### Questions & Answers (Q&A)

**GET TO KNOW YOUR GROUP - BY MI-LS**

<table>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is this group about?</td>
<td>The TITEM is where men who want to have intimate contacts with other men, can meet in a safe, discreet, open and accepting environment.</td>
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<td>Where did this group originate from?</td>
<td>The group was initially started in November 2005 under the name TIME Toronto Integral Massage Exchange, which was aiming at marrying conventional psychotherapeutic practice with group massage. After about 5 years, the founder decided to turn his focus to other ventures, and abruptly stepped down as organizer.</td>
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<td>How did the initial group transition into this group?</td>
<td>There were around 60 members at the time, and unless someone else took over the ownership, the group would have dissolved. I decided to take on the ownership and see how this group would turn out.</td>
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<td>What has changed since you took over the group?</td>
<td>During the initial group sessions, a spontaneous shift towards more erotic touching among participants always seemed to occur. Feedback I have received overtime always pointed out to a need for a forum where participants were free to experiment intimate touching with other men in a semi-structured fashion. I immediately changed the focus of the group to reflect this, by stating the new objectives and removing “massage” from the name.</td>
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<td>Who are your members?</td>
<td>The group is open to men of any background, race, religion, sexual orientation. The majority of our members are located in the Greater Toronto Area, although we have several members from the Golden Horseshoe who occasionally travel to Toronto to attend a meetup, and even out of town people who can attend while travelling in the area. Members range from 18 to 73 years old, with levels of fitness ranging from very high to poor.</td>
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<td>How do you screen new members?</td>
<td>There is a basic questionnaire that applicants need to fill at the time they request a membership. The questionnaire is meant to learn a bit about the applicant, how they feel about the group and what they hope to achieve by joining. Besides this, we don’t have the resources to perform a more in-depth screening of applicants.</td>
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<td>How do I become a member?</td>
<td>First, unless you already have one, you have to create an account with Meetup.com. This user account will allow you to become member of our group as well as thousands of other groups that are of interest to you. I strongly recommend that you do a tour of the meetup.com site to see all it has to offer. You should also become familiar with its terms of service here: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/terms/">http://www.meetup.com/terms/</a> Once this is done and you decide to become a member, you click on [JOIN] on our group main page. A short questionnaire will appear for you to provide basic information about yourself and what you’re looking for. Please take the time to provide some substantial answers, otherwise I may decide to reject your application if most questions are left unanswered.</td>
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Do I need to have a picture to become a member?  
A picture is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Having a picture on your profile increases the chance of being solicited to take part in a private meetup.

What are the rules regarding nudity?  
Under Section 5.3 (b) of the terms of service, Meetup forbids the posting of material that is “… obscene, pornographic or adult in nature…”, including photos posted in your profile. Because of the open nature of the site and the ability given to the members to change or add photos of themselves onto their profile, and upload photos into the photo albums, my role is not to police the adherence of our members to the terms of service. Each member is asked to act responsibly and post material that is in conformity with the terms of service. Based on the nature of our group, nudity of participants taking part in a meetup session is expected in a private setting.

How do you know that members’ own objectives meet the objectives of the group?  
We have no way to know. We go on the assumption that all applicants have read and understood the objectives of the group. The membership is extremely diverse and we make sure all members understand that self-respect and respects of other members and their limits and boundaries, is of the utmost importance. Members who transgress this basic principle will be banned.

Who organizes the meetups and how often do they occur?  
This group is a hobby for all members and myself. Consequently, meetups occur as organizers find some time to organize them. The duty of organizing meetup sessions does not fall on me alone: each and every member is allowed to organize his own meetups, at the location of his choice. The frequency varies and depends on the number of members organizing meetups on a given month.

Is there a fee to be a member or attend a meetup?  
Due to the fact that we moved away from a structured massage learning group and until the vocation of the group changes, the basic membership fee is being waived. There is a fee for attending a meetup to cover the cost of organizing a session. The fee is set by each organizer based on the costs he will occur in organizing a session.

