

Lotus Lines

Evergreen
Lotus Car Club

May
2000

My New Car – the Lotus 340R

By Mark Clear

It has been about a year and a half since I sold my Esprit. Why did I sell it? I don't know. I forget. But I do know it was a mistake and I want my car back! I miss the whooshing noise the air intakes made behind my head when I stepped on the gas. I miss the stiffness of the ride and how the headlights would wobble every time I hit a bump driving down a road at night. I miss getting pulled over by the "men in blue" every other week to check the validity of my trip permits. And of course I miss driving the car at "safe" speeds around the back county roads. For a Lotus lover like me, living without a Lotus is sort of depressing. Like spending the rainy season indoors, except the rainy season never ends.

Well my wait is finally over and I am in love once again. Last week I took delivery of a new Lotus 340R (yes, Microsoft has



Club member Mark Clear is all smiles!

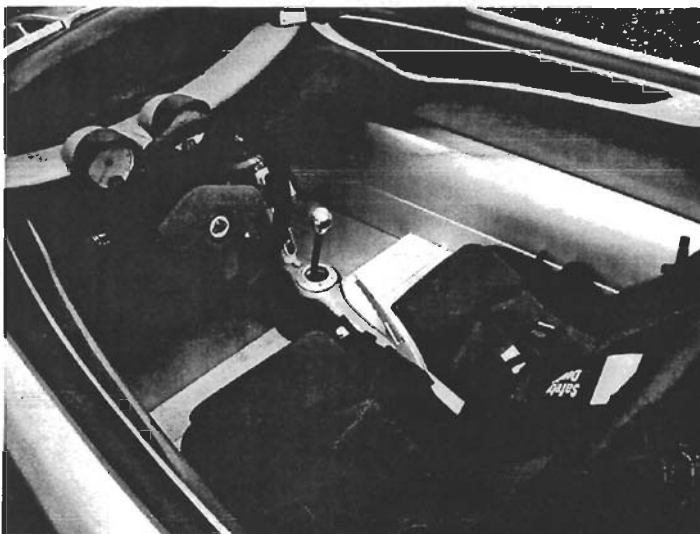
been good to me). Some of you may be surprised, but then again so was I. I guess you can say it was an impulsive decision. I thought since stocks are up and I'm never going to be young again, I might as well have some fun.

The car to say the least is fabulous. On the road, the 340R is incredibly nimble. It feels more like a go-kart than a car. The steering is extremely responsive with almost zero play in the wheel and the car feels like it has no weight to it. It is hard

to explain with any other words than just "Awesome".

Okay, okay, you caught me dreaming again. The stock market isn't up and unfortunately the 340R isn't mine either. Fortunately I didn't sell my options, but I did lose a sizable chunk of my retirement just like everybody else who is heavily invested in technology stocks.

You may think I am pulling your leg a little, but Park Place Ltd indeed took delivery of two Lotus 340R's in mid April. It started last fall when Lotus Cars USA decided to import eight 340R's to sell for track and show purposes. They called Park Place and owner David Bingham ordered two. Each of the eight cars is numbered with a small, engraved plaque located between the two seats on the rear window. Park Place has numbers 6 and 7. As it currently stands, Mr. Bingham and his son have tentatively purchased one car, while the other car remains up for sale. If you



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From the Chair

From the Chair

Wow! It's already May. I am finding that it's both exciting and depressing. The former because of the longer days and better weather, but the latter because I thought I would have actually started working on my car long before now. The ELCC driving season has arrived. Our events now begin to be held outdoors, we hope desperately for good weather, and for those whose project cars aren't finished, we wish we had been more diligent during the winter. It's just the cycle of life for a Lotus owner.

