

## Lubricating Morgan Sliding Pillars

Moggie Mechanic

"To oil or not to oil, that is the question.

Whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the bumps and shimmies of outrageous shaking,

or by lubricating end them."

Apologies to Wm Shakespeare

The Morgan car is unique in that the front suspension is of a sliding pillar design unlike most other cars. It was designed early in the history of Morgans and used on the three wheelers before being used on the four wheel cars. Until 1951 the pillar was lubricated just by greasing. Then, with the advent of the driver who did not want to get his hands dirty, Morgan put in a "semiautomatic" arrangement to allow the driver to lubricate the pillars from the relative comfort of the car interior. This was continued until about 2000 when Morgans decided that it was no longer useful and with modern lubricants it was

better to revert back to only greasing.

For those of you not familiar with the semiautomatic oiler (also known as the "one shot") and I know there must be some of you as I remember when trying to purchase a Morgan asking the owner if the one shot oiler worked to which he replied "What's that?" It had never been used in the 22 years that he owned the car. The one shot oiler is a device similar to your dip switch situated on the front fire wall just above the gearbox. Instructions in the Morgan handbook that came with the car instructs the driver to oil the pillars every 50 to 100 miles by pressing the knob with the foot with the car running and watching the oil pressure gauge to see if it decreases a little. This drops oil onto the top of the sliding pillar and it trickles down to lubricate it during the driving.

There have been many theories and devices invented by Morgan owners to improve this and make sliding pillars and bushings last longer. The method you use is entirely up to you, as long as you do something - otherwise a terrible shaking (Morgan Shimmy) will begin and you will have to renew your bushings and pillars. Then the ride although stiff

on a Morgan will become even stiffer.

You should choose between oiling every 100 miles and greasing every 3,000 miles or greasing every 500 to 1,000 miles depending on the amount of mileage you do. One thing to remember, however, is never to oil the sliding pillars when the engine oil is hot as this not only oils the pillars but washes away any grease that you have applied. Remember to oil first thing before you set off and even if you go a little farther than the recommended 100 miles it is better not to oil than oiling with hot oil.

It is a good idea to check the front end of your Pride and Joy frequently to make sure that one of the oilers is not blocked (and therefore isn't getting any oil) and also to make sure that the valve to the one shot oiler is not leaking. Problems here may first be noted by oil patches on the floor of the garage by the front wheels. This indicates that either you are leaving your foot on the one shot too long or you have problems with the valve or a blocked pipe on one side. Any of these problems certainly needs investigation.

Happy Motoring M.M.

## Auto Report: China

Steve Blake

China is one of the hottest markets for automobiles as their economy is booming. Since automobiles are fairly recent to the general population, we did not see one "interesting" car on our whole trip! There is a Ferrari dealership in Shanghai so in time travellers should see some unusual cars. Saw two Jaguar XJ8s



and several Audi A6s. A scattering of Mercedes Benzs were seen but models unknown. They weren't the big ones. The most popular car is the Volkswagen since it was the first to set up a joint venture in Shanghai. Many Japanese cars are on the road that we would not recognize but they are badged with

Toyota, Nissan, or Mazda with an indescribable Chinese name or an absurd English one. Hyundai is representing the Koreans. One interesting car was called a Chairman. Model was "Limousine." GM is also building Buicks on a joint venture basis so quite a few of them are seen on the road. I spotted one BMW. The French are represented by Citroen and Peugeot.

Gas was \$.62 CDN a litre but they are talking about putting a tax on fuel to help keep consumption down. Both propane and gasoline are being burned. All taxis run on propane. In Shanghai it costs the equivalent of \$5000 US tax to purchase a licence for your car (first year only.) The idea is to help keep numbers of car sales down. It has had no effect and the roads are becoming very crowded. In Beijing, it takes an hour to break free of the city limits because of overcrowding on the streets. For the Olympics in 2008 to combat the traffic congestion, they are suggesting the locals take holidays and leave the city. Without this there will be many athletes missing their events as they get stuck in traffic trying to get to their venues on time.

Driving overall is poor and we witnessed many accidents everyday. In Xian, the driving was the worst. Drivers think nothing of going from the far left lane on a three or four lane roadway and

making a right turn in front of everyone else. Defensive driving is a must. Drivers change lanes without so much as a glance and will u-turn or stop wherever they please without warning. Maybe this is why I didn't see any old cars on the road!

## Vintage Car/Plane Run

Dave Collis

Last year the Northern Pod had an exceptionally popular run to the vintage car and plane collection of Harold Hanson in Concrete, WA. Dave was able to arrange another visit for Sunday, September 25.

If you need more information or are interested in going, please call Dave at 604-465-9403 or email Win Muehling at [wmuehling@telus.net](mailto:wmuehling@telus.net).

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the McDonalds on Sumas Way north of Hwy 1 in Abbotsford, and depart at 9:30.

Bring your passports so we can cross the border efficiently at the Sumas Border Crossing. It is a beautiful drive down Washington Hwy. 9.

This was a big hit last year, so don't miss it! If anyone from further south is interested in this run, you could meet us at Sumas or further south on Hwy. 9. Contact Dave or Win.