

Member Keith Robinson (member since 2005)

Keith races cars, actually he has raced and/or worked on race cars most of his life. Being rather humble, he wasn't keen on having the LCCBC CJ write his story as he did not think it was interesting. With his plethora of car photos, we intend to prove him wrong.



Keith was born and raised on the east coast of England near Lotus and Fords largest assembly plant. His mechanic's apprenticeship was at a Ford dealership working on Lotus Cortina's and often picked up parts at the Lotus factory in Cheshunt, the Lotus location before Norfolk.

Keith immigrated to Toronto in March of 1969 and started work with the Fiat Motor Company in early 1970 as the youngest Technical Representative, eventually becoming the Technical Instructor for X19's and 128's.



His first novice race was in 1970 in a Palliser Formula Ford at Harewood Acres, Ontario, as a reward for one year of wrenching on the car.

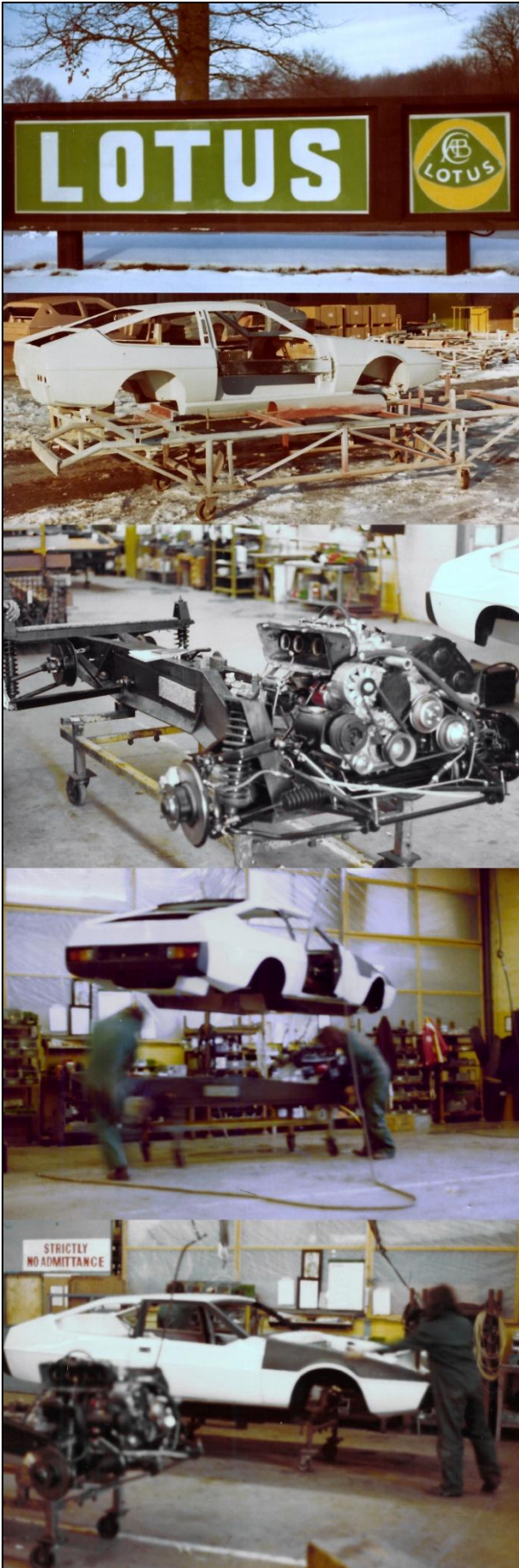
His first race car was a Fiat 850 Spyder driving it at Mosport winning his first trophy in 1971 H production class.



His second racer was a Fiat 128, the first of its type to race in Canada.



His next job took him to Vancouver in October 1973 to work with Toyota as Technical Representative for BC. He was then racing a Datsun 510 at Westwood through to 1981.



In 1979 during a trip to the UK, he had the opportunity to visit the Lotus factory and watch an Eclat being assembled.

Moving on to VW as a Technical Representative followed by Kawasaki, he decided to go into business for himself building Honda engines and then in 1990 he opened K&G (Keith & Garry) Auto Recycles in Langley (1990-2001).

Keith tells us that he has seen every major city and towns between Montreal and Campbell River at the expense of Fiat, Toyota and VW! *"Fiat sent me to Vancouver to Instructor dealer mechanics, I loved BC at first sight so I got transferred here. I drove all my worldly possessions across the northern USA in a 1968 4 door Cadillac!"* Keith adds *"these days I keep very busy doing maintenance work at MRP for the SCCBC, I also work with two groups organizing track days at Mission. I currently have 4 racecars to work on (1985 CRX Ice Racer, 1982 Van Diemen, 1997 Kodiak Fox and an unidentified sports racer!) and I store and maintain Williams Kwan's 1985 Van Diemen"*.

Keith has raced the streets of Vancouver at the SCCBC Invitational, Mission Raceway, Mosport, Laguna Seca, Sonoma (Sears Point), Portland, Seattle (Pacific), Indianapolis (road course) and this September at Road America. He has also done track days at The Ridge, Area 27 and VIMC.

We should add Oval track racing at Agassiz Speedway, Western Speedway, Sun Valley (Vernon) and Saratoga (Black Creek on Vancouver Island). Finally ice racing at Barnes Lake, BC.

