



# Lotus Lines

Evergreen  
Lotus Car Club

Dec. 01 - Jan. 02

## Christmas Party

Everything was both different and the same for the 2001 ELCC Christmas Party. After 5 great years of being hosted by Jess and Eddie Marker, they decided to take a break from

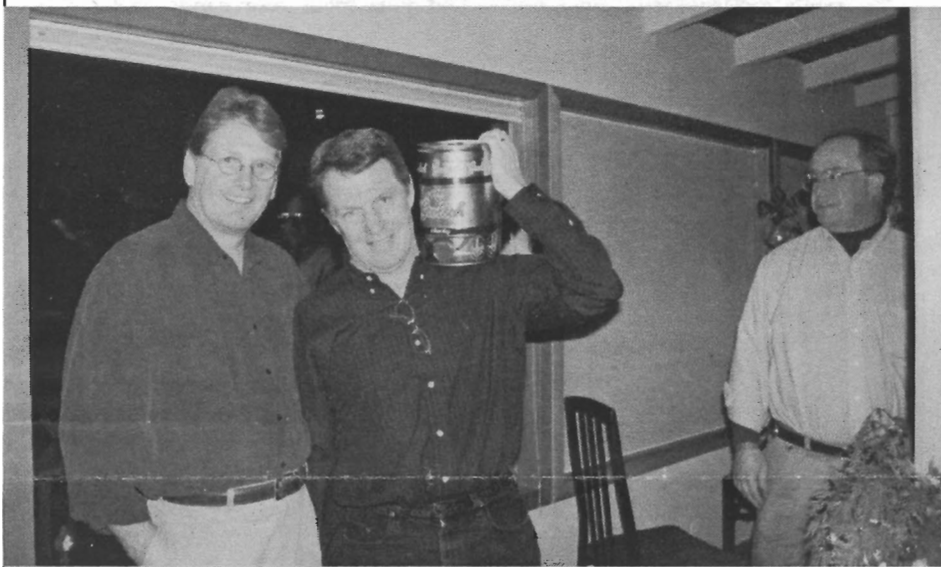
never to trust Randall, but let's get back to the evening.

The Conti's was an excellent setting as they have a nice, open house allowing for lots of wandering about. Randall brought a tape of the 1994 British Touring Car Championship, which is a wonderful series with lots of great racing. This provided background video for the evening. We had 24 attendees, if I counted correctly, and the food was great and plentiful, as usual. The traditional ham was provided, as well as numerous appetizers and side dishes. After we ate our fill, attention turned once again to the gift exchange, and the possible re-appearance of the dreaded Bugatti.

There were 20 participants in the exchange, and the stealing became fast and furious. New member Alex Phillips was a great sport as he was relieved of gift after gift during the

evening. Poor guy just kept opening the good ones. Gary Holt also had difficulty holding on to his gifts, while Eddie Marker kept stealing only to have the gift stolen from her once again. The presence of the Bugatti was highly doubted, since last year's recipient was not present this year. OK, I'll fess up; it was my dad who got it last year. Anyway, there was a tempting but suspicious package under the tree. It appeared to be a book and a bottle of windshield wiper fluid. Passed over time and time again, this became the final unopened gift. And in the end, Alex got this little package. The Bugatti had been tucked inside the bottle through an opening in the bottom, and the "book" was actually all the packaging. So, with several statements of his "required attendance" at next year's party, Alex graciously