What are the typical costs incurred by an organizer?  
The costs depend on what the organizer intends to do. For instance, some organizers like to provide water, drinks and even food. Other will throw in lotions and oils. The organizer of an event will factor the number of participants anticipated, the costs of all supplies, (including factoring around 10% no shows) and set up a fee accordingly. The calculation will look something like this:  
Expected participants=10 (minus 1 expected no show)  
Water and food= $30  
Post event cleaning=$20  
Lotions: $40  
Total costs= $90  
Cost divided by participants(minus expected no shows):  
$90/(10-1)=10.  
Should an organizer decides to hold a meetup in a hotel room, he must recoup all the costs associated with the meetup himself. The group’s organizers are not responsible for any cost incurred by an organizer.

How do participants pay for the fee?  
This is determined by the organizer, it is usually paid cash at the time of the event. You may also use Paypal to collect the fee prior to the meetup, however you are expected to reimburse participants if the meetup is cancelled unexpectedly. Using Paypal requires that you give me a deposit equal to the full amount of the fees collected, and returned to you at the end of the event. This will eliminate possible Internet scams.
The advantage of using Paypal is that it will virtually eliminate no shows. The group (and its organizers) is not responsible for any failure by the host/event organizer to collect the fee(s) from participants.

**What is the typical size of a meetup?**
Meetup size depends on the size of the venue, the organizer’s preference and ability to conduct a meetup, and the equipment available to him. Typical meetups range from 2 participants (in private sessions) to 14 participants.

**Do you use massage tables?**
Organizers who have one or more massage tables are welcome to use them. Participants who own a massage table and are willing to bring it to a meetup, should contact the organizer to let him know. The more massage tables means that more participants can attend, space permitting. Other alternatives include a bed, or couch, or in some cases, touching sessions have taken place on the floor, or even standing. Each of those locations defines what we call a “massage station” and determines how many participants should attend.

**What are the skills required to organize a meetup?**
As stated earlier, this group is a hobby for its members, therefore no specific knowledge or skill is required to organize a meetup, other than a wish to host a meetup where members will feel welcome and have a great time. That said, some of our members’ skills vary from Body Electric seminars to full massage training. This is the type of diversity we are looking for, as no one can predict the outcome of a session until you attended one and discover that you will learn some true massage training skills while allowing you to take a more erotic turn, which would not be allowed otherwise in a professional setting.

**How is a meetup designed?**
Each organizer is free to create his own program. After a few sessions under his belt, he will be encouraged to be more creative and allow for a lot of variations.

**Are there rules to follow to attend a meetup?**
Once all participants have arrived and before the meetup starts, the organizer will invite each participant to introduce himself and state any limit/boundary he may have. Examples of boundaries include the following (based on past observations): no kissing; no mouth to genitals; no anal intercourse; no oil/lotion, etc. Participants are expected to respect other participants’ limits and boundaries, without exception. Nobody wants to be charged with sexual assault.

**Are there rules to follow to conduct a meetup?**
I have created a document called DETAILED INFORMATION ON TOUCH EXCHANGE SESSIONS, which details most of the information needed to organize a meetup. Once you are familiar with its content, you need to use the CHECK LIST TO USE TO SET UP YOUR OWN SESSION. This checklist lists the fundamental information required to be able to set up the meetup and is to be returned to me prior to the session being announced. Once I receive the checklist, I create the meetup and send the announcement to all members. These documents can be found in the “Pages” menu (click on “Pages” from the group home page) and in the “Files” menu (click on “More”, then on “Files”. This Q&A is also listed under “Files”.

The meetup site is cumbersome and proceeding this way will eliminate the frustration created by meetup announcements that are made without the proper guidelines. A lot of frustration has been generated in the past from improperly setting up meetups. This is not an attempt to gain control on everything: it’s to make sure that frustration is not generated by merely created a meetup on your own.

