

The Chapman Report



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Photo Credit: Jake Meltzer

The Dietsch Motorsports crew keeps one of their cars in tip-top shape for a fun track day at Laguna Seca. Learn more about the event on Page 2.



Rick Bouonassisi, Director of the Sacramento Chapter, picks up a few tempting goodies after the Jelly Belly factory tour. Learn more about the day on Page 7.

May/June Meetings

Friday, May 15, 2015 – 7:30 PM

Hosts: Kiyoshi and Laura Hamai

SATURDAY, June 13, 2015 – 4:00 PM

Annual GGLC BBQ in Danville

Hosts: Mel and Darlene Boss

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca Track Day February 23, 2015

by David Anderson

It was a near-perfect day to be on track. Sunny and cool in the morning, warming to short-sleeve weather at noon, and then cooling by 3 PM (to the point your scribe was chilled even in a Driver Suit). The winds also started to gust a bit late in the afternoon, so folks had to take down awnings, etc. to keep them from becoming airborne.

Kiyoshi Hamai, Prez Rita Guerrero-Satulovsky, and Dave Close ran registration in very fine style, which made it easier for John Zender and Scott Hogben to run the event. We found, once again, that a few folks had their group-identifying stickers blow off their windshields. This is a nuisance for those few (they had to pick up new stickers) and also for John and Scott. We need to find something that works a bit better.

We had a good Lotus turnout: 22 Elise/Exige, two Europa, and one Evora. A 2-Eleven was also there, but just for show. The event was fully subscribed for three groups. We, of course, appreciate the 75, or so, non-Lotus



entrants who joined us at the track as their participation makes it possible to hold these track days at a reasonable entry fee.

The three groups (Advanced, Intermediate and Novice) ran at fixed times each hour for 20 minute sessions. The track workers kept everything on schedule all day so that each entrant was able to participate in as many as seven track sessions. The tow truck operations also helped keep us on schedule by removing disabled cars under part-course yellow flags, and by working quickly. By 3 PM, though, quite a few drivers had had enough track time and left, so the track became very open.

Both Dietsch Motorsports and Suspension Performance brought Lotus track cars for their customers. I was able to drive a DietschWerks 2006 Lotus Exige #313, the same car I have been using in recent LotusCupUSA Northern California races.

Drivers were quite well behaved, it seemed, letting faster drivers through. It is not a race, so when a car shows up in one's





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mirrors it is time to let off the gas a little on corner exit and let the faster car through.

At the 8:15 AM drivers' meeting, John Zender spent much time warning drivers to be careful as Laguna Seca has many unforgiving, solid walls. But one non-Lotus driver failed to heed his advice and severely damaged a car against a wall.

Even if you don't want to drive on track, you likely would enjoy coming out to a GGLC track day. Entry to the paddock is free--just sign a waiver on the way in, and, if you want to ride-along in an on-track session, you will need to sign an additional GGLC track waiver after you are in the paddock. I am sure you will find plenty of drivers who will cheerfully take you for a ride on track (a helmet is required).

The next trackday event is scheduled for May 26, 2015, at Thunderhill.

(Editor's note: the photos from the Laguna Seca track day on this page are courtesy of Jake Meltzer.)



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Lotus Reports Dramatic Worldwide Sales Increase

Abstracted from Lotus media release

Lotus recently announced a 55% rise in its global sports car sales at the conclusion of the 2014/15 financial year (FY).

For the full year, the company has increased its sales volume to an excellent 2015 units, which is in contrast to the 1,296 units sold in FY 2013/14. This is the best result achieved by Lotus since FY 2008/09.

Key global markets showing the renaissance experienced by Lotus are in China (+186%), France (+177%) and Germany (+130%), while Japan (+103%) remains the company's largest export market. Sales in the UK have more than doubled to 346 units (+102%). The USA market, which sells the Evora range as a road car and the Elise and Exige ranges for track use only, has increased by 24%. Leading the excellent performance is the Elise range, with an 80% increase in volume to 729 cars. The Exige S range continues its positive growth (+52%) with 724 cars, while the Evora is up by 35% with 562 cars. However, these figures are expected to change radically with the launch of Evora 400 in August.

