

NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts

Issue 9, Sept/Oct 2016

Spring 2016 Get Your Lotus Out: GYLO 11

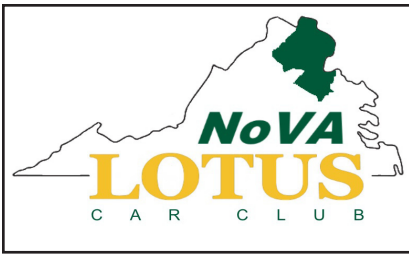
Club Spotlight: Ashley Wise

In 2008, I attended my first SCCA autocross race in Ohio and became hooked. I have always loved cars: watching racing, attending car shows, learning how to work on them myself, etc but being in the driver seat racing was a whole new level! During that time, I was racing my Cadillac CTS-V and a C5 Z06 Corvette.... American muscle cars were always in my heart. Then one day at a car meet-up I see a beautiful 2007 Lotus Elise Type 72D pull in and I fell in love. I had heard the name Lotus before but never actually saw one in person and knew nothing about them. I quickly became good friends with the wonderful owner and the day he let me ride in it was the day I told myself I was going to own a Lotus within the next 5 years. I continued doing autocross in more 'Vettes, Mustangs, and even karts but deep down I kept wishing I was in a Lotus.



In 2011 I moved to North Carolina and took a mini break from racing, but that didn't last long because I was living in an area that was filled with race shops and lots of various track options close by. I started back into doing autocross with my CTS-V and a brand new Mustang GT which was fun and all, but my eyes kept wandering astray because this SCCA region had two to three Elises (up to four or more when we had combined region events). I started debating if this was the year I'd finally go ahead and buy a Lotus, and after one of the guys let me race his Elise I told myself yes. I had a hard time deciding between an Elise or Exige and ended up deciding it would be an Exige and that I was going to track it. After a long year of searching and making offers and not being quick enough or not finding the one that had everything I wanted, I finally purchased my 2007 Exige S on Christmas 2012. I had achieved my goal! I autocrossed and tracked the car just as it was meant to do in life.

Moving to northern Virginia I was very excited to see there are a LOT of Lotus owners, especially chrome or orange ones like me :) It's amazing how many wonderful people I've met through my Exige and how quirky/funny some Lotus owners are. My Exige is a peppy little beast I'm still trying to tame and it's completely different than the high horsepower muscle cars I was used to. I'll still never get over the fact that I can never simply just pull into to a gas station without having everyone come over and all of them be surprised I'm a girl driving it. I love my Lotus and all the joy it has brought me.



NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts

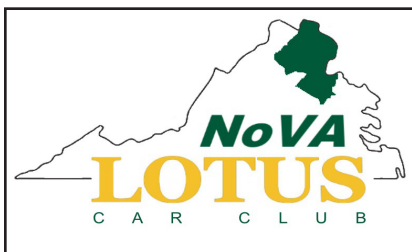


A Visit to Lotus Racing *by Jeffrey Hammer*

Friday, August 26, on my last day in England at the end of a 2-week family trip, I had the pleasure of doing Lotus Driving Academy Licence Level 1 (<http://www.lotusdrivingacademy.com/hethel/level-1>). It was a fabulous experience. The three track sessions themselves were out of this world for a novice like me. I had a left-hand drive car, awesome instructor, and precise feedback on performance driving basics. (It would have been great to stay for days 2 and 3 which Lotus offers as well.) The 220 Cup Elise is a real joy to drive. Taking laps on the same tracks used to test the factory cars, F1 cars, etc. was awe-inspiring. Even more so after the instructor did a few laps; made me realize how slow I was going and that keeping a change of clothes around is handy. I was double-lucky in that my instructor's first job at Lotus was working on the chassis for the Esprit S3 (same as the turbo cars in the U.S.). All of the hosts/drivers/guides for the day bled Lotus.

I think the real joy, though, was the factory tour and Classic Team Lotus tour. No pics allowed in the factory. We saw the Elise/Exige lines and the Evora line. No robots, all the cars are still handmade. The guide gave the stat that Nissan of Britain produces almost 500,000 cars a year and Lotus has made 100,000 in the company's lifetime. It's a fascinating process ranging across multiple buildings. We had the pleasure of seeing two nearly complete 311s interrupting the Evora line, with a special crew doing the build outside the normal crews. Just being on the floor where my Esprit was made back in 1986 gave me goosebumps. Lotus still uses a clipboard and paper printout that follows the car throughout the build, detailing options, colors, etc.

