



SOUTHERN FOURS AND EIGHTS

Newsletter of the Southern Morgan Group MOGSouth Vol. 4/96

1996 Christmas Party

By Randy Johnson

The MOGSouth Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 7 at the home of Andrea and Mark Braunstein in Marietta, Georgia. We had a great turnout with approximately forty people in attendance.

MCCDC members Carol Estes and Richard Lipsky of Washington, DC were Mark and Andrea's guests for the weekend and it was good to see them again. They are stalwart members of the DC Club and are always at the annual summer MOGs. Mark's sister Barbara Curasi from Peachtree City and her husband Vince were also there and it was a pleasure to meet them.

MOGSouth members attending were: "Super" Dave and Marilyn Bondon, Stacey Bondon with her date Ben, Mark and Scarlett Campbell, Dave and Sarah Chiles, John and Mae Councill, Lee and Tricia Gaskins, Al and Mary Ann Genhart, Fred and Gay Hollinger, yours truly and my wife Dale and our daughter Amy Johnson, Dan and Nancilee Kelly, Charlie King, Pete Olson, (both Caroline King and Shari Olson were unable to attend due to recent surgeries but we hope to see them at the Spring Meet) Charlie and Janice Ligon, Lance and Connie Lipscomb, Gene and Betsy McOmber, Bill and Mary Ann Phillips and Bob and Laney Steele.

Mark and Andrea's home was decorated for the season as was

their 4/4, strung with Christmas lights and parked in the front drive. Other Morgans driven to the party was our Plus Four, Pete Olson's Plus Eight, Bill and Mary Ann Phillips in their Plus Eight and Dan and Nancilee Kelly in Nancilee's Drophead Coupe.

The Braunstein's home is beautiful and their neighborhood backs up to the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield. It is a lovely area of Atlanta. Mark and Andrea have finished off their basement and it served as the site for most of the partying. Mark has decorated it with all of his Morgan memorabilia and is perfect for a Morgan party.

We all enjoyed the conversation and catching up with each other and renewing acquaintances of those friends we had not seen in some time and meeting new MOGSouth members attending the Christmas party for their first time.

Andrea had prepared a great buffet and I know everyone enjoyed dinner as well as the marvelous desserts.

After dinner we all retired to the basement again for the annual MOGSouth business meeting. The first order of business was to read a Christmas Greeting from our "island friends" Bob and Wynell Bruce, who are doing well in St. Thomas, VI. I have included a copy of their greeting elsewhere in the newsletter. "Super" Dave Bondon volunteered his and Marilyn's home in Roswell, Georgia for the Christmas Party for 1997 and Pete Olson, Lance Lipscomb and myself

are in charge of the Spring Meet for 1997. We decided to have the Spring Meet in conjunction with the Atlanta British Car Day which will be held at Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia on May 10, 1997. The tentative plan is to find lodging nearby the Chateau and do our usual Friday night Noggin' but instead of the usual motoring tour on Saturday, participate in British Car Day. There are usually 450 to 500 cars in attendance and is a great event. Details will be forthcoming but please plan on joining us for this event. At the conclusion of the business meeting it was time for the second annual "tacky gift" exchange. We were all given a number on arrival at the party and you picked a wrapped gift from under the tree based upon that number. A twist was added this year in that if you did not like the gift you picked you could swap with anyone who had picked before you. A prize was to be given at the end of the evening to the recipient of the "tackiest" gift and with this in mind their was some cutthroat swapping going on. I believe the "croaking frog" changed hands about four times. In the end, Scarlett Campbell was awarded the "tackiest" gift award for her "lady without limbs" lamp. It is obvious that we have really gotten into the spirit of tacky gift giving and I can hardly wait to see next year's gifts. The party broke up soon thereafter and it was time to motor home. Our house guests, Bill and Mary Ann Phillips followed me home and the pair of Morgans was quite a sight that Saturday night. My hood was down and as cold as it was and with my Santa Claus hat in place, I felt like a right jolly old elf.

