

The Chapman Report



Published by the Golden Gate Lotus Club www.gglotus.org February 2006

Platform 9³/₄

editor

Yes, King's Cross Station in London last week, and I was on my way back from a shop in the town of Potters Bar, in fact. And did I find any magic? Yes, four magic rings, emblazoned 'Yokohama A048R', neatly wrapped and on my dolly. Maybe the kid at the counter was Harry Potter, himself. After all, the price was \$100 each and that's pretty magical. Ofcourse, I've been sworn to secrecy and cannot divulge the shop's whereabouts, and, for all I know I cannot turn around and get back to that platform and train. Will my car fly now?

OK, back home.....Looks like it was a great drive that I missed, based on Kiyoshi's story and photos. Also lots of great events upcoming.

Ouch, the Laguna track day sold out in two days. I just don't move fast enough, anymore, and missed out.

The drive to Camerons in Half Moon Bay is fun just by itself, with the GGLC meeting and refreshments waiting at the end.

The 'Auto Affair' event should be great. I've heard lots about how the 'bras' go on, but it will be good to see for myself. Oh, another nice drive on the way!

Also, there are already autocross dates to talk about in upcoming newsletters.....or check our website! Marque Madness info to come. WCLM updates to come.

And, the race season is almost upon us; like next month for us vintage guys. Hey, I don't even have my motor in yet, or the fried piston removed from it! Well, I have to remember that I was in the same state with my first race car. Then also, I had friends who were more worried about getting back from Viet Nam/Iraq than cruising along the coast.



Febuary Meeting

Friday, February 17th

Host: Cameron's Pub & Inn
1410 South Cabrillo Hwy (Hwy 1,
about 1 mile south of Hwy 92)
Half Moon Bay, CA
650-726-5705

Calendar

January 1 till spring	Getting that Lotus ready for a new year of motoring events	
February 17	GGLC Meeting	@ Camerons
February 20	GGLC Track Day	Laguna Seca
February 26	'Drive & Demo'	Auto Affair, Danville
	(check pg 7 for more info)	
March 17	GGLC Meeting	@ Anderson's
March 22	Track Day	Thunderhill

for more and up to date information these GGLC and other events check the GGLC website at www.gglotus.org

Lotus Bytes:

In the Feb 06 issue of Road & Track Gordon Murray writes about the "why" lightweight. He mentions 9 cars in the article, 6 of which for their merits of lightweight and of those 3 are Lotus! The best two lines are the opening sentence... "Colin Chapman was and still is, a hero of mine..." And the last paragraph... "Finally, if there are still any disbelievers out there who think that light weight does not deliver the answer, they should beg, borrow or steal a drive in a 1960's Lotus Elan. Case closed!" *Kiyoshi*

The May GGLC meeting will not take place, as the WCLM begins on May 18th and ends Sunday the 21st.

NHTSA Recalls Elise for Shift Lever Failures. More info later. Infact, if anyone has a broken one, I'd like to see it, as I used to do failure analysis for a tool company. *Editor*

2006 GGLC Wall Calendar is now available!



2006 GOLDEN GATE LOTUS CLUB CALENDAR

The 11x17 calendar features a different photo each month of a GGLC member. The cover artwork is an original work by Christina Olsen of an Elise flying through the countryside. Priced at \$19.95 (plus shipping) the calendars are made available from CafePress. Profits from the calendar will be donated to a charity. Order yours today by visiting www.gglotus.org and go to the GGLC Shop.

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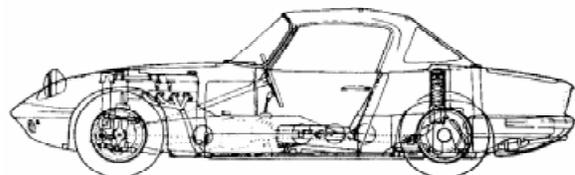
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More Show Photos by Dave Anderson



Website News

by Kiyoshi Hamai

During 2005 the GGLC's website, www.gglotus.org, grew in size and popularity. The growth reflects the influx of new Elise owners, interest in Lotus and the GGLC as a reference site for Lotus enthusiasts around the world.

In 2005 www.gglotus.org attracted over 338,000 visitors and these visitors consumed over 634,000 web pages! This means that on average the GGLC website attracted nearly 1,000 visitors each day. When compared to 2004 the 2005 growth is over 40% above 2004.

The greatest number of visitors to the GGLC website came in November 2005 with 45,000 visitors, that was followed by October with 32,000 and April with 30,800.

Just over 40% of all the visits were made the GGLC's vast technical library. Then it was a large drop to 7% of the visits going to the Parts Cross Reference lists, Lotus Information and Hot News.