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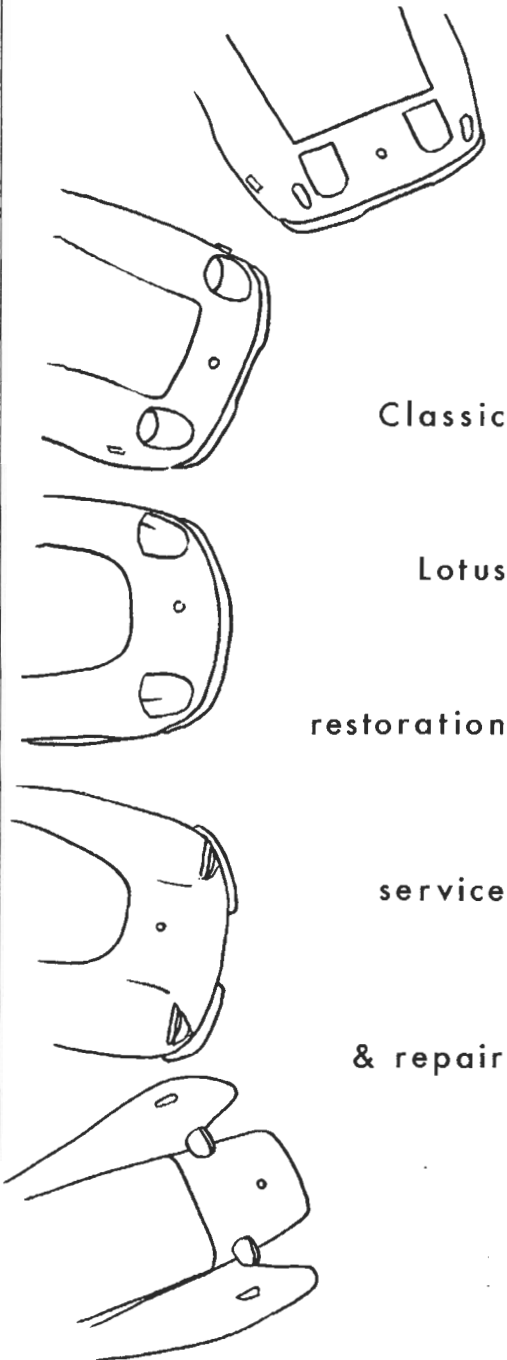
L - R: Chuck Conti, John Schneeman and Bob Wells.

those duties. But look for them to host again soon, since they are apparently having trouble finding motivation to decorate the house this year. When you don't have a party breathing down your neck, it's sometimes hard to climb into the attic and untangle those lights.

Luckily for the club, Chuck and Georgia Conti were kind enough to let Randall talk them into hosting the party this year. Now, this takes a little explaining, but when we were at Dan Morrison's house in Oct., choosing pictures for the calendar, Jess told us they wouldn't be hosting this year's Christmas Party. To our mutual surprise, Randall piped up "I'll host it." After my shock wore off, I said "OK." Apparently, Randall thought he was joking. But with his dry sense of humor, who can ever tell. The 5 witnesses I checked with all thought he was serious. Either way, we're probably all lucky that Randall was a guest of the Conti's at another party they recently hosted. Obviously seeing an opportunity, he somehow cornered Georgia, plied her with compliments about what a great hostess she was, and "casually mentioned" that the club had no place for a Christmas party this year. Next thing I know, I've got an e-mail from Randall saying that "Georgia would like to have it." I've learned

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## From the Chair

Well, it's the end of the road, sort of. This will be my last column as ELCC Chairman, and I'll try my best not to get nostalgic. For those of you not at the Christmas party, I won't hold you in suspense any longer. There is no Chairman for next year; therefore there won't be any events until someone steps forward. Surprised????!!!! OK, what really happened is that one kind soul who seems to like this group answered my call (literally, my phone call) and has agreed to step forward into the role of supreme leadership. So if you would, please put your hands together for Andre Samson, ELCC Chairman for the 2002-2003 term. Andre even admitted to me that he'd been thinking about volunteering when I called him, and that he was planning to offer his services if no one else came forward. I assured him that was very unlikely to happen.

To the chagrin of many, and the delight of few, I'll be remaining in a quasi-leadership role during the next term. Rather than run tail and hide (not implying anything, Randall and Mike) once my term is over, I have, for reasons unclear to me, decided to offer my services as club Treasurer. Since no one else wanted the job, and Craig Shuck was happy to relinquish it, I appear to be in a good position to win the election. Craig and I are already working on transferring the funds into my account.....er, working on getting me signing authority. Randall's been all over me to spend some money the last couple years. Maybe I'll be close enough to the money to do that. After all, it's only money that keeps my Elan from getting back on the road, and Randall has assured me he'd give me a good cash discount. But seriously, I've never stolen anything bigger than a candy bar in my whole life, so you can trust me. Really!

