

SOUTHERN FOURS AND EIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MORGAN GROUP MOGSOUTH VOL.3/02

ST. THOMAS MOG MEET

by Connie Lipscomb

Lance and I were determined to represent MOGSouth at the first annual ST. Thomas MOG meet, hosted by Wynell and Bob Bruce

When we awoke on the morning of the flight to find no water and a busted water line that was pumping approximately 1,000 gallons a minute, we only had one choice, shut of the water at the street, put on some deodorant and head to the airport. As Scarlet O'Hara would say; "I will worry about that tomorrow".

Day One

When we arrive on the island Bob picked us up. On the way to his house, we had to stop at the beach and get a beer from one of the street vendors. This sets the pace for the rest of the week.

We left the beach and traveled up the mountain on a one-lane road to "Bruce Villa". "Bruce Villa" is surrounded by breath taking flowers, a beautiful view of the ocean and a comforting breeze that made us forget how hot it was, and the fact we had not bathed

Wynell, Victoria and Max welcomed us. We received sloppy kisses from all three (Victoria and Max are the Bruce's Rottweilers) The afternoon was spent catching up on MOGSouth news. We were

determined that the four of us would do our best to make this a memorable event. We are small in number (and size) but mighty. This would require more beer!

Bob and Wynell had an evening planned at a little island restaurant that overlooks the ocean. The scenery from the outside patio looking down on the ocean with a sky full of twinkling stars makes us understand that life on the island is a vacation every day. We left the restaurant and Bob drove us to an overlook point on the mountain for more night sightseeing that was breath taking. When we arrive back at the Bruce's we are greeted by Victoria and Max, more sloppy kisses.

Day Two

Life is good when you wake up to the smell of fresh brewed coffee, bread baking and a view of the ocean. Only Bob Bruce would put two Rottweiler's between these treasures, and us, not to mention the use of the bathroom!

We spend the morning relaxing and reading with Wynell while Bob goes off to work. Mid-morning, Wynell takes us shopping and to lunch at the beach. The water is Aqua blue and there are children sharing the beach with tourists and Iguanas. Wynell then takes us on a guided tour of the

island before heading home for a relaxing afternoon that includes a nap and more reading.

That evening we had a candlelight dinner on the porch at Bob's Bistro overlooking Tropical Point. Bob and Wynell enjoy this view every evening, no wonder they haven't made it back to Atlanta. Bob Bruce has been holding out! I didn't realize that MOGSouth has its own "Emeril". Dinner consists of appetizers, full main course and dessert, bolstered by multiple bottles of fine wine. We were WAY over our weight-watchers points for the month.

Day Three

This is the day the you will regret missing! We again started the day off with a wonderful breakfast and Bloody Mary's prepared by Bob.

Bob being a man of many talents is also a pilot with connections. We are in for the treat of our lives when we board the small four seat Cessna, (we had to improvise with no Morgans available). Bob flies us over the islands for an aerial view of St. Thomas, Sir Francis Drake Channel, Virgin Gorda, and he gives Lance the wheel and a quick flying lesson as we fly over Tortola. After a morning of flying we stopped at Mountain Top for more shopping, then back to The Bruce's porch overlooking the ocean for a relaxing nap and more reading. Bob and Lance spoil us again with another great gourmet dinner complete with Rum Babbas and more wine .

Day Four

Recovery Day. A true vacation should be relaxing .Our day once again started off with Bob's marvelous Bloody Marys. Wynell and I relax the day away while the guys busy themselves with "guy stuff"

We are resting up for the BIG event of the Memorial Day weekend. Bob and Wynell are members of the U.S. Navy League and help sponsor a cocktail party for the sailors that come into port at St. Thomas.

Best I understand is that Bob is in charge of the Beer and Booze.....imagine that!

That evening we put on our island evening attire and went to the home of a friend of the Bruces that were hosting the party. You may have seen this home on Life Styles of the Rich and Famous! It was an inspirational moment when the officers from The USS Gettysburg and the USS McFaul (Guided Missile ships) all showed up at one time. A sea of sailors in their white dress uniforms will surely bring a tear to the eye during a time when we are depending on them for the defense of our freedom. This many sailors required a lot of beer in short time.

