

# The Chapman Report



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## Rare Lotus 5-1/2 Found

by James McClure

The Lotus 5-1/2, a car that Colin Chapman wanted to forget, was seen and photographed at a local vintage race earlier this year.

Before Mr. Chapman went down the road of building light and nimble circuit cars, he had believed that a Saloon car would not only quench his thirst for a combination trials and rallye car, but could also be marketed to the public as sensible transportation. The Lotus 5-1/2 was designed to meet these needs. The car also had success in circuit racing, driven by such notables as Graham Hill at Goodwood.

But the problems with reliability, with the inherent complaints from nagging families, left Colin Chapman to state that he would never build another vehicle that could carry either children or luggage.



*The 5-1/2, being tall but narrow, had a history of tipping over in curves. An attribute that would not be repeated in later Lotus cars.*

NEWS RELEASE, April 1 2004

Drivers - Start your Engines: A legend is born Group Lotus and Kia Motors of Korea announced today that the Lotus Esprit will be produced by Kia beginning with the 2005 model year.

Kia is excited to move into the Super Car category with a proven car named **Esbling 3500**. Engine and drivetrain will be derived from existing Kia models. This will allow Kia immediate entry into the lucrative North American market. .

The move is reminiscent of the agreement between the two companies when Lotus sold the tooling and rights to Kia for the M100 Elan. Kia was delighted to instantly have a car that could compete with the Miata. This new deal will put Kia into competition with Honda's NSX and Porsches venerable 911.

Kia is expected to make some changes to the drivetrain and engine package, but all else is expected to remain the same. Target launch is the Frankfurt Auto Show in September. Kia expects phenomenal performance and handling. The Kia Esbling 3500 will be powered by an advanced 3.5 litre V6 that is currently fitted in the Kia Amanti putting out 200 hp at 5500 rpm.

Kia is upgrading the wheels to 24" diameter. A sure hit in the urban areas. Special graphics packages will be made available such as "Flame Heat" and Neon-Stripes.

Key to this phenomenal performance and handling is the total aerodynamic package and light weight, the latter made possible through innovative engineering and clever design.

The 2005 Kia Esbling 3500 will be built in Hwasung, South Korea, and will be available in showrooms in fall 2004. Pricing will be announced closer to launch.

Kia Motors America is the U.S. sales, marketing and service arm of Kia Motors Corp. in Seoul, South Korea.

### April Meeting

Friday, April 16th

Host: Faisal and Yasmin Khan

### GGLC Calender

April 16	Monthly Meeting	Host: Faisal Khan
April 25	Pacific Coast Dream Machines	Half Moon Bay
May 20 to 23	WCLM	Lake Tahoe, CA
June 20th	Hayward Field Meet with British parts swap meet, bring Lotus stuff!	Cal State, Hayward
August 22nd	NASA Super 7 Race	Infineon Raceway

## EBay Watch:

Again, how bad do you want to have one of the new Elise's? Someone did bid \$10k to buy a spot on the waiting list. The ad didn't say how much priority the seller's reservation had. Seller said in the ad: "I've decided to buy a Viper....."

Another Elan +2 went for over \$8k. Gotta get mine ready for sale !!

Those Wingard tail lights that are on all of the original Series One and Two Sevens. A pair (NOS) sold for over \$200! I've picked up a couple sets for less than \$50 each at the Beaulieu Autojumble.

Another M100 didn't meet reserve, though bid past \$10k. But, with over 90k miles, this may be all that this car will fetch in this economy.

But, the vehicle that I really wanted to buy went past my limit, to over \$6k. A 1962 Commer 'Mr. Whippy' Ice Cream truck, totally original, full exterior graphics and in full working order.

Have you registered for the West Coast Lotus Meet - May 20-23 in Lake Tahoe? Register on-line at [www.gglc.org/2004wclm](http://www.gglc.org/2004wclm) or by mail. The deadline to avoid late payment is approaching!