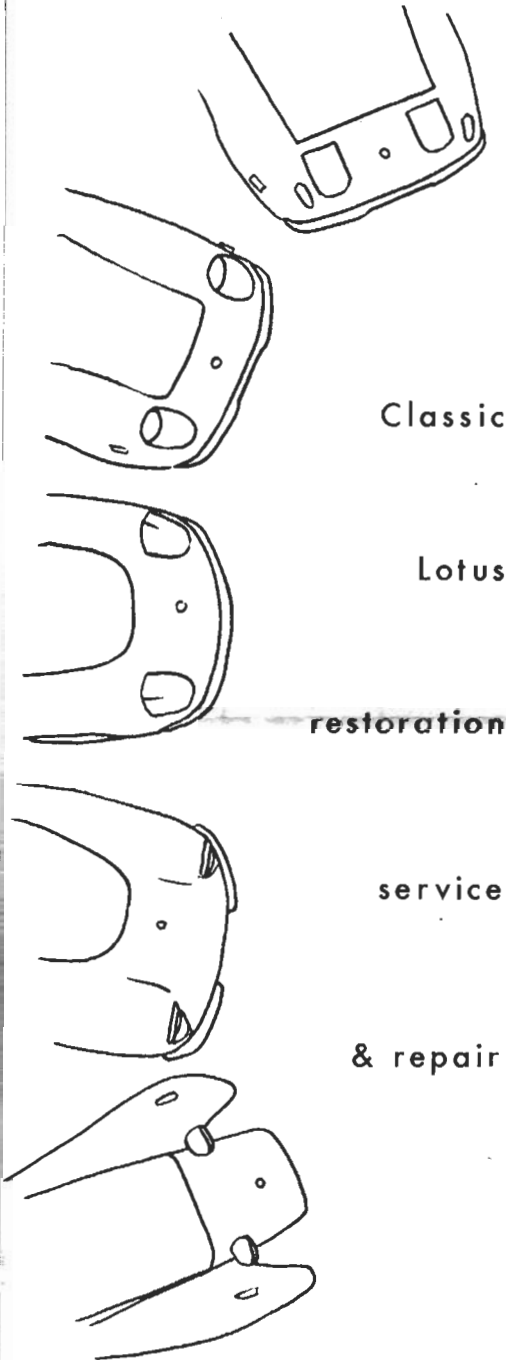
This is my letter of encouragement to everyone (including myself, I hope). There are a lot of things happening, so I am encouraging all ELCC members to take advantage of the many offerings from our club and other groups. Looking ahead, we have rallies planned for both June and August, as well as our traditional menu of Vintage Races at SIR and the ABFM, both scheduled in July. The combination of a string of successful events so far this year, along with a summer that is going to be busy, has led us to give everyone a break during May as a way to focus on car preparation for the upcoming outings. While there won't be an official ELCC event for May, there are, however, 2 excellent options you might want to check out.

First is the SOVREN Spring Sprints. Essentially a mini version of their July event, they typically attract over 100 vintage cars who run a full 2 day schedule of races during the weekend. This year it will be happening May 13 & 14. For more information, you can go to www.sovren.org and click on the link to "Other Races", or you can call Dick Buckingham, Race Chairman, at 206-232-4644. The second event in May is touted elsewhere in this newsletter. The 2nd Annual Run to the Gorge is a self-paced and beautiful drive that ends in Hood River, Oregon. It can be run in one day; with the option of staying overnight and joining others at the evening banquet. So, for anyone who doesn't think they will get their fill of driving from the two club rallies, I encourage you to try out this one as well.

As for the events in July, it is important to the ELCC to be well represented at both the Car Corral at SIR, and the ABFM. I'll begin my pleading early by asking that everyone with a running Lotus plan on attending those events. This year, the club will have a canopy and club banner set up at each event, and it would look pretty silly to just have one car parked under it. I know, I know, this is a "do as I say, not as I do" statement, coming from me. But I hope you will all indulge me anyway, and I look forward to these events as some of the highlights of the year.

I would also like everyone to begin thinking about next year's calendar. While we will be having a specific event in September geared toward a photo shoot, there are plenty of great pictures to be had all summer long. So, when you come to an event, bring along a camera and keep your eyes and shutters looking for good pictures. In fact, one of the best pictures around right now is that incredible 340R at Park Place Motors. If you haven't seen it yet, I suggest you drop by for a visit. By today's standards,

(Continued on page 6)



Randall Fehr Restorations

30 South Horton Street
Seattle, Washington 98134
206-622-7469



(Lotus 340R. Continued from page 1)

have an extra \$80K, a long driveway with lots of twisties and your fortune hasn't been wiped out by the sagging stock market, this might be the car for you. Even if you can't afford it, you really should take a trip down to Park Place and take a look. The 340R is really a wild ride.

