

The Chapman Report



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Monocoque

editor

Instead of having fun at the Holiday Dinner, I was stuck in an Israeli bunker near the Lebanese border. OK, I was teaching a class there, though. On the way back I stopped in Munich to go to the best tech museum on earth. One item that caught my eye was the sports plane on the right. The 1934 Messerschmitt 108Bf, shown with its younger brother the ME 109 behind it, was labeled as the first metal, full monocoque plane. The design proved to be superior to the spaceframe; greater strength and rigidity but less weight. By the end of WWII, all aircraft would be a variation of monocoque construction.

Actually, car production started using the monocoque principle at about the same time, starting as a French invention, and first used in mass production on the Citroen Traction Avant. The VW Beetle and the Austin Mini are other examples of early monocoque design, though the Mini used subframes for component hookup.

Then comes Lotus. Monocoque road cars? Chapman did one more daring, the Elite. Monocoque but in fiberglass, and everything connected to it. And for race cars? The Lotus 25 was the first F1 car to use a monocoque 'tub', and it sent a shockwave through



the racing establishment. The monocoque frame formed by bending thin aluminum plates made it possible to obtain rigidity and lighter weight at the same time, compared to the "Space Frame" construction with steel pipes which was commonly used until then. Why did it take so long for the monocoque design to get to racing construction? I believe it was cost. Initial cost for the tooling for monocoque, or 'unibody' as we call it

in the U.S., is high. Lotus was close to bankruptcy with the Elite R&D and manufacture, because not enough were sold to cover the high initial investment.

P.S.: It took me 4 hours by German train, Frankfurt to Munich, in perfect comfort. Meanwhile, my daughter was coming home on AMTRACK. Eugene Oregon to San Fran; 21 hours, 5 hours late. Are we really the greatest super-power? Our infrastructure sure isn't.



January Meeting

Friday, January 20th

Host: Tom and Cherie Carney

Calendar

- January 1 till spring Getting that Lotus ready for a new year of motoring events
- January 20 GGLC Meeting Host: Tom & Cherie Carney; and the 25 year old Christmas Tree!
- February 20 GGLC Track Day Laguna Seca
John Zender gets us there and will put on a great event, as usual!

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

had this year.

The white elephant gift exchange was as wacky as ever with some real gems as well as some crazy gag gifts trading throughout the room. People with the most coveted gifts trembled in fear as a notorious set of "Genuine Used Lotus Spark Plugs - Used in actual competition (on Hwy 880)" circulated the room.

Afterwards, the age old tradition of the GGLC sword and shield was revived and passed on to the new 2006 GGLC President, Scott Hogben.

All who attended, both old members and new, came together for a most memorable and especially joyous night of holiday merriment. Many were so kind as to say that it was the best GGLC holiday dinner ever and after attending so many of these over the years, I have to agree. Great fun was had by all.

Many thanks to each and every person that made 2005 one of the best years ever in the history of GGLC. Roy

A Most Joyous and Magical Evening

by Roy Nakamura, 2005 GGLC President

From the moment I descended the staircase of Capellini's to the private wine cellar for our holiday dinner, I knew that we were in for a special night.

Fine wine and conversation flowed freely and everyone was in high spirits as we celebrated the end of a truly exceptional year for the Golden Gate Lotus Club.

The food, wine, and service at the restaurant was first rate, but as always, the people factor was even better as we all rejoiced in happy conversation and reflected back on one heck of a great year.

Topics ranged from winning the Club Participation award at the British Car Meet for the first time in years, to the biggest club membership numbers ever, to the escapades at WCLM and the SF Auto Show, to the off-track excursions and wild times at the many great track days we

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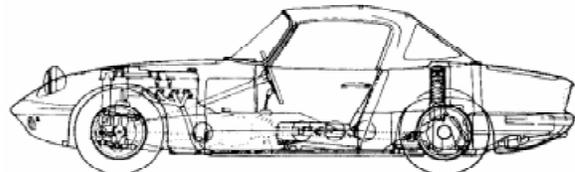
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Roy Nakamura, ready to pass on the sword and shield, while Scott, his girlfriend and John Ridley enjoy themselves



Toy Rallye *by Kiyoshi*

As Roy says, no real excitement at our check point—just a missing car that never checked in (no Toy Rallye is complete without at least one!)—and we had lots of fun observing the drivers going back-and-forth, back-and-forth, and back-and-forth again at the main intersection before finally making the turn into our CP cull-de-sac :-). My vote for the most interesting car taking part is attached. This Nash-Healey was a complete restoration by the owner, and it wouldn't be out of place driving around Blackhawk. It really looks like a fun car for a CA Sunday drive!

