

NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts

Issue 10, Nov/Dec 2016



Club Spotlight: 1967 Lotus Elan

We are the third owners of the 1967 Lotus Elan S3. Tim has kept in touch with both the original owner and the second owner he purchased the car from in January of 2007. As the car is quickly approaching its 50th birthday, Tim asked each of the previous owners to write a few words about the car. The second owners story will appear in a future issue. Hope you enjoy the history of this fun little car as much as we do. ~ Jenn Glahn

From Dennis H, who purchased the Lotus new in 1967:

My wife and I bought our 1967 Lotus Elan, new, at Buzz Marcus Motors in Glenside, PA, in January of 1967. I had just gotten home from my tour of duty in the U.S. Army and decided to celebrate. I was not old enough to buy a car, so my Dad had to buy it and transfer the title of it to me. That was after risking my hide for Uncle Sam!

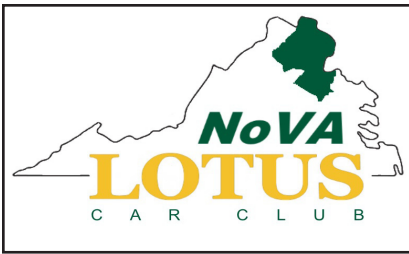
The car was a revelation; quiet, good riding, great handling, and very fast. I had one friend with a Triumph TR4, one with an Austin-Healy 3000, and another with a Sunbeam Tiger. All of those cars were like ox carts compared to the Lotus. It is difficult to explain just how far advanced the Lotus was in comparison to other cars of the time. It even had power windows! It also had safety wires on the brake caliper mounting bolts and on the Rotoflex couplings! Those same Rotoflex couplings were used on Lotus (and other makes) Formula 1 cars! How cool is that?



I used the car for my daily commuter for several years, even in winter. After a time, though, I decided it was not the best use of the car, exposing it to daily stop-and-go traffic, and hazardous road conditions. About that time I became eligible for a Company car, so that solved that problem.

In October of 1967, and for the following 5 years, we took the car to Watkins Glen for the U. S. Grand Prix. In those days we camped at the circuit with a large group of friends. We could pack a tent, sleeping bags, stove, lantern, food and clothing in the Lotus, which absolutely amazed everyone. Admission for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, including infield camping, was \$10! You could wander through the paddock and garages at night and talk to the mechanics as they prepared the cars for the following day, too. Who says the good old days were a myth? At that time, too, the combination of Lotus, Colin Chapman, and Jim Clark was just unbeatable. What a thrill it was to watch Clark come from 3 laps back after a problem on the grid, and then win by a lap! I don't believe anyone will ever see that kind of racing again.

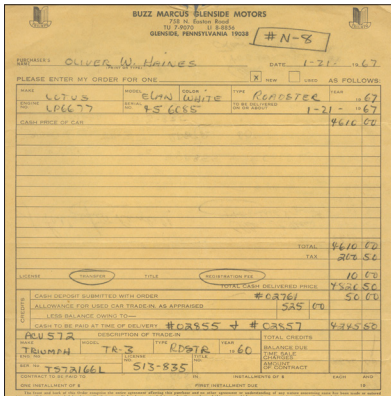
In July of 1968 we took a 3,000 mile road trip starting in Pennsylvania, our home state, into New England, through Maine to Quebec, across Canada to Sault Saint Marie, down to Lansing, Michigan to visit
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my brother and sister-in-law, then through Ohio to Gettysburg, PA, and then home. We had two problems. The breaker points were adjusted in Maine to cure a bit of rough-running, and the water pump began making an intermittent groaning noise in Michigan. After coming home, I found that to replace the water pump the oil pan, cylinder head, and front timing chest had to be removed! Who designed that?