Our visitors come from everywhere. Of course the US claimed the highest with about half of the visitors coming from the US. Next up was the UK, but that was closely followed by the Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Germany.

It never fails to amaze me some of the more unusual places where the GGLC website is visited. Some these in 2005 were, Qatar, Cocos Islands, Zambia, Botswana, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Togo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, the Christmas Islands and even Tanzania.



New Year's Run

by Kiyoshi Hamai



We were all suffering from cabin fever, nearly 6 weeks straight of rain and wet windy weather, storm after storm with episodes of flooding and mud slides. So on the first sign of clear dry sunny weather the GGLC and Club111 announced a run. So it was that we started the New Year off with a bang with a tour/run of the east bay hills on Sunday, January 8th.

I arrived at the meeting point in Pinole just off I80 and found John Modica, owner of ForcedFed, with his normally aspirated Chrome Orange Elise. John has some pretty nice tidbits on the ForcedFed NA Elise! Soon to arrive were a group from Davis and Sacramento that included the Elises of Tony, Orrie and Dean. Mel Boss arrived in his M100 as did our single Europa for the day with Tom and Cherie Carney. Duane joined us in his Elise, as did his brother and long time GGLCer, Brad in his Elan. Tom and Barbara then arrived in their Esprit Turbo. And then Mike set the whole place a fire when he arrived in his new Noble!

More Elises joined driven by Greg, Alexander, Dominic, Steve and Rahul. In all there were 20 Lotus joined by friends in a RX7 and Sunbeam Tiger.

After our Starbucks lattes we gathered up and headed out. The plan was to go from Pinole to ForcedFed in Livermore without going on any major road. So it was we headed east out of

Pinole to Alhambra Valley Rd, then turned onto Bear Creek. The group was then supposed to turn onto Happy Valley, but we all missed the turn and ended up going through Orinda via San Pablo Dam Road. No worries, as the sun was out and the air was cool and crisp!

After our little detour we regrouped and headed down Redwood Rd to Castro Valley. After all the rainfall road conditions were, shall we say, "variable", which meant in parts they would be dry and clean, followed by wet, followed by light mud and dirt, followed dry dirt, you get the idea, you really never knew what you'd see next so we took a leisurely pace. While coming down the hill into Castro Valley our entourage got caught behind to guys in full leathers going down the hill on roller blades! They finally stopped



and let us by after we followed them for a couple of miles.

From Castro Valley we took Crow Canyon Road to Norris Canyon. That got us to San Ramon and we stopped at a strip center across the street from Blackhawk.

After lunch we regrouped and Mel led us out Highland Road and we worked our way over to Vasco Rd and then down into Livermore and ForcedFed.

ForcedFed were doing some work on their blue car, the 380HP one! The engine was out, which gave everyone a great opportunity to see it up close. The workmanship of the 380 Turbo kit is absolutely top notch. Outside a few of us were getting rides in the ForcedFed 275HP car. Lets just say there were no complaints coming from anyone that got a ride! The GGLC and Club111 will be doing a lot more of these in the coming months so watch the GGLC calendar in the Chapman Report and on our website, www.gglotus.org.



Europa S, not USA

Press Release

The new Lotus Europa S, a Grand Tourer (GT) inspired two-seater will provide Lotus customers with a spectacular sportscar with significantly enhanced levels of touring and cruising capability. It will provide drivers with higher levels of practicality and refinement to complement the simplicity of the Lotus Elise and Exige models.

The Lotus Europa S follows the core Lotus philosophy of performance through light weight enabling this refined and very high performing GT car to weigh just 995 kg. This low weight has been obtained through the clever use of advanced and high tech materials including an extruded and bonded aluminium chassis, composite body panels and a very advanced composite energy absorbing front crash structure.

When compared to the award winning Lotus Elise, the Europa S has a larger boot/luggage compartment and easier cabin access, resulting from lower chassis sides and a higher roof line. Coupled with luxuries such as full leather interior, driver and passenger airbags and carpets all as standard, Lotus has created a "Business Class" driving experience.

However, the Europa S is not a derivative of the Elise or the Exige and has been allocated a separate Lotus type number of Type 121 - the Elise and Exige are both Type 111.

The new mid-engined coupe will deliver high levels of performance from a high torque (263 Nm or 194 lbft at 4200 rpm) 2.0-litre turbo engine producing 149 kW (200 hp or 203 PS) at 5400rpm. The Lotus Europa S achieves around 90% of its maximum torque at only 2000 rpm to give "super car" levels of acceleration from low engine speeds, propelling the car from 0 -96 km/h (60 mph) in around 5.5 seconds, and 160 km/h (100 mph) in around 14 seconds. Maximum speed is approximately 225 km/h (140 mph). Being a Lotus, the Europa S has a phenomenal power to weight ratio of 201 hp / tonne (204 PS tonne or 6.68 kg / kW).

