



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



# LOTUS LINES

Newsletter for the Evergreen Lotus Car Club - March 2008

## LOTUS AT 2008 - 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENEVA

Auto Show by Sean Lane.

*In 2004, I travelled to the Geneva Motor Show and it was the most spectacular automotive event I've ever attended. Geneva is one of the world's big auto shows, and many carmakers choose to debut new models there. So come every March, I'm anxious to hear what was unveiled, particularly at the Lotus stand. This year's show was apparently dominated by "Green Cars" and Lotus followed suit, along with 2 other major launches.*

missing link to making liquid methanol a feasible alt-fuel solution: the difficulty of distributing it. The Lotus tri-fuel technology could be ready in five years or less, but it could be two decades before a workable methanol infrastructure could be in place."

### Europa SE

*(courtesy of Edmunds)*

"Lotus has upgraded the Europa, and the latest versions are slated to go on sale across Europe in June. A new entry-level Europa will be priced from \$57,000, while the range-topping Europa SE lists for \$63,100. Lotus CEO Mike Kimberley put it rather diplomatically when he

### Exige 270E Tri-fuel

*(courtesy of Edmunds)*

"HETHEL, England — Lotus is jumping on the eco-friendly bandwagon with the debut of the Exige 270E Tri-Fuel. The car may be able to run on three different fuels, it may be easy on the environment, but it still has the Lotus magic. The three different fuels — gasoline, ethanol and methanol — all feed into the 270-horsepower engine and help the Exige get from zero to 60 mph in 3.8 seconds.



observed: "As the true driver will know, this Europa range offers access to Lotus' unique DNA for those who perceive the Elise and Exige as a little too uncompromising for everyday use. The new Europa SE sits at the more refined end of the Lotus spectrum." The Europa doesn't lack performance

*continued inside*

### 29 March

Greg Whitten Tour  
 Bellevue @11am  
 See inside for details

### 3 April

ELCC First Thursday  
 Smartypants @7pm  
 6017 Airport Way, Seattle

### 12 April

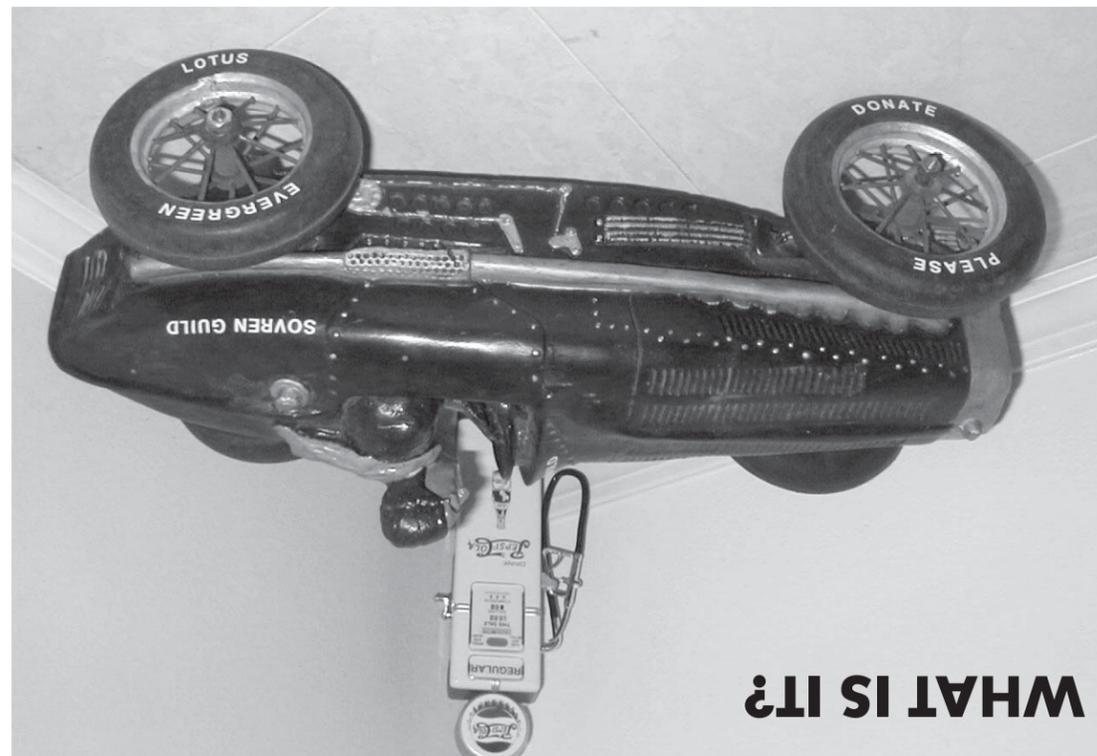
Land Speed Record  
 Challenge Car Visit  
 Puyallup @10am  
 See inside for details