Trips like these continued until 1972, when our son, Michael, was born. Suddenly, no more road trips in the Lotus. I continued to use the car for weekend jaunts, when I could get a break from career, house and new family. After some time, though, it became increasing difficult, and the car was stored for a time. After our son was older, I brought the Lotus out of retirement, and

began a brief stint on the car show circuit. It always trophied, although I could never do better than a second place. Still, not bad for my first attempt to produce a show car. After more time had passed, college expenses loomed, and the Lotus had to, reluctantly, go to a new home. I had owned the car for 36 years. I can't tell you how happy and relieved I am that it is now in the possession of Tim Glahn and his wife, who love the car as much as I did. It will soon be 50 years old, an amazing statistic. I hope it will continue to be driven and enjoyed for at least another 50 years.

SAVE THE DATE:
Second Annual NoVA Lotus
Holiday Party
Saturday, January 14, 2017,
11:00am-3:00pm-ish
Stay tuned for a
formal invite with details

Dennis now owns two Ferraris - a 1999 360 Modena and a 1981 Mondial 8.



Photos by Bob Collum

GYLO '12

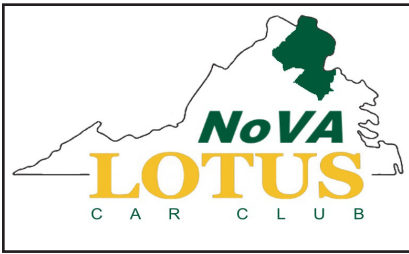
Our 12th Get Your Lotus Out event was held Sunday, September 18. We had 22 Lotus at the event, which we held at the lower parking lot of Katie's Coffee, in Great Falls, VA. One couple even drove in all the way from Michigan for the event - David and Sarah! Some NoVA Lotus club members with non-running cars even came out, just to socialize.

We had 7 Chrome Orange cars there - six Elises and one Exige. It looked like early Halloween!

An important component to every GYLO is the after-party. This year, 13 people drove over as a group to the Bull Run Winery for lunch. GYLO 13 will be held in the Spring.



Photos by Bob Collum



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Hunt Country Classic Recap

The Hunt Country Classic car show hosted each year by the MG Car Club of DC took place on Sunday, October 9. The venue is the Scott Farm, outside of Middleburg, VA. We had 5 Lotus in attendance – Jim Gordon's Elan Coupe, took first place in the Lotus class followed by Bob Collum's Seven in second place. Dan Sheesley brought his new-to-him Elise SC, Peter Innocenti drove his Esprit S4, and Tim Glahn was in his Elan S3 DHC. Tom Neel dropped in but did not bring a Lotus.

NoVA Lotus Upcoming Events:

Saturday, November 19: COGS Car Show
There will be a charity car show at the Church of the Good Shepherd located at 2351 Hunter Mill Rd. In Vienna.
Registration from 10 am - 12 noon
Judging from 12 noon - 2:30 pm
Entry fee of \$20, or \$15 with at least 5 cans of perishable goods to donate.
All proceeds to charity.

A few words from Mark Franke: NoVA Lotus Club President

We held our first Impromptu Drive on Sunday, September 6. Nine Lotus showed up for the drive. We met at the Blue Iguana in Fair Lakes and followed a route through Prince William, Stafford and Fauquier Counties. A beautiful drive filled with fall foliage and some nice winding country roads. After the drive, we stopped at Swirly's soft-serve ice cream in Manassas. Something like this does not require much planning, so we should do it more often!



As we start to run into the holiday season I want to thank everyone who has participated over the last year. Our group has grown to with over 125 folks on our mailing list and a significant number of those on the website.

novalotusclub.freeforums.net

Over the coming months we will be planning next year's calendar. We welcome your suggestions on drives and new/reoccurring events.

Several of us keep running into other local area Lotus owners. Jeff Hammer (black Esprit) just found out there is another Esprit two blocks away from him. I was in a meeting wearing a Lotus shirt and found another Elan owner. If you know someone who has a Lotus please send them on our website and Bob's email address.

Many wishes for a relaxing and safe Holiday Season to all.

Look Forward to seeing you soon!

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