

# NoVA Lotus Car Club Notes & Calendar

Northern Virginia's Club for Lotus enthusiasts

Issue 6, Feb/March 2016

## *My Lotus Odyssey*

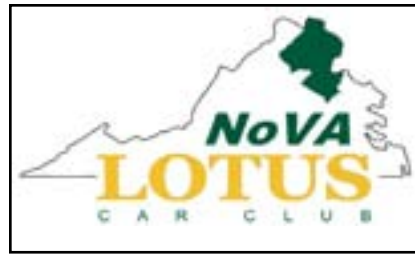
*by Bob Scates*

I grew up in the '60s when Lotus was all-conquering in F1 and the Indy 500, and seen in TV shows like The Avengers and The Prisoner, so I wanted one (or two, or three!)

- In 1975 I got a '65 Elan S2 DHC RHD with Weber carbs- outrageously capable and fun machine, at age 21 I didn't die in it...
- After a few years I traded it for a 23B #69 a SCCA C Sports racer with a 1300 crossflow dry-sumped Ford engine and Hewland 5-speed unsynchronized transaxle
- Never quite finished it, traded it for a 61M Formula Ford that ran, prepped it and ran it at a SCCA drivers' school at Nelson Ledges, OH, wrecked the front a bit...
- I also had a '67 Europa S1 with a rust problem in the front T-section of the frame, drove it for a couple years...
- So I had an epiphany: cut the frame out of the Europa (bonded in to save weight, about 1,300 lbs) repair the front and cut off the back Y section and construct a tubular spaceframe to accept the Formula Ford drive-train and rear suspension including 1600 crossflow dry-sumped Ford engine and Hewland 4-speed unsynchronized transaxle...making my own Lotus 47... A Herculean task that took many months of fabrication – I actually did finish it and drove it around on the back roads of Winchester where I was then living, about 1979...
- Also late '70s I had a nice '69 Elan Plus 2 (black, Weber carbs) a wonderful car, I really should have worked more on it- exhaust and brakes etc.
- About 1980 I bought Lotus Ltd pres. Mark Winston's 1970 Europa S2, had been sitting a while so needed an engine rebuild. Also he had modified the dash by having a matrix of colored buttons, you would have pushed a sequence of buttons for ignition, start etc... didn't work so I got it, redid the dash with conventional buttons.



*My Lotus Odyssey continues on page 2*



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### My Lotus Odyssey continued from page 1

- About 1984, from another Lotus Ltd pres I bought a Plus 2 S with a blown engine (rod broke). Rebuilt the Twin Cam engine with Stromberg carbs. Nice car in canary yellow, superb – one I would love to have now and put a 2.0 L 16 Valve Zetec engine in. Sold in 1986 after I was living in DC...
- Almost two decades would pass before I got another Lotus – in 2001 I got a '73 Europa Twin Cam Special from Frank at Sports Car World in TX, it had sat and had a rusted front T-section of the frame and seized engine etc. Got another frame via eBay, was going to put in a 16 valve Toyota engine, then a 2.0 L Zetec (would bolt up to the T C bell housing) then finally a 2.3 L Ford Duratec all-alloy engine (which wouldn't just bolt up). A difficult project, a lot of modifications plus added complications like rear disc brake conversion. This went in phases and long gaps of inactivity, it is now almost 2016 and I am almost ready to bring the body back from storage...
- About 2008 found a 1978 Esprit S2 on eBay in NC, the P O had taken the body off restored the chassis and painted the body a Corvette yellow with S3 body panels and bumpers from Europa and UK, put it back together and then it just sat for a decade... I had to recommission the engine and all hydraulics and reassemble the dash and instruments, redo and modify / improve the electrics with more fuses and relay boxes, try to get the engine oil leaks abated, and install crank-fired wasted spark ignition and rebuild and install Dellorto carbs from UK and Greece to improve drivability, performance and reliability. Currently building up a (UK) 912 engine (2.2 L, High Compression, bigger ports, wilder cams stock, as well as head ported and larger intake valves. Maybe by the spring...



### NoVA Lotus Calendar Of Events:

**Sunday, January 31: NoVA Lotus Planning Meeting**  
RSVP to Mark Franke at [mfranke@cox.net](mailto:mfranke@cox.net)

**Sunday, April 21: Britian on the Green in Lorton, VA**  
For more information:

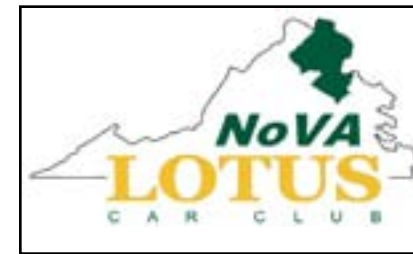
**Sunday, August 5 to August 7:**  
**Lotus Owners Gathering in Princeton, NJ**

Check out NoVA Lotus on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L3nZ469c4I>  
Thanks Zakk!

### Odds and Ends Detailing Sale:

Darryl at Odds and Ends has detailing gear and supplies on a special sale this week. It's 10% plus another percent for each inch of snow at Dulles airport on Saturday evening which was 28". That is a heck of a sale. He has everything you can imagine for detailing your Lotus. Darryl has been very generous to our club over the past years we encourage you to support him. This sale is thru Sunday, 1/31, and you do need to pick up the items at his shop. Here's the Odds & Ends website:

[www.oddsandendsdetailing.com](http://www.oddsandendsdetailing.com)



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### A few words from Mark Franke: NoVA Lotus Club President

Our next club meeting will be Sunday, January 31st, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

This is the planning meeting for club events in 2016. If you are interested in particular events, please come to the meeting, or at least send us an email to let us know. We want to provide events that the membership will enjoy. The most up to date information is on page 2 in the Calendar section.

The long awaited website is in the works - really! So come share your opinion on what should be included there.

Finally, as an FYI, Euro Motorcars has dropped the Lotus franchise. They no longer do Lotus warranty work, though there may still be Lotus cars for sale for the time being. We have no news at this time of any local replacement Lotus dealer. We will keep you apprised as we have more information.

Mark Franke  
[mfranke@cox.net](mailto:mfranke@cox.net)

Check out NoVa Lotus member Tyler Pepin's Motorcar Photography website:  
[www.tpepinphotos.com](http://www.tpepinphotos.com)



### NoVA Lotus Holiday Party Wrap Up:

On Sunday, December 13th, NoVA Lotus' own Ann Dalter held an open house/holiday party, and invited the whole club. Ann's house is very nice, and she throws a heck of a party. By my count, we had 14 club members in attendance. Of those, the Scates brought their Esprit, and the Schulmans brought their Evora. The Gershowitzes at least kept to the spirit of a car gathering, and brought an Aston Vantage. The rest of us brought our more-pedestrian vehicles. (That is, the vehicles that don't force us to be pedestrians!)

All in all, a very nice time. Thanks to Ann Dalter for inviting us!



Have a great Lotus? Great Lotus story?  
Send us a line!