On Sunday morning Mark and Andrea along with Richard and Carol, the Kellys, Bondons, Chiles, Councils, Steeles, Gaskins, McOmbers, Johnsons, Charlie King and Fred Sisson who had been unable to attend Saturday night, met at Shillings on the Square, a nice restaurant on the Historic Marietta Square for brunch before our members from out of town had to depart.

I know all who attended had a great time and would like to extend our thanks to Andrea and Mark for all their efforts in hosting us. If you missed it, you missed a really good time.

1997 Spring Meet

MOGSouth's 1997 Spring Meet will be held May 9, 10 and 11 in and around Gainesville and Braselton, Georgia. It was decided at this year's Christmas Party to hold the meet in conjunction with the Atlanta British Car Day which will be held on Saturday, May 10, 1997 at Chateau Elan in Braselton, GA. Chateau Elan is located approximately 50 miles northeast of Atlanta at exit 48 of Interstate 85.

This meet draws 450 to 500 cars and we are hoping for a record turnout of Morgans (last year we had 14).

The plan is to stay in Gainesville, GA and have our usual Noggin' on Friday night and dinner together on Saturday night but participate in the car show on Saturday rather than our usual motoring tour.

Specific details will be forthcoming in March of 1997 but please mark your calendar for the weekend of May 9-11, 1997 and please plan to join us for what promises to be a very good meet.

EURO 96

By Randy Johnson

A new car show, EURO 96 was held October 26, 1996 on the grounds of the BMW manufacturing facility in Greenville, SC. The meet was organized by the Foothills British Car Club of Anderson, SC and for an inaugural event was very well done. I understand they had over 180 cars, six of which were Morgans, Charlie Ligon and his Plus Eight, your truly in my Plus Four, Pete Olson and his Plus Eight, Dave Kay and his award winning Drophead Coupe, Bill Lyons of suburban Greenville in a recently completed Drophead and Joe and Lois Pearson in their 1934 SS Trike. Also attending were MOGSouth members Charlie King from Charleston and Tom Badger of Raleigh, Gene McOmer who helping with the organization as a member of the FBCC and Bill and Sara Powell with their London Taxi.

Charlie and I motored from Atlanta to Greenville on Friday afternoon and enjoyed the offerings of downtown Greenville on Friday night. Charlie said the ambiance reminded him of a small European town. There are a number of interesting restaurants and bars and downtown Greenville does much to make the downtown area an attractive place to visit on Friday nights.

On Saturday morning we joined a parade of other cars for the ride to the factory and were parked in a spot near the entrance to the Zentrum, the visitor facility and museum at the plant.

The Zentrum is interesting to visit as they have a collection of

significant BMW motorcycles and automobiles on display as well as a very well done multimedia presentation of the manufacturing process of the Z3. (Plant tours are not offered to the public)

In addition to the Zentrum, there were displays by Michelin and other vendors as well as a small parts flea market.

Both BMW and Michelin sponsored awards and I am pleased to say that the Pearson's trike won People' Choice as sponsored by Michelin and they were awarded a very nice plaque at the banquet on Saturday night. Congratulations to the Pearsons!

Unfortunately, Pete, Charlie and I went home late Saturday afternoon and were not able to celebrate with Joe and Lois.

Pete Olson won the Mogger's choice award voted on by all Morgan owners in attendance. Congratulations Pete!

This was a very enjoyable show and I would recommend putting it on your schedule for 1997.

