

SOUTHERN FOURS AND EIGHTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN MORGAN GROUP MOGSOUTH VOL.5/01

MOGSouth at MOG 31

MCCDC's MOG 31 was a ball and I am sure I can say that for all MOGSouth members that attended.

As you remember several members had plans to meet and travel the Blue Ridge Parkway to the meet in Staunton, Virginia, site of MOG 31. In my mind, the trip was half the fun.

Dale and I left Atlanta at 8:30 on Wednesday morning, June 27 and met Lance and Connie Lipscomb on I-85 at 9:15. We then motored through Northeast Georgia to Scenic Highway 11 in South Carolina where we met Gene and Betsy McOmber at our rendezvous point, Aunt Sue's where we enjoyed a very good lunch but decided to forego dessert in order to enjoy ice cream, later in the afternoon, at The Switzerland Inn at Little Switzerland, NC, just off the Parkway.

We reached the Parkway via US 276 through Brevard, NC and that part of the ride was just a prelude to what we were to enjoy once we reached the Parkway. So far Dale and I had traveled approximately 200 miles to reach the Parkway and we were to travel an additional 120 miles to reach our destination for Wednesday night, Boone,

NC. We stopped in Little Switzerland around 4:45 that afternoon and while enjoying our ice cream in the parking lot, a lady approached us and started asking us about our Morgans and where we were headed. As it turns out, the lady is John Sheally's sister who has a summer home in the area and being John's sister, knows a great deal about Morgans. With a wave and request for John to call his sister, we continued on to Boone, arriving at the Best Western motel at 6:30. Eric Cummins Plus Four was in the parking lot, with Eric, Ann and Scott having arrived earlier in the day. We cleaned up a bit and met Mae and John Council for dinner at The Red Onion. Mae and John were planning to travel to Staunton on Friday but did give us important information regarding a detour to the Parkway northbound from Boone.

With the exception of the brake lights on Lance's Plus Eight not working and a problem with the starter on Eric's Plus Four, it appeared we were ready to continue on Thursday morning for the 170 mile drive to Roanoke, VA.

Lee and Trisha Gaskins had called from the road and were scheduled to arrive in Boone at 9:30 that morning

to join us for the rest of the trip to Roanoke.

As I was checking things under the bonnet while fueling the Plus Four, I noticed that the water pump pulley was loose and wobbling, possibly requiring a major repair. At that point I made the decision to hook up the car to Dale's Explorer and return to Atlanta, as I did not want to attend my first MOG in nine years and not have a Morgan to drive. Fortunately, everyone convinced me to change my mind and assured me that we could fix the problem once we arrived in Staunton.

So with Dale and I leading the way towing the Plus Four, we made our way to the Parkway. Of course we immediately ran into a road construction back up when leaving the motel but after about a 30-minute delay, we were on our way. It was a beautiful day for driving and I was surprised at how well the Plus Four and Explorer handled together on the Parkway.

At lunchtime we exited the Parkway at Mt. Airy, NC and enjoyed a great lunch at the Lake View Café. You should know that we did also enjoy dessert, Lance having pointed out that we were on vacation and those calories do not count while on vacation.

The run to Roanoke was easy and we arrived at the Colony House Motel about 4:00PM noticing the difference in temperature from high up on the Parkway to down in the Roanoke Valley to be considerable, 74 versus 90. Amazing!

Shortly after we arrived, Mark and Andrea Braunstein arrived from Greenville, SC, Mark in the 4/4 with Andrea towing the Flat Rad with her Explorer.

While everyone was cleaning up I went to the local Lowe's to purchase

several large washers and tubes of J-B Weld, having come up with a plan to temporarily repair the water pump pulley after consultations with Lance and Lee. The plan was to J-B Weld a large washer to the nose of the pulley, then start drinking beer and hope that this fix would hold to at least allow us to drive the Plus Four once we had reached Staunton.

