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The 2012 Morgan 3 Wheeler - Reincarnation of a Legend (Photos)



The Car that Inspired the Recreation of the Morgan 3 Wheeler (Bill Nakasone)



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The Morgan Motor Company is the oldest family owned and operated car manufacturing company in the world.

Established in 1909, their first car was two passenger / three wheeler vehicle that split the difference between a car and a motorcycle. With two front steering wheels and a single rear wheel, the “3 Wheeler” Morgan became an icon and was manufactured from 1909-1952.

In year 2009, the Morgan Motor Company celebrated its 100 Year Anniversary and made the bold decision to “recreate” their beloved 3 Wheeler and make it available for sale to the public.

The decision to “recreate” the 3 Wheeler Morgan was a confluence of multiple events that originated in the Pacific Northwest; Seattle,

Washington to be exact. Pete Larsen was building a three wheeled /two passenger vehicle called the Liberty Ace out of his Seattle, Washington shop. Powered by a Harley Davidson V Twin engine and sporting an elegant retro teardrop shaped body, the Liberty Ace was hailed as both an engineering and aesthetic masterpiece. A world re known automotive journalist by the name of Andrew English test drove the Liberty Ace and wrote up a flattering review in the London Daily Telegraph newspaper in February 2009. The article and photo gallery of the Liberty Ace just happened to be read by Charles Morgan (president and third generation CEO of Morgan Motor Company). This resulted in Charles Morgan having the epiphany to recreate the Morgan 3 Wheeler. By March of 2009, Morgan procured the services of Lance Tunick, an American based automotive consultant, to meet with Pete Larson and to evaluate the viability of adopting the design of Liberty Ace into a Morgan 3 Wheeler recreation. After receiving positive feedback from Lance Tunick, Charles Morgan sent his two top executive staff (Steve Morris / Director of Operations and Tim Whitworth/Chief Financial Officer) out to Renton, Washington to meet with Pete Larson and to further evaluate the Liberty Ace in September 2009.

The top brass at Morgan were impressed. The performance was astonishing (0-60 miles per hour in 4.5 seconds), the car had cornering grip and it was drop dead gorgeous. Moreover, Pete Larsen had spent countless hours doing research and development to correct and overcome the multitude of engineering challenges associated with vehicles of this type. Pete had already figured out the flywheel mounting system to avoid placing undue stress on the crankshaft (the nemesis of the original Morgan 3 Wheeler), a bevel box with belt drive to the rear sprocket, and a wide track front suspension.

In September 2010, Morgan Motor Company consummated an “Intellectual Property” agreement with Pete Larsen. Pete provided Morgan with blueprints, engineering drawings, engineering consulting services and a fully operational Liberty Ace vehicle. Pete Larsen’s association with Morgan Motor Company will continue with Liberty Motors being the designated authorized Morgan 3 Wheeler dealer in the Pacific Northwest. The new Morgan 3 Wheeler will be available by the end of this year. Please stay tuned for further updates on this exciting car.

