

# The Chapman Report



Published by the Golden Gate Lotus Club [www.gglotus.org](http://www.gglotus.org) May 2009

## Thanks, Jim!

*editor*

Well, as the philosophers among us will say "change happens". Regular readers of this newsletter know that Jim McClure has been anxious to step down as Chapman Report editor for a while now. After ?? years (nobody seems to know exactly how many) of distinguished service, he finally got his wish, and the editorship is transitioning to me, Joel Lipkin. I hope to maintain the same high standard Jim has established for this publication, but I can only do that with your help providing content and stories of interest to the membership. So please keep them coming to: [chapmanreport@gglotus.org](mailto:chapmanreport@gglotus.org). Finally, let's all thank Jim for his service to the club and wish him well as he gets to really retire.

## Monterey Historics Lotus Corral

### *Time-Critical Information from Kiyoshi*

The GGLC has once again arranged for a Lotus Corral at the Monterey Historic Races at Laguna Seca Raceway on August 14-16, 2009. (This year's featured marque is Porsche.) But in order to guarantee Lotus Corral parking,

the GGLC must have an advance sale of at least 35 tickets.

Purchase your Monterey Historic ticket(s) from the GGLC and get a free pass for the GGLC Lotus Corral. Please order early and reserve your spot in the corral. GGLC membership is NOT required, but you must drive your Lotus to the event to park in the GGLC Lotus Corral.

### **DEADLINE TO BUY TICKETS AND GET YOUR CORRAL PASS IS JUNE 10!**

Typically, the tickets are sent to the GGLC 2-3 weeks prior to the event and we immediately distribute them to you. Expect your ticket(s) and corral passes about one week prior to the event.

Reserved corral parking on Saturday is separated by Club/ Marque. Sunday corral parking is still reserved, but will be mixed marques.

Order from the GGLC site [www.gglotus.org](http://www.gglotus.org) or mail a check (payable to Golden Gate Lotus Club) to: **GGLC - Monterey, 775 Paul Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.**

Ticket prices (including corral pass for Saturday):

**Saturday, Aug 15 ONLY:**  
\$66.00 (\$75 at gate)

**Sunday, Aug 16 ONLY:**  
\$51.00 (\$60 at gate)

**2-Day, Sat Aug 15 and Sun Aug 16:** \$97.00 (\$115 at gate)

**3-Day, Fri Aug 14, Sat Aug 15 and Sun Aug 16:** \$127.00 (\$145 at gate)

## ***May Meeting***

**Friday, May 15th, 7:30 pm**

**Hosts: Rob Dietsch & Jen Vizcardo**

# Birthday Bash

by editor

Founding GGLC member, John Ridley, doesn't get to many meetings in the Bay Area these days since he moved to his retreat in southern OR. But the March meeting at Joe Ficarra's just happened to coincide with a significant birthday event in John's life. Since John was already planning a trip to the Bay Area to celebrate with family and friends he thought he would just stop by the meeting to say hello. Barry Spencer and John Zender had other plans, though, and they got the word out that the meeting would

feature a little surprise party for our distinguished first leader. Barry kept John R. busy with dinner and local touring so that John Z. could handle the preparations at Joe's place. Then everything came together for John's big surprise when he showed up for what he



thought would be a routine GGLC Friday meeting. With fire extinguishers at hand, the candles on the cake were ceremoniously lit by John Z. and his blowtorch. With a huff and a puff, John R. managed to blow them all out before the smoke alarm sounded so that we could have some chocolate cake and do a little reminiscing with John. Great stories abounded (maybe a little age-enhanced) as veteran and new members alike got into the spirit of the evening. Joe Ficarra topped the evening off with some video selections from his extensive collection that included scenes from the very first WCLM and the classic TV news show featuring Steve Frey and his "uber" Elan.

Thanks to one and all for a terrific evening and celebration!

## Calendar

May 16	Autocross (Points)	Marina
May 27	GGLC Track Day	Thill
June 20	GGLC BBQ, Meeting	Mel Boss
June 27	Autocross (Points)	Marina

For more and updated information about these GGLC and other events check the GGLC website at [www.gglotus.org](http://www.gglotus.org)

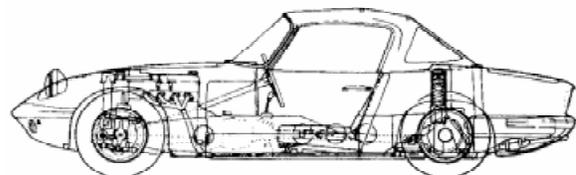
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## News From Chapman Report Online: RAC selects Group Lotus plc for prestigious award

The Royal Automobile Club awards The Dewar Trophy on an annual basis to honor outstanding British technical achievement in the automotive field. For 2008, Group Lotus plc was named as the recipient of this historic award. The Dewar Trophy Technical Sub-Committee unanimously agreed that Lotus should be recognized for the company's development of its Versatile Vehicle Architecture (VVA) chassis technology.

normally results in compromises in performance and design. VVA exploits Lotus Engineering's expertise in aluminum, steel and composite body engineering, joining techniques, and vehicle systems integration. This innovative technology offers a fast-to-market, cost-effective approach without the compromises associated with conventional 'platform sharing'.

