



Evergreen Lotus Car Club
P.O. Box 40481
Bellevue, WA 98015-4481



Lotus Lines

Newsletter for the Evergreen Lotus Car Club
 November/December 2006

Lotus Announces Exige Cup Model For US

Looking for a new track car? Lotus unveiled the US specification Lotus Sport Exige Cup for 2007 at the Los Angeles Auto Show. It is supercharged and intercooled puts out 252 bhp. It has a full (SCCA compliant) roll cage and fire system and still weighs only 1800 lbs. For options, you can get a plate-type limited slip differential, a traction control system, an Acusump, a 70 liter FIA fuel cell, and an air jack system.

The suspension includes adjustable Ohlins dampers and double shear track control arm braces. The brakes have 308mm rotors in the front and 282mm in the rear and have a servo-assisted, track-tuned ABS system. An exhaust system with no catalytic converter is a no cost option.



Of course, all of this does not come cheap. The base price is \$84,990. The fuel cell is \$3095, the LSD is \$1595 and the air jack system is \$5495.

ELCC Holiday Party, 2006 Edition

When: Saturday, December 9th, 6:00pm
 Where: 5106 SW Waite St., (West) Seattle
 Host: Georgia and Chuck Conti, 206-937-6076

It's time once again for the ELCC Holiday Party! The Contis have very graciously offered to be our hosts once again. They'll have the ham, as well as soft drinks and sparkling water. It's up to the rest of us to provide the rest of the dishes, potluck style. Except, in order to eliminate some of the 'luck' part, either include what you're bringing in your response to the Evite or call or email Andy (206-390-3870) with your RSVP and details. Generally, we'll need other main/side dishes, salads, deserts and wine.

And don't forget the gift exchange! Bring a Lotus-related gift in the \$20 dollar range and we'll trade gifts around with a system that was explained to me in detail and which I have forgotten entirely.

Last, but not least, the driveway and the best spots in front of the house are Lotus parking only!

See you there!

Directions:

- From I-5 North or South, take the West Seattle Bridge exit (Exit 163).
- From Hwy 99 South, take the West Seattle exit.
- After the high rise of the West Seattle bridge, take the Admiral Way exit, past the exits for Delridge and Harbor.
- Continue on Admiral Way, curving around the lookout and through the Admiral Junction.
- Cross California Avenue and continue for another 3 blocks to 47th Street SW.
- On your right, just past 47th, turn onto SW Waite Street.
- Continue on Waite Street for 3-4 blocks to the dead end sign.
- Look for 5106 on the Right.

ELCC Officer's Meeting, 2007 Edition

When: Tuesday, January 16th, 2006 7:00 PM
 Where: Wedgewood Alehouse, Seattle, WA
 Contact: Alan Perry, alanp@snowmoose.com, 206-499-5501

The annual meeting of the ELCC Officers will held on the third Tuesday of January. At this meeting, we decide club issues, set-up the preliminary event schedule and discuss all sorts of other exciting topics related to running the club.

All club members are welcome to attend. However, if you attend, you run the risk of being asked to take on some club task. If you would like to attend, please contact Alan so we know how many people to expect and can get a big enough table.



Editor's Note

This is the last newsletter for 2006. The next newsletter will be the January-February newsletter that should go to the printers in the last week of January.

For those of you who attend the informal monthly "first Thursday" meeting at Fancy Pants, it will NOT be happening in December. Why? Because the first Thursday of December is two days before the ELCC Holiday Party.

Next topic: in Andy's column, he mentioned that I am trying to give up the newsletter. Actually, I am not. I am just trying to convince other club members to do a newsletter or two to add some variety and to make this more of a member's publication, rather than just the ravings of two madmen (Andy and me).

Between Andy organizing so many events and all of the Lotus news out there, it is actually pretty easy to find enough material to fill the newsletter, which had been the biggest problem in the past. It is often a matter of selecting which material to leave out of the newsletter these days. The thing that takes time is figuring out how to cram everything into the newsletter.

So, if you want to give editing the newsletter a shot, let me know. I do the whole thing on my notebook computer, so I can even do housecalls to get you started and show you how to use the tools that I use.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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 *Lotus Lines*, provided that the ELCC, *Lotus Lines* and the author are duly credited. The ELCC is not affiliated with and does not represent Lotus Cars Ltd., Group Lotus, Team Lotus, or any Lotus related organization.

Membership in the ELCC is \$20/year, with the membership year starting in January, and is prorated in three month increments. Membership includes a club roster and a subscription to *Lotus Lines*.