The sales figures are summarized in the following table.

Country	2013-14	2014-15	% Change
Belgium	42	83	98
Canada	11	15	36
China	28	80	186
France	57	158	177
Germany	76	175	130
Italy	36	48	33
Japan	180	365	103
Luxembourg	4	14	150
UK	171	346	102
USA	197	245	24

Helping the progress are two new models, the Elise 220 Cup and the Exige S automatic option in both coupe and roadster forms. Jean-Marc Gales,



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CEO of Group Lotus plc, stated: “This positive result is something that we have not witnessed at Lotus for many years. We are meeting both time and budget deadlines. However, we also appreciate that we still have hard work to do to maintain this progress. Our continued expansion demonstrates the customer confidence in Lotus. At the same time, our product development strategy is meeting its objectives, while remaining true to our core pillars of efficiency, light weight, high performance and driving purity in the most desirable packaging.”

Naturally, dealer strength has grown, with 36 new dealers in the global network in FY

2014/15 taking the total to 174 dealers worldwide.

As well as the new Evora 400 and the aforementioned Elise 220 Cup and Exige S automatic, two additional new models—the Elise S 20th Anniversary and the Exige S Club Racer—are exciting the market. Strong residual values for all Lotus cars help customers to appreciate the value of the products.

Jean-Marc continued: “The reason that we are making such vital headway lies in our employees’ commitment to avoid delays in project deliveries, and I am immensely pleased with the cultural changes that have been effected by our staff across the whole of Lotus.

Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 9	AutoX/Round 2	Marina
May 15	Meeting/Social	Palo Alto
May 17	Sacramento Chapter Drive	Rough & Ready
May 23	Shop Day / BBQ	El Sobrante
May 26	Track Day	Thunderhill
May 30	AutoX/Round 3	Marina
June 13	GGLC BBQ	Danville
June 17	Dinner/Meeting	Sacramento Chapter
June 20	AutoX/Round 4	Crows Landing
June 27-28	Hwy 1 Drive / Hearst Castle	Central Coast

See www.gglotus.org for additional information about upcoming events.



Scan to get current GGLC calendar on your mobile device.

Looking to the future, we are working on new Lotus cars and have a number of exciting announcements and reveals over the next 18 months.”

2015 GGLC AutoX Season Begins

by Kiyoshi Hamai

Have you heard the buzz? The GGLC Autocross Series is known for its premier autocross events! Here is what Art Muncheryn had to say in the March issue of the SCCA San Francisco Region magazine, *The Wheel*: "I have been very active in autocrossing my shifter kart with the Golden Gate Lotus Club, which by far packs the most bang for the buck, and is immensely fun. I will write more about the GGLC events and my take on autocrossing in general in a future column."

High praise, indeed, coming from a magazine representing the region that has produced more Solo2 National Champions than any other SCCA Region.

So, if you are looking to learn more about the genius that lurks inside your Lotus, a GGLC autocross is the perfect place to start!

This year, the GGLC Autocross Series is again blessed to be led by Colm Gavin. Colm has put together 10 events beginning with the season opener that took place April 20. But, not to worry, there is still plenty of time for you to come out drive, watch or get a ride!

Seven of the 2015 events will be at our usual location at the Marina Airport. This site has a great and consistent driving surface of grippy concrete. The 440'x700' rectangular area lends itself to a variety of course layouts offering different challenges to drivers.



For something new this year, however, we have also secured the use of the former Crows Landing Air Base, which is about 35 miles south of the I-580 and I-205 junction. Unlike the Marina site, the Crows site consists of two crossing 200'-wide runways that are each about 1 mile long!

Learn more about our events via the club website at: <http://www.gglotus.org/ggautox/ggautox.htm>. Then come join the fun at an upcoming AutoX!