With that plan in mind we decided to go to a nearby Outback Steakhouse for dinner. Arriving before we left for dinner were the MOGSouth contingent from Nashville, Don Polak, Tom Perkins, and new Plus Eight owner Joan Maupin (the Nashville Cats) and Joe Speetjens from Jackson, MS, Joe having traveled to Nashville the day before and they joined us for dinner.

We planned to leave Roanoke for Staunton, our last day on the Parkway at mid-morning. I decided to test the J-B Weld and believe it or not, it held. It was not pretty but was effective and allowed me to drive the final 120 miles to Staunton. Thank you to Lance and Lee for your help and encouragement!

The final run to Staunton was uneventful with the exception of several stops to cover up for expected rain or to uncover when it got hot.

We arrived in Staunton mid afternoon and checked into the hotel where we immediately ran into MOGSouth members Homer Deakins along with his wife Barbara and daughter Morgan with their beautiful yellow (did I say Yellow?) Four Place. We also saw Perry Nuhn with his wife Ritamarie as well as Rick and Sam Frazee with Babe their Trike along with Jack and Pat Zimmerman. Fellow MOGSouth members also arriving on Friday were John and Mae Councill, Charlie and Caroline King, Dave and

Sarah Chiles, Lee and Stephanie Pardue, Norris and Susan Haynes, Michael and Brenda Hewitt, Andy and Ann Leo, Dave Childress, Iris Knight, Alan Marsh, Tony Newton, Tom and June Peacock, Joe and Sharon Topinka, and Win Sharples, Jack Claxton came for the day on Saturday.

Lee and Trisha Gaskins had motored ahead of us during a brief shower on the Parkway and the Nashville Cats and Joe Speetjens were a bit behind us in arriving, as they wanted to visit the Orvis Outlet store in Roanoke before departing for Staunton.

A barbecue was held around the pool on Friday night and Dale and I especially enjoyed seeing many old Morgan friends, as we had not attended a MOG since 1992.

Saturday morning dawned sunny and with the promise of a beautiful but hot day for the Concours. The Concours was held around a pond on the golf course at the Ingleside Resort. The cars were formed up as groups for the judging with the Flat Rads in the most prominent location, as they were the featured cars this year. Also on the grounds were Morgan Spares and Penny Bates with their assortment of goodies as well as Cantab Motors with Morgan Regalia and other items for sale.

The Concours judging began about 10:30 that morning of the 73 cars (according to the count by Scott Cummins) on the field and I am pleased to report that MOG South members won first place in five classes, Homer, Barbara and Morgan Deakins with their beautiful yellow (did I say yellow?) Four Place, Lance and Connie Lipscomb in their Early Plus Eight (driven all the way from Fox Hat Lane in Cumming, GA), Eric, Ann and Scott Cummins in their Early Plus Four Roadster (again driven

all the way from Atlanta), Sarah and Dave Chiles in Sarah's Competition Four/Four with the neat hardtop and Lee and Stephanie Pardue in their wonderful Four/Four.

Congratulations to all, your cars are great and thank you to Iris Knight, John Bigler and Ed Geiger for your organization and running of the Concours.

In the early afternoon our son Adam arrived from Washington DC in his 1967 VW camper conversion bus (the madness runs in the family) along with his friend Kari Dibbern to spend the weekend with us at MOG 31. His VW was parked near the Concours field and was in keeping with the mood of the day. He had not seen that many Morgans together since we had attend the Morgan Vintage Race at Mid-Ohio in 1991.

After the Concours while Dale and I relaxed, Adam and Kari took our Plus Four for a spin around the countryside.

The evening's activity was a trip to a local winery for a wine tasting and then on to Joe and Sharon Topinka's farm to celebrate Joe's 60th birthday. The Topinka's farm is beautiful with a great view to the west of pastures and the Blue Ridge Mountains. In my mind's eye, it is exactly the place I would choose for a farm.

Joe and Sharon had arranged for a local caterer to BBQ a pig for dinner and for a local Bluegrass band to provide the entertainment. It was a great party and we did not sound too bad when we sang Happy Birthday to Joe. Thanks for letting us share your celebration and for hosting this group. We all had a blast!