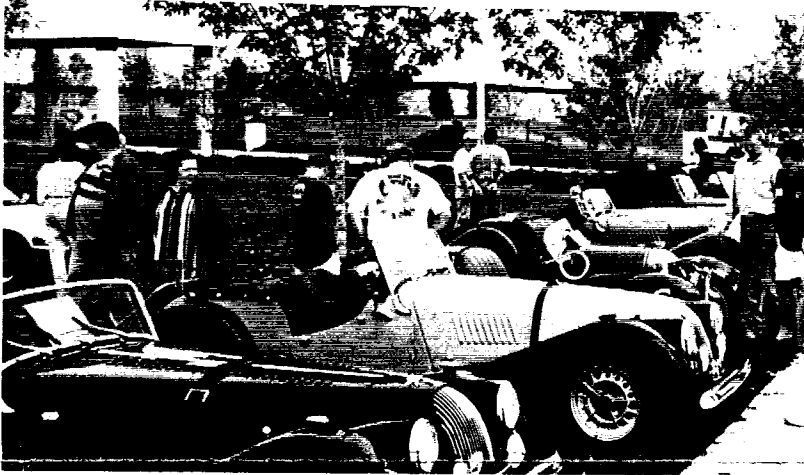
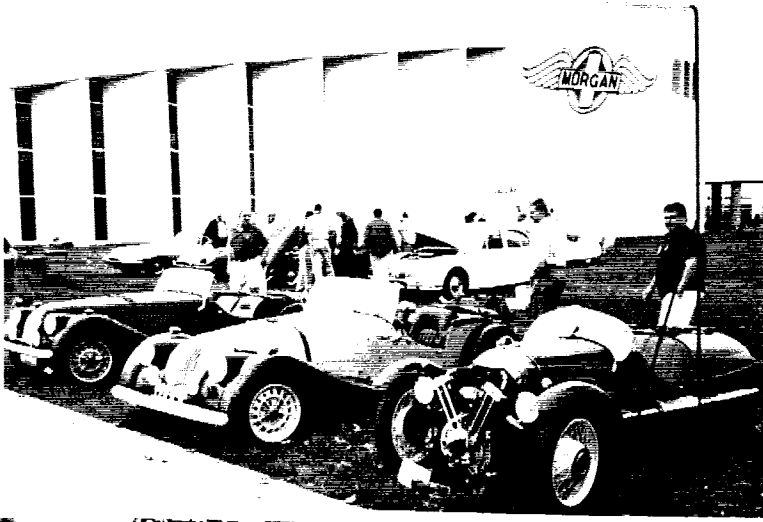
DUES

Dues are due January 1, 1997 for the upcoming year. For those of you that paid at the Christmas Party, thank you very much! Dues remain \$20.00 for the year.

Please mail to:

Randy Johnson
1794 Fair Oaks Place
Decatur, Georgia 30033-1449
Please make check payable to:
MOGSouth

Thank you!!!



EURO 96 photos courtesy Charlie Ligon



1997 MOGSouth DUES

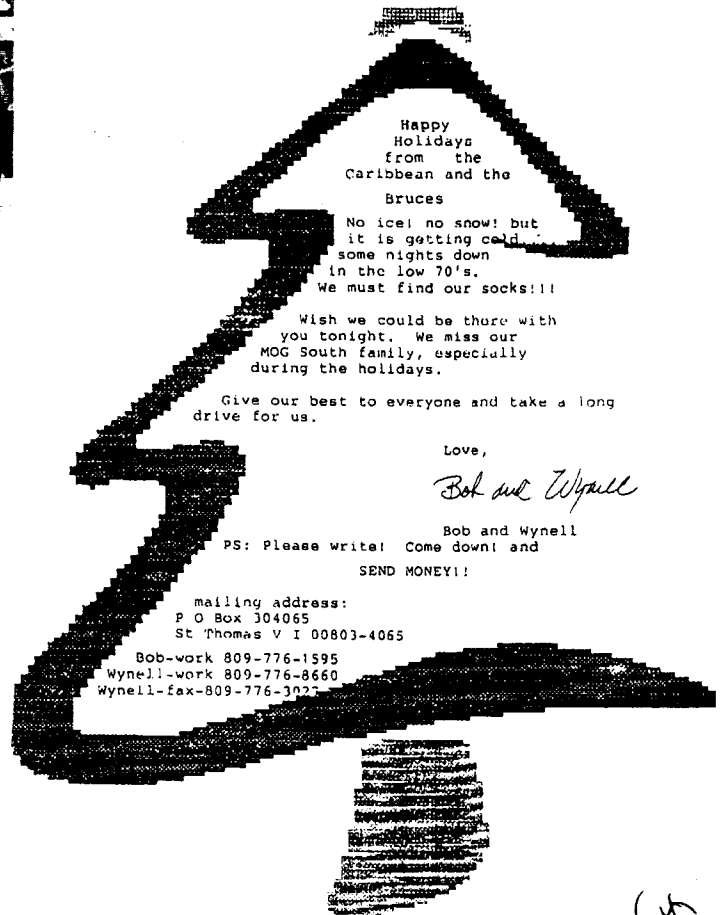
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & ZIP _____