For those of you who haven't seen it, the 340R is a limited production track car with only 340 total units being produced. It shares the same bonded, extruded aluminum chassis as the Elise. On top is minimal fiberglass and carbon fiber



bodywork covering the cabin. A clear, see-through plastic panel is all there is to protect you from a side impact. Power is provided by a 177hp version of the same Rover engine found in the Elise Sport. If you want to work on the engine, you had better break out the allen wrench set to remove the 8 bolts that hold the engine cover down. From a functional standpoint, the 340R is basically a stripped down Elise with all the unnecessary amenities like ventilation, radio, windows, doors, roof, etc, removed. Not really your best Seattle car, but this is for weekend track days right?



The dashboard consists of 2 stack gauges, a couple buttons for operating the headlights, and a start button. No power options on this puppy, but if just so happen to own two heated jump suits for winter driving, you will be thrilled to know two cigarette lighter power sockets are located between the seats against the rear bulkhead for your convenience. Sitting in the 340R is much more comfortable than the standard Elise or the Elise Sport. The molded bucket seats have the right amount of cushioning and a very nice four point racing harness keeps you snugly in place during the sharpest of corners. The seat is adjustable and there is plenty of legroom too! Thanks to the lack of ...everything, Lotus was able to shave more fat off the already light Elise and bring the 340R curb weight down to 1320 pounds. This helps give the car a 300hp/ton power to weight ratio and a 0-60mph start of 4.3 sec. Top speed is limited to around 130mph.

The difference in driving the 340R and an Esprit is like



Mark Clear, Jim Taylor, Don Anderson, Mike Galos, Andre Samson and Mike Standingwolf behind the wheel of the Lotus 340R.

comparing the Esprit to a Honda. There really is no comparison and it is such a unique driving experience that no car in production today can replicate it. The 340R is a modern day version of Chapman's Seven. Barebones, simple, extremely light weight and packs incredible performance. Not to mention the car is a real head turner.

In my younger days, I had a couple go-karts. My favorite stunt was to do a 360 spin in the road and keep on going. Going about 25-30 mph, I would crank the steering all the way to one side while tapping on the brakes. That would send me into a quick 180. If you went opposite lock at the end of the 180, the spinning momentum would bring you around the next 180. As you come about 360, you get on the gas, straighten the wheels back out and you are off heading down the road again. I haven't seen it for myself, but David Bruski of Park Place tells me he downloaded a short video clip off the Internet of a 340R doing just that, a 360 spin while driving straight down the road. Looking at the car, I can believe it. Maybe he will let me try it some day...

ELCC Website Update:

When was the last time you visited the ELCC website? Last month? Last year? Never? If you haven't been up to the website recently, pull up your favorite browser and take another look. I gave the site a new look recently and changes are still taking place.

New additions:

Classified Ads - a place for all Lotus enthusiasts to look for or unload their cars, parts or any other memorabilia.
Discussion Forum -

Some Future Ideas:

Members Only area - Protected area only for club members
Online Roster - Search the roster database for club members or car types
Members Profiles - Place where club members can show off pictures of their cars and/or details about themselves
Online Newsletters - An alternative way to get your monthly newsletter.