### 1 May

ELCC First Thursday  
 TBD

### 24 May

Karting!!  
 K1 Speed  
 Redmond @10am



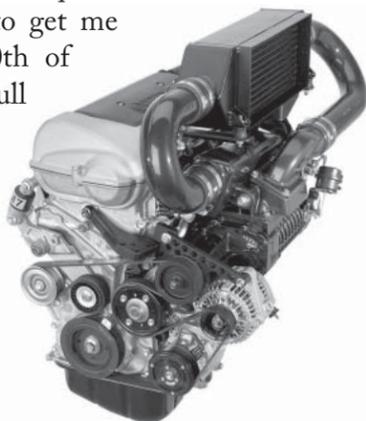
WHAT IS IT?

## FROM THE EDITOR

The first newsletter finally made it out and there were only a few problems; overall we seem to be up and running. This is the time of year I get a bit wound up. Racing season starts, we have enough nice days to get back outside, which gets that motoring spirit going, but the rain and cool air keep me in check. As the spring approaches we look forward to more club events and putting in some driving time. We have a karting date on the calendar and are planning to co-ordinate a track day event - there is more to making that happen than I would have thought before taking on this editorial role.

This month we have a spattering of articles, mostly things we've found on the web and Lotus Car activities. We had a great turnout for the Tom Armstrong event and Tom shared with us a fine collection of automobiles and great stories. My favorite was how the Packard he and his wife had bought was worth more than their house! Look for an article about the trip in a coming *Lotus Lines*.

We still need to hear from more of the membership, especially those with older Loti. I love the Elise/Exige and think it is a great vehicle for energizing the Lotus world. But, the older cars need to get more exposure, because they forged the marque. Let us know about your classic Lotus. Try to get me your material by the 10th of the month. I start to pull the newsletter together around then, By the 15th, I go with what I've got - and I will fill in spaces with pictures of spare parts or the shop manual if I have to.



### What Was it?



The back photo for last month's Lotus Lines was a Right Hand Drive 2008 Lotus Europa that I saw at the Tokyo Lotus Center last fall.

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 techni-cal information at your own risk. Please submit all articles, art work, 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:  
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The ELCC Officers are elected bi-annually and currently those officers are:

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Printed By K&H Printers

Layout by Jessica Vets Design

## Classified Advertisements

Classified advertisements are free for ELCC members, and pricing for non-members is available on request. For adding or removing advertisements, please send them via email to [classifieds@elcc.org](mailto:classifieds@elcc.org) or by calling (206) 686-7326 by the 10th of each month.

### For Sale:

For Sale

4 assorted tires (13") for early Lotus. \$25 each. Chuck Conti (206) 310-7884.

--

4 Cosmic wheels 6 x 5.5 x 13 with spacers lug nuts, and custom Lotus center caps. Good condition. \$300. Chuck Conti (206) 310-7884.

--

1985 Lotus Turbo Esprit. 45K miles. Used as a regular driver, Lotus maintained, BRG/Gold, BBS wheels, CD, A/C, \$15,800. Robert Owens (509)447-3344 (home) or (509)280-2478 (cell).

--

1970 Titan Mk6 Formula Ford. Available in the spring. I am almost done restoring it, but have no desire to race it. Offering for sale now to allow buyer to select paint color, etc. while it can be easily changed. Ground up restoration. Low hours on engine. Lots of documentation. Spares package. \$17,000 obo. Alan Perry, [alanp@snowmoose.com](mailto:alanp@snowmoose.com).

