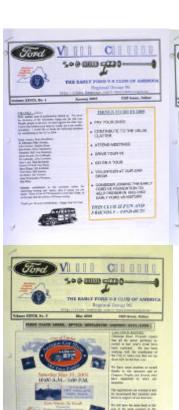
Maurie Roesch









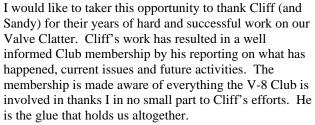












I've really come to enjoy the friendship I have received from Cliff and Sandy Green. I don't know how it started, but it blossomed as Cliff began to help me with the late Gil Williams 39 pickup. His "piece of cake" attitude as we tackled the nest of homespun wires munched on by ground hogs and all the other challenges we faced, he has become a great and special friend.

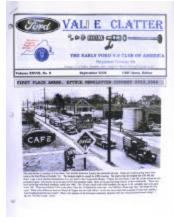
I did get even with his willingness to encourage me to spend \$\$ on the truck, by getting him to the York train show and encouraging him to build an operating train layout (:>). I also enjoy pointing out his error in joining the smaller military outfit; The United States Marines, but I would have been very honored to fly his wing anywhere, anytime.

Wonderful team, Cliff and Sandy and we are surely lucky to know them and have them serving as our Valve Clatter for these many years. I can't wait to see what greater heights they lead us to.















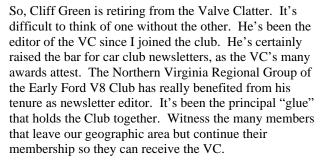


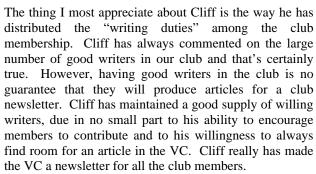


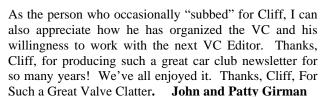




































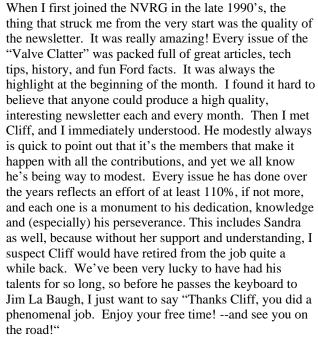
























Valve Clatter

December 2007

To be
Continued

Tribute to Cliff

I feel compelled to contribute a few words to the special edition of the Valve Clatter to thank Cliff for his effort as our Editor. First, I want to thank him for his service and for producing such a quality product month after month. If there is a better Regional Group Newsletter out there, I would like to see it and do a little judging! I think the awards speak for themselves.

Second, there is a bigger story here than the newsletter, which is just another manifestation of the man. Cliff should have the title of Cheerleader in Chief, because that is what makes him so special. When Barbara and I first joined the club, we had no experience with antique cars or clubs for that matter. Cliff could not have been more helpful and made a special effort to make us feel welcome. Before I knew what happened, he made me President, and I owed him a President's Message every month!

We have all seen him in action:

- Like the year he made me drive his woodie to the Eastern National Meet three states away, so I could "appreciate the experience". I think having guns pointed at me was less stressful than driving his 40 on the interstate!
- Always getting people to ride in the old cars with others, for the same reason.
- Encouraging all of our children to join in and recruiting new members at every car show.
- Making sure everyone has a tent space to sleep in at Hershey.
- At group meals where he says "just put in what you owe and if the pot is short, I will cover it" – I doubt that he has ever been short.
- Every time we turn around, its "group picture, group picture – let's all move in closer, closer still – did it flash?"

We all can add to this list, and I haven't even mentioned his role in the national club.



Cliff, the Valve Clatter has had an impact on people that you are not even aware of. For example, members Bob and Joan Stewart are now in their 90s and do not participate in club activities. Barbara sends them a color copy of the Valve Clatter every month, which they very much enjoy. "Stew" sends a thank you note regularly expressing his enjoyment in reading of the club's activities.

Copies went out to our fathers before they passed away and others from time to time. The newsletter entertained and informed many who looked forward to the next addition.

Well, your shift as Editor is over after ten long years. Please know from the bottom of our hearts that your work has been loved and appreciated. You are the best!

Warmest regards,

Dave Westrate





To me, Cliff Greene has two personas. One as Editor of a world-class car club Newsletter that has achieved repeated recognition and whose contents have been reviewed by probably hundreds of people outside the club. The VC is our face to the outside world as well as the inner Gazette for our membership, and it has been a great one. I have really looked forward each month to the news, articles, photos, classifieds and all the special features of the Newsletter.

I remember the first time Cliff asked me to do an article. I said to myself, "what? – I hardly know anything about the club and he wants ME to do an article?" Well, I did lots of research and came up with what I thought was a pretty passable article and while doing so, extended my range of knowledge of the club and its members (and of my own, somewhat rusty writing skills). It was challenging but actually fun but I was surprised that Cliff trusted me to do it. I certainly grew as a member because of that trust.

Cliff's other persona is that of an extremely kind individual who will do just about anything in the world to help you if you ask him. He is a fountain of knowledge about old Fords and just an all-around nice guy. His long service to the club through the VC and other venues will always be remembered and we are very fortunate to have such a great human being as a friend and senior member that we can all look up to.

Thanks, Cliff - Great Run and "73's" to you. You've turned over a great product for others to build on!

Allan Edwards

Here's a little bit of NVRG trivia for you: did you know that Cliff is responsible for the name of our newsletter? More than 15 years ago he was an active contributor of a column called the Valve Clatter to what was then the unnamed NVRG newsletter. Eventually the name of the column morphed into the name of the newsletter. When I served as NVRG President in 1992 I told the Board of Directors that I felt there were three things that were absolutely necessary for our Club to be successful: an interesting assortment of monthly programs to draw us together, a tour program that encouraged us to get our beloved V-8s out and drive them, and a vibrant newsletter that generated excitement about our Regional Group activities and kept our members informed. If you look at the growth and success of our Club over the past decade I think it's easy to see what a huge role Cliff had in all of these areas, but none more so than putting together a consistently award winning newsletter. Not only has the Valve Clatter won a slew of national recognitions but under Cliff's tutelage it has become a significant contributor of articles reprinted in the V-8 Times. How's that for generating excitement about the NVRG?

Ken Burns

















<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u> NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL GROUP





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Past President: John Girman 703-242-1459 Webmaster: helenandken@verizon.net

Monthly general membership meetings are usually held at 7:30, the *second Tuesday* of each month, in the historic Hunter House, located adjacent to the tennis courts, Nottoway Park, Court House Road, Vienna, VA. Check the newsletter for occasional alternate sites.





Regional Group 96 Early Ford V8 Club Post Office Box 1195 Vienna, Virginia 22183 FIRST CLASS MAIL