The party was over by 9:00PM and we all motored back to the Ingleside, even the Deakins after borrowing a little gasoline from Joe Topinka. You will

have to get Homer to show you his Rubber Chicken award.

The Autocross and Gymkhana was scheduled for Sunday at the nearby Augusta County Government Center which proved to be a great location. There was a large, flat parking lot perfect for the Autocross, laid out by Richard Lipsky, President of MCCDC, John Sheally and other MCCDC members.

I ran in the first heat with about nine other cars in our "Shiny Primer" (according to Richard Lipsky) Plus Four and had a lot of fun. I am pleased to say that Adam ran the car in the second heat and beat my best time. Oh the glory of youth! It was wonderful to see Adam have such a good time in the Morgan.

Dale and Joan Maupin entered the Gymkhana together, a very challenging and imaginative layout put together by Tom and Beate Warden of GatorMog and enthusiastically helped by their children. I also entered along with Don Polak as navigator and am pleased to report that we came in second. What a team!

After a late lunch, Adam and Kari left to return to Washington and Dale and I returned to the Ingelside to rest and clean up for dinner. We joined the Lipscombs, the Kings, the Councils, and the Nashville Cats (Joan Maupin, Don Polak and Tom Perkins) as well as Joe Speetjens at a local restaurant for a farewell dinner as several of us were leaving on Monday morning, the day before MOG 31 was to conclude.

Monday was much cooler than the previous several days and I almost wished for a jacket as I hooked the Morgan to Dale's Explorer for the drive back to Atlanta. We left about 9:45AM and traveled I-81 to Johnson City, TN where we took US 19-23 to Asheville to

Hendersonville then SC 11 to I-85 and home. A trip of about 530 miles in approximately 10 hours.

I had been looking forward to MOG 31 for several months and can honestly say it was as much fun as I had hoped. The trip up the Blue Ridge Parkway, MOG 31 itself but especially the camaraderie and friendships renewed and enjoyed were wonderful.

I always say that it was the Morgan that brought us together but it is the people that keep us together. We had not been to MCCDC's MOG for nine years but I am already planning next year's trip. Hope to see you there!

I Got Lost At The Autocross

By Michael Hewitt

Sung to the tune of:

"I Got Stuck On Band-Aids and Band-Aids Stuck On Me"

I got lost at the Autocross
Upon a sunny day

I got lost at the Autocross
I could not find my way

I got lost at the Autocross
I ended up alone

I got lost at the Autocross
Some bastard moved the
cones!

MOGSouth Places in Concours, Autocross, Gymkhana and Rally!

MOGSouth members reaped rewards for their efforts at MOG 31. Five members earned First Place Awards in their respective classes in the Concours. Those First Place winners were:

Lee and Stephanie Pardue
Four/Four

Eric, Ann and Scott Cummins
Early Plus Four

Homer, Barbara and Morgan Deakins
Four Place

Lance and Connie Lipscomb
Early Plus Eight

David and Sarah Chiles
(with Sarah's 4/4)
Competition

Both Eric and Lance and Connie drove their Morgans from suburban Atlanta to the meet in Staunton, VA via the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In addition to the above winners the following MOGSouth members earned awards.

Homer Deakins
Rubber Chicken Award
(something about running out of gas?)

Randy Johnson and Don Polok
2nd Place driver and navigator-
Gymkhana

Lee Gaskins
2nd in class in the Autocross

Mark and Andrea Braunstein
1st Place in the Rally

Lee and Stephanie Pardue
The Cantab Award

awarded by the staff of Cantab Motors to their favorite car in the Concours

Congratulations to all the award winners! Once I receive the final results for the events from MCCDC, I will publish that information in a future newsletter.

Fall Meet

Mark and Scarlett Campbell have volunteered to organize this year's Fall Meet. The date and location are to be determined but Mark is looking at a weekend in mid-October or a weekend in early November. He is investigating the area in and around Blue Ridge, Georgia.