Looking for a Lotus car or parts? The below ads have been spotted in various sources. Note: The below ads have no known affiliation with, nor are endorsed by, the ELCC. This info is being provided to assist members in their search for cars and parts.

--

Complete 69 +2 fiberglass body and stock frame. All parts are good, restorable condition. Headlight buckets, doors, hood and trunk are included with the frame. Small area of damage to left front fender and a replacement panel for that section is included to make car perfect for restoration. No other parts, no title. Will trade for 912 parts. (H)503-977-2914 (C)971-732-6873 [forfenderjazz1@comcast.net](mailto:forfenderjazz1@comcast.net)

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I am looking for any Lotus 1958-1974 Elite, Elan, 7, Europa, or vintage race car. Any condition from restored to basket-case, or just parts collection. Please call (360)378-2055, or email: [Drew@rockisland.com](mailto:Drew@rockisland.com)

--

I am looking for an Elan series 4 or Sprint fixed head coupe. I would also consider a drophead or a Plus 2. I am looking for a nice car to drive on the street occasionally. In San Diego. Call Larry at (619) 445-5670.

## ELCC TRIVIA

The vast majority of Lotus owners bought their cars used, either restored or in need of restoration. What current ELCC member owns a classic Lotus car that he bought brand new?

## Car Clubs

ACNW: Audi Club Northwest

<http://www.audiclubnw.org>

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.icscc.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>

  
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### Land Speed Record Challenge Car Visit *(continued)*

back in 1997 by officially breaking the "sound" barrier and reaching a speed of 763 MPH on the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. (see attached youtube video).

Literally in our back yard in Spanaway, a small low-budget group of skilled volunteers, called the North American Eagle Supersonic Land Speed Challenger Team, has been carefully designing, building, and testing a special vehicle to challenge this record. They remind me a lot of the late Art Arfon's Green Monster record breaking team, who were famous for making due and succeeding with what they had at a minimal cost. This Eagle team has plans of reaching a speed of 800 MPH to break the existing record.

The late American millionaire Steve Fosset was also to be involved in an upcoming LSR attempt, using a modified version of Craig Breedlove's last Spirit of America car. However, he was killed in a plane crash scouting for a

suitable location with enough room for this high speed effort. It is unknown at this time whether his project will continue.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the aircraft hanger and shop that the Eagle LSR craft was built in, check out the car, meet the crew members and driver Ed Schadle, and ask any and all questions about this monster 60 foot long vehicle. We will be the last people to see the crew and car before they head south for another 500 MPH test session, probably in California, and a possible record attempt if conditions are correct.

Evergreen Lotus Car Club is proud to be a supporter of this incredible effort. I don't think anybody in the club should miss this unique opportunity. Be sure to drive your Lotus, as the crew is excited about us coming and wants to see our cars as well!



## RAMBLINGS FROM THE CHAIR:

Greg Whitten recommended that we have a donation table set up at his upcoming March 29th event.

He is appreciative and aware of our club effort to become a Checkered Flag Club member of the SOVREN Guild of Children's Hospital. Why do I mention this? Because since I have started my campaign of e-mails and updates we have managed to reach less than half of our goal of \$1000, as of this printing. Thank you to all that have already donated, and a big "why???" to those that haven't yet. \$1000 divided by 120 members = sacrifice a couple of lattes or one Burger King lunch per member (or about \$10). In numbers we have strength, at not much individual cost. Our low yearly club dues just don't give us enough club revenue to do on our own, without asking for this additional donation from our members.

Besides helping the children and families that depend on the miraculous efforts of Children's Hospital, we are helping SOVREN and their fund raising efforts, and we are helping ourselves as a club by sending a big "thank you" to SOVREN members that open their collections to us. This means a lot to people like Jon Shirley, Tom Armstrong, and Greg Whitten. So please, send in your check to the club made out to ELCC, or at least bring your checkbook on March 29th and donate something at Greg's event at our donation table. Mark at the bottom of the check, SOVREN Guild, so you can use it as a tax deduction. You will be helping the kids, the club, and yourselves in the long run. Together we can equal what three other local car clubs did last year and show that Lotus is an equal marque to the rest, if not better! If we get our club donation in soon, Evergreen Lotus Car Club will be mentioned in the event program.