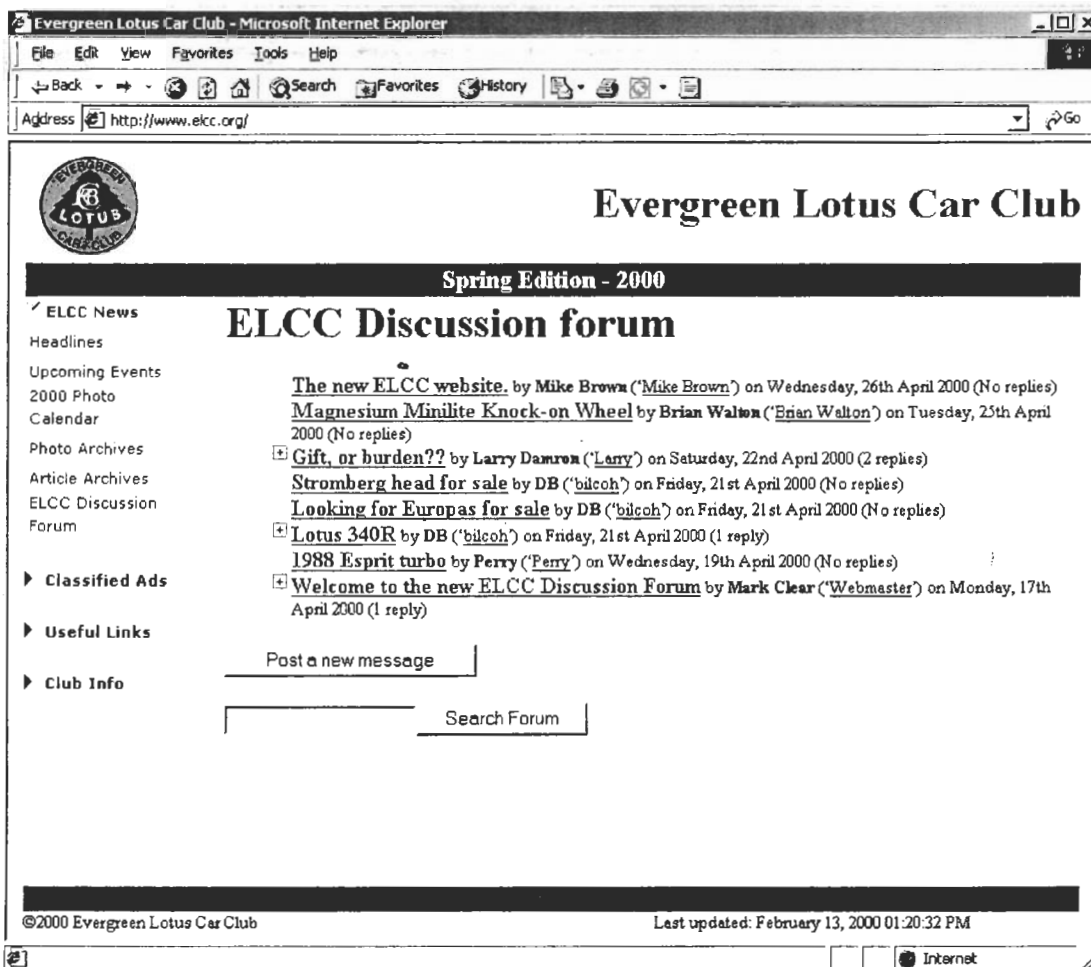
How many of these new ideas will we actually implement? Who knows, but they sound cool! I'm always looking for more ideas, content, photos or other information to share with club members and other enthusiasts. If you have any articles, photos or ideas you wish to share please contact me.

Mark Clear

ELCC Webmaster

markcl@microsoft.com

<http://www.elcc.org>



Evergreen Lotus Car Club

Spring Edition - 2000

ELCC News

Headlines

Upcoming Events

2000 Photo

Calendar

Photo Archives

Article Archives

ELCC Discussion Forum

Classified Ads

Useful Links

Club Info

ELCC Discussion forum

[The new ELCC website.](#) by Mike Brown ('Mike Brown') on Wednesday, 26th April 2000 (No replies)

[Magnesium Minilite Knock-on Wheel](#) by Brian Walton ('Brian Walton') on Tuesday, 25th April 2000 (No replies)

[Gift, or burden??](#) by Larry Dameron ('Larry') on Saturday, 22nd April 2000 (2 replies)

[Stromberg head for sale](#) by DB ('bilcoch') on Friday, 21st April 2000 (No replies)

[Looking for Europas for sale](#) by DB ('bilcoch') on Friday, 21st April 2000 (No replies)

[Lotus 340R](#) by DB ('bilcoch') on Friday, 21st April 2000 (1 reply)

[1988 Esprit turbo](#) by Perry ('Perry') on Wednesday, 19th April 2000 (No replies)

[Welcome to the new ELCC Discussion Forum](#) by Mark Clear ('Webmaster') on Monday, 17th April 2000 (1 reply)

Post a new message

Search Forum

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Last updated: February 13, 2000 01:20:32 PM

Internet



2nd Annual All British and Classic Tour

2nd Annual All British & Classic Tour

“Run to the Gorge”