The Lotus Evora enters the sports car market as currently the

John Wood, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club's Dewar Trophy Technical Sub-Committee, said: "The thing that particularly impressed the judges was the single minded determination with which the team at Lotus had sought to find the best possible solution to the particular problem of building an uncompromised lightweight chassis for a low volume road car, and then continually developed and refined that concept to respond to emerging requirements.

"What they have now is a platform system that is not only ideal for high performance sports cars, but also almost infinitely versatile and well suited to the needs of niche vehicle manufacturing in an era where environmental concerns are driving a demand for lightweight structures for a multitude of applications."



The VVA technology was developed to exploit the benefits of producing at low to medium volumes for niche markets. Engineering a specialized low-volume platform is an expensive, time-consuming solution, while sharing a mainstream chassis

world's only mid-engined 2+2. Powered by a Lotus-tuned 3.5-litre V6 engine producing 280PS, and weighing just 1350kg (prototype), the Evora promises exceptional performance and uses a low volume application of VVA.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Please take note of these important upcoming deadlines and events:

**June 10**--Historics ticket deadline

**June 20**--Meet and BBQ at Mel & Darlene's (Danville)

**August 14-16**--Historics weekend

**Nov 5-9**--2009 WCLM

**Dec 12**--Holiday Party

# 2009 WCLM

## *First Announcement*

The 2009 West Coast Lotus Meet (WCLM) will be held Nov. 5-9 in Las Vegas, NV. The Lotus Car Club of Southern Nevada will host the 4-day event with assistance from other Lotus clubs on the west coast.

Drive sum, Play sum, Win sum. WCLM 2009 is the Las Vegas WEST COAST Lotus Meet at the newest Ultra Hip Red Rock Hotel and Casino experience inspired by the best slogan ever: "What Happens in Vegas, Stays in Vegas!"

Step inside and you will be completely immersed in the "Happy Endings" ambiance of ultra hip architecture, design and flavor of the Red Rock Hotel and Casino while playing or relaxing all day, everyday starting November 5! Enjoy cocktails by the luxurious pool! Hot times in the nightclub! Drive the desert! Win at the tables! Have fun at the track! Relax in the spa! Do it all at WCLM 2009. WCLM 2009 in Vegas offers a sampling of the best car and recreational events Vegas has to offer inspired by the old and new Sin City.

Hop aboard for a variety of driving, dining, partying and other cool events. Friday and Saturday will offer drives to Lake Las Vegas, Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Red Rock Canyon or Valley of Fire and the WCLM Autocross and Lotus Car Show (Concours). Sunday is the track event in Pahrump.



Drive fast, drive well and finish well. Enjoy an exciting day on the track at the most luxurious race-track in the west. Spring Mountain has it all -- 2.2 mile twisty track run from the lower paddock, luncheon at the Member's Club House, observation tower, pool, spa, weight room, jacuzzi, massage rooms and more. The optional track event is on Sunday, November 8th but if you want more stay for a 2<sup>nd</sup> track day on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> featuring the 3.1 mile course!

Take your Lotus out on the track with challenges for the most advanced drivers and expert instruction for beginners. Never been on a racetrack before? We will have coaches ride along to get you acquainted with the track and

help you with high speed driving techniques, all with safety as the number one priority.

For more details and the most up-to-date information about the 2009 WCLM visit our website: [www.westcoastlotus.com](http://www.westcoastlotus.com)

WCLM Contacts:

Cory Newberry (Southern Nevada Lotus Car Club)  
[zzyzxc@earthlink.net](mailto:zzyzxc@earthlink.net), and

Kiyoshi Hamai (Golden Gate Lotus Club)  
[webguy@gglotus.org](mailto:webguy@gglotus.org).

# Lotus Dealer Report

## Lotus Tech Day, Silicon Valley Auto Group

### April 11, 2009

by Andrew McDonald, Service Manager, Silicon Valley Auto Group

In preparation for the upcoming GGLC Autocross season, Lotus Silicon Valley (Silicon Valley Auto Group) once again opened its service facility doors to provide a complementary vehicle track and safety inspection to local autocross enthusiasts. This has become an annual event for the local Lotus community, and it has been extremely well supported by GGLC members and SVAG customers in the past. This year was no exception! During the course of the day, we had over 25 cars show up, and we completed a total of 15 complementary inspections. In addition to the complementary inspection, a number of Lotus enthusiasts took advantage of a 15% parts and accessories discount offered to all those attending. Since the turn-out was so positive, *SVAG has extended the offer of a complementary vehicle inspection and 15% parts and accessories discount thru May 31 2009.*



Please contact Jordan Bean at 408-358-777 to schedule your appointment.