- Sat, May 9 (Marina Airport)
- Sat, May 30 (Marina Airport)
- Sat, Jun 20 (Crows Landing)
- Sat, Jul 11 (Marina Airport)
- Sat, Aug 15 (Crows Landing)
- Sun, Sep 20 (Marina Airport)
- Sat, Oct 10 (Crows Landing)
- Sun, Nov 1 (Marina Airport)



Triple the Drives / Triple the Fun

March 28, 2015

by Rita Satulovsky

Near-perfect timing and coordination made our GGLC Triple Drives to Fairfield and Vacaville a huge success! We had 6–8 cars starting from each gathering point—Sacramento (led by Rick Buonassisi); Milpitas (led by me); and Livermore (led by Joel Lipkin).

We all arrived at the Jelly Belly factory in Fairfield within a few minutes of each other (some of us even meeting on Jelly Belly Lane on the way to the factory), where we were greeted by a number of other participants. What teamwork!

The excellent turnout and on-time arrival allowed us to take over some prime parking spots in front of the factory entrance, which ensured plenty of photo ops and many comments from other visitors to Jelly Belly. We then had some time to socialize and get our group scheduled for the docent-led Jelly Belly Factory Tour.

Everyone on the tour was given a white paper "Jelly Belly"



hat that had to be worn while walking around the factory on the observation level above the factory floor. Even though there was no production underway in the factory over the weekend, we saw, learned—and tasted—a lot as we checked out some promotional and educational videos about the process of making the special confection. Unfortunately, no photography was permitted on the tour.

After the factory tour, we enjoyed an opportunity to shop at the candy/gift shop and sample chocolates at the Chocolate Shop

and Fudge Counter before heading out to Rob and Jen's Grand Opening and BBQ at Dietsch Motorsports a short distance away in Vacaville.

Jen and Rob rolled out the red carpet for us and others that arrived on their own. At one point in the afternoon, the count of the total number of Lotus cars at Dietsch Motorsports topped 50!

There was plenty of food and refreshments for the group and, of course, lots to look at and chat about in the shop. Rob led a grand tour of the facility, and he told the group more about the future plans for Dietsch Motorsports as we finished off the afternoon and an outstanding day of Lotusing!

If you were not there for some reason, just check out the accompanying photos to get a feel for this fun day.



(continued on p. 8)



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Annual Club BBQ In Danville June 13, 2015

editor

We all know how the Bay Area's Friday night traffic congestion can make it difficult to get to the East Bay for one of our traditional Friday night club meetings. So for June, the club meeting will be *Saturday, June 13*, in Danville with the added attraction of the club's annual BBQ at Mel and Darlene's place.

This fabulous event will feature some of Mel's gourmet specialties like stuffed portabella mushrooms, grilled tri-tip and deep-fried turkey. See page 1 for driving directions to Mel and Darlene's.

The fun should get started about 4 PM with food service beginning around 6 PM—and a club business meeting might even happen a little later.

A contribution of a salad or dessert for the BBQ would be nice, but is not required. Please RSVP to Mel for the BBQ by June 10: (darmel-at-sbcglobal.net).



Shop Day & BBQ At Mike's May 23, 2015

editor

What better way to kick off Memorial Day Weekend than with an informative Tech Seminar on all things Lotus followed by a pot-luck BBQ at Mike Ostrov's place in El Sobrante.

The venue is Mike's shop, 4119 Santa Rita Rd, El Sobrante. The action begins at 10 AM—RSVP to Mike at mikeostrov-at-webtv.net or (510) 232-7764.

The BBQ should be turning out chicken and tri-tip under the watchful eyes of Jon Rosner and son Sam starting about 12 N. **Anyone interested in bringing a dish, a beverage or a dessert to share can contact Jon Rosner (jon-at-roscotech.com) to coordinate.** Entrées, dark chocolate, salad, appetizers, milk chocolate, beverages and of course, chocolate are welcome.