The Tom Armstrong Tour, hosted by Chuck DeKeyser, was an example of a kind and giving SOVREN member

that shared his success and his collection with the club. His shop was immaculate, with photo displays, historic racing cars, display engines, and his transporter/motor home, all polished and perfect. From there, he invited us up to his personal residence, and showed us his classic vintage street cars and exotics, with placing and removal in their storage area done by an outside elevator system. Finally, to close the tour, Tom shared with us his huge, incredible "O" Gauge model train layout, complete with a trick remote controlled roundhouse and most of his model engines emitting "scale" smoke from their stacks. Thank you so much, Tom, and we will thank you better in the near future by our donations!

The Land Speed Record Challenger tour is coming up on April 12th. Truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Don't miss it!

Speaking of SOVREN, it is about time to start think about ordering your Car Corral tickets for the July 4-6 event. Prices are the same as last year at \$25 for a single day or \$40 for a three-day pass. Rules (especially regarding unsafe "on track" behavior) are tightening, and there will be little sympathy for last minute ticket requests. Club space is limited to 20 cars per day. Porsche is the featured marque this year, and Porsche clubs from three states are converging on Pacific Raceways. Send your request and check made out to ELCC, mark at the bottom Car Corral, and Andy will get your tickets for you.

Al Unser, Sr. will be the guest celebrity driver at the Historics this year, and this was arranged by non-other than our friend Tom Armstrong, who also arranged for Parnelli to be there last year.

See you at Greg Whitten's tour, and don't forget your checkbook! Thank you so much, Greg, and we will thank you better in the near future by our donations! Sound familiar?

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# LOTUS AT 2008 - 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENEVA

*Continued from first page*

credentials. Its mid-mounted, turbocharged 2.0-liter engine makes 222 horsepower and 221 pound-feet of torque and provides 0-60-mph acceleration in 5.5 seconds. Top speed is estimated at 143 mph. Among the updates for 2008 are new alloy wheels — 17s in front, 18s in the rear — shod with high-performance rubber. AP Racing supplies the four-pot brakes. Lotus Design has upgraded the cockpit, upholstering the car in high-grade leather and installing a premium audio system.”

I'm not sure why the Edmunds article quoted the car's price in dollars as there are no plans to bring the Europa to America!

And the last announcement, but certainly not the least exciting: Project “Eagle”, a 2+2 mid-engine car that is to debut in July 2008 at the British Auto Show. This car is not to be confused with the new Esprit replacement that is slated for 2009, despite the former Stevens-styled Esprit chassis also sharing the name “Eagle” – likely due to Goodyear Eagle tires spec'd for the then new Esprit model.

Some sources have speculated that Project Eagle styling will be based on the M250 prototype. At any rate, no exterior shots of the new car were presented, nor any specs. Instead, Lotus brought the front module of the vehicle's chassis (see photo) as proof that the car exists.