Specific dates and details will be forthcoming as soon as they are developed.

Christmas Party

Marilyn and SuperGramps (aka SuperDave) Bondon have volunteered to host this year's MOGSouth Christmas Party at their home in Atlanta. The date is Saturday, December 8, the second Saturday in December. Specific details to come in future newsletters.

Morgan vs Model T

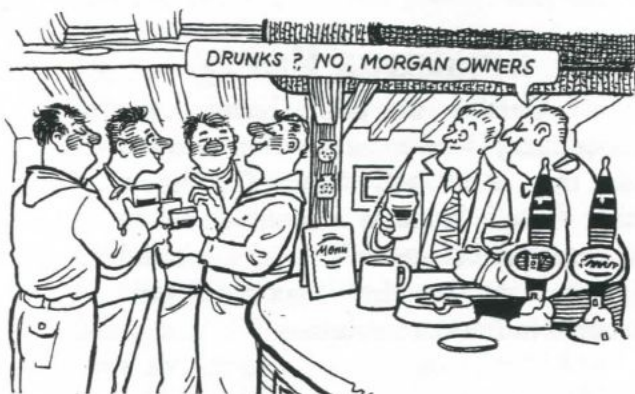
Recently Mark and Scarlett Campbell participated in a parade driving their recently restored Model-T. Afterwards Mark was discussing with Scarlet the fact that he needed to sell a car to make some room in their garage and suggested the Morgan. Scarlet declared that she would rather see the Model T sold rather than the Morgan as the Morgan was so much more comfortable and modern than the Model T.

For those of you who need to convenience your spouses of the benefits of owning/driving a Morgan, Mark is offering your better half a ride in the Model T.

Credits

Thank you to Mark Ehrhard and his company ImageLink for the colour pages in this issue and to Joan Maupin and Betsy McOmber for the pictures from the MOG 31. Thank you to Michael Hewitt for his ditty about the Autocross at MOG 31 and to Mark Campbell for his offer for rides in his Model T.

Articles and photos are welcome and solicited.



From: *Even More Morgan Mania*
By Bryan Reading

“British car owners are a strange lot. They spend insane amounts of time, effort and money to maintain orphaned automobiles that are hard-pressed to keep up with modern traffic. They learn the arcane details and, frequently with alcohol as a lubricant, discuss automotive minutia late into the evening. But, even among the British car enthusiasts, the Morgan owner stands out as peculiar.”

From an article entitled
“Morgan Meet Madness”

By Kevin Clemens

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July 2001

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From the Morgan Oasis Garage

Friends:

