

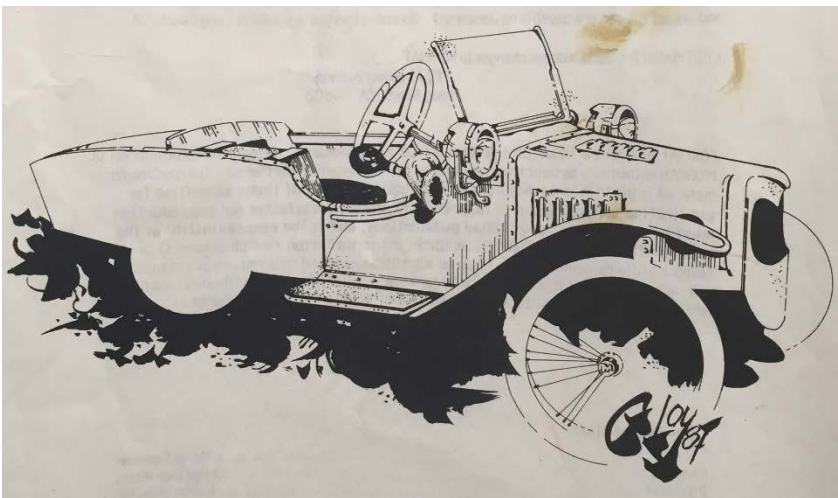
# SIXTY YEARS OF THE MORGAN PLUS 4 CLUB PART 4

*This story of the Morgan Plus 4 Club of Southern California is written after reading 30 year old copies of Morgan Plus 4 Club Formats. It is intended for enjoyment and may not have every historical event documented correctly. However, I hope you will enjoy reading about our Club History. Carolyn Klein*

What do you recall about the 80's and 90's? History records memorable experiences we cannot forget. The Challenger Shuttle explodes, Jan 86, and Hands across America to fight hunger and homelessness in America, May 86, Black Monday Oct 87 had a record 22.7% stock market drop, and the Exxon Valdez Alaska Oil spill March 89. The Berlin wall came down in Nov 89, the Hubble Telescope opened the universe to us in March 90. Locally, there was the unrest in Los Angeles in Nov 92 with the Rodney King riots and the infamous O J Simpson trial in most of '95. There was an unforgettable Northridge earthquake in Jan 94, and the Baseball strike cancelled the World Series that same year. There was the Oklahoma bombing in April 95. We will forever change our lives with computer technology coming of age during this time along with the public health awareness of AIDS. There was an emphasis on financial success and wealth for many. The generation of Millennial were born starting in the 1990's. For enjoyment we listened to Heavy metal music, MTV video music was born, and Michael Jackson was the King of Pop music.

The Morgan Club Presidents for this decade include Morgan members; near and far and some no more. David Freeman, 1986, is off to Missouri, and Morgan Staines, 1987, is now enjoying Northern California lifestyle and enjoys MOG WEST. Mark Vredenburgh, 1988, resides in Long Beach but dropped out of the Club in 2010, while Robin Yarrow, 1989, President is maintaining Club connections. Nancy Swanson, 1990, married Bob Ullerich and now resides in South Carolina. John McNaughton, 1991, is another active Club member we see enjoying local Morgan events. Skip Nunnally, 1992, and Jill moved to Alabama and sold his Morgan to Mike Rubin, and bought a hot rod. President of 1993, John Willburn enjoys central coast living and is always an active MOG WEST club participant. Larry Guzin, 1994, maintains Morgan club

membership, and is restoring a Flat Rad DHC and Ross Selvedge, 1995, still has his Morgan in Pasadena, however dropped his membership in 2009.



various Morgan drawings by Goodman Loy, Grady Meyers and Tom Barron that were fabulous.