The Classic Team Lotus tour was also amazing. I am not the most knowledgeable person when it comes to Lotus and racing. I remember a bit from when I was a kid (for example, I built the Type 79 Tamiya plastic model kit). It was still really neat being around the original cars, hearing some of the stories (our guide was a 50 year Lotus veteran). I love all the JPS livery ones. Most interesting were the drawers of hand-done drawings with specs of all the cars. They are still used today to rebuild or reference the older race cars. If that place were to go up in flames, so would a large part of Lotus history. The highlight was having my picture taken with Clive Chapman. If you ever have the opportunity to go to England and do a tour (with or without the driving part), do so. It sadly came at the expense of me attending Kevin's summer party. Despite that, it was a fantastic experience.



NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts



A few words from Mark Franke: NoVA Lotus Club President

GYLO 12 will be held September 18th at Katie's in Great Falls. Well known to be the largest gathering of Lotus cars on the East Coast outside of the national convention. We are trying to set a record this year of 40 cars. We know we can do this based on previous performances. Please tell all your friends you are even not on the mailing list they are welcome to come. This really is a great group of people very low-key and a great place to network about your car.

There are a large number of both vintage to modern cars including a Lotus 340 and a Lotus Omega in the past. We will have a huge variety of door prizes and giveaways. This year, shirts and hats with our club logo on them will be for sale. Shirts are \$28. Hats are \$18. If you have pre-ordered a shirt I will have it with me.

To top everything off we have a wine tasting available for those who wanted at the Bull Run winery. Located right off of 29 and 66. If you want to just meet us there you can do that as well. We do need a count for those participating in the winery tour/tasting. The facility has great parking and outdoor picnic area if you would like to bring your own food.

Each event year this grows and grows. It has become the highlight of the season. We look forward to seeing of many of you as can make it. Even if your car is not running please show up to join us socially. This is a very low-key group with a friendly attitude.

Look Forward to seeing you soon!

Mark Franke
mfranke@cox.net

Bob Collum
robert_collum@hotmail.com

website: ***novalotusclub.freeforums.net***
facebook: ***NoVA Lotus Car Club***

NoVA Lotus Calendar Of Events:

Get Your Lotus Out #12 (GYLO 12)

Sunday, September 18, 9 - 11 am
Katie's Lower Parking Lot
760 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Hunt Country Classic Car Show

Sunday, October 9, 9 am - 2 pm
Middleburg, VA

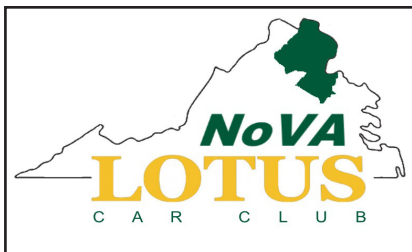
The last big British car show of the season at a nice venue. Register by Sept. 30, to save \$10 per car.

<http://novalotusclub.freeforums.net/thread/117/hunt-country-classic-oct-2016>

Fall Exotics Country Drive

Sunday, September 25
Details available on the website

Check our website for additional events in the area:
novalotusclub.freeforums.net



NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts

2016 Lotus Owners Gathering Recap

The Lotus Owners Gathering 2016 was in Princeton, NJ with a great turn out from all over the country. There were close to 200 cars at the Concours event on Saturday representing almost every class of Lotus ever made. Remarkably a Lotus Europa made it to Princeton from the West Coast. That must be some sort of record. There was also a great turnout from our club with about 20 folks including drivers and families. The Philadelphia-based PALS club did a great job running the show with a little something for everyone.

Extracurricular activities for spouses/SO's included sculpture gardens, driving and walking tours, wine with chocolate pairings.

Lotus related events included a great talk from the former CEO of Lotus USA, Arnie Johnson describing the history of Lotus in the United States. Bob Dance, team Lotus Formula One mechanic, talked about the history of the F1 team in the 70s and 80s. Richard Parramint, formerly of Lotus UK, MC'd the dinner and told incredible stories of the history of the company.

LOG 2017 is May 19 - 21, 2017 at the Barber Motorsports Park/ Museum in Birmingham, Alabama.

A few of the featured events:

- An all day track event at Talladega Super Speedway
- The LOG 37 concours and annual LOG photo at Barber Motorsports Park. The Barber Lotus Collection, which has doubled in size since LOG29, will also be open for attendees to visit.
- The US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama will host LOG 37 attendees for a day of space history.
- The LOG 37 autocross and track day will take place at Barber Motorsports Park.

LOG 37 will be an exciting weekend for Lotus owners and historic racing enthusiasts!

Additional information about LOG 2017 can be found at:
<http://www.lotusownersgathering.com/>



Photos by Bob Collum



Photos by Bob Collum



Photos by Bob Collum