2006 GGLC Wall Calendar - Now Available!

The 2006 GGLC Wall Calendar is now available! 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

The Lotus Sport Exige GT3 Lotus Sport Exige GT3 testing for FIA GT3 European Championship

December 16, 2005

A prototype of the Lotus Sport Exige GT3 race car was unveiled at the annual FIA GT Championship presentation ceremony outside the world famous Casino in Monte Carlo, Monaco on 02 December, 2005. The following day (03 December 2005), the first test for the car took place at the high speed Paul Ricard High Tech Test Track in Southern France under FIA supervision, the first stage in the Lotus Sport Exige GT3 becoming eligible for FIA GT3 competition. This latest FIA series, which will start in 2006, is for race cars that have an equal power to weight, and that have a direct lineage to their road going versions.

Basic prototype specification

Like the standard Exige, the Lotus Sport Exige GT3 comes complete with the award-winning light weight bonded aluminium chassis. This is complemented by low weight 5-spoke forged alloy wheels, carbon body panels, and a revised high downforce aerodynamic package incorporating a race front splitter and adjustable carbon fibre rear wing. Check our website for further information.



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Toy Rallye 2005 Results

By Robert Schott

Sunday, December 4th was a beautiful, sunny day for the annual charity event. For the last 3 years, The Rallye Club (TRC) has been hosting the Toy Rallye. This event where the entry fee is a new child's toy, has been co-sponsored by the San Francisco Region of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and the Golden Gate Lotus Club. Sixteen teams, some driving vintage Lotus, came out to run this long-time Fremont event.

The Toy Rallye, previously called Toddler, has been presented annually since 1962. For many of these years, the Fremont Touring Club hosted the event with Harriet Gittings as rallyemaster. TRC took over the event with the provisions that the rallye retain its AB-multiple choice RI format and be run in the greater Fremont area on the first Sunday in December.

This was a challenge for Ken Schott, this year's rallyemaster, as it was his first time writing an AB rallye. Ken produced an outstanding event combining two-part, lettered route instructions with questions that could be answered with what was found along the route. Ken also included a holiday theme featuring reindeer, elves and a magical sleigh that transformed itself under the effects of toy trains,

dolls, soldiers, cars, and fire trucks. Contestants were encouraged to count candy canes and play reindeer games.

In addition to all those who showed up to run and donate toys, I'd like to thank the workers and co-sponsors of this annual charity event. Golden Gate Lotus Club provided two checkpoint crews and some delicious cookies. The San Francisco Region of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) provided insurance for the event and final pre-check. The Rallye Club (TRC) produced the rallye with Steve Watt and Nancy Hanna for working registration, Teresa Stefanisko doing scoring, and Abby Grossman acting as Competition Director and officiating the Protest Committee. A special thanks go to Nick Stefanisko, Teresa Stefanisko, Doris Fung, Mike Hsu, and Pete Soper for pre-checking and reviewing the rallye instructions. Darin and Michelle McGrew delivered a van-load of toys to EHC LifeBuilders.

Lotus Bytes:

Keith Duckworth Dies (Dec 19, 2005)
Keith Duckworth, the 'worth' in Cosworth has died aged 72.

"Keith Duckworth, one of the joint founders of Cosworth, died last night at the age of 72.

The Yorkshireman originally created the famous engine company with Mike

next column

Costin in 1958, where they developed parts for Ford road car engines before switching their attentions to racing.

Lotus (22.J.19) was brought over from England in August by member Pat Moran. There is a great article on this car in the latest issue of Victory Lane Magazine

STOLEN 11/16/05 CARMICHAEL CALIFORNIA

1965 Lotus Cortina RHD Race Car BA74EM59105

White Green, Race Numbers 543, English number plate KPU543C

Trialer 24' White enclosed Vin 48B500128X1036368

Lic. 4DS6253 CA Perm trailer plate

Trailer fully loaded with tools, and spares ready to leave for Palm Springs Vintage race Event tonight.

Stolen from Carmichael CA between 4.00am and 7.00am Wednesday November 16, 2005. Any help would be appreciated.

Roger Andriess
 916-761-7279 (c)
 888-322-9669 (o)
 916-944-4415 (h)

From David Anderson: As of today, Nov, 30, 2005, the number of Elise in the GGLC matches the number of Europas. 81 each.

