

GatorMOG History

On 16 March 1988 Alan/Ann Aker (Boca Raton) and Bob/Joan Yeager sent out an inquiry to known Florida Morgan enthusiasts, soliciting interest in a Florida Morgan Club. (See link to a scan of this document on www.mogsouth.com) This was the start of GatorMOG, Morgans of Florida.

The formation of GatorMOG, like MOGSouth was directly connected to the Morgan Car Club in Washington DC and the first participation of GatorMOG was attendance at the MCCDC meet. The estimates of Morgan ownership in Florida, in 1988, exceeded 60 Morgans.

Alan Aker had a red 1986 Propane Plus 8 which was purchased from Bill Fink at ISIS imports by his wife Ann. The story of how he got the red Plus 8 was related to Mark Braunstein by Alan Aker in a phone conversation in early 2016.

Alan and Ann were attending a business conference on the west coast and because of Alan's interest in Morgans, visited Bill Fink and Isis on Pier 33 in San Francisco. Bill offered them the Plus 8 for a demonstration ride so they borrowed the car for an hour or so. When they returned, Bill suggested they take the car for a long time frame and they agreed, borrowing the car for the afternoon. Upon return, availability was discussed and the delays of the time were mentioned. Alan and Ann left. Later Ann surprised Alan with the red 1986 Plus 8 having convinced Bill Fink to sell them Bill's personal car (?), e.g. the one they had driven, to eliminate the waiting time.

Caught up in the early GatorMOG formation activities in Florida was Perry Nuhn. Perry had a 1951 Plus 4 being restored by Bob Couch. This car was purchased in 1988 and the restoration completed in 1990. As Perry was a retired Colonel from the United States Air Force, he had more discretionary time than Alan, so the GatorMOG club activities and other Morgan club commitments fell on Perry Nuhn's shoulders. Perry soon became the face of GatorMOG.

Perry Nuhn relinquished GatorMOG commitments when he left Hobe Sound FL and moved to Hilton Head Island, SC. Rick Frazee (Winter Park FL) took over GatorMOG from Perry. Rick maintains an email address listing and communicates with the other Morgan owners in Florida, as required.

GatorMOG joined MOGSouth in 2007. GatorMOG remained a very small club (in spite of the potential number of Morgans in Florida) with very limited resources. It was believed that GatorMOG could be better served by the greater MOGSouth. The transition couldn't have gone any smoother, and GatorMOG and its members are treated as an integral part of MOGSouth. Because of the geographic location, however, GatorMOG continues as an entity, the Morgan Owners of Florida, and they do have some Florida gatherings independent of MOGSouth.

Florida Morgan enthusiasts typically join both MOGSouth and GatorMOG. GatorMOG itself doesn't provide anything other than an email messaging service. But, when there is a regional Florida event this works well. MOGSouth does have a modest annual dues, but provides an informative web site, newsletter, email messaging, regalia, etc. Florida has been the location for one of the annual MOGSouth events every 5 years or so since GatorMOG combined with MOGSouth.

Alan Aker still lives in Boca Raton and Perry Nuhn lives in Hilton Head Island. Both are accessible and are still active and/or interested in Morgans.

Alan eventually sold the red 1986 Propane Plus 8 to Ron Ray (Longwood FL), he still has a 1953 4 Seater Plus 4. Ron Ray (Longwood FL) sold the Plus 8 to Dave Bondon (Atlanta GA) for personal reasons. Dave Bondon (Atlanta GA) then sold the car to Mercer Dye (Atlanta GA). Mark Braunstein (Sanford FL) bought the Plus 8 from Mercer Dye in 2012. So the car returned to Florida. It returned to Florida as a Propane powered car however it was converted to gasoline in 2013 by Mark Braunstein.

Perry Nuhn took his 1951 Plus 4 north to Hilton Head Island however this car also returned to Florida when Perry sold it to Mark Braunstein in 2015.