

## Modifications to a Morgan Chassis: Kick-up Prevention or Cure

Moggie Mechanic

The back axle of a Morgan sits on top of the chassis at the bottom of a curve cut out of the side parts or the chassis. Every time the Morgan hits a severe enough bump with the back wheels the axle is pushed off the chassis and then rebounds to hit the chassis. After a length of time this continual pounding results in a phenomenon known as kick-up. This means that the back end of the chassis starts to bend upwards and this lifts up the back body panels. If you put a straight edge along the top or bottom flange of your chassis you will most likely notice that it is not straight from in front of the chassis wheel cutout to the back but for most of us the first time that we encounter this effect is when we have difficulty shutting the doors and by then your Morgan may have kick-up that is visible to the eye when viewed from underneath.

The kick-up can be repaired without disassembling the complete car or it can be prevented or cured if you have the car stripped to its chassis. If you are doing it on a complete car it is best taken to a frame straightening operation, who can make sure that it is straightened correctly without damaging the bodywork. Tack weld the modification to the chassis and then finish off the modification yourself or take it to your body shop. I have heard of mechanics suspending the car on jacks and applying pressure on the rear to straighten the bend but to each his own depending on your expertise. If you are starting with a new chassis, I recommend that you modify it before you start any assembly and if you are just restoring your old chassis, straighten it with a press and then do the modification. (See the instructions for modification below.)



The aim of the modification is to strengthen the chassis in the vertical direction underneath the wheel indentation with another sheet of 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch steel so that it will not bend in the future.

Firstly cut a piece of steel to the correct shape and clamp it to your chassis as shown in the picture. The length of the piece of steel does not matter as long as it goes well past the cutout in the chassis but I have found it looks a lot neater if it goes right to the back curve in the chassis but this is not necessary. Make sure that the piece of steel and your chassis are clear of rust and then tack weld the two pieces together. (see picture) Plug weld the two pieces together in several places in the body of the material (see picture again). Seam weld all round the piece of metal so that no water can get between the pieces and it is held firmly in place. Grind off any extra weld, body fill the weld area and you are ready for chassis preservation paint. Hopefully after this you will never experience kick-up again.

Happy Motoring  
M.M.

## Northern Pod Celebrates Ken Miles

The Northern Pod's Christmas party was held at Ken and Pat Miles' home on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The party was well attended with approximately 37 members including six from the Midland's Pod showing up to partake in the festivities.

Before dinner there was the usual partaking of liquid refreshments and hors-d'oeuvres and the telling of numerous stories of past, present and perhaps some future stories.

Dinner of ham, turkey, stuffing, salad and veggies, etc. was served about 6:00. After delicious desserts the mace and crown, symbols of the Northern Pod representative were passed by Ken to Win Muehling in a very brief ceremony.

At this point Celia Obrecht, Steve Hutchens' wife, took over and led us with her cello in singing of the various Morgan Christmas carols and finishing with a rendition of Silent Night. Thanks to her leadership we had a very boisterous rendition of these time-honoured tunes.

A good time was had by all and thanks to everybody who attended because without them the party would not have been that great. Also a great thank you to Pat who cooked all the food and planned the edibles. See the photos on page 6!

## Robbie Burns Run 2/23 Mike Powley

Hi all you winter drivers. Yes, it is time for the usual Robbie Burns Birthday Run. And this year, after diligent research, yet another cunning little historic route has been devised, following another Burns route along the mighty Fraser.

Join us Sunday, February 23, at 11:30 AM. The start is at the McDonald's at the corner of Scott Road and Puttullo Road, just south of the Puttullo Bridge. If you can't make the start and want to come for lunch, join us at RAF's Hideaway (must stand for Robbie's All Fish Servery), 12517 Beecher St. in Crescent Beach. More information is available in .pdf at mognw.com.