## KAMPEÑA MOTORS

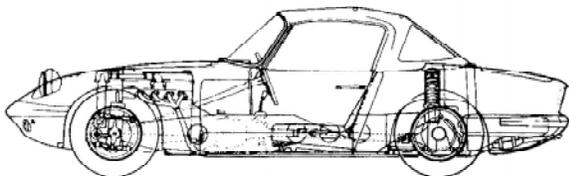
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## SUPER SEVEN HPDE EXHIBITION RACE SET FOR INFINEON RACEWAY ON AUGUST 22

The National Auto Sport Association (NASA) adds a new Exhibition race, exclusively for Super Seven type cars, to its popular High Performance Driving Experience (HPDE) program on August 22, 2004, at Infineon Raceway. This will be a bonus for sevens and drivers entered into the regular HPDE groups.

NASA CEO Jerry Kunzman, says that NASA is making an extra effort to attract sevens because they are "perfect" for all NASA's activities, "...essentially streetable, two-seat formula racing cars that are an absolute blast to drive." He says that "...NASA wants to be the friendliest sanctioning body on the planet for these cars..." and "...if enough come out to NASA HPDE events we'll create a whole new HPDE class for them."

The August 22, Exhibition is a low-key, non-competitive opportunity for all seven owners to drive wheel-to-wheel, at speed on the famous Infineon racetrack, exclusively with other sevens. It is open to Lotus/Caterham Seven/Super Seven, Birkin S3, Westfield, and all other seven-type vehicles, including those designed and built by their owners. There are no prizes, and unsafe driving will not be tolerated.

All drivers and cars must comply with normal NASA HPDE requirements, and must be entered in a regular HPDE group for August 22. Drivers do not

need a competition license.

Follow the entry instructions on the NASA website:

[https://](https://www.nasaproring.com/nasa_event/show/?event_id=132)

[www.nasaproring.com/](https://www.nasaproring.com/nasa_event/show/?event_id=132)

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[?event\\_id=132](https://www.nasaproring.com/nasa_event/show/?event_id=132) Choose the

appropriate HPDE level (1=beginners through 4=Advanced).

Important Notice: List your car's make generically as "Super 7" so that you will be included on the list to participate in this special exhibition in addition to the regular HPDE.



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## **PRESS RELEASE #6 – April 2004**

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Less than 50 days until the festivities of the West Coast Lotus Meet – May 20-23, 2004, begins. Register by April 18<sup>th</sup> to avoid late charges. No walk-up entries will be accepted.

The Golden Gate Lotus Club will host the 3-day event with assistance from other Lotus clubs on the west coast.

The WCLM is sponsored Lotus Cars USA (platinum), British Motor Cars of San Francisco, Dave Bean Engineering, Sports Car World (gold sponsors), Silicon Valley Auto Group, Smith Lotus, Golden Gate Sevens, Kampena Motors, Birkin North America, JAE and Sector 111 (silver sponsors).

The Press and Dealers have gotten their special Elise launch party, now it is time for the Lotus enthusiast to get theirs! Lotus Cars and the sponsoring Lotus Dealers, BMC San Francisco, Smith Lotus and Silicon Valley Auto Group will have Elise demo cars at the WCLM. Every entrant will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with this exciting new Lotus for the US.

Confirm for yourself what the press is calling the best sports car in America.

The 2004 WCLM will be headquartered at the Lakeland Village Beach & Mountain Resort. Special rates have been negotiated for WCLM entrants.

Lakeland Village has over ¼ mile of private beach, 2 tennis courts, 2 pools and hot tubs, a private dock, ample secure parking and accommodations from full suites to 3, 4 and 5 bedroom town homes. There are many nearby restaurants and even a Spa that will offer WCLM entrants a special discount.

The fun begins with an Opening Reception at the WCLM hotel, Lakeland Village on the shores of Lake Tahoe on Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> WCLM entrants will have the choice to elect

the optional WCLM Track Day at the Reno-Fernley Raceway, or to go on the Lake Tahoe Tour that will include a Lake-side picnic, photo opportunities and scenic roads that will take your breath away.

The road track at Reno-Fernley Raceway is being expanded to 2.3 miles long. The old layout is in black (see diagram), the segment at the bottom will be all new!

That evening, the WCLM will feature an EXCLUSIVE Lake Tahoe Dinner & Dance Cruise aboard the historic Tahoe Queen. You'll enjoy the Sierra sunset and see the Tahoe basin and Emerald Bay as can only be seen by boat. Space is limited on the Lake Tahoe Dinner Cruise (first come, first served), so register for the WCLM early!