It wasn't long before Wynell felt it was her patriotic duty to dance with the fleet! But not all at once, good thing she had a nap!

Memorial Day- time to go.

All good things must come to an end. We started the day as we did every morning with Bloody Mary's and relaxing. We load up our things and head out for one last tour of the St. Thomas shopping district and a relaxing lunch before saying good-bye to our MOGSouth Caribbean Friends.

Bob and Wynell are making plans for a near future return to the mainland. Hopefully they can make it to the Fall meet, providing Lance gets Elizabeth (Wynell's 1963 Morgan) road ready!

Vintage Racing with Vintage Friends

by SuperDave Bondon

Caffeine has a funny effect on some people. "Let's all go to a race this summer. We're not going to Pittsburgh so we can all cheer for someone else this year!". Or words to that effect. This was two or three months ago and after too many cups of coffee at a recent MOGSouth

breakfast meeting. "Stacey is running her Sprite at V.I.R. so I can cheer too, and I won't have to worry about breaking the Morgan before our traditional Atlanta and Daytona year end races", said SuperDave. And so it was settled ... almost.

As the weeks wore on a lot of things changed. First, Stacey had to change her plans, so there was no one racing to cheer for. Second, our cheering section started to decrease in numbers as the date got closer and the reality of four days with SuperDave was staring everyone in the face. Third, the pressure was on old SuperDave from Jack Poteet and a bunch of old Yankee friends, who were going to make the trip to V.I.R. "Bring the Morgan out and re-live the old days! Let's race together again."

In the end it was crew chief "Knuckles Johnson", Stacey, and my non-Morgan friend George "the scrounge" Wolf, who climbed wearily into the truck at O'dark: thirty and headed north to V.I.R, the famous old home of SCCA racing that had been under restoration for years. Yours truly used to drive down there from New Jersey and watch the likes of Mark Donohue race around in his Elva Courier.

I wasn't exactly sure how things were going to go since I have had a severe wheel hop problem (actually it is the Morgan that had the problem. I don't hop any more now than I did before) since running into the wall at Daytona two years ago. Racing without braking was the only way to avoid the front wheels hopping up and down 3 to 4 inches under braking for fast turns. It isn't much fun working your way past a Porsche or two only to have them slide by again going into the next turn. But we decided to make some major structural changes to the old Morgan that turned out to look a lot like a NASCAR roll cage in the cockpit. It seemed to work, as we worked our way up from 11th fastest in the first practice to winning the qualifying race on Saturday. Sunday was a bit of a downer as we were running a close second to a Lotus

Super Seven when we slid off at the end of the front straight and lost a bunch of places. Oh well, that's racin'!

We had a great time cookin' out, drinking beer, lying about the old days, (The Older I Get the Faster I Was), and generally enjoying a friendly, safe weekend with friends.

Did I mention that we set a new altitude record for an orange? The consensus is that we reached a slightly sub orbital altitude of 350 feet with our best potato gun shot. If you decide to try this please be aware that an orange can hurt if it falls on you from that altitude. And on the way up you get a very sticky shower of OJ before you duck into the truck to avoid getting scwonked!

MOGSouth Fall Meet October 4-6

The Basics: The Fall MogSouth event will be at the Foundry Park Inn and Spa in Athens, Georgia, October 4-6. Saturday's excursion will include a short, untimed gimmick rally, a visit to a "Bubble Car" museum, and a visit to historic Madison. The extremely nice rooms are \$99. **Call the hotel to reserve a room by September 13.** Phone is (706) 549-7020 or toll-free (866) 928-4367. Also, please let Fred Hollinger know you are coming. E-mail fhollinger@attbi.com or (770) 938-2896.

The Details: The Foundry Park Inn and Spa is Athens' newest and finest Inn built on the location of one of Athens' oldest historic sites. Their website is www.foundryparkinn.com. The rooms we have reserved come with either two Double beds or one King bed. I am confident you will find the rooms extremely comfortable. Please call to make your reservation by September 13.