May 27-28, 2000

The Puget Sound British Automotive Society invites you to the 2nd Annual All British and Classic Tour, “Run to the Gorge.” **This event is open to all cars.** Pack a lunch and join us for this one or two day tour, leaving from South Hill Mall in Puyallup WA. See map below or visit our website: www.abfm.com or **Contact Arnie Taub (425) 644-7874**

This tour, on your own, will take you south going to Eatonville and then continuing through some beautiful country around Mt. St. Helen's and into Sequest State Park. Either enjoy lunch with others or tour the Mt. St. Helen's Interpretive Center across the road. After lunch continue winding south to the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge, then east to our final destination at Hood River, OR. The Hood River Inn will be our host hotel. We have arranged a dinner where we will have the opportunity to go over the days events and award prizes. On Sunday morning, we will meet up again and head north using a different route. These are roads you have probably never driven. Through great places with names like Kelso, Napavine, and Onalaska. This event is not a rally, there are **no traps**. Run in the style of European events you will be given maps and instructions to make your drive a pleasant one.

You will arrive at the Inn around 3:30pm and have time to take a dip in the pool before meeting for Cocktails. Followed by dinner consisting of either Roasted Prime Rib au Jus or Filet of Pacific Salmon grilled with a Pesto Sauce. Each meal comes complete with a mixed salad, side dish, seasonal vegetables, roll and butter, dessert and coffee or tea.

Can't stay overnight? You can still join us for the Drive Only or stay for Dinner and you could still be home by Midnight

Schedule: Memorial Day Weekend May 27-28, 2000

Event: Drivers Meeting and Start 9: 00am South Hill Mall, Puyallup

Arrive at the Hood River Inn Approx. 3: 30pm

Cocktails, Dinner and Awards 6:00pm Gorge Room Hood River Inn

Sunday Drivers Meeting 10:00am Hotel Parking Lot

Hotel Accommodations: The Hood River Inn is holding rooms for Saturday night, to make reservations please call 1-800-828-7873. You must mention the All British & Classic Car Tour to get the group rate. Please make reservations early, as rooms are only being held through April 28, 2000.

The South Hill Mall is located at 3500 S. Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98373

From the South take I-5 North to the Junction of State Route 512 east, Exit at Meridian (State Route 161) Mall is just to the south of exit From the North Take I-5 South to Junction of State Route 512 east, Exit at Meridian (State Route 161) Or take I-405 South to the 167 south to 512 west Exit at Meridian (State Route 161) Mall is South of exit.

ENTRY FORM

Driver's Name _____
 Navigator's Name _____
 Vehicle Make _____ Model _____ Color _____ Year _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone () _____ FAX() _____

PAYMENT METHOD.

All Payments Must be US Funds.

Make checks payable to: Puget Sound British Automotive Society. (PSBAS)

Please FAX/mail your entry and check/credit card information to:

Arnie Taub: 17610 NE 8th Place Bellevue, WA 98008 FAX (425) 747-0205

Check Visa Master Card

Card # _____ ExpDate _____ Signature _____

There will be no refunds or cancellations within 14 days of the event

Entry Fee : Per car \$25.00 _____

Dinners: Prime Rib _____ @ \$25.00 ea _____

Salmon _____ @ \$25.00 ea _____

TOTAL _____

I will be staying overnight YES NO

I have made reservations YES NO

(From the Chair. Continued from page 2)

the car seems even more stripped down than a Seven looked back in the 60's. See Mark's notes on his test drive of this little demon elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, I am happy to report that we are continuing to pick up new members with each passing month. The sources have been many, but I know for sure that several have come

through the Web site, and wanted to thank Mark Clear for his ongoing efforts there. One new member in particular will be taking his Lotus to the Goodwood Revival this year, and we hope to have some reports from him on the experience.

Until next month!

Dave Billings

Park Place Lotus Update:

By Mark Clear

Lotus sales at Park Place seem to be going well. They have recently sold a couple more Esprit's and have more on order. In mid-April they took delivery of two 340R's and still have the yellow Elise Sport and one V8 Esprit in stock for sale. They also have an inside line on an Elise GTR if you are interested.