I would like to thank Craig for the years of service he has provided the club. We're indebted to you. Will you take a check?

Fortunately for the club, there is a little more stability in the other officer positions. Jim Taylor has once again agreed to handle Membership for another 2 years. He surely deserves some award for longevity of service. Jim, don't worry. We're going to start grooming a replacement now so that we actually have someone to take that job over in 2 years. Jim is busiest around this time of year, and for the next few months as he handles and ships calendar orders, then moves into membership renewals and getting out the roster in the early spring.

Also coming back for a return engagement is Dan Morrison, who was and will continue to be the Newsletter Editor. This is a sizable job, and I'm grateful for his willingness to do it again. I hope he can find the time to work on his cars now that he's settling into his new home so that he can find some additional time to again write the "Editor's Garage" column.

Then there will be Alan Perry, the unofficial officer, who is just a Lotus junkie and seemingly willing to wear any hat we ask. Alan has done the lay-up for the calendar the last 2 years, written some articles for the newsletter, and helped out with some other planning needs. He's our utility player, and much appreciated.

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Computer Gaming Night



"Gerry Foley, Andre Samson and Mark Clear turning laps in a Lotus 49 at Monza"

On Nov. 10th, a pile of computers and networking gear descended upon my home for a Games Night. Thanks to a couple friends, I was able to provide 4 networked PC's with steering wheels for some head to head online racing. In addition, Mark Clear brought 2 more PC's networked and loaded with a couple flight simulation programs. And to round it off, Alan Perry brought a pair of Sony Playstation 2 consoles, Gran Turismo 3 and a second TV monitor. Given that all these games were being played in my living room, it made for a lively scene.

While we gave the flight sims a little bit of a rundown, the main action was on the Playstation, and the PC's. About a dozen members came through during the evening to try their hand at driving. I'd loaded all the PC's with Grand Prix Legends, the source of my personal addiction, and Need for Speed 4. I was concerned that GPL might be a little too much for people just starting out (the game has a rather steep learning curve) and wanted NFS4 as a backup, given its more arcade-like setup. After running GPL for an hour, we switched over to NFS4 for a bit to give it a try. We ran a 2-lap race, at which point Jim Taylor

summed up the group's feelings by saying "What's the point? Let's run GPL some more."

During the evening, we took a break for an actual sit down meal around the dining room table. It really put our "car guy" social skills to the test, but all passed with flying colors. Even my Italian friend, present because he had loaned a PC to the event, was complimentary about the Costco lasagna I served, so apparently the food went over well.

My goal in hosting this event was both to provide the club some fun, but also to evangelize the merits of Grand Prix Legends. While I don't think anyone will be joining my online league anytime soon, we certainly all had a good time. This might be an even with possibilities for next year. Thanks to those who came.

Dave Billings

## Movie Night

The last 2 years have seen some fun nights at the Croshaw's in January. However, this year their social calendar was overwhelmed before we got on it. So, Movie Night will be graciously hosted by Randall Fehr at his home in Ballard. As in the past, pizza/drinks/snacks will be provided by the club. As for video content, it's open for anyone to offer things of interest, so bring along anything good you want to share. Hope to see everyone there. For more information, contact Dave Billings - [dave@bilcoh.com](mailto:dave@bilcoh.com)/206-241-2116.

When: 5pm, Sat. - Jan. 26th

Where: Randall Fehr's

8040 29th Avenue NW, Seattle

206-782-8951

Directions:

From Interstate 5 in Seattle take the 85th Street exit (which goes west only); Follow 85th for about 3 miles to 29th Avenue NW; Turn left (south) onto 29th; Near the end of the second block 8040 is on the left, light green with white trim.