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> is another busy day for the 2004 WCLM. The day opens with the WCLM Autocross. This is an opportunity for every WCLM entrant to enjoy his or her Lotus near its limits. The WCLM Bar-B-Que and WCLM Concours will follow the WCLM Autocross. A very special setting has been chosen, one that is sure to be memorable for all!

Saturday evening has been left open so that you can explore the Lake Tahoe area. You'll find that the area offers a plethora of things to do! There's fine dining, night clubs, dance clubs, comedy, music, dinner and cocktail shows, and of course casinos!

The 2004 WCLM will conclude on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> with an Awards

Brunch. And then sadly you'll have to say good-bye to all your WCLM friends, but the memories and stories will last a lifetime.

There's two easy ways to register, the traditional fill-in the registration form and mail in with your check or you can now go on-line and register using your credit card. Go to [www.gglotus.org/2004wclm](http://www.gglotus.org/2004wclm) to download and print an entry form or use the on-line registration.

The all in one registration fee includes Concours, Reception, Brunch, Picnic, Bar-B-Que, Autocross, Tour and Cruise. There is a separate fee for the optional WCLM Track Day.

For more information and the most up-to-date information about the 2004 WCLM visit the GGLC web site, [www.gglotus.org/2004wclm](http://www.gglotus.org/2004wclm).

### WCLM Contacts:

Kiyoshi Hamai  
Chair 2004 West Coast Lotus Meet  
2004wclm@gglotus.org



# Lotus Bytes: *by jim mcclure*

Vintage racing season has started with the two local tracks hosting HMSA and CSRG. I went to the CSRG race and saw some of our Lotus racing members and non-mwmbers:

The 23B's of Chris Locke, Gary Horstkorta, Carl Moore and Skip Quain.

The Sevens of Joye Benk, Don Blumenfeld, Jay Embree, Grant Reefer and David Thompson (Carter Alexander's car, now sold).

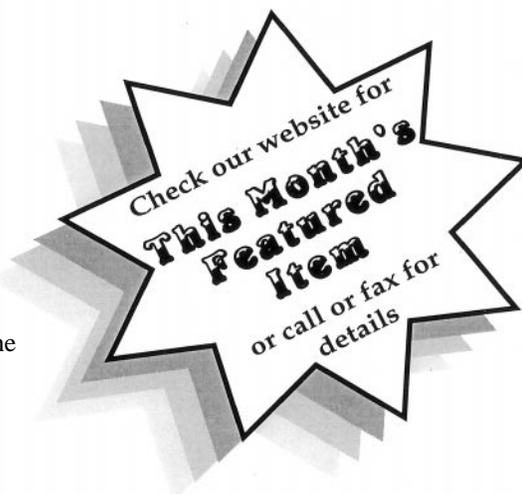
The Elevens of Richard Ruff, Bruce Miller and Thor Johnson. The new-to vintage-racing Elite of Chuck Hart was also in this race.

Dave Bean's 26R was there, with another 26R of Michael Taradash. Also two Lotus Cortinas driven by Greg Lamantia and Royce Miller.

How about open wheelers? The 18 of Marty Benk. Another Lotus in Chris Locke's stable, a 27 F Junior. Another Lotus from Carl Moore, also: a 20 F Jr. Then another 18 F Jr driven by Jack Fitzpatrick and another 27 driven by Brian Andrews.

Sorry guys, but didn't get any times or finishing positions, as I was on the trailer sooner than planned !!

As a tech inspector for CSRG, and a racer, the subject of CHEATING often comes up. Motors well over their claimed displacement ar numerous, but these are starting to be checked. Amazingly, some cars are running slower than they used to. A new trick, mostly with Ford powered production cars, is the use of hidden dry sump systems welded into a false sump pan. WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, guys.



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## More Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1986 Caterham Seven, crossflow, Quaife LSD, modified front and rear suspension, find more information at [www.sandmuseum.com](http://www.sandmuseum.com) 408-773-1170

**For Sale:** Get this great handling Lotus cheap, before I find time to install the new dash and interior, and then get more greedy. 1969 Elan +2, red, Cobra seats with proper harnesses. Yes, needs installation of interior kit (included) and a repaint. Other than that, runs well. New Pirelli's, Disk brakes rebuilt and electricals sorted. \$5k or offers. Jim McClure, 408-602-5445.