**How are meetups rolled out?**
Organizers decide what happens in their own meetup. The most typical session is rolled out in this fashion:
Participants are asked to get undressed upon arrival. Participants introduce themselves, their objectives and limitations/boundaries. Participants are broken down into massage stations groups. Typical set up is one guy is on the table and two guys will massage him. There may be some direction as to how to massage and what is the sequence of events in a typical session, however each massager is free to tackle the massage body part(s) that he chooses. All participants usually get quickly aroused. The “massagee” is allowed to touch the massagers as much as the other way around. More often than anything, genital areas are the center of attention. After 10-15 minutes, participants switch places and massage station. At the end of the event, each participant should have been massaged once, and have massaged someone else twice, as many times as there are massage stations. The typical duration of a meetup is 3 hours.

What really happens in a meetup?
Since we end up finding ourselves among men who want to be naked with other men, erotic touching occurs.

Are there various types of meetups?
I have so far identified three types of meetups, as follows:

(A) Private Meetup: this occurs when a member wants to invite one or more member to a location of his choice for the type of meetup he is looking for, with members of his choosing. To achieve this, this particular member browses through the membership lists and target members of his liking (pics go a long way…) and email them through the “Email” feature. Details of the meetup are exchanged privately and no one else is notified that the meetup is taking place, including myself.

(B) Meetup Open To ALL: this meetup is open to all, announced through this site, and requires some planning. The organizer fills in the checklist document, sends it to me and the meetup is announced. This is typically and traditionally a first-come-first-serve meetup without any pre-screening condition. You can add some restrictions to your meetup announcement however, as it is on the basis of first-come-first-serve, there is no guarantee that only the participants you want will attend.

(C) Themed events: these event have a special theme attached to them and it is then more acceptable to set some parameters for participants. Examples of themed nights include: muscle worship, spandex/speedo, foot fetish, bulge play, all lights out, blindfolded, etc. You may consult the “Polls” section (under “More”) to find out the level of interest of our members in such events. We usually conduct the selection by having members interested in attending making an application, and selecting members we want to see attend the event.

How do you manage attendance to meetups?
The meetup.com site has an attendance management system. Once the session is announced and all details are ironed out, the number of participants is set electronically (for example 12 participants), each member who responds “YES” under “WILL YOU ATTEND”, one spot is taken out, until all spots have been taken. Subsequent members who want to attend will land in the Waiting List. As participants change their attendance from “YES” to “NO” (you need to do this if you initially wanted to attend but no longer can), Waiting list members will be move to the attendees list.

In the case of themed nights, the number of participants is set to zero and all applicants land in the Waiting list. The organizer will make his
Is there sexual activity taking place in the meetups?

Participants selection based on attributes of his own choosing.
The touching varies between erotic and sexual. When a new meetup is being organized, an general announcement is emailed to all members. The announcement includes details such as the location, date and time, and a description of the event, including the degree of erotic touching expected to take place. You should align your participation to events that match your own personal objectives. For instance, a member who wants no or limited sexual contact should not attend a meetup that clearly goes against this objective.

Can sexual activity be conducted on me without my consent?

Absolutely not. You should only attend meetups where the objectives match yours. Before the event starts, the organizer will ensure that every member is given the opportunity to formulate their limits and boundaries. To avoid any unwanted physical contact, make sure to state your limits/boundaries before the session begins. DO NOT HESITATE TO STOP ANYONE TOUCHING YOU IN A WAY YOU DIDN'T INTEND.

What if I want to take part in a meetup where NO sexual activity takes place?

Each meetup has its own rules and objectives. Make sure to read the description carefully to decide whether the objectives stated in the announcement match yours. You can always create and host your own meetup with objectives that you define yourself.

As a group facilitator, how much responsibility do you bear in the activities that go on in this group?

As the principal organizer of this group, my role consists in setting the rules and try and ensure that everyone is aware of them. It is impossible for me to be involved in every single meetup that takes place. As such, every member is responsible to express their own limitation and speak up if something goes wrong. It is in the nature of our group that participants become aroused during meetups and things can get out of control. Do not hesitate to stop anyone from performing acts on you that were unwanted.

This site is a platform that facilitates the congregation of individuals with similar goals and interests, however, as stated in the terms of service, your use of this platform is at your sole risk, including those who attend, host and/or organize meetup sessions.