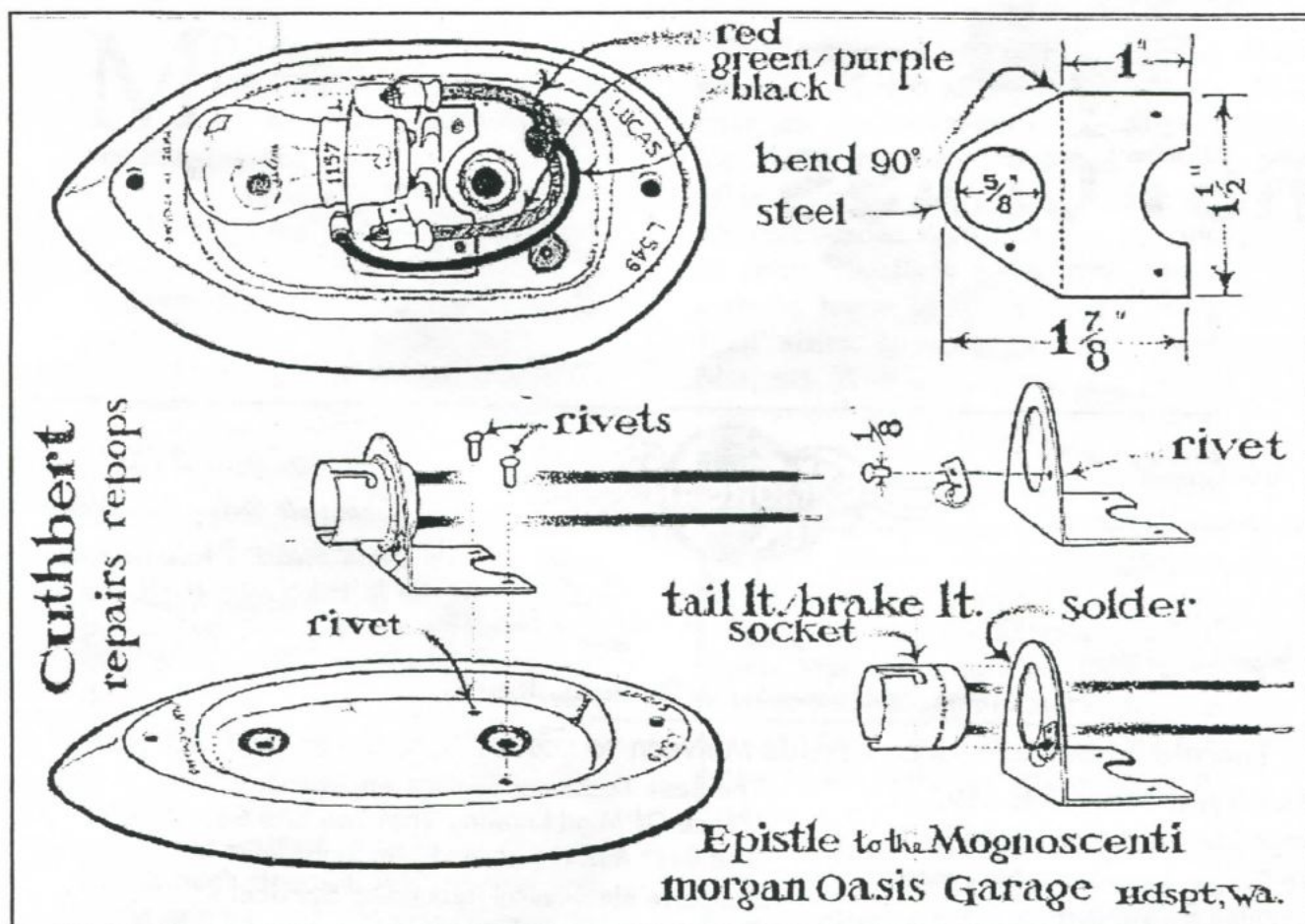
This month's epistle is about that ubiquitous tail lamp, the Lucas L-549 as seen on many, many British cars including our everloving Moggies.

I once worked on a Mog whose owner had replaced the guts of his tail lamp with after market American goodies. Of course this eliminated lots of the quaint habits we get into driving these eversoquaint British cars. Habits like the monthly popping of the lens to "adjust" the quaint English copper contacts that almost touch the bulb and almost give us tail lights.

The car I'm now stroking had one genuine Lucas lamp and one fake Taiwan lamp. To show you how clever these Taiwanese are, they managed to make an even worse tail lamp than the Limeys make. It's possible the engineers studied in Blighty so maybe it ain't so amazing after all.

Anyhow I made up a new piece of steel to hold an American socket within the lens, so we can have the British look AND have tail lights too. It's all there in the drawing, so look for me again.

Cuthbert



In addition to on occasion publishing excerpts from Fred Sisson's *Notes from a Morgan Garage*, I have received a copy of *A Yank At Malvern* by Cuthbert J. Twillie and with permission will also be publishing excerpts from this tome as well. For your very own copy please contact Gary duBois Bell, PO Box 1010, Hoodspott, WA 98548, (360) 877-5150. Cost is \$20.00 per copy plus postage.



Mark and Andrea Braunstein
205 Northbrook Way
Greenville, SC 29615

Inside:
MOGSouth
at MOG 31



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Stainless Steel,
Race and
Performance items.



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