Tony Shute, Head of Product for at Lotus Cars explains the concept behind the new product: *"The Lotus Europa S has allowed Lotus to exploit its extensive capabilities in developing a sophisticated GT car which successfully complements the range of existing cars. The 'Grand Tourer' concept underpinning the Europa S provides the driver with a refined environment, incorporating innovative styling features which do not compromise the superior performance and handling that is synonymous with the Lotus marque."*

The introduction of a GT car, represents both an important and unique addition to the Lotus product range, as Clive Dopson, Managing Director of Lotus Cars, explains: *"The launch of the Europa S re-affirms our position as an innovative player in the highly competitive sportscar marketplace. It allows Lotus to extend its product appeal beyond our traditional customer base, and provides yet another demonstration of the key Lotus brand attributes and high levels of quality for which we are particularly proud."*

Production of the Lotus Europa S is scheduled to commence in July 2006 at the award winning and world leading Lotus manufacturing facility at the Lotus Headquarters in Hethel, Norfolk, UK. The Europa S will be sold in all markets where the Lotus brand is present, **except for the USA and Canada.**



WCLM '06

by Kiyoshi Hamai

WCLM '06

by Kiyoshi Hamai

While details are still being finalized here's the basics: Dates: May 18-21, Where: Morro Bay, CA <http://www.innatmorrobay.com/home.asp>, Events (tentative): Track Day - Buttonwillow (Thurs 5/18), Tours - Hearst Castle/Hwy1/Cambria; Wine Tour Concours, Banquet, Cost: TBD. It sounds like a very fun event. The Club111 folks will need some help from the GGLC with the following - * Publicity (website & C/R) * Financial (in the way of deposits for some of the events) * Manpower at some of the events The more immediate need is some assistance working with Buttonwillow. They've contacted the track and tentatively reserved 5/18, but they've got some questions about workers, insurance and stuff. Can I ask you to contact them to answer some questions and lead them through the issues? Justin Singh is currently heading the efforts and would be the person to contact. I've copied Justin so you can email him with your contact info and he can call you. justin.singh@gmail.com

We've not been in the Morro Bay/Cambria/SLO area with the WCLM since it's early days in the 80's so this will be a very fun time! If you could back to Justin it would be much appreciated!

GX3 @ LA Show

Press Release

(Is 'Moonraker' actually Lotus Engineering?)



The three-wheeled GX3, driven through the crowds to its launch at the Volkswagen stand at the Los Angeles Auto Show yesterday, is a “crossover between sports car and motorcycle”, says Volkswagen, representing “pure affordable performance.”

Developed by VW’s design team in California, it’s not just a wacky show car - not only is the prototype fully-functioning, Volkswagen has indicated a clear plan for sales and marketing of this model.

Vital statistics for the GX3 are impressive: acceleration 0-60mph in 5.7 seconds, yet urban fuel consumption of 46mpg. It is fitted with a 125bhp version of Volkswagen’s 1.6-litre petrol engine, which drives the single rear wheel via a chain and six-speed transmission, and is built around a steel spaceframe chassis construction; its panels are fibreglass and it weighs just 570kg. This example is finished with LED lights, anodized black and gold suspension components, forward-leaning roll hoops and a racing-style cockpit with five-point harnesses. Yet it can carry two people, and still have an 80-litre boot. And if it were to go into production, it would be priced from “less than \$17,000”.

“A production counterpart of the GX3 could be on the market very soon”, says Volkswagen. “It all

depends on the American driver’s feedback.”

The company sees the GX3 as a continuation of its tradition of unique oddities, which includes the jeep-style Type 181 (The Thing), the Baja buggies, the Microbus and the original Beetle. And just as the Beetle found its niche in the US among eco-friendly types rejecting huge gas-guzzlers, the economical GX3 could do the same - with the added advantage that it would be officially classed as a motorcycle, allowing commuters to use car-pool lanes and avoid city congestion.

While small-scale European manufacturers such as Grinnall and Vandenbrink have produced high-performance three-wheelers acclaimed by enthusiasts, and there are numerous motorbike-based kit cars on a similar theme, it could be the first three-wheeler to be offered on a full-production scale from one of the world’s major carmakers. US websites are already reporting that Volkswagen has lined up potential partners to work on production of the GX3, with Lotus named as one collaborator. Assembly would take place in the US, and sales could start as soon as next year.