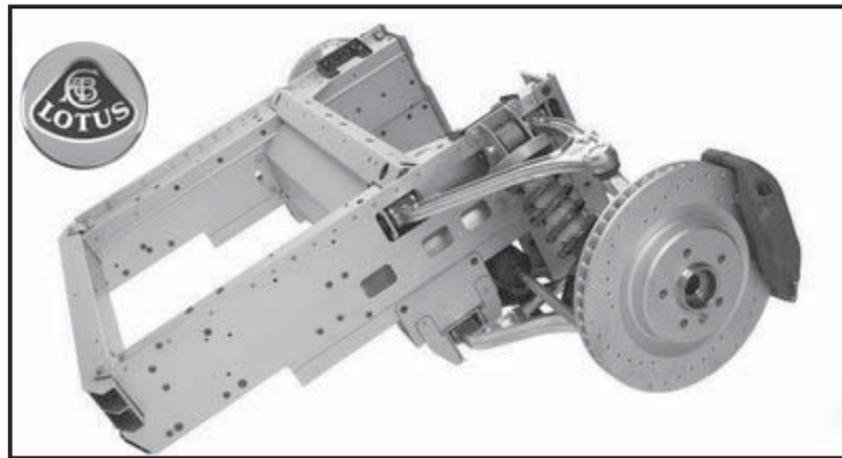
## First Glimpse of Project Eagle

*(courtesy of Carscoop)*

“Group Lotus plc unveiled the first glimpse of the eagerly awaited Project Eagle at the 78th annual Geneva International Motor Show. This exhibition showcases part of the advanced technology being utilised for Project Eagle and the latest development of the innovative Lotus Versatile Vehicle Architecture (VVA). This first glimpse is the front module of the chassis, which is shown prior to the full unveiling of Project Eagle at the British Motor Show in July 2008. Project Eagle is the code name for the new higher specification addition to the Lotus product range entering the market above the Elise, Exige and Europa. Going into production at the beginning of next year, Project Eagle draws heavily on the proven technology used in the iconic Lotus Elise family of vehicles as well as the Versatile Vehicle Architecture (VVA) shown as

the APX (Aluminium Performance Crossover) Concept Vehicle. Project Eagle will be an all new fantastic Lotus sports car, which illustrates Lotus Engineering's ability to create innovative and exciting high performance niche car products.

Mike Kimberley CEO of Group Lotus plc said: “I am delighted with the exceptional “fast-track” progress of Project Eagle -the project is hitting key gateway, timing and technical objectives. The project utilises our core competencies in aluminium, and composite body engineering, jointing techniques, and vehicle systems



integration. Lotus Engineering is a world leader in niche vehicle design, manufacture and global sales and Project Eagle is a prime example of this technological competence, which will build upon this reputation”.

Mike Kimberley added, “This is a very exciting period for us at Lotus and the whole company is enjoying the challenge of delivering such an exceptional new Lotus car. By showing this front module at Geneva, we are proving that the new Lotus is a reality and that VVA is an advanced ecological technology from which further Lotus models will be produced, thus giving Lotus a true “multi-platform” line up over the next 5 years”.

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# EVENT DETAILS

## ELCC Tour of Greg Whitten's car collection

When: Saturday, March 29th at 11:00am

Organizer: Andy Keck, andykeck@mac.com

Where: 1950 116th Ave NE, Suite 101, Bellevue

Please join us as we tour Greg Whitten's garage. Some of you already know Greg and may be familiar with his cars as he has been a long-time member of the ELCC and has hosted us before. Others have seen the cars that he's brought to the All British Field Meet, like his GT40, his Aston Martin DBR 2 or the amazing 1935 ERA (Romulus) from last year's meet. It's hard to say exactly what we'll see, but I hear that there may be other new-to-the-collection cars like a Lightweight E-Type and the first Lola customer car from 1959. Final details like the exact start time and directions are still being worked out, so watch this space, look for the Evite, or email andykeck@mac.com for final information.

## Land Speed Record Challenge Car Visit

When: Saturday, April 12th, 10 AM Albertson's/  
Starbuck's meeting place, 11 AM tour time

Host: Mark Sterner

Morning meeting place: Meet at 10 AM at the Albertson's mini-mall at 11012 Canyon Rd. E., Puyallup, WA 98373 for our morning Starbuck's caffeination. Meet in front of the small Starbuck's sign. We will then caravan to the tour location to arrive together. It would be helpful for you all to print out your own maps from this Albertson's/Starbuck's location to the tour location address, in case we should get separated.

Tour Location and Time: 11 AM at 21124  
44th Ave. E., Spanaway, WA 98387

There are few things “more British” than historic automotive Land Speed Record attempts. Names like John Cobb, George Eyston, Sir Henry Segrave, and Sir Malcolm and Donald Campbell are part of a legacy of English that have succeeded in their attempts. The “friendly” rivalry between the British and Americans started with the arrival of Mickey Thompson, Bill and Don Summers, Craig Breedlove, Art Arfons, and Gary Gabelich. Gabelich held the record for many years in his rocket-powered Blue Flame until 1983, when a young Richard Noble from England surpassed it.

The current World Land Speed Record is currently held by a well-funded British team owned by Noble. Royal Air Force pilot and driver, Andy Green, set the standard

*continued on next page*

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