The General Meeting was at ME 'N ED's PIZZA PALOR for the entire ten years, cannot go wrong with pizza and beer. In general, there was a full page Morgan Mart listing of Morgan cars for sale across the entire USA, and every issue listed Morgan Swap shop with parts for sale (before we had eBay) as well as parts wanted for a Morgan restoration project. There were special additions to enjoy including horoscope reports, crossword puzzle challenges, and regular correspondence from out of area members. There was a full page calendar of car events, near and far, and along with the monthly Morgan club event, you could always guarantee additional car events to keep all Morgan drivers on the road. I noted less technical articles being published monthly, but an occasional well written tech review on a specific topic. I have tried to report the reprint of quite a few Morgan articles written in a variety of automobile magazines. Every year you could guarantee that the May event was the Highland Games at the Orange County Fair Grounds, MOG WEST gathering of the faithful in the California Central Coast in July and the pleasure of participating or watching the Vintage Car Races at Laguna Seca in Monterey CA, every August.

The Year of the Three Wheeler was celebrated in 1986. There was an El Primo del Ano V event, when the Club visited the Banning House tour and brunch, then a Hill Climb, IMAX movie, Newport Concours, Highland games and Lotus Morgan traditional Picnic and Ball game were scheduled. The annual Club Concours was held at the San Antonio Winery with Best of Show Garret Capune with his 55 DHC. The Christmas Dinner was held at the Cock and Bull on Sunset Blvd in Los Angeles.

Some interesting articles to read from 1986, "The Great Bank Note Story or the Day GN LTD Rocked the World" by the Registrar of the Frazier Nash Section, Peter Egan of Road and Track "Lessons from the Shade Tree", along with a twelve page report by Spence Young on his Mille Miglia drive in his 1950 Frazer Nash Le Mans replica and Larry Ayers five week tour to UK. There was also a proposed By Law Ballot regarding definition of a quorum...no results report found on the final outcome (so sorry).

The year 1987, was the year of the Morgan 4/4, and it began with the traditional El Primo del Ano VI cultural tour on SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, seeing homes of Early California Pioneers. FYI – The Super Bowl XXI, held in Pasadena, New York Giants 39, Denver Bronco 20 with MVP Phil Simms. Morgan Club membership increased with addition of Baby Staines and Baby Bailey. There were exciting events with Valentine Rallye, Disneyland night visit, Santa Barbara Car Show. May was the Highland games gathering of a fine collection of British cars at the Orange County Fair grounds and a Camp Pendleton tour of the Marine base with Major Ricky Lindsey. The fall agenda was the Anza Apple and art Festival and the Club Concours under the direction of Michael Hattem. This year there was a complete listing of the tech articles printed in the Format, listing topic and year of printing. Sam's Sea Food was the December Christmas dinner location in Huntington Beach.

Mark Vredenburgh led the Morgan Club in 1988, and there was some great driving events recorded. January brought a long distance run from Marina del Rey to Arrowhead for a great drive, ice skating and dinner at a 50's dinner. The traditional Cultural tour was bumped to

February with a visit of Seaport Village in Long Beach, with another long drive to Santa Barbara City College car show in April. Of course summer events of Highland Games, MOG WEST and Laguna Seca went on as usual. Fall festivities included the Club Concours with Skip and Jill Nunnally and their 1967 4 Pass taking Best of Show honors. We enjoyed the picture of the San Pedro Parade with oversized Yogi Bear & Boo Boo Bear in Morgans. A big hats off to Jim Belardi and 'Butterscotch' on receiving the VARA John Goss memorial trophy award recognizing his *spirit of vintage racing*. Morgan cheer and awards were presented at the Christmas dinner at the Buena Park Velvet Turtle.

It was time to salute the Morgan FLAT RAD in 1989, which was led by President Robin Yarrow. The Southwest Museum and Lummis House was the focus of the Cultural Tour this year, February brought a Rallye tour & hunt for HUB PUB, and playing at El Dorado Park for Morgan picnic and flying kites in March...rained out and enjoyed by Club members in August. The Morgans also visited the San Juan Capistrano mission, the Santa Barbara Concours and the Del Mar San Diego Car Day Poker Run. MOG WEST added a slalom to their activities in July to give some real tire exercise for Morgans.

