The **Chapman Report**

Published by the Golden Gate Lotus Club www.gglotus.org October 2008

Easter Bunny Bails Out U.S. Economy *editor*

As you read this, the WCLM has ended and all participants have made it home safe. Safe from the slot machines, the meth capitol of the west, Medford, and the Oregon mountain rednecks. Just kidding, though that part of Oregon is NOT Portland or Eugene. OOps, everyone came home and checked their 401K and IRA accounts.

I'm sure I will get a good story and photos from someone, on the event, for next month's issue. This month, you're stuck with my story of the south of England and the Goodwood Revival.

We did have one local event at Mike Ostrov's shop, We also had the British Car Meet.

One autocross to go; a track day to go (I think); CSRG vintage races this weekend at Infineon. Maybe a few more events, then time to 'winterize' our cars. That means I have to put the top on the Elise incase we actually get rain this year.

Goodwood, front straight: A good rollbar might not look right on a vintage Grand Prix car, but this crash could have been fatal. I watched as the car was upside down but still airborn. The driver's body was extended halfway out of the car, with one hand touching the grass. I was unable to find information on his injuries.

The GGLC Holiday Dinner is set for Sat Dec 13th at 6:30pm. Cost will be $35/person. Go to the website for more info and Paypal payment if desired.

Ristorante Don Giovanni
235 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

Dinner includes:
INSALATE
Baby Organic Green Salad
CHOICE OF ENTREES
Chicken Cordon Bleu (Mozzarella, prosciutto, sage and breading in bordelaise sauce)
Tionuille Pasta
(Artichokes, sun dried tomato, garlic, black olives and white wine)

Filet Medallion of Pork
(Sauteed calvados with apple brandy sauce)

Grilled Filet of Salmon
Hyzau (Bed of green lentils and curnan)

DESSERT (choice of)
Chocolate Mousse
Lemon Sorbet and Fresh Fruit

Mike's Place

Mike Ostrov

Just finished the last one for this year. Usual participants and some new lads. like: Greg Hall (Esprit) , Don Hogue(47) and Ron Baldry (Eruopa). Many thanks to all, for making me clean up the shop for each of our 2008 shop days.

Now, here is an offer that might be of interest. Winter is approaching, well eventually. I will have one open space in my shop, if any GGLC member has a project (limited to 2 week duration) that I might be able to offer some assistance. This could get some of your "stranded" Lotus cars ready for 2009.

No charge. Well.... you might contribute some chocolate covered jelly donuts (I fancy the apple, cherry and raspberry) and maybe a lunch or two.

So, any questions, just ring me on (5l0) 232-7764 6 am to 9 am PDT or try the shop, in El Sobrante (6 miles north of Berkeley) at (5l0) 222-6437 or mikeostrov@webtv.net.

The Golden Gate Lotus Clubs final event of the season is coming up, Nov 1st. You can register at: http://www.motorsportreg.com/ Club members only for the first week.

Thanks to our sponsor, Silicon Valley Autogroup, we will have a free lunch (BBQ tri-tip, chicken and all the trimmings). We have adjusted the price accordingly. They will also be providing -

The top Elise/Exige, R-compound, street and open car class winner, who will be getting a trophy and gift card good for parts and service at SVAG. A gift card will go to the most improved driver for the series and a random drawing for the final one (club member only).

The points standings can be

Calendar

November 1, GGLC Autocross, Marina

November 21, Club Meeting, McClure House

December 6, Toy Rallye, Mountain View

December 13, Holiday Party, See Detailed Info

December 26, Track Day, Laguna Seca

For more and up to date information on these GGLC and other events check the GGLC website at www.gglotus.org

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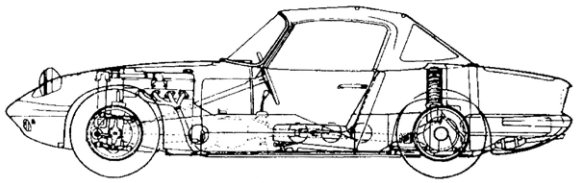


T-Hill Track Day

Dave Anderson

September 10, 2008. John Zender ran this trackday in the reverse of the usual direction. That made Thunderhill a totally new track and turn 9 in particular was really diffucult to negotiate quickly. Your scribe never did go quickly! Nearly all turns were right hand in that direction, and that's the wrong side for Lotus Twin Cam oil pickups! There were 47 or so entrants and all had a very fun day. The sound of screeching tires was heard all day because a small skid-pad on the grounds was in use by folks practicing drifting! Hearing a screech made one think someone spun out, but it was the drifters!