Contact the Editor for business ads rates in *Lotus Lines*.

Contact ELCC at:

Evergreen Lotus Car Club
P.O. Box 40481
Bellevue, WA 98015-4481
<http://www.elcc.org>

The ELCC officers are elected bi-annually and currently those officers are:

Chairman:	Andy Keck	(206)390-3870
	andykeck@mac.com	
Membership:	Jim Taylor	(206)232-2237
	jimtaylor@seanet.com	
Treasurer:	Dave Billings	(206)241-2167
	elcc@bilcoh.com	
Editor:	Alan Perry	(206)855-9464
	alanp@snowmoose.com	

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Get Your Calendar Orders In Now!

The annual Evergreen Lotus Car Club Calendar is almost ready. A different Lotus photo (or set of photos) for every month. All submitted by you, the ELCC membership. And, by the way, they are an excellent gift for the holidays.

The photos were selected at the Park Place club meeting in October. Sean Lane has once again done a fantastic job putting the calendar together and this year he is working with club member Mark Parker (who prints the newsletter) to get the printing done right.

The price for the calendar is \$16, postage included. Contact the Membership Secretary (Jim Taylor) to order one (or more) or order your calendar(s) on your ELCC membership renewal form. If you are coming to the Holiday Party, you can save a buck if you pick up your calendar there.

What are you waiting for? Order yours now!

Who Is Steven Blodgett? by Alan Perry

Reading through the Federal Register for any hints about how Lotus will be dealing with the end of the 3-year FMVSS exemption that the Elise is currently sold under, I found out that Lotus was granted an exemption that delays the introduction of "advanced airbags" in the Elise until 2009.

The application for the exemption was submitted to NHTSA in July and put out for public comment. There were two comments received. One was from Lotus and obviously was



in favor of the exemption. The other was from an individual named Steven Blodgett (no affiliation stated).

Mr. Blodgett questioned most everything about the application, from the financial numbers used to demonstrate financial hardship to lack of support from airbag makers to small volume manufacturers. NHTSA refuted all of Mr. Blodgett assertions. Maybe NHTSA isn't so bad after all.

So, who is Steven Blodgett and what is his interest here?

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Classified Advertisements

Classified advertising for ELCC members is free. Pricing for non-members is available on request. To submit ads and for business ad rates, contact the Editor. Also, please remember to inform the Editor when you want the ad to be removed.

For Sale: 1991 Elan (M100). This car has been an amazingly reliable daily driver from the time I bought it until my Elise replaced it. It has less than 39,000 miles and is in very good shape. The car is in Bellevue and can be seen at: <http://www.galos.net/mike/CarsForSale>.

For Sale: Lotus memorabilia. I am reducing my collection of Lotus print memorabilia - magazines, brochures, etc. Most of it is from the early 90s (M100 Elan, Turbo Esprit), S2 Esprit and some other stuff. Also have *Autosport*, *Prix Editions* and *Chequered Flag* magazines from the same period.

Still putting together the complete list. Alan, 206-855-9464, alanp@snowmoose.com.

For Sale: 1974 Lotus Elite, white w/tan & black interior. Has won second & third place at ABFM in past. Car is mostly original and close to "correct". Would need cosmetic restoration to be show competitive, but runs and looks good for a street car. \$3000 "as is", not currently licensed. Call Don Francis @ 206-723-4731 for details.

Parts Wanted: Original side curtains and top for mid/late-60s S2 Seven (black with white piping preferred). Also looking for original tunnel carpet (red with white piping) and owners manual for same car. Don, 425-357-1476, don.christopher@att.net.

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ELCC events are listed in **BOLD**

December
9 ELCC Holiday Party, West Seattle

December
16 ELCC Officer's Meeting



Car Clubs

BMWCCA: BMW Car Club - Puget Sound Region
425-481-9571 <http://www.bmwpugetsound.com>
CMCS: Corvette Marque Club of Seattle
425-486-2309 <http://www.corvettemarqueclub.com>
NWARC: Northwest Alfa Romeo Club
360-766-4405 <http://www.nwalfaclub.com>
WWSCC: Western Washington Sports Car Council
206-255-0658 <http://www.wwscc.org>

