

SIXTY YEARS OF THE MORGAN PLUS 4 CLUB PART 6

This history of the Morgan Plus 4 Club of Southern California is written after reading copies of the Morgan Plus 4 Club Formats. It is intended for enjoyment with no guarantee of historical perfection. However, I hope you enjoy reading about our Club History. Carolyn Klein

It is time to reflect on current history, and each generation has a historical reference of where you were when a historical event shook our world. Think back to Dec 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor, Nov 22, 1963 - John F Kennedy assassination, July 20, 1969 - Neil Armstrong steps on the moon, Jan 28, 1986 - Challenger explosion, and Sept 11, 2001 - World Trade Center attack. All of these events are memories we will not forget. In 2004, the Rover landed on Mars and thousands watched this historical event on screen and the power of wind and rain with Katrina left New Orleans forever changed in 2005.

Now, here is the Morgan Plus 4 Club History, in 2001, led by President Gerry Willburn. Morgans were seen on January 1, driving the scenic roads of PCH, Mulholland, Decker Canyon, Encinal Canyon to Chermlee Park. What a great way to start the year! No year would be complete without a trip to the Petersen Museum, and being a lover of the water, Gerry led the group to the L.A. Maritime Institute Schooner, 'The Bill of Rights' for a tour on the water in March. Club members enjoyed a unique car show composed of historical cars that finished the Great Race across the USA in Old Town Pasadena in June. Ed Berghino '35 SS 3 wheeler and Larry Guzin '64 4/4 were participants in the car show. Additional Morgan tours included a drive up Angeles Crest Highway to Mt Wilson Observatory and the scenic tour of PCH from Long Beach to Dana Point in 2001. Club meetings were at Me N Ed's Pizza, with the Holiday Dinner celebration at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

Gerry Willburn did such a fine job as Club President, his reelection was inevitable in 2002. There was another January 1st tour through the Malibu Hills, with a Scottish Festival at the Queen Mary along with rain showers. Brian Howlett and Tom Mc Clung organized a Club Slalom at Hollywood Park, renewing a long overdue racing event for members to enjoy wearing out their tires. Skip and Jill Nunnally invited everyone to bring their 'Other Car' Concours with a delightful picnic at their home. Meanwhile across the pond, Morgan team raced at Le Mans, designed as a tribute to ' TOK 258' the 1962 two litre class winning Morgan Plus 4, the Aero 8 GTN car is built for the DeWalt Race Sports Salisbury 2002. The Morgan Club event, the Rickard's - Mystery Run had Morgans cruisin' the Coast to Dana Point. Morgan West opened in November located at 2002 Pico Blvd in Santa Monica, and the last tour for this year was at the Long Beach Aquarium included a personal guided tour by member Lou Canut. The Club completed the awards at the Holiday dinner at the Beverly Hills Country Club.

John Mc Naughton the proud owner of a 1966 4/4 Roadster, described best as a well traveled Morgan driver, was Club President in 2003. The Club meetings continued to meet at the best Pizza spot in Lakewood - Me N' Ed's. The Club events were a balance of visiting Reagan Library, the Petersen Museum, the Titanic Exhibit, and the Morgan Memorabilia collection of Garrett

Capune, along with a driving tour to Malibu, a slalom at Hollywood Park, a tour to Ojai and our annual MogWest and Monterey Historic Races. Our Club saluted our Morgan spirit at the Holiday dinner at the Beverly Hills Country Club.



Peter Morgan, a friend and inspiration to all who knew him, to all who were touched by his love for the Morgan Motor Car passed away October 20, 2003. There are special memories for many club members who had the pleasure of sharing time together with stories of our joint passion for our Moggies. *Photo by MMC*

The Morgan Club 2004 President Al Gebhard wrote a great recollection of car history and racing in his President messages that are worth reading, a job well done. If you attended the L.A. Auto Show, there was a beautiful Morgan Aero 8 on display, and a great contemporary Morgan design it is. This year, the Morgan drivers enjoyed events near and far. There were museums to visit, you can never tire of the rotating collection of automotive history at the Petersen Museum, and the March Air Museum.

It was time to fill up the gas tank and drive for VARA Solo 2 Race, the Montecito Exotic Car Show in San Barbara, MogWest, Monterey Historic Races, and Ojai Tour, and British Car Day in San Diego. The Glavis tour in November included a lovely tour of northern LA County and visit to Aqua Dulce winery. The Morgan Plus Four Club Holiday festivities were once again held at the Beverly Hills Country Club.

Special Peter Morgan Memorial Races were held in Elkhart Lake, WI with 40 Morgan race cars participating, 8 Morgans from our Club participated including Tom Hollfelder, Brian Howlett, Doug Sallen, Greg Solow, Jeff Tamkin, Dennis Glavis, Don Burrows, Larry Ayers, and J. Dale Barry.

Here Comes 2005, with the Morgan Plus Four Club celebration of our Golden Jubilee, with Michael Hattem presiding over all the festivities that the Club can think of. *Photo by Dan Ehrmann*



A new Club badge to commemorate the anniversary was created to mark our Club milestone, which many of you proudly display on your Morgan.

Michael Hattem also took over the reins of Format Editor with a new design and colored picture covers. The Morgan drivers had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of events this year ranging from the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the Petersen Museum, the Flight Path Museum tour, and Wine tour with hostess Lynn Willburn, Leavens Memorial Tour, Palos Verdes Lookout Tour, and a Historical driving tour of all the Morgan Plus Four Club meeting locations throughout Los Angeles from the Club's beginning.



There was the summer fun in Cambria at MogWest and Monterey Historic car races for interested drivers to drive their Morgan to as well. We had our final Other Car Concours at the Nunneys as they prepare to relocate to Alabama.

Of note was the contribution from Tim Harris on 'One Man Driving Impression of a Morgan', a list of Morgans in the Movies, and 'An Indelible Marque' article by Ray Thursby reprinted Robb Report Dec 2005. It takes time to find these pearls of Morgan history, but all are enjoyable reading for interested members.



The Club meeting location of Me N Ed's until 2005, became a new adventure with Michael Hattem scheduling general meetings around the greater Los Angeles area for all to enjoy. There were meetings at Teddy Café on Pico, Maggie's Pub in Santé Fe Springs, and Me N Ed's Pizza in Lakewood.

The Holiday Dinner was held at the Beverly Hills Country Club, and thirteen past Presidents were in attendance. The friendships and recognition of club member participation was acknowledged along with traditional Club trophy presentations at the December dinner meeting.