## LOTUS AT LE MANS

### *Austrian team target Le Mans with Elise GTI*

The Lotus name could once again grace international motor racing if Austrian team Altschach Motorsport can pull it off. Using turbocharged 3.5 litre Elise GTI's the team plan to compete at Le Mans in 2002 or 2003.

The team have been working for some months now on their cars and the first car is reported to be almost ready to race. The cars are based on the former GTI-chassis with some modifications to aerodynamics and engines. The engines have been tuned for long distance racing ensuring lower fuel consumption but Altschach still hope for around 600bhp!

The schedule is tight however if they're hoping to get an invite for this year's Le Mans. With the European Le Mans series cancelled the team were hoping to compete in the American Le Mans Series to raise their profile. But with budgetary and time constraints it may well be that they have to wait until 2003 before they can hope to enter the Le Mans 24 hours.



*(From the Chair. Continued from page 2)*

Finally, Mark Clear, who is sweating as he reads this, thinking I'm expecting him to be doing something next year; will actually not be doing anything. Mark became an officer when he volunteered to create a Web site for the ELCC a few years ago. Right about the same time he decided to "remodel" the old ELCC site, he also bought and started remodeling a house, and had a baby. OK, Tracey had the baby, but you know what I mean. So, after a couple years of feeling guilty for not being able to keep the site more current, he's asked for a cancellation of his contract. We've kindly granted it. Mark will be doing a few final things to the site that he'd always been planning to do, then will hand it over to.....I guess Andre and myself. Maybe Randall, too, who seemed to offer his copywriting services in updating the site. Thanks,

Mark, for your work over the last few years. Look for a re-launch of the Web site in the coming months. We'll likely be keeping it very simple, so don't expect too much.

And so, I think it's time I bid adieu. I'm quite pleased that Andre will be taking over. I'm looking forward to working with him, and all the officers, to produce a couple more years of events that meet the needs of the club. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail them to me ([dave@bilcoh.com](mailto:dave@bilcoh.com) - note the new e-mail address), and I'll make sure to present them at the first officer meeting.

Signing out,

Dave Billings  
[dave@bilcoh.com](mailto:dave@bilcoh.com)



## In Memoriam

Robert Chase, one of ELCC's earliest and most faithful members, passed away in late November.

Bob had owned a red Europa S2 for almost 20 years until a year ago last summer when he traded it for a well-maintained early Miata. His last club outing in the Europa was the ELCC Issaquah rally memorable for the near-pileup caused by a dog in the road.

I met Bob in 1987 at one of the first club meetings I attended. At a meeting in 1992 he admired my restored Elan and asked if I would help with some problems on his Europa at home. Flattered, I stammered that I had never worked on one, but he insisted. Not only did he pay for the help, thus becoming my first customer, but he and his wife Maggie invited me in for lunch. If I recall correctly, I learned then that Bob had owned a Series 1 Europa while working in Taiwan in the early 1970s. His son Peter believes this may have been owned jointly with some friends and raced at the Macau Grand Prix. Bob also owned an MG TF in Taiwan and participated in grueling gymkhanas. In Seattle he obtained a Jensen-Healey which was replaced by the Europa S2.

Bob joined the Navy in 1940 to learn to fly. He was with Chennault's Flying Tigers and was later head of Flight Operations for China Air Transport/Air America working in Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam. He settled in Seattle in the mid 1970s and was a flight instructor and Chief Pilot with Regal Air at Paine Field until retirement in 1997. Colleagues marvel that he had clocked almost 25,000 hours in the air.

Bob's wife Maggie passed away four years ago. Son Peter and daughter Beth took their dad for a last flight over Puget Sound on Sunday December 2. Peter asked me to say goodbye to the club on behalf of his father who enjoyed our company very much.

-Randall Fehr

## Tech Session

with Dr. Seal, Dir. of Vehicle Research Institute at WWU

Back in Sept., the ELCC was scheduled to visit Bellingham and Western Washington University for a tour of the Vehicle Research Institute. Unfortunately, some scheduling snafus caused the event to be canceled on short notice. My understanding is that some of our members didn't get the word, and went anyway. Even more surprising is that Dr. Michael Seal, our host for the event, was there due to more cancellations. Hence, those who did show up got an off-the-cuff tour.

