

SIXTY YEARS OF THE MORGAN PLUS 4 CLUB PART 7

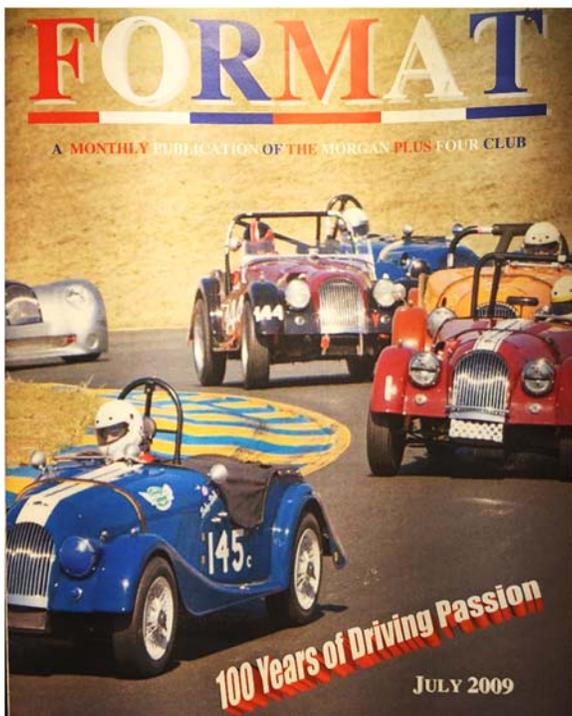
This story of the Morgan Plus 4 Club of Southern California is written after reading old copies of Morgan Plus 4 Club Formats. It is intended for enjoyment and may not have every historical event documented correctly. However, I hope you will enjoy reading about our Club History. Carolyn Klein

The final two chapters of Morgan Plus 4 Club history are really current events and not long past history with unknown names or unfamiliar events. Many of the current Morgan Club members have participated in chairman positions, planned club events or created this decade of Morgan shenanigans. I will not list any 'what happened in history,' as I have confidence you all have current events recall from the past few years. The dedication of our Morgan Club members is the glue that keeps our Club going, which is our true Morgan spirit.

What did the Morgan Club do for fun from 2006 to 2010? There were two active members who enjoyed the role of Club President; Michael Hattem and Gerry Willburn. Their leadership and enthusiasm for all things Morgan kept the Morgan Club moving along during these five years.



If you recall, our Morgan Club events in the fifties and sixties were all about rallies. Well, the Club between 2006 – 2010 was all about tours and driving your Morgan – on freeways, on winding roads, around town, or long distance tours. No matter the route, you could depend on almost every month there was a great Morgan drive to share with Morgan friends. These years also had some tried and true traditional events you could



depend on every year as well. The annual events included the Petersen Museum, with its ever changing automobile displays. Of note was in 2009, when the Petersen Museum saluted the Morgan, with various car members having their cars on display for the general public to appreciate. In spring, you could always attend the John and Bridget Leavens tour in the Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu area, when Club members shared the road with the Vincent motorcycle club and much thanks to Dick and Lois Love for sponsoring this annual event.

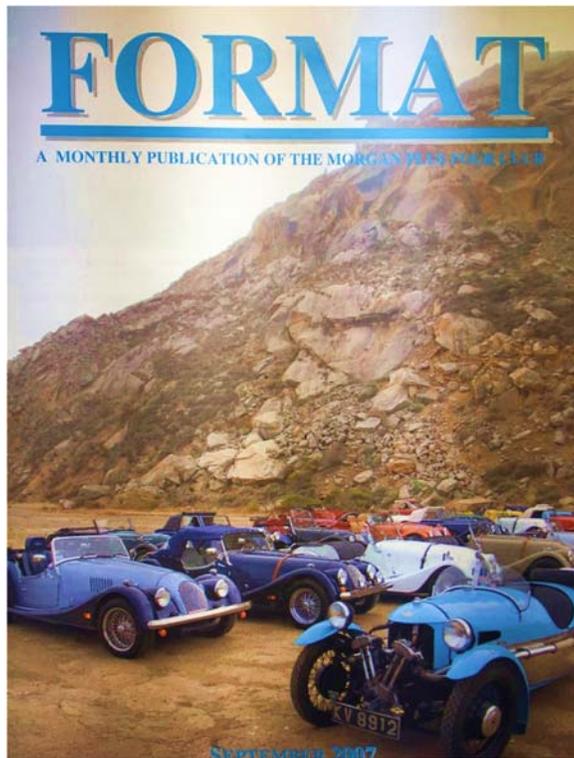
The Queens English gathering for all cars British is another annual spring event, which is held in the San Fernando Valley with Mollie Miller hosting. John and

Gladys McNaughton provided some fun tours along the Palos Verdes area and found wonderful Morgan roads for us to enjoy driving.

