



# **SOUTHERN FOURS AND EIGHTS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MORGAN GROUP MOGSOUTH #2-95

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## **MogSouth Spring Meet May 19-21**

**Townsend, TN**

by: Randy and Dale Johnson

The Spring Meet was held May 19-21 in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and was hosted by Martha and Matt McClellan.

With Dale having to work most of the day of May 19, I took off mid-morning to meet Charlie and Maidie Williams at their home to caravan to Tennessee. Our younger son Adam and daughter Amy came in Amy's car, as she was traveling later in the weekend to western New York state to work for the summer. We left Charlie and Maidie's house with the hoods up as it was raining pretty hard for the short drive up GA 400 to meet Lance Lipscomb and Connie Monroe to continue the trip. We stopped for lunch in Cleveland, GA and I lowered the hood as the weather was looking much better. At that point we were one Plus Four, two Plus Eights, and a fully packed 1983 Honda Accord trekking towards East Tennessee. We had picked what looked to be a scenic route and were not disappointed. One section was an eleven mile stretch that included 318 curves. It was quite a workout for the arms (as well as some stomachs). We were told by some bikers that people come from all over the world to drive that section of US 129. After that exciting ride we hit the Foothills Parkway, an 18 mile road that parallels the western end of the park. A pretty ride but only a small preview

of what Matt and Martha had planned for our tour on Saturday morning.

We arrived at the Wonderland Hotel about 4:30 that afternoon. The hotel was modeled after another hotel that was in the park, but had closed. It is a lovely spot with a great view from the rocking chairs on the wrap around porch. A surprise upon checking into our rooms was the MogSouth Spring Meet 1995 T-Shirts that Matt had made up for all attendees. A very nice extra touch. Thanks Matt! Dave and Sarah Chiles had already arrived in their Suburban as the Plus Eight was down and they had to be in Birmingham Sunday night. Also an early arrival was Bill and Mary Ann Phillips (no rain Bill!), who had trailered their beautiful Plus Four four place from South Carolina. They were out touring Cades Cove when we arrived. Shortly thereafter, Matt arrived in a steaming Four/Four, having experienced a radiator leak on the way over from Knoxville. Martha was close behind and we were glad to see her as she had prepared a great snack table and of course was carrying the beer. Arriving after that were Dan and Nancilee Kelly from Chattanooga, driving as usual, both their Morgans. Nancilee in the beautiful Drophead Coupe, "Mother Courage" and Dan in "J.P. Morgan" his beautiful Four/Four. John and Mae Council arrived from North Carolina with John in their Plus Eight and Mae in the mini-van. Charlie and Caroline King arrived in yet another Mercedes from Charleston, S.C. Gene and Betsy McCumber from Keowee, S.C. arrived and it was good to

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finally meet Betsy. Gene says that as soon as their new home is finished he will resume restoration of their car. Jack and Emily Poteet brought Emily's Plus Four Drophead from Morganton, NC and Dave and Marilyn Bondon arrived from Atlanta in their RX-7. They usually drive their Plus Four but Dave had been a bit under the weather. Last but not least, Dale arrived after having salvaged the real estate deal she had stayed behind to work on.

The Johnsons win the prize for having the most cars (3) at the meet at one time, but the McClellans were a close second as at least three of their cars were also there at one time or another (a story for another time that includes a broken Moggie and a flat tire). We had twenty-six Morgan enthusiasts and nine Morgans, a good turn out indeed.

After a good noggin on the porch of the Wonderland we enjoyed dinner in the diningroom of the hotel and then up to bed to rest for Saturday.

The plan was a driving tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and lunch in Pigeon Forge, TN. After a wonderful country breakfast in the hotel's dining room, Matt and Martha lead the tour and a beautiful drive it was. We began with a road through the Wears Valley picnic area that paralleled a beautiful river and then climbed to the top of the park via scenic US 441 to stop at Newfound Gap to admire the view, take pictures, and pit stops. The best was saved for last, that was a 10 mph drive on the Motor Nature Trail, a one-way paved track through the forest that as close to a hiking trail that any of these Morgans have ever seen. We wondered if the larger cars would even fit through some of the narrower spots but all came through unscathed. Everyone agrees that the McClellans had mapped out the best tour anyone

remembers for a recent MogSouth meet. If you are ever in the area, it is worth a detour. It was then on to Pigeon Forge for a great lunch at the Applewood Restaurant. This is a pretty spot by the Little Pigeon River and was a great choice. We then motored back to the Wonderland for some R&R and conversation.

Bill Phillips, Dave Bondon, Dave Chiles, Gene McCumber, and Matt McClellan then took off in Bill's car with trailer to rescue Matt's Four/Four as it was left by the side of the road due to an overheating problem. The rest of us stayed on the porch and talked of past MogSouth meets and laughed about the stories told of previous National Meets and the antics of other Morgan owners. We wondered why we do not do some of these things nowadays (could it be we are getting older?).