It was a very safe day. Nobody really had any trouble at all, though the Europa contingent were reporting high coolant temperatures. Cool in the morning, by mid afternoon it was in the mid 90's. No wind, no clouds: quite hot in the sun.

The Lotus contingent was 4 Elise, 1 Exige, 3 Europas, and 2 Elans. Other interesting vehicles were a Fiat X1/9 prepped for the 24 Hours of Lemons races, a Lancia Beta, a Radical SR3, and a Ginetta. MCE Racing has a new shop and chassis dyno in garages 15 and 16 at Thunderhill, and your correspondent availed himself of it to test the Elan (Stromberg carbs). It's hard to know how close any dyno's horsepower ratings are to reality, but on this day Kevin Murray measured the Elan at peak of

John's Flamer going backwards at Thunderhill. OK, all cars were running the track backwards.

107 HP before richening the carbs and 111 HP afterwards (at the rear wheels). Peak Torque up from 94 to 97.3 ft-lbs. It is very tricky getting an Elan on the dyno as the ramps are not really meant for such a narrow car! A Europa would be much easier! A further test showed that at 6500 rpm in top gear the drive line (transmission, differential, etc) was absorbing 14 horsepower.

Interesting. Anyway, after richening the Elan definitely ran cooler on the track. And mixture strength was now within acceptable bounds at high rpm and low (had been a little lean over 5000 rpm before). This was a very worthwhile exercise.

Beautiful vintage aircraft at the Goodwood Revival, also. This one with a youthful ground crew.

England on $10,000 a Day *editor*

I usually like to budget on the low end when on vacation. Last time in the UK, I stayed in the Salisbury youth hostel and shopped in the 'charity shops', their versions of our Goodwill, but more upscale.

This trip would be different. My wife, 5-star hotel book in hand, would be with me. But I must admit that I set the tone by my first act. Rather than rent a car to drive about the south of England, I decided to buy one, a used Land Rover Discovery with LPG. We picked up the LR Disco and headed for the New Forest area of Dorset, which would put us near Beaulieu and the famous International Autojumble.

The B&B's we're full but one told us of a hotel just down the road. Off we went. How much could a hotel in the country cost? We came to the entrance, proceeding up the drive. We had gone 100 yards and had only seen a sign that pointed the way to the tennis courts. This is a bad omen. We finally come to the hotel, a 200 year old estate. The front entry sign says 'valet parking' This really looks bad. My wfe runs in to check on availability, while I stay in the LR and pray for 'no room at this inn'. She comes out with a big smile. I know what that means, not good. "They've had a cancellation, and you DO NOT want to know how much the rate is." Well, three days at this hotel would be more than the cost of the LR, but a happy wife is priceless, right? "This hotel, Chewton Glen, was Conde Naste British Hotel of the Year!"

OK, the budget is ripped apart like Pandora's Box. Next it's my turn.

The next day we're at the Beaulieu Autojumble, which my wife thoroughly enjoys, also. There are so many interesting things for sale, from a fender for a prewar Bugatti to a chandelier for a Victorian home.

We also looked over the cars that were for sale. A Lotus M100 was already sold for less than $10K. We liked a number of the Jags; mostly the old XK's and Mk2 Saloons. My wife was a fan of the old BBC show, Inspector Morse, where he had a nice Mk2. None of the

owners were around to answer questions, though.

The day after, I went to the autojumble alone and let my wife hang-out at the hotel for numerous tea times. I found the owner of the nicest XK that was for sale. It was an XK150 FHC, with a full restoration and motor rebuild 9K miles ago. I called the wife, who said: "use your best judgement." OK, sold. The owner then put the papers for the XK in the Jag next to it. I said: "This one's yours, also?" "Yes, I'll give you a good price if your buy both." "Use your best judgement." she had said. Sold, a '61 Mk2 Saloon, overdrive, only two owners, original interior and paint. I bought these for the wife, you know. How could we be staying in such a prestige hotel without the proper car. And, because I've picked up two Jags, I have to go back through the autojumble stalls for Jag parts. Just part of the ritual.

So, we've been in England just three of the ten days of our vacation, and have already saved the queen from having to sell off some of the crown jewels to pay the rent at Windsor.