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GGLC 2-Day Coast Drive and Hearst Castle Visit

by Rick Buonassisi

Join the GGLC for a 2-day Central California Coast Drive on June 27–28, 2015.

Here is what you can expect on the GGLC Drive—

Saturday:

- Meet-up points in Sacramento, Gilroy and Marina;
- Box lunch provided;
- Scenic drive on what many consider the BEST "Lotus" road in the world, California Highway 1;
- Exploration and scenic photo stops;
- A tour of the world famous Hearst Castle (fee is included in registration);
- Group hotel in Cambria for Saturday night, June 27 (must reserve your own room, see below).

Sunday:

- Group drive back to the Bay Area and Sacramento on some amazing back roads.

The Saturday night stay will be at the Mariner's Inn in the quaint village of Cambria. Special discounted rates have been

negotiated for participants. However, hotel costs are not included in the registration fee. Participants are responsible for their own accommodations. To reserve your room at the Mariner's Inn, follow the directions on the GGLC website.



royo, Gilroy, 95020. Take Hwy 101 to Hwy 152. Exit Hwy 101 and take Hwy 152 East. Right at 2nd Ave (Shell station). Starbucks is on the right.

3. Marina: 9:30 AM - REI, 145 General Stilwell Dr., Marina, 93933. Take Hwy 1 to Imjin Parkway in Marina. Exit Hwy 1 East on Imjin. Right on 2nd Ave. Right at General Stilwell and into the REI parking lot. Everyone on the drive will pick-up their box lunches at this location.

MEETING/START Locations, June 27:

1. Sacramento:

5:30 AM - Starbucks, 4110 Norwood Ave, Sacramento, 95838. Take I-80 to Norwood. Exit onto Norwood North. Starbucks is on your right.

2. Gilroy: 8:45 AM - Starbucks, 6865 Camino Ar-

Registration Options: (does not include hotel)

GGLC Members- \$40 per person - includes Hearst Castle Tour & Saturday Lunch.

Non-GGLC Members- \$47 per person - includes Hearst Castle Tour & Saturday Lunch.

GGLC Members- \$25 per person - Hearst Castle Only.

Non-GGLC Members- \$28 per person - Hearst Castle Only.

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What's Your GGLC Number?

by David Anderson

In a word--fuhgeddaboutit!

When signing up for a GGLC event on MotorSportReg.com you will be asked for your GGLC member number.

Actually, you don't have, or need, a member number. So you can answer the question with a simple "N/A" or a random number--even leaving the field blank may work.

For example, 7 is a Lotus Mar- que number, hence it would be a meaningful choice. So is 6 (and 6 is also the smallest "Perfect Num- ber" (see Wikipedia)), making it a perfectly good number to use.

Bottom line is all is good, and the number you choose will not delay processing of your registra- tion.

ON-LINE Registration is available at:
www.gglotus.motorsportreg.com

If you only want to partici- pate in the Hearst Castle tour, you can select the Hearst Castle Tour Only option at sign-up. Please be at the Hearst Castle parking lot no later than 2:30 PM on Saturday, June 27.

Info, questions? Send an email to: Sacto-GGLC@gglotus.org or to prez@gglotus.org



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(non-commercial ads are free to GGLC members and will run for 2 issues before requiring renewal)



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More photos and questions answered by contacting:
Hank Mauel at (530) 885-1265 or mauel@wavecable.com

Wanted: Information about Lotus 20/22 Simulator. I am docent at the new World of Speed motorsports museum (<http://www.worldofspeed.org/>) in Wilsonville, OR. We have an updated Lotus 20/22 simulator on display, and I am looking for information, articles, etc about it to enhance the description for the public. Contact Tom Styczynski at vintagerace-at-verizon.net if you have, or are aware of, anything that will help.

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Contributions to the Chapman Report are accepted and encouraged. Please email them to chapmanreport-at-gglotus.org in MS Word, rtf or ASCII text.

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