We were to be at dinner at the Five Oaks Inn at 8PM but the "rescue team" had not returned from their mission. They finally called and suggested we meet them there with clean clothes and cold beer. (We all wondered why they were late, something about a stop at a topless bar?) The Five Oaks was a great place and a restaurant that one would not necessarily expect to find in Pigeon Forge. After this wonderful dinner, great desserts, (some flaming) we all motored back to the hotel for a bit more conversation and bed.

Sunday morning dawned clear and cool again and we all joined for another country breakfast in the dining room. After breakfast it was time for good-byes and hit the road. Lance and Connie in their Plus Eight, our son Adam in our Explorer and I returned to Atlanta via the route we had taken on Friday and arrived home about 4PM.

Our many thanks to Martha and Matt McClellan for a great Spring Meet.

Those of you that did not make it missed a great time.

### FutureMeets

**1995 Fall Meet** - TBA but most likely sometime in September. Hosted by Dave and Sarah Chiles.

**1995 Christmas Party** - TBA but usually the first weekend in December. Hosted by Dave and Marilyn Bondon in Roswell, (Atlanta) GA.

**1996 Spring Meet** - TBA but most likely mid-May. Hosted by Bill and Mary Ann Phillips.

### Tips from Fred

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"Notes from a Morgan Garage"  
by Fred Sisson

With many of us taking road trips this summer here is a tip as to items you may want to include in your Morgan "just in case".

#### Be a Boy Scout

"Be Prepared" is the boy scout motto. Not bad advice. What do you carry for spares? I tend to over prepare, but then again, I can usually cope with road problems. Wish they didn't happen at night though....

The best way to be prepared is to know your car. There will always be the unexpected, but if you do the maintenance yourself, massage and improve things as you go, it will become less of a mystery to you and more reliable. For instance, I used to carry extra wire, testers, etc. After re-wiring my Morgan, I KNOW where all the wires go and that I'll have no electrical problems.

Still in all, for long trips I gather- Assortment of hose clamps from small to

super large, handful of wire ties, bag of assorted nuts, bolts and washers, fan belt, feeler gauges, three Phillips and three regular screwdrivers, 3/8" to 3/4" combination wrenches, 4 BS wrenches 7/16BS, 3/8BS, 5/16BS, & 1/4BS, 3/8" drive socket set with American sockets, 3 extensions, sparkplug wrench, 9/16BS, 1/2BS, 7/16BS, 3/8BS, 1/4BS sockets, large and small ViseGrips, Channel locks, small pliers, needlenose, sidecuts, set of small ignition wrenches, large and medium Crescent wrenches, two road flares, used/good front wheel bearings (greased/ZipLocked), electric fuel pump, small WD-40, Permatex UltraBlue, roll of safety wire, wheel hammer, bypass hose to use in case of oil cooler failure (used five times!).

Sound like overkill? Maybe. I could damn near overhaul a Morgan with what I take, but all this fits nicely into an "Old Pal" fishing box. No problem taking it along, if just for the piece of mind.

In a ZipLock bag I keep an assortment of spare bulbs and a couple of fuses.

If I didn't have electronic ignition, I'd carry spare points.

I carry a scissor-jack. The handle is under the mat on the passenger's side and the jack is held to the rear crossmember (under the spare tyre) with wing nuts.

Oh yea.... Boy Scout flashlight and two books, Manifold Destiny and Notes From a Morgan Garage.

#### COOKBOOK

This is the only cookbook that I know of with actual recipes and number of driving miles necessary, for cooking dinner right on the car engine.

Especially in a Morgan, you want to bleed-off heat in the summer. Why not let some food absorb it? This book also might serve as a nice introduction to REAL AMERICAN food. I doubt if many travelers' to the US ever get to try (or even see!) such classics as "mom's Tuna Wiggle" or "Hot Dog Surprise". You need this book and it's only eight bucks.

#### Manifold Destiny

by Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller  
Villard Books (Random House) New York

"Notes From a Morgan Garage" by Fred Sisson can be purchased by contacting Fred at 404 446-7124. It comes with a money back guarantee!

BRITISH CAR DAY AT  
CHATEAU ELAN  
MAY 13, 1995-ATLANTA

(By Randy Johnson) Saturday, May 13 was British Car Day at Chateau Elan in Atlanta. MogSouth was well represented with 13 cars in attendance, more than I can ever remember at this event. The usual local folks were there but we had five cars that most of us had not seen before.