So, for the rest of us, this event has been rescheduled for Feb. 23rd. While not our normal kind of Lotus specific tech session, this will be a rare opportunity for us to see several projects the VRI is working on. And as an added bonus, Dr. Seal is a former Lotus owner as well, so he'll speak our language.

Among the projects currently under construction is the Formula SAE autocross racer, which was also on display at the Vintage Races at SIR recently. This 554cc V-8 engine car makes heavy use of carbon fiber and ceramics, exemplifying car-construction techniques that we might expect in production cars 5 years from now.

For ELCC members traveling from King and neighboring counties, we'll be meeting at the NE 65th Street Park-N-Ride North Lot (literally under I-5) at 8:15 AM (yep, you heard

me) and caravan up to Bellingham as a group. The event will last 1-1/2 hours, then we'll drive back down, taking a break for lunch on the way.

This is a unique opportunity and not to be missed, despite the miles we'll be driving. Hope to see you there.

When: Sat., Feb. 23rd @ 10:30am

Where: Western Washington University, Bellingham

Contact: Dave Billings (206-241-2116 or bilcoh@home.com)

Directions:

North on I-5, take the second exit upon getting to Bellingham (signs indicate the Western Washington University exit).

The exit is not a normal clover-leaf. You come to a stop sign. Turn left, then turn left again at the next opportunity. This takes you across I-5. At the second stop light, turn left onto Bill McDonald Parkway. Follow that road until you come to an "Information Booth". Turn right.

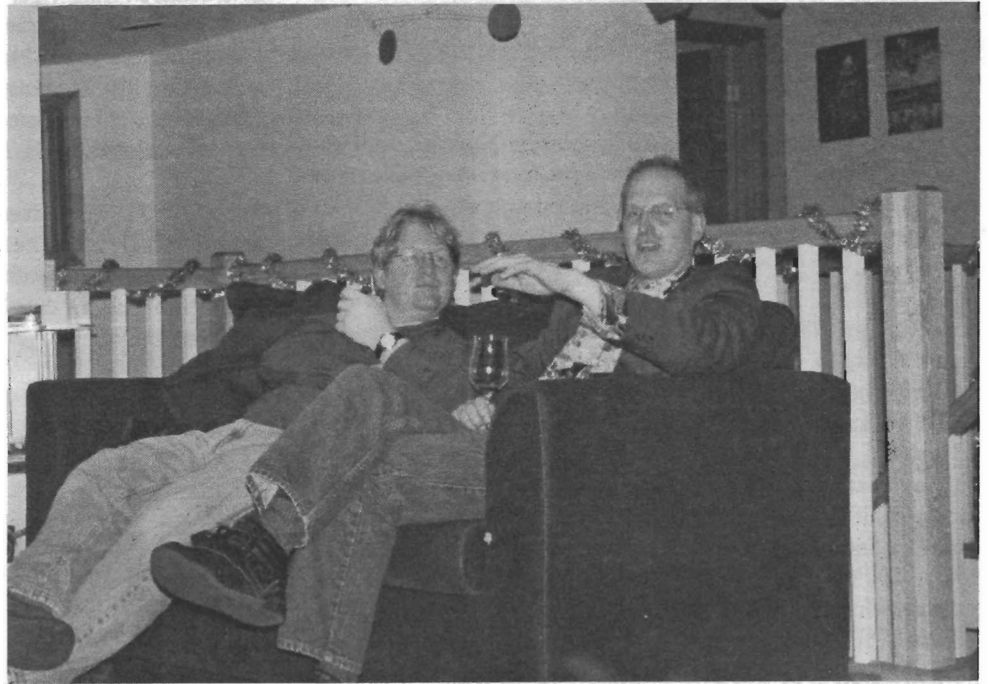
Dr. Seal is in the third building. We drive through a gate in a chain link fence and park in front of door 5. If you have trouble finding it, call Dave Billings' cell phone at 206-571-3004.