The GX3 is the result of collaboration between Volkswagen’s design centre in Santa Monica and a team dubbed “Moonraker”. The latter was set up last year “to convert the wishes, dreams and needs of American drivers

to mobility”, says the company, as part of its plan to design and develop models specifically for the US. The GX3, therefore, “offers a look into the exciting and comprehensive spectrum of totally new motor vehicles which are currently being conceptualised by Volkswagen of America”.

Expect a few more surprises in the near future.

end

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An Auto Affair

by Mel Boss

Date: Sunday, February 26th

Time: Gather for a run “round the reservoir” to Danville.

Departure from Milpitas 10:30am, Starbucks at 128 N. Milpitas, Blvd - just off 237 across the street from OSH. See <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=milpitas,+ca&ll=37.434317,-121.900585&spn=0.006645,0.018604>

Arrive Auto Affair 12:00 Noon.

Auto Affair, 400 Sycamore (in the Livery shopping area).

The drive around the Calavaras Reservoir is scenic and challenging with more than 200 turns over 25 miles. The road surface is generally good (but it will be checked over prior to the run). Lunch will be provided at the Auto Affair in Danville. Muguel Cela is our host. A demonstration of the application of the “Invisible Bra” product will be provided on a GGLC member’s Lotus - at a “very significant discount.” Miguel will provided details. The Auto Affair provides accessories for the auto enthusiast and is a new sponsor of the GGLC.

More Lotus Bytes

Elise Shift Lever Recall Notification

Date: January 12, 2006

NHTSA Recalls Elise for Shift Lever Failures

NHTSA Campaign ID: 05V571000

Component: Power Train: Manual Transmission

Manufacturer: Group Lotus PLC

Year: 2005

Make: Lotus

Model: Elise

Recall Date: 12/21/2005

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,740

Effected VINS

Beginning: SCCPC11155HL30002

Ending: SCCPC11105HL32482

Defect Summary:

On certain passenger vehicles equipped with 6-speed manual transmissions, the gear lever may break.

Consequence Summary:

This could result in the inability to change gears, increasing the risk of a crash.

Corrective Summary:

Dealers will replace the gear levers. The recall is expected to begin in January or February 2006. Owners may contact Lotus Cars USA at 1-678-417-9073.

Owners of affected cars should expect to receive a notification from Lotus. You can then contact your dealer and set-up an appointment to have the shift lever replaced.

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 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: Lotus 907 engine and 4 Spd Transmission for sale from Jensen Healey. Located in Bend Oregon. \$500. Contact Lars @ 541-350-4961, or email to larsco2002@yahoo.com (private party) Many other JH parts. (12/05)

For Sale: '05 Elise, 25k miles fully loaded, premium alloy wheels Beautiful RED with Tan Leather, well cared for, Security system, asking \$39,000 East Bay Location, Jim Rose, call me at my cell (510) 390-1416 (12/05)

For Sale: '77 Esprit Wolfrace (original) Wheels for sale Very little use, as I bought the car new in '77, then, within months, got sponsorship from Compomotive Wheels for my 23, gaining a set for the Esprit also. No dings, but the clearcoat has flaked in spots. Offers in the \$300. range?

Mike McHugh (650)593-5040
ansonracecars@sbcglobal.net

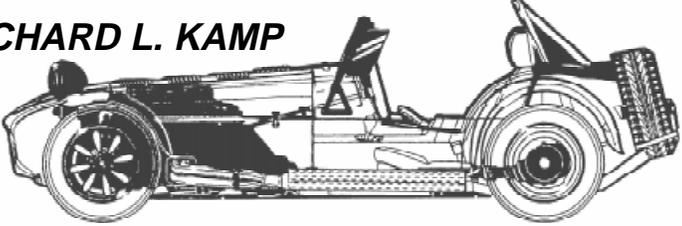
Wanted: I am looking for a Lotus Elan from 1963 to 1973 to purchase. Convertible. Please email photos, details and price. Thank you. JOHN J. GARVEY, jgarvey2@cox.net, 405-760-3883, 1724 Dorchester Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73120

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FOR SALE: 1. Elan Series One body only. Needs some glass fibre remodeling and attention to the rear lamp panel. No title. 2. Elan FHC Series 4. Almost complete. missing a few mechanical bits: ie engine tranny, backbone chassis, suspension, diff. Great project or starter car. Title available. 3. Elan knock off (4), bolt on steel wheels (4) and one set (4) Europa factory alloy wheels. Sensible offers considered. All items FOB El Sobrante, CA. Mike Ostrov (510) 232-7764 or mikeostrov@webtv.net

For Sale: '69 s4 fixed head. please feel free to call me a 805-559-7772. thanks, david

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REPORT