Phone/Home _____ Office _____

Please note any changes from last year
 Check payable to MOGSouth and mail to:
 Randy Johnson
 1794 Fair Oaks Place
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TIPS FROM FRED

By Fred Sisson

SOME THOUGHTS

Maintenance on a Morgan is pretty straightforward and for many of us, that is part of its charm. The fact that we can do the required maintenance ourselves provides us not only with a sense of accomplishment, but also there is a sense of satisfaction in knowing that we are not held hostage to computer equipped shops.

No one can maintain a car as well as the driver. You know from daily communication, just what is happening to it. Sounds, smells, love and feel are as important as instruments in early detection of problems.

I would say that a Morgan is a fairly "high maintenance" automobile, but there is not much that is beyond the capability of the home mechanic. Even the farmer has to groom the mule. Love and massage the Morgan and it will reward you with a long life-maybe for both of you.

There are three basic aspects of maintenance: *Lubrication, adjustments and...keeping it together.*

All this is preventive maintenance. However the last aspect, keeping it together, is fairly unique to older cars as the construction and fasteners are not as sophisticated as today's cars. If you approach "keeping it together" as a three step process of *checking, adjusting and improving*, then as the years go by you will have less and less adjusting to do. Forget the recommended intervals! Just do it often, when ever you feel like massaging the beast.

The owner of any tricked-out, fast, reliable, neat Morgan, will tell you

that they are totally unconcerned about maintenance. They will also tell you that their Morgan is very reliable!!! How can this be? It is because they love their ride and are constantly working on it. Not because they have to, nor because it need to be fixed, but because they like to massage something mechanical (their Morgan). You might say they over-maintain their car.

If you "over-maintain" your car, you will soon learn what wears, what needs adjustment or more lube, etc. If something works loose, try to figure out why, then take a step to prevent it from happening again.

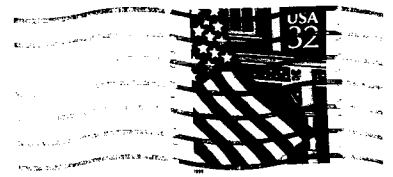
Owners without this mind set are those who ultimately have one of those bumper stickers on their car "All parts falling off this car are genuine British." *That sticker says a lot about the competence of the owner. Gotta place the blame somewhere...*

Don't just tighten a loose bolt back down.... replace the lock washer, use a new bolt, use Loctite, safety wire...*do something to try and insure that it will not come loose again!* Slowly, over an extended period, you will find fewer problems. The car becomes more and more reliable. You are refining the breed.

The above article was contributed by and reprinted with the permission of longtime MOGSouth member Fred Sisson from his new book The Morgan Driver's Bedside Reader. For your copy contact Fred at 770 446-7124. It even comes with a money back guarantee!

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Southern Fours and Eights
Newsletter of Morgan Owners Group South
1794 Fair Oaks Place
Decatur, Georgia 30033-1449



Mark and Andrea Braunstein
810 Crossfire Ridge
Marietta, GA 30064



30064/471B