PS It's rumored that there is a Go Kart track in Mt. Vernon. So if you're interested in stopping on the way back from Bellingham, bring your helmet.

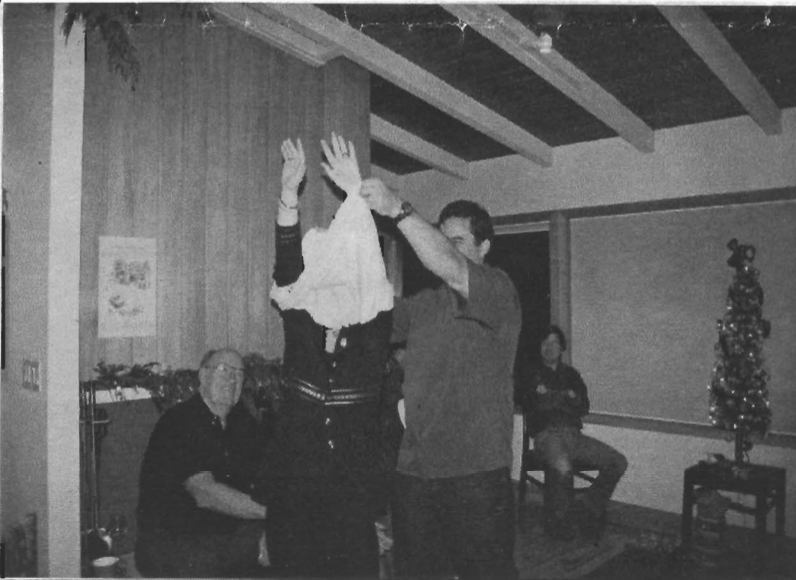
*(Christmas Party, Continued from page 1)*

packed it away for next year.

In addition to the usual crowd, it was great to have Alex join us, as well as Joe and Evelyn Terry, who, to my understanding, have been members for some time but finally joined us for their first event. We hope it won't be the last, and thanks for coming. Thanks also to the Conti's, who hosted a really fun evening.



*Alan Perry and Andre Samson having late night cocktails.*



*Dave Billings steals the shirt off Eddie Marker's back while Jess and Randall look on.*

### ELCC 2001 Event Calendar

January 26, Movie Night @ Randall Fehr's

February 23, Tech Session @ WWU

December, Christmas Party @ Conti's





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Questions? Please contact the Editor.

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**For Sale: NOS Elan S1/S2 body and Galv. Chassis**

New Old Stock, Lotus original Elan S1/S2 body and galvanized chassis. Includes all body parts; F&R bumpers, doors, headlight pods, hood (bonnet) and trunk (boot), and chassis bolt kit. May sell separately if I have a buyer for both. \$7000 obo for all. Buyer arranges and pays for shipping (will help as much as I can from my end). Already crated from when it was shipped from England, so no crating costs. Located in the Seattle area, Dan Morrison ([danmo@yahoo.com](mailto:danmo@yahoo.com)), 425-379-6330 (h), 425-444-1628 (cell)

**For Europa:** Wooden body dolly suitable for body-off restoration. Dimensional lumber with heavy-duty castors. Can be disassembled. All hardware included. \$75 OBO. Gary 253-851-1790

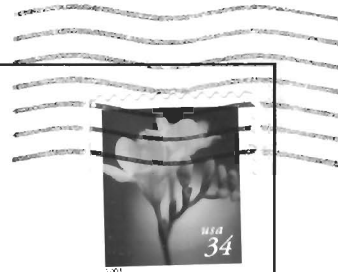
**For Sale: '85 Caterham Seven**

Original owner, 1700cc super sprint engine, cycle fenders, 30K, alloy/black, \$17000 John Schneeman 206-854-6706



**Evergreen  
Lotus Car Club**

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danmo@yahoo.com

**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.

**Club Website** <http://www.elcc.org>



359924959603



## Movie Night Directions

When: 5pm, Sat. - Jan. 26th

Where: Randall Fehr's  
8040 29th Avenue NW, Seattle  
206-782-8951

**Directions:**

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