Next on the agenda, Salisbury and Blenheim Palace. Maybe the Salisbury Cathedral is up for sale; it is due for a refurb. No sale, so I head up to EliseParts, near Cambridge, and buy Lots of parts.

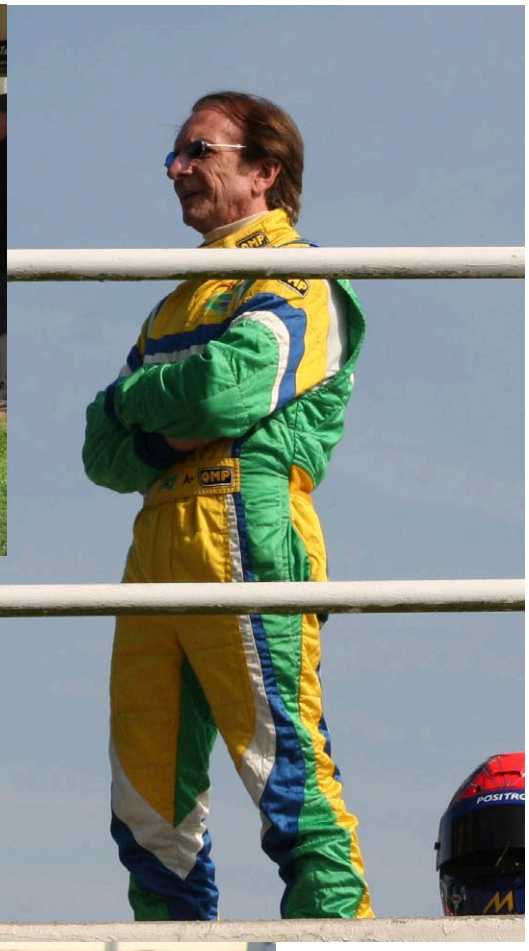
The tension builds now, as the coming weekend is the Goodwood Revival. What potential for spending awaits there? I don't have an open-wheeled car yet, and I know someone there who will.

Driving from here to there? Very nice in a Land Rover. Better yet with a GPS that already had all of Europe and the U.K. loaded onto it (Tom-Tom 900 series). As the sun would set and signs faded away, the GPS took me through the roundabouts AND warned me when some towns had cameras and what the proper speed was. It was also a great help to have an unlocked mobile, walk into the Vodaphone shop and get a UK simm. For little money, you then have a local phone for you whole trip.

At Goodwood: Saloon racing Austin A35, Jaguar Mk1 and a Volvo Amazon; proper attire and a Lotus Cortina; and Chris Locke's 27, I think.

Goodwood was lots of fun, as always, but not much for me to spend money on. Member Chris Locke had his Lotus 27 there, but I couldn't find him and make an offer on it. How was I going to hit my goal of spending $10,000 each day? I needed one more major purchase!

The last day and my wife and I are headed to London, then Heathrow. I spot a car dealership with an Elise and a M100 in the lot. "DRIVE", she says, "Just Keep DRIVING!"



A Tatra racing saloon! A driver with the colors of Brazil but the nose of a Roman. Must be Emo. Two photos of the 'More money than brains race', which is held last so the track cleanup doesn't affect the other race start times. The #10 GT40 crashed as usual, but came back on track to take third. He's crashed all three times that I've seen him at Goodwood.

The winning car, a Lister. A Cobra, not shown, hit a wall and lost two feet of length. But these guys have money and just have the cars completely rebuilt every year.

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Classifieds

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

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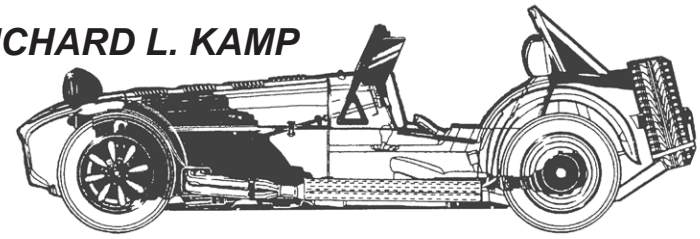

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For Sale: 1986 Lotus Turbo Esprit HCI; 39K original miles; Red with Tan leather; Custom Etoile 3 piece wheels painted to match car; new tires; won first place at the 2006 LOG in Texas. Excellent condition; asking $25,000. Call Ryan for more info. at 972.922.7234.

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THE CHAPMAN REPORT

The Golden Gate Lotus Club
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