Racing Clubs

BSCC: Bremerton Sports Car Club
360-697-1761 <http://www.bscc.net>
CSCC: Cascade Sports Car Club, Portland, OR
503-543-8161 <http://www.cascadesportscarclub.org>
IRDC: International Race Drivers Club, Seattle, WA
206-781-8199 <http://www.irdc-racing.com>
ICSCC: International Conference of Sports Car Clubs
425-226-1338 <http://www.icsccl.com>
SCCA: Sports Car Club of America, NW Region
206-292-0500 <http://www.nwr-scca.org>
SCCBC: Sports Car Club of British Columbia
604-824-7277 <http://www.sccbc.net>
SOVREN: Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts
206-232-4644 <http://www.sovren.org>
TC: Team Continental, Portland, OR
503-645-9058 <http://www.teamcontinental.com>

From The Chair

As I'm writing this, I'm both thawing out and trying to unwind from an unpleasant adrenalin-overload incident. I just returned from spending the better part of three weeks in Indianapolis, a city not known for temperate winter weather. During my visits, the weather was generally sunny and often into the upper 60s. Now I've returned to Seattle just in time to enjoy snow, ice and temperatures in the 20s. And all this horrible weather is particularly on my mind right now as I just made the idiot mistake of trying to beat the accumulating snow and ice home rather than leave my Elise parked snugly in the garage where I work. Sliding completely out of control, sideways down the east side of Capitol Hill is not the time to reflect on the Elise's lack of bumpers. It's also not the time to realize that you're playing pinball with cars about four times as large and that the insurance guy is going to make a really sour-looking face when the estimates roll in. Fortunately, I hit nothing (not due in any way to skill or anything other than blind luck) and slithered into an open parking spot about ten blocks from home. I'm going to give up for a day or two and spend a little time enjoying a low-stress bus ride.

I have a few more trips to Indiana coming up in the next couple of months, so I'm sure I'll get the full Midwest experience soon. At least I'll be driving a rental car so the pucker factor will be greatly reduced. Anyway, the point I was coming to in a roundabout fashion is that since I'm going to be out of town quite a bit, and since this is the time of the year that we start to put together our calendar of events (see the Officers' Meeting announcement), I'm looking for event ideas and planning assistance. Especially the ideas part. I've said it before, but now is when it really matters: Give me your feedback. Let me know what you did and didn't like about

Miscellaneous News

Lotus Engineering won the 2006 European Aluminum Award in the Transportation and Automotive category for its Versatile Vehicle Architecture (VVA). VVA was launched earlier in the year at the Geneva Motorshow with the APX cross-over vehicle prototype. Lotus previously won the award in 1996 for the original Elise chassis.

our events this past year. Tell me all your great ideas for club events that I haven't thought of because I haven't been in the club long enough or because I haven't lived in the area long enough or just plain because I'm unobservant and/or ignorant to the possibilities. Let's all make sure we get to do some really cool stuff this year.

Last but not least, I'd like to close out this space for this year by thanking some people who have made it possible to do my bit as chair. First, I'd like to thank Alan Perry for putting together this newsletter. I'd tell you that he's got the hardest job in the club but I know he's been casting about for an eventual replacement and I don't want to poison the well. Thanks to Jim Taylor for handling the membership duties especially given that his busy season is coming up since it's about time for all of us to renew. Thanks to Dave Billings for making sure we have enough money in the bank and all the paperwork that entails. Thanks to Sean Lane for taking care of the calendar again this year and also for bringing donuts on multiple occasions. Big thanks to Randall, Andre and Tom for keeping me on the right track this year. Thanks to the Croshaws, the Schneemans and the Contis for actually allowing us to use their homes for our events this year. Very special thanks go out to Mark Parker for taking care of our printing this year. Our dues have stayed where they are thanks in large part to Mark's generosity. And finally, thanks to all of the ELCC members for being so much fun to hang around with and for being so easy to plan for. All of our hosts over the past year have been excited to have us out and uniformly positive about how enjoyable our group is when we visit. Thanks again to all and look in this space next issue where I apologize to the people I forgot to thank!

To celebrate Lotus Sport Cadena's win of the British GT3 Championship, Lotus is introducing a limited edition Exige S British GT Special Edition. It is mostly an Exige S an appearance package. There is also an optional "GT Pack" for it. This upgrades the engine, brakes and suspension. Horsepower goes from 218 bhp to 243, stuff like that. Of course, it will not be available in the U.S.

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Park Place Ltd. Tour and Calendar Photo Selection by Andy Keck

What seems like ages ago in mid-October, we visited our local Lotus dealer, Park Place in Bellevue. Although it's always fun to drop by to see the wide range of cool cars that they have out on display, they had plenty of new things happening to tell us about. They've acquired the building just to the west of their main building with the intention of opening a Lotus-specific showroom, giving the brand more presence from the street plus allowing them to show older models along with the new cars. We got a chance to see their new, larger detailing space and we heard about their plans to build a while-you-wait hand wash booth along with its own espresso bar and lounge area. We got a chance to look around the new, very well stocked die-cast and R/C model shop that roughly faces the current Lotus showroom area, and, of course, we got to ask questions of their sales and service staff as well as well as ogle the new Exiges and the Sport Elise in the showroom.