Rallye Results – By Ken Schott, Rallyemaster

Car	Points	Place	Driver	Club	Navigator	Club	Passengers
12	720	1st	Kent Schillerstrom			Fiat America	Scott Schillerstrom Fiat America
15	665	2nd	Dennis McAllister			Nash Car Club	
13	630	3rd	Ken Sousa		MTM	Sandy Sousa	MTM
11	760	1st	Tim Jones			Jane Barker	TRC Stephanie Jones
16	630	2nd	Carlos Plaza			Sherri Plaza	
14	950	1st	Chris Sams			Leila Marcuca	Tom Parker, Ingrid Peterson
8	930	2nd	David Thistlethwaite			TRC Carol Thistlethwaite	TRC
10	870	3rd	Neal Kimmey	TRC		Gary Watcon	TRC Carolyn Kinney
7	820		Susan Paglianti			Mathew Paglianti	
9	910	1st	Eric Sultan			Dean Stanton	TRC
5	900	2nd	Dave Moen	TRC		Keith Anderson	TRC
2	970	1st	Steve Watt	TRC		Nancy Hanna	TRC
4	950	2nd	Jessica Toney	PCA/SCCA		J. Toney	PCA
6	980	1st	Doug Slusher			Rich Slusher	
1	980		Bill Jones	TRC			
3	975		Darin McGrew	TRC		Michelle McGrew	TRC



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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

Chapman Report Staff: Editor: Jim McClure, Circulation Manager: Tom Carney, Advertising Manager: Mel Boss.

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press release

'Comma Caterham Experience'. This brings together the British sportscar maker and its long-term partner, performance oils and car care products manufacturer, Comma, to offer must-try passenger rides around a specially constructed course at the NEC-based motorsport event. For a tenner, you'll be able to jump into the passenger seat of the lightweight 120bhp Seven for three frantic laps with plenty of doughnuts.

More Classifieds

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

FOR SALE: Lotus 7 A. New reinforced chrome moly frame, new suspension and Spax shocks, all new hydraulics, 2 rib cage transmissions, close ratio gear set, 2 BMC 1100 blocks and cranks, new APT prepared cylinder head with valves and springs, 2 Triumph 10 rear axle housings (one with no cracks), Wingard tail lights, original radiator and fuel tank, proper red upholstery material from England, etc., etc. Needs aluminum skin and hood. Assembly required. Will not separate. \$8000 firm. Locater in Templeton, CA (805)434-2980

For Sale: 1977 Lotus Sprint (Eclat) been sitting in garage for 20 years. \$4000. Contact Chuck Nelson hansel@aol.com

Classifieds

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

For Sale: 1971 S2 Europa \$1500 or best offer. 64k miles on engine. New water pump, battery, and hoses. Ran last month but then the starter died. Has some body damage to rear. Almost all original. This is a good project car or a great parts car. Please call Cody at 925-356-6965.

For sale: four minilite (genuine) wheels, bolt on 31/4x4, 13x5 with mounted set of avon 5:00x13's includes lug nuts (7/16 & 1/2). both wheel and tires brand new, never run. correct offset for lotus elan and spitfire. for info call Joel Mauser 209 477 4198 or email mauserja@aol.com (8/05)

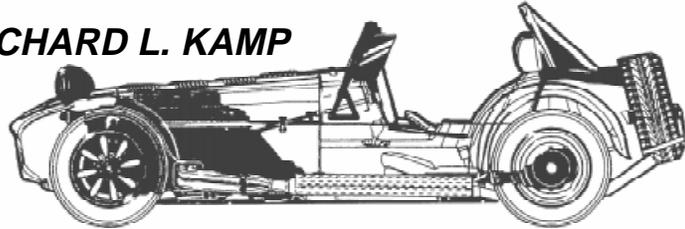
For Sale: We are selling our 1993 DeDion Caterham. I have had the car since 1994 and purchased it thru 7's & Elans. It has the 1700 Super Sprint, oil cooler, limited slip, adjustable seats, heater. The car has the original optional 16" tires and wheels and also a set of 13" wheels w/Avon tires. \$27,500. contact Gene: phone 530-722-9127, fax 530-722-9119, email bbg@c-zone.net.

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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: 1977 Esprit S1, nearly flawless interior, top half engine rebuilt, new radiator, new tires, etc. Receipts for all work done. Located in Walnut Creek, CA. Contact Paul Aichele 510-752-3204/ aichele@pixar.com (9/05)

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

First Class Mail

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