During the inspections, two common maintenance items that are frequently overlooked were noted: (1) dirty air cleaner elements and (2) dirty brake fluid. The Lotus Car USA owner's guide specifies that the car's air cleaner element should

Track worthy is an understatement



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be replaced or inspected every 6 months/7500 miles. Because the air filter housing and the air intake are located extremely low to the ground it is very common for elements to become dirty. While removing and replacing the air filter element is not a difficult operation to perform as an owner, it does require removal of the left rear wheel and arch liner. There are several key benefits that will be realized after replacing the air filter element, and all of them will guarantee

increased performance of your Lotus!

Lotus USA also recommends that the vehicle brake fluid be replaced every 1 year/15,000 miles. Over time, brake fluid absorbs water from the atmosphere. This hydroscopic action effectively lowers the boiling point of the fluid, and it increases the potential for corrosion in the hydraulic system. Fortunately, this is a very easy item to check, but it is a little more involved as an owner maintenance item. It requires carefully opening the brake system and removing the dirty fluid and replacing with new fluid. It is extremely important that all air be removed from the system to ensure safe brake operation once the service is completed! Bleeding the ABS system with the Lotus Scan Tool is also an extremely important step. Once again, the benefits gained from replacing your brake fluid prior to an event will translate into greatly improved braking performance. For additional braking performance, be sure to speak with us about installing the Lotus stainless steel brake line kit.

**If you are taking part in this season's GGLC Autocross or other track events, I would recommend that you check both the air filter and brake fluid prior to your event, allowing enough time to correct any concerns. You will certainly enjoy the benefits of paying attention to these items.**

Should you have any questions regarding the ownership experience of your Lotus please do not hesitate to contact Andrew McDonald or Jordan Bean at 408-358-7777. Also be sure to check out

[www.siliconvalleyautogroup.com](http://www.siliconvalleyautogroup.com) for a complete list of factory offered accessories or to schedule your next service appointment.

**Happy Lotusing!**



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# Club Decals Available Again

by Tom and Cheri Carney, Circulation Management Team



We have a few more decals to show the world our affiliation to our great club. We sent these out to members last year until we ran out, and kept records of people that didn't get them. We made a little discovery that our record keeping wasn't as perfect as hoped. Your circulation manager got distracted . . . *that's my story and I'm sticking with it!* So, the big bottom line is, if you didn't get an official decal, there are two ways to remedy the situation. You could e-mail me (europa7t@aol.com) and use

"decal" as the "Subject", or you could call my home phone (650) 342-7203 (leave a message if necessary). Either way, give me an address for mailing them to you. (A third way would be to come to a meeting and perhaps I'll remember to bring a few, no promises, though.) Because we have a limited number please just ask for what you need. In other words, if you have 8 Lotus cars and only 2 run, then just ask for 2. Of course, if you get another car running then ask for another decal at that time. Thanks for your patience.



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# Classifieds

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

**For Sale:** 1991 M-100 Elan. My wife says we have too many cars and one must go. A 1-owner car purchased in 1992 at Boardwalk Motors. At 105K miles, the car has been my daily driver and is in great condition. All the important stuff works, including motor, A/C, heater, power steering, power windows, etc. The paint is good (factory red). Located in Gilroy, CA. Asking \$7,000. Contact Justin Gross (408)848-0072 or jjgross007@verizon.net

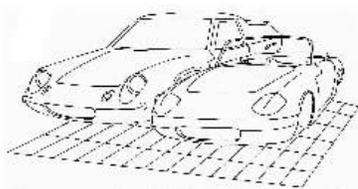
**For Sale:** Lotus Elise Series 1 190 Sport Green. Factory Built after initial production run. Personally imported into the U.S. under the race car exception. Leda Suspension, EBC pads and rotors. Two sets of track wheels, one set transport wheels. Extra driver's seat. Wheel wells tastefully flared. Fun car, 4000km, all track. Best reasonable offer. Will deliver to

California.  
Stephen Trackman (775) 265-0623; trackmans@earthlink.net

**For Sale:** 1963 Lotus Seven, SB1503 frame # 1818 completely restored with only a few modifications, in beautiful condition. Contact Tom at (408) 247-9741; Troderick4@comcast.net for pictures and information. I am asking \$18,000.

**Wanted:** 1966 or later style Weber Lotus T/C head. (650) 796-2193; donhogue@charter.net

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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.

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