Every summer the two hallmark automobile events are driving to the central California coast in July for the MogWest gathering in Cambria. This tradition is a gathering of the Northern California and Southern California Clubs along with as many other Morgans as possible. There is a dart competition, a car show, John and Lynn Willburn host a barbeque dinner and there is a scenic road Rallye exploring various Morgan roads in the towns surrounding Cambria, along with a festive banquet dinner.

Hopefully there will be a MOGWEST historical review written for a summary of the highlights of this enjoyable Morgan gathering.

In August, there are the Monterey Historic Auto Races, along with the Concours at Pebble Beach, along with a variety of other car displays, car auctions, and traffic congestion along Highway One with a variety of collectable sport cars to be seen.



Also, in 2009, the Morgan automobile had a separate class at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance with First Place awarded to Brian and Randy Pollock's 1937 Sports 2 Seater.

Our August Morgan gathering was hosted by Loren and Annette Steck on the hardest Morgan Road to find on all of the Carmel Valley.

Once you found it, there was a great evening of Morgans, barbeque and salad buffet to enjoy with car enthusiasts.

The fall traditional events include a San Diego British car weekend in October and Pam and Dennis Glavis share some great Morgan driving roads in the northern Los Angeles County for all of us to enjoy.

Of note there were a few driving tours to some Los Angeles specialties such as the Ronald Reagan Library, Griffith Observatory, Yanks Air Museum, Maguire Detail Day, Automobile Driving Museum (El Segundo), Adamson House (Vaquero Hill) and a LA Noir-architectural tour. There was a variety of events to share with Morgan friends, and there was even a 'Bring your other car' Concours just for fun.



The Formats were fortunate to include some great contributions by three Club members with monthly contributions to enrich our Morgan knowledge. Jim Foley contributed a series of Aero 8 Log articles to keep us up on Morgan Aero statistics and car model comparisons. Dale Barry contributed his Competition Corner and Racing Report with a plethora of Morgan racing reviews.

Norm Kear provided the Club with a series of auto articles all about little known British cars including Wolseley, Humber, Jowett, Elva, Standard, and articles regarding cars including the TVR, Jensen, Frazer Nash, and Jaguar Mark V. In 2010 Norm shared articles regarding BSA, Chambers, Gordon-Keeble and Dellow.

The photos and great auto information gave us all something to enjoy reading. Every month you can increase your car knowledge and play some mighty fine Scrabble words for fun.

The Morgan Club maintained the General meeting location at Me & Ed's in Lakewood, until the pizza diet became too much for club members. In July 2007, it was time for a change and a drive over to the west side of Los Angeles was in order. The Grinder was to be the headquarters for our Morgan Club general meetings, each second Monday of the month.

The traditional Board meeting continued as always being hosted by various club members living in the greater Los Angeles and Orange county area and freeway congestion made prompt start times a challenge, but always fun and fellowship with Morgan friends and great food as well.

The traditional Holiday Dinner was a December event when the Club celebrated a fun year of events with recognition for volunteers and awards for special accomplishments.

The venues for the December dinner included the Beverly Hills Country Club, the Smoke House in Burbank, Steven's Steak and Seafood House In Commerce, and the Monterey Hill Steakhouse.

And who cannot forget 2009, WHOORAY it is time to celebrate the Morgan Centenary.

For the adventurous Morgan folks, it was time to pack your suitcase and fly across the Atlantic to England. From 24 July / 2nd Aug 2009, there was quite a calendar of events to enjoy.

I could not find a complete list of all the attendees, but you know who you are that shared in the Malvern and Cheltenham events. Here is a brief review of the celebration schedule.



Friday 24 July – Welcome to Malvern at the Visitor Center and Morgan History Museum. There was champagne and Hors d’oeuvres, along with the new Aero Super Sport Morgan on display.

Saturday & Sunday - Prescott Hill Climb. There was a massive gathering of Morgans, with one evening nearly 100 three wheelers in attendance. It was great fun walking through rows of Morgans and watching driver skills being put to the test.