The Chapman Report is published monthly by the Golden Gate Lotus Club, PO Box 117303, Burlingame, CA 94011. The GGLC is a non-profit incorporated car club and is not affiliated with Group Lotus, Team Lotus or Lotus Cars USA. The GGLC's annual membership dues are \$25.00.

Opinions expressed in the Chapman Report are those of the authors and do not represent those of the GGLC or its officers.

Submissions to the Chapman Report are accepted and encouraged. Please email them to [chapmanreport@gglotus.org](mailto:chapmanreport@gglotus.org) in MS Word, rtf or ASCII text. Submissions may also be mailed to Jim McClure, 11238 Bubb Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

2003 GGLC Officers are: President: Faisal Khan, Vice President: Pete Richen, Treasurer: Laura Hamai, Event Coordinator: John Zender, Membership Chairman: David Anderson, Secretary: Jon Rosner

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# Classifieds

(non-commercial ads are free to GGLC members and will run for three issues before requiring renewal)

**For Sale:** 1997 CATERHAM SUPER 7 Live Axle, 1700 crossflow/150hp, Quaife 5-spd, Quaife LSD, 4 pt harness, Scholarship Adjustable Suspension, Clamshell Wings, Green/Yellow/Aluminum, Tonneau cover, Some spares. [www.unibrain.org/forsale](http://www.unibrain.org/forsale) \$ 25,000 negotiable. Contact Jim at 503-246-7541, [forsale@unibrain.org](mailto:forsale@unibrain.org) (12/03)

**For Sale:** Excel Former Barry Spencer car. Triple black with gold pinstripes and custom black leather interior with gold piping. Black tinted windows. Spax/KYB adjustable shocks. Dual Dell'Ortos. Never raced, never crashed. Best serious offer considered. Contact Bob, Mountain View, CA 650-962-0451 anytime or email [loquinco@pacbell.net](mailto:loquinco@pacbell.net) (11/03)

**For Sale:** 67 S1 Europa body w/ windshield, and frame. Complete body: all panels, body good condition. Wimbledon white paint. Removable engine bay crossmember. Some fame damage to front box. \$1000 obo. Email: [farberjf@us.ibm.com](mailto:farberjf@us.ibm.com) 408-463-2251 days. (2/04)

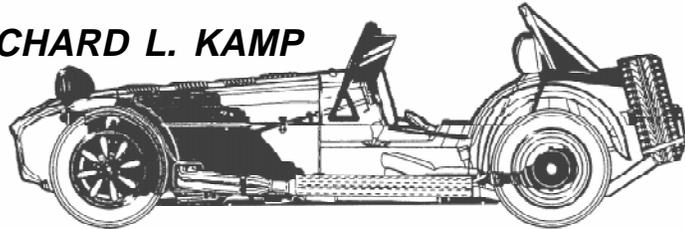
**For sale:** 1969 Lotus Elan +2 vintage race project car comes with Spyder chassis, Cosmics, limited slip dif, Koni's, steel brake lines. Extra set of widened steel wheels. Have Weber head to be installed with mild cams. \$6800.00 George at 831-648-9064 (3/04)

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**For Sale:** A set of 4 2002 OZ wheels from a Lotus Esprit with tires mounted. These are the stock wheels and have been used for only 1500 miles: Front- 17x8.5, Rear- 18x10 on Dunlop SP9000 Tires (Front- 235/40ZR17, Rear- 285/35ZR18). \$4000. I'll deliver within 500 mi of Medford, Oregon. Contact Andrew Gilchrist- 541 621-6490 or [gilchrist@charter.net](mailto:gilchrist@charter.net) (03/04)

**For Sale:** " 150 HP, 200 MPH Hayabusa engine. This type engine (Suzuki GSX 1300R), powered a streamliner to 315 MPH at Bonneville this year, 2000 model, the bike it came from had 800 miles on it before the kid (still alive) lost it. Also factory service manual. Has integral 6 speed gear box. Just waiting to power a great little race car. Call Peter in San Jose at 408/266-0116. \$3,300 OBO." (12/03)

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