There were some interesting articles reprinted from Victory Lane July 1988-"Morgan Motor Company Limited", "Morgan Mania", reprint of "Britain on the Bonnet" no source, Car Collecting & Investing, Vol.1 No. 19, "The Morgan Plus-4 and 4/4; Less is More and More, and written contributions of Morgans by Brian O'Gorman and Spence Young. The Club results of voting proposed By Law changes: Extending voting rights to auxiliary members failed to pass, extend voting rights to associate members failed to pass, and limit number of auxiliary member per regular member to one passed. Yearend festivities concluded at the Velvet Turtle in Torrance.

The Morgan Club successes under the leadership of Nancy Swanson in 1990 gave members a great year. Ken Scotland provided a Cultural tour of Pasadena Homes, with Whale of a Tour in Palos Verdes, a car show at the Fullerton Airport, a Progressive dinner with a mystery who did it theme, and another Santa Barbara City College car event to keep Morgan drivers enjoying various adventures. Of note this year, Morgan Staines as Club Secretary, wrote interesting minutes with quite a bit of extra flourish for member enjoyment. A group of Morgans participated in Morgans over America in July and August. After enjoying the MogWest gathering and exciting Monterey races, the second half of 1990 included the Santa Barbara Concours with a BBQ at the Wilsons, Orange Empire Museum Rallye, Morgans on the Lawn at the Capunes. The December Christmas dinner was held at Yank's Restaurant in Beverly Hills.

To keep Morgan owners up to date on published articles, reprints included the Car Collector Nov 89-"Dropping out of Sight", The Best Car I ever owned or The Cop who hated Red Morgans by OP Reed Jr 2/9/90, Hong Kong Press "Morgan Classic Wheels that need the care of a proud wealthy owner." Washington Post 1990, "Car Buying, The Complete Guide", Classic and Sports Car May 1990 "Worcester Sorcery", Victory Lane, September, 1990 "Weber Carburetors- Care and Maintenance" and Performance Car June, 1990, 'Wild Cars'. If you can, review these interesting articles written about the car we all share our passion for.

Thanks to John McNaughton who took on Presidential leadership in 1991. The Morgan outings gave a variety of enjoyable experiences as usual. The January tour was a visit to a museum of Natural History in Aliso Viejo (which has since closed) which displayed robotic dinosaurs' mostly half scale, following the tour, club members enjoyed dinner at the Rose and Crown Pub. There was a wine tour to Ventura via Santa Barbara and the Cold Springs Tavern stop, a Rallye with Austin Healeys in Malibu and Laguna Beach tour. There was a Morgan Rallye by Michael Hattem, MogWest, Mission Viejo Rallye picnic in August, and fuel up your Morgan for long distance drives to Santa Barbara Concours and San Diego British car gathering in the fall. The Mc Naughton's hosted the final Board meeting and New Year's Eve Party to finish off 1991! Of note, there was a twelve page report on Morgans over America by Steve Roake and a note of Robin King passing In April. The Morgan Club concluded the year with dinner, awards and good cheer at The Oyster House located in the Ports of Call in San Pedro.

1992 started under the guidance of Skip Nunnally, with the Cultural event of the Nixon Library Rallye tour in Yorba Linda. Let's see where did the Morgans travel to and show off their fabulous cars, it's time to go to Firestone Winery in Ventura followed by Sally and Jack Samanigo BBQ, then off to Perris for the Orange Empire Railway Museum and picnic day. The Orange County Fair grounds and the Highland games gave Club members time to show off their machines and then stretch the road on a rallye hosted by the Swanson's. Morgan Club membership increased again with addition of Sarah Hattem. Her first event was the Highland Games. MOGWEST was transplanted to Santa Maria for a gathering of all the Northern and Southern California Morgans and guests. The fall tour celebrated the El Toro Marine Base 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, along with the Santa Barbara Concours and Wilson BBQ. It was time to enjoy the sea breeze for the San Diego tour in October and a Rallye November. Yes, another great year of Morgan events for members to enjoy concluded at Sam's Sea Food in Huntington Beach.

Of note this year, Michael Hattem proposed that all Presidents must write a monthly Pres message as noted in the March Format! Road and Track in August of 1980 printed five articles on our favorite car, the Morgan. Bob Ullerich wrote a confession regarding speed and safety and how he earned the Ken Hill Award for avoiding authority, and finally, kudos to Greg Rickard for tabulating all the Technical articles for members, Morgan Tech Book for sale and a real value for \$42.