The featured activity on Saturday will be a visit to the largest "Bubble Car" museum in the world, located very near

Madison, in Morgan County. You can read more about this museum on the web at: www.morgancountycitizen.com/News/2000/0802/Community/52.html and www.microcar.org/weiner-collection/

Saturday's first activity will be a short, low-pressure, untimed gimmick rally. The format will be numbered instructions with True/False, Yes/No and Fill in the Blank questions.

Lunch will be in Madison, Georgia. Downtown Madison is built around the Post Office Square. The area appears as it has for decades. Tree-lined streets and brick sidewalks are lined with interesting stores and antique shops.

Dinner Saturday evening will be at the Inn.

We will, as we often do, have a hospitality suite available for snacks and beverages on Friday and Saturday evenings. (\$5 per person, please) The suite is large, very nicely decorated and includes two bedrooms. Anyone interested in staying in one of the hospitality suite rooms for the same price as a regular room, please let Fred know.

Overview:

Arrive Friday evening – snacks and beverages in hospitality suite

Friday dinner on your own – two restaurants at the Inn, several others nearby

Saturday breakfast on your own

Saturday mid-morning – gimmick rally

Saturday lunch in Madison

Saturday afternoon – visit to "Bubble Car" museum and strolling around Madison

Saturday evening, hospitality suite open, group dinner at the Inn

Thank you to Fred Hollinger for organizing the Fall Meet. Sounds like lots of fun.

Alcazar Car Show

For several years MOGSouth member Bob Steele has been inviting MOGSouth members to a car show he helps organize in Lineville, Alabama, situated at

the foot of scenic Mt. Cheaha, less than two hours west of Atlanta via I-20. The show is scheduled for the first Sunday in November, the 3rd.

Last year there were over 650 cars of all types on hand.

Bob sent me several articles extolling how good this show is and how much fun the participants had and indeed it looks like one not to miss. More information to come later in the year

Christmas Party 2002

Maidie and Charlie Williams have offered to host this year's Christmas party at their home in Atlanta. The date is Saturday, December 7, 2002. Final details later in the year.

Credits

Thank you to Mark Erhard and his company ImageLink for the colour pages in this issue. Thank you to Connie Lipscomb and SuperDave Bondon for their articles. Thanks to Betsy McOmer for the photos from VIR. Articles and photos are welcome and solicited.

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There is a great article by Burt Levy in the current issue of British Car about sharing a ride with SuperDave Bondon in the Sunday Enduro at this year's Walter Mitty.

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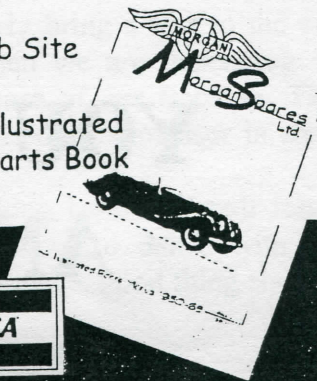
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296 Lakeshore Drive
Berkeley Lake, GA 30096-3030



Fred and Gay Hollinger
3253 Indian Valley Trail
Atlanta, GA 30341

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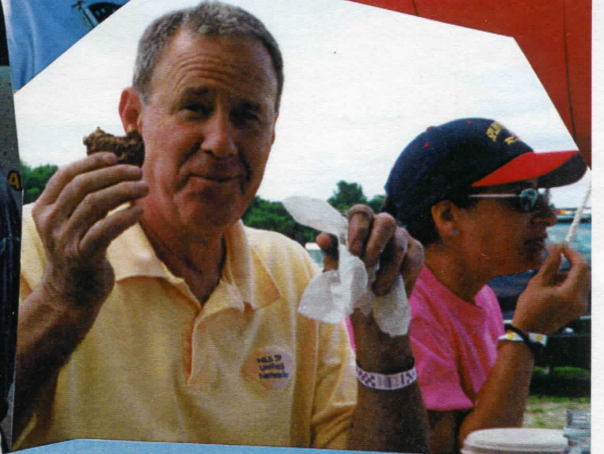
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