Three things drew the most attention though. First, they had an actual top fuel dragster for sale. They had its motor out on a stand, and I was told that, no, I could not get it

mounted in the Elise. Second was a two-stroke, three cylinder dune buggy-type vehicle with a horsepower to weight ratio that you'd think I was lying about if I could remember the actual figure. People were glued to that thing long after I left, I suspect. Last, and perhaps most dangerous to the checkbook, was the racing simulator that Park Place is now distributing. Members were lined up to do laps of Donington Park in a virtual Elise and it looked frighteningly realistic. I didn't dare ask how much as I didn't even want to entertain the thought.

We also selected the photos for the 2007 calendar. There were lots of excellent photos to choose from and the voting was very tight in the end. I think we'll all be pleased by what we see when the calendars arrive in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to everybody for showing up and special thanks to those who displayed their photos. Also thanks to all the guys at Park Place for being such excellent hosts!



Targa Newfoundland

The organizers of the Targa Newfoundland rally have invited us to participate in their event. The Targa is a tour, a Time-Speed-Distance rally and a speed event held concurrently run all over Newfoundland. Newfoundland is the easternmost province of Canada and the fourth largest island in Canada.

From the television coverage, it looks like an excellent event, even if it is a little expensive to enter and transport you and your car out there.

The dates are September 8-15, 2007. For more info, the web site is www.targafoundland.com.

Now On eBay by Alan Perry

This month, we are featuring an Elise that "need some work done to it to make it a drivable vehicle". It is being offered by a dismantler in California.

There are a couple of unknowns about the car. Because of the "inoperable digital dash", the seller cannot determine the mileage on the car. They are also unable to verify the condition of the drivetrain. The only problem noted with the chassis is a crack in the passenger side floor; the unusually close proximity of the seats to each other was apparently an option on the Elise, as was the inclination of the passenger side of the roll hoop and the missing portions of the structure that



(Photos courtesy of eBay)

UK FIRM AT HEART OF NEW CHINESE CAR COMPANY Lotus PR

UK automotive engineering specialists, Lotus Engineering, will become the lead engineering and development consultant for Jinhua Youngman Automobile Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Youngman) which is launching a new range of cars under a new brand name over the next five years.

Albert Lam, managing director of Lotus Engineering, said: "For the last two and a half years, Lotus Engineering has been working with Youngman on a number of projects. We have built an excellent working relationship based on trust and the shared values of entrepreneurship and innovation.

"It is on these foundations that we will be working with Youngman's engineers on the design and development of new vehicles to help them to establish their new brand in the Chinese automotive industry."

Youngman is a leading domestic commercial vehicle manufacturer and recently secured a licence from the Chinese authorities to produce passenger vehicles. Youngman's senior management has aggressive plans for their new brand in the domestic and export market and plans to have a full four-strong range of models in place within five years of the first launch.

Pang Qingnian, the chairman of Jinhua Youngman Automobile Manufacturing Co., Ltd., said: "Lotus

supports the windshield. At least "The drivers door and rear deck lid are in good condition with no dents or dings."

Oddly, the seller notes that "all the suspension seems to be in good working condition", but then includes photos showing bent front suspension arms.

The car "will be sold as is no warranty."

In the first running of the auction, bids near \$6000 did not meet the reserve. In the second running, bids have topped out at \$1250 so far.

Engineering is a globally recognised leader in automotive technology and vehicle engineering and in our recent work together we recognised its formidable professional capabilities. As a result Youngman identified Lotus Engineering as the ideal consultants to support the development of our new range of cars over the next five years.

"With our British friends we will produce passenger cars designed, engineered and built to exceptional standards. I have no doubt this prestigious collaboration will be a momentous step towards a glittering future for Youngman."

Lotus Engineering is one of only a few global engineering businesses that have the skills and expertise to manage turnkey, full vehicle engineering programmes from concept to production and is one of only two consultancy companies that also design, develop, manufacture and sell their own high quality cars to a global customer base (28 countries).

Development work on the first model for the new car producer, a four-door saloon, is due to start early in 2007 and will be carried out at Lotus Engineering's Hethel headquarters and at its other engineering centres around the world. It is expected that the development of further new models will lead to a range of cars benefiting from the expertise of Lotus Engineering.