Morgan Club festivities and fun continue in 1993 under the leadership of John Willburn. After 1978 Presidency a fond memory, John carried the banner for a second term as President, that's real dedication. The Club events began with the Nautical Heritage tour at the Marine Institute, then off to the Getty Museum for some real historical culture, then a drive to the Sierra Madre Rallye, Antelope Valley wild flower reserve rallye and joint event with Lotus Club for Mission Viejo Rallye. Following the Central Coast MOG WEST, and Monterey races, The Morgan Club enjoyed a Pasadena Rallye and British Pub and Grub Crawl, the British Car Gathering moved from Woodley Park to the Santa Monica Airport to celebrate British Wheels and Wings, along with demonstrations of vintage British aircraft. There was a turkey twist rallye hosted by the Belardi's and Holiday Dinner at the Lakewood Country Club.

There was a well written article on the construction of a side screen storage rack in February, Morgan Staines article on the Grand Canyon tour, Gladys and John Mc Naughton USA country tour report, and an informative report of the Arizona Governor Cup Rallye that Morgans enjoyed driving.

The kickoff for the 1994 Morgan Club activities under the guidance of Larry Guzin, began with the San Diego Auto Museum in Balboa Park, hosted by Doug Taber. Club events continued with a Santa Maria wine tour with the Triumph club, a Chino Air Museum visit, the British Car Meet returned to Woodley Park and the Highland Games with Morgans and bagpipes entertained us at the Orange County Fair Grounds.

Following the June Poker Rallye, it was pack up your Morgan for Cambria and MOG WEST, and watch the Vintage Auto races and Concours d'Elegance in Monterey. The fall agenda included the tradition of polished and shining cars at the Santa Barbara Concours with Randy and Dolores Wilson hosting post BBQ, a Morgans on the Boulevard/ Club Concours at Larchmont Blvd and a San Diego British car day in October. There was a Morgan tour in November, with an old ridge route drive to Lake Hughes. The Holiday / Christmas celebration was held at Sam's Seafood in Huntington Beach.

What did 1995 bring.... the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Morgan Plus Four Club! With three hundred members, the Morgan Club traditions continued with a variety of club events to enjoy, a great newsletter, a spares stock, a source of technical advice and an abundance of Morgan paraphernalia. Ross Selvedge as the Club President gave his outstanding leadership for all the Club events. The Morgan Car Club in Washington DC noted their 25th anniversary and National Meet in Pennsylvania this July. The Morgan Three Wheel Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary in England. Every Morgan member had something to celebrate this year with such fabulous milestones.

Our Club activity events included a tour of the new Petersen Museum in Los Angeles, Wine Tour with Triumph Club to Santa Maria, with a thirty car turnout and participants enjoyed the racing experience with the Willow Springs event on April 2. Club members were invited to participate in a Laguna Beach tour, the Highland games in May, and a Deer Park Run to Winery and Museum in Escondido via Ortega Highway. After MogWest and Monterey, there were scenic drives to Palos Verdes with the Triumph Club, Santa Barbara Concours, and Planes Trains and Morgans at March Field Museum in October and Marconi Museum and Rallye to Garrett Capune's in November. The Holiday Dinner was held at the Petrelli Steak House to conclude 1995.

It is always great to review Formats, to enjoy the pictures of Club outings to note how a few of the Club members look the same, while the rest of us have gotten older and wiser. The pictures of various racing events and the social gatherings are wonderful memories for all the club members. The contributions of real interest in 1995 issues include the very well written reporting on the Mc Naughton's travel adventure as they drove their Morgan around the world, the

reporting of the three wheeler rebuilding adventure by Bert and Julie Varady from Barnhart MO, and the greeting from Peter Morgan to recognize our Club 's 40 year anniversary.

With every issue of the Format, you read about Morgan adventures, what a great time you will experience, along with the interesting members and fabulous cars that all share the common love for our great MORGAN cars.