Bad News: The latest Elise rumor is that Lotus will not be releasing a street legal US version of the car and instead will be going forward with introducing the new M250 as a US model in summer of 2002. Park Place has a waiting list going if you are interested in joining it. Contact bruski@parkplaceltd.com for further details.




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Classified Advertisements

Lotus Lines is the official newsletter of the Evergreen Lotus Car Club. Opinions expressed in *Lotus Lines* are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the ELCC or its officers. Use all technical information at your own risk. Please submit all articles, art work, advertising, and photographs to the Editor. All other official business should be directed to the Chairman. Other Lotus clubs are welcome to use the material printed in the *Lotus Lines*, provided that the ELCC, *Lotus Lines* and author are duly credited. The ELCC is not affiliated with and does not represent Lotus Cars Ltd., Group Lotus, Team Lotus, or any other Lotus related organizations.

Classified Advertising for Members is free. Submit member ads to Dan Morrison either by email (danmo@yahoo.com) or by phone (425-337-0216). Personal ads will run for two months or until canceled. If you would like to continue running the ad, just let me know.

Advertising Rates for Businesses are:

Business Card	\$5/issue	\$30/year
Quarter Page	\$10/issue	\$60/year
Half Page	\$15/issue	\$90/year
Full Page	\$25/issue	\$150/year

Questions? Please contact the Editor.

For Sale: 74 Lotus Europa Special

74 Lotus Special TC Big Valve \$4,000 OBO: Stromberg Big Valve Head. Stock Steel Wheels. Rebuilt Brake Boosters. Rechromed Bumpers. Dave Bean Cassette Water Pump. New Windshield (in box) New muffler & exhaust pipes. Currently not running. Body was stripped, primed and prepped for paint so all exterior parts are off including the glass. New water pump was installed along with rebuilt brake boosters. Worked on an off and on basis for a few years and then forgotten. It's been sitting in a garage ever since its now time to let it go to a worthy owner. The last time it was registered was in 1978 by the second owner. It has been a California car with all original documentation and receipts have been kept. The odometer reads 48,900 miles. Location: Salinas, California This is a great Europa for anyone who wants to finish it up. Pictures available on request. Please feel free to email for any other questions and/or info. Ron (rokit@redshift.com) Salinas, California (4-00)

For Sale: 1995 Esprit S4

White, 19k Miles, Glass Roof, New Stereo, New Tires, Perfect Interior and Exterior. Asking \$42,000. Only 45 of these made!
Contact: Ashley J. Cain (ashley@teknokid.com) Atlanta, Ga

For Sale: 1979 ELITE 907

In show condition, 73000K original mileage, Chocolate brown with gold metallic [original] paint, Twin Webbers with extra Strombergs & manifols, european airdam. \$10,000. [Canadian] Posted: 3/29/00
Contact: Ray McDougall (mcdougall.imports@home.com) Victoria B.C. CANADA 250 658 5105



Evergreen Lotus Car Club

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jimtaylor@seanet.com

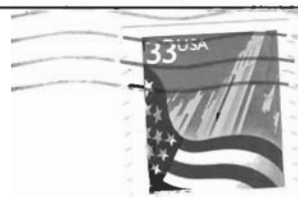
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Membership in the ELCC is \$20/year and is prorated in three month increments. This includes a club roster and twelve issues of *Lotus Lines* per year.

Website <http://www.fastcorner.com/lotus>



95249+9564



No Meeting Scheduled for May

ELCC 2000 Event Calendar

- May 19-20, Vancouver ABFM, Vancouver, BC
- May 27 & 28 - Run to the Gorge 2000
- June, Rally
- July 1 & 2, Pacific Northwest Historics, SIR
- July 16, Forest Grove Concours, nr. Portland
- July 22, 12th Annual ABFM, Bellevue Community College
- Aug. Rally
- Aug. 5, Kitsap Rally - location TBD
- Aug. 18-20, LOG 20, Ottawa
- Sept. Calendar Photo Session and Drive
- Sept. 1-3, Portland ABFM/Club Lotus Northwest Meet - PIR
- Sept. 27 - Oct 1, 2000 West Coast Lotus Meet, Napa, CA
- Oct. Calendar Photo Selection (may move to Nov.)
- Nov. TBD
- Dec. Christmas Party
- Something fun!