Don Polak of Nashville, TN was there in his pretty yellow Plus Four that he is restoring. He has added some "Sisson" touches with Weber carbs, a SS style radiator and header tank, chopped windscreen and SS style bucket seats. He has done a very nice job. Also attending, having driven from Chattanooga early Saturday morning was Dan Kelly and his award winning ~~Four/Four~~. Nancilee was in Dallas but will be attending the Spring Meet. Brad Braswell of Atlanta was there driving the Plus Eight of Bobby Little's, who was unable to attend. Brad does some work on local Plus Eights. New local member Charles Ligon was there with his good looking two tone blue Plus Eight, a nice addition to our local Atlanta cars. The newest addition to the Atlanta Morgan scene was a brand new bright red Plus Eight from Isis that belongs to Howard and Jan Shaw. It was an 11th wedding anniversary present from Jan to Howard and we understand a complete surprise. Nice car-nice present but then who am I to talk as our car was a 20th anniversary present from my wife. Even though Dale could not attend, I represented the Johnson family with our 1966 Plus Four. Our usual

band of local stalwarts (and regular Morgan drivers) were all in attendance. Pete Olsen came with his nicely restored early Plus Eight. His SS trike is down for repairs and preparation for its entry in the Meadowbrook Concours in August. The only family with two cars on the field (and a third in the garage, an F-Type trike being made into a vintage racer) were Fred and Roni Sisson with Fred's "Old Green" highly modified Plus Four and the "tan car" Roni's very highly modified Plus Four with the Ford V-8 engine and automatic transmission. Don't anyone try Roni at a stoplight! Samantha Sisson was also there with a friend of hers from school. One of our newer members to Atlanta (since November of last year) was Dave Bondon who came (summer cold and all) in their Plus Four (Marilyn was visiting her mother in Florida). Having the Bondon's in Atlanta has added greatly to our Morgan population (as well as our stature for having another Morgan legend within our midst's). Lance Lipscomb and friend Connie were last to arrive in their Plus Eight and brought the MogSouth banner which let everyone know who we were (as if they couldn't tell). We had several people come by who own cars but had not brought them to the show as they were not yet completely restored and on the road. This included Ty and Linda Giles and Bill and Dianne Yarbrough. Both say they are much closer to having their cars road ready. Wes Devoto came by to say hello and to solicit cars for an upcoming British Festival to raise money for the British Olympic team to be held at Oglethorpe

University in Atlanta in early June. (If anyone is interested in showing their cars, please call me and I will advise Wes.) From out of the woodwork and his factory in Demorest, GA. was Don Simpkins (yes he does exist) and it was certainly good to visit with him and hear his latest opinions and exploits. Another new Atlanta member, Harold Cuneliffe was there looking over Dan Kelly's car as Harold is restoring a Series 3 Four/Four.

We had a really good day with only a few spotty showers which gave us a reason to wipe down the cars and remove the road dust.

There were approximately 450 other British cars on the field so the Morgans and MogSouth were certainly in good company, well represented and a big hit. MogSouth is now an official member of the Atlanta British Sport Car Club and will participate and contribute to this event every year. Hope to see all of you next year.

### UPCOMING 1995 EVENTS

Car Shows:

**June 30-July 4** Mog 25 Info: MCCDC Rough Rider

**August 4-6** Meadowbrook Concours and Vintage Race (Detroit area)

**September 16** British at Berry (College), Rome, GA Info: 706 295-2777

**September 23** 2nd Annual British Car Day Sevierville, TN sponsored by the Smoky Mountain British Car Assoc. Info: 615 624-7219

**October 27-29** Low Country Classic Charleston, SC Info: 704 542-2097

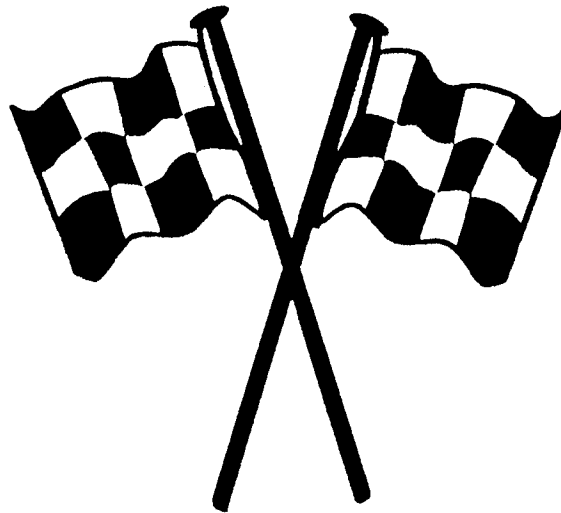
**November 3-5** British Mystery Weekend Chattanooga, TN sponsored by the Southern British Car Club Info: 615 624-7219

Racing: (Atlanta Area)

**September 22-24** HSR Road Atlanta

**October 20-22** SVRA Road Atlanta

**November 10-12** HSR Savannah, GA (Roebbling Road)



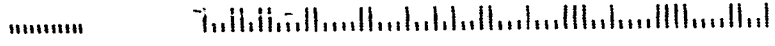


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