Monday 27 July – Cheltenham. The Berkeley Castle tour by Charles Berkeley and a delicious Luncheon served in the Great Hall.

Tuesday 28 July- Beaulieu. At the National Motor Museum, there was an interesting collection of automobiles to review.

Wednesday 29 July -Swindon. Steam Train Day. The Great Western Railway Museum, where H F S Morgan served his apprenticeship at the Swindon works. Also that day, there was a Luncheon for visiting Americans at The Swan restaurant, in Newland.

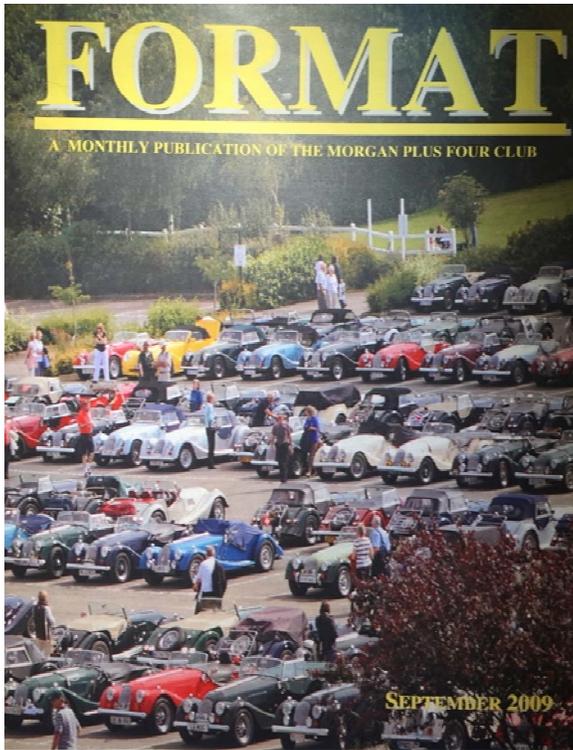
Close by was the Beckford Silk factory where the lovely Morgan scarves were created, along with a beautiful collection of silk fabrics and clothing.

Thursday 30 July. You could pick from a variety of activities - the Madresfield driving event, a Golf tournament or a River boat cruise to enjoy. That evening, there was Evening Service at Church in Stoke Lacy where HFS Morgan father and grandfather were rectors.

Friday 31 July- Prescott. The VSCC Meeting was held at Prescott. In the evening, there was a welcome reception at the Pittville Pump Rooms. Both Charles Morgan and the Lord Mayor of Cheltenham gave a welcoming address.

Saturday and Sunday 1 & 2 August. Cheltenham Morgan Centenary Celebration. There was a gathering of Morgans in the parking lot that went on forever with every possible

Morgan model, paint color with a variety of shades of British Racing Green, blues, reds, yellows, blacks and whites for your enjoyment.



Additionally, there was a gathering of Morgan race cars on display, auto tests that you could participate in, various British foods to enjoy, a Morgan Concours and overall a great gathering for all who enjoy the British Morgan experience.

Saturday evening there was a Gala Dinner, with Morgans suspended from the ceiling. My personal recollection was there were so many people in this massive hall and everyone shared their fabulous stories of their Morgan adventures.

Sunday evening the Grand Finale was a "Party in the Park" style prom concert with the English symphony Orchestra, soloists Natasha Marsha and John Hudson, conducted by the charismatic Jae Alexander. A grand gathering of people enjoyed the rousing music and a fabulous fire work display.

Everyone has personal stories and wonderful memories from their Morgan adventure in the summer of 2009.

My personal highlights included finally walking through the Morgan factory and enjoying the craftsmanship of the construction of the Morgan assembly, the beautiful Morgan driving roads and green lush hill sides(although we were driving a Volkswagen Diesel Passat) successfully navigating the many roundabouts, and the Car swap meet my husband talked me into attending, where we successfully acquired enough Morgan parts to

completely empty both our wallets that day and finding new ways of packing an aluminum finned oil sump pan in our luggage.



The friendly spirit shared with all the Morgan folks you saw at the events, the Wye Valley Morgan Beer glasses we collected along with some commemorative Morgan gifts and our enormous Morgan umbrella that we were told at the airport that could be considered a weapon and needed to be checked through as a piece of luggage. All for the love of Morgans!

We are all proud that the Morgan history and car factory can stand the test of time and continues to provide us with such unique automobiles to drive.