The most successful road race car he's ever owned was a 1985 first generation CRX. Racing it for 10 years, he won the SCCA North West Championship in GT5 class and the Westcoast Sports Car Championship with SCCBC.



Choosing an early retirement in 2001 and moving to Abbotsford with his wife Susan, he continued to race at Mission Raceway Park with selection of sedan and Formula Cars.



Top: 1979 Van Deiman

Second row: Green RS82, Red RS79 in 2015, Red 1980 RF80 in 2001

Third row & bottom right: 1997 Kodiak Fox @ Elkhart Lake Road America

Bottom left: Mission raceway 2014





1996 Agasiz Speedway



1985 Civic in 1999



K&G Partners a little too close



2005 West Coast Championship & purse



1985 Accord with Omni grill



1987 CRX

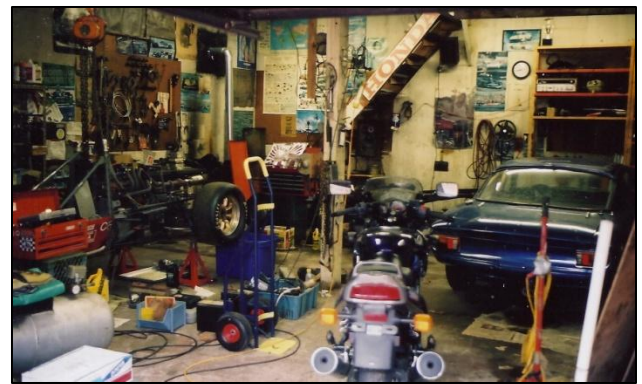
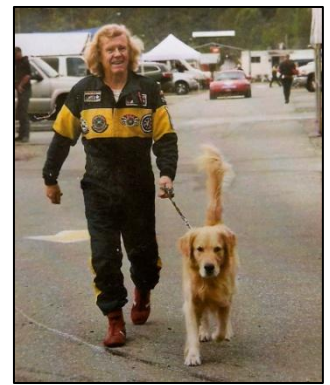


Ice racing at Barnes Lake BC 1979 Prelude and Accord 1992~1995



Susan is very supportive of Keith's racing and love for dogs, specifically Golden Retrievers. His current companion is Sebastian, prior to him it was Brabham, Senna and Schuey. Hmmm his passion for dogs seems to have a link to racing.

Keith is a member of several Car Clubs including the Vintage Race Club of BC (position) and the Sports Car Club of BC. He currently races a Van Diemen Formula Ford, a copy of the Lotus 59 both designed by David Baldwin. He currently owns a 2008 S2 Elise 111R and formerly owned an Elan.



Caterham UK & Keith's workshop

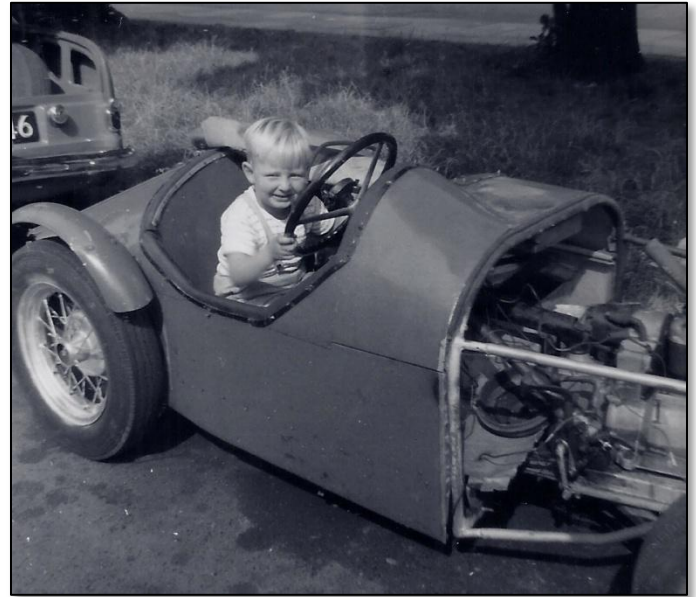
Magazine Article: Performance Driver Club 2008 edition

Keith is an accomplished race car driver who, as a SCCBC member, first raced in BC in a Datsun 510 at Westwood in 1978. He has since then, won various championships on different surfaces, oval tracks Agassiz, Ice racing at Barnes Lake, and road racing with SCCA and CACC at River's Edge Mission. When Keith rejoined SCCBC in 1994, he and enrolled in several driver training events with Performance Racing at River's Edge using a GTS Corolla. Gradually, he became more involved with the race track and started working for the maintenance department at Rivers Edge in 1999. For 2004 and 2005, Keith served on the SCCBC Executive as VP of Track Operations. Keith has been the track manager representing SCCBC since 2006.



My Formula Ford 50th Anniversary!

In 1967 I attended a Jim Russell Racing School class at Snetterton race track in Norfolk England. I had been a Formula One and general road racing fan since I was about 12 years old. I don't recall the model of car I drove but for 8 British Pounds (about \$20!), a week's wages, I got to drive up and down a short straight between some cones in one gear! My first car was Austin 7 Special.



In 1970, now living in Toronto, I wrenched on a Winkleman/Palliser for one of the Bulova Formula Ford Championship competitors and my reward was the use of his car for my Novice race at Harewood Acres (Niagara peninsula) at the end of the year. I won that race and it took another 25years to win my second!

In 2001 I bought a 1980 RF80 Van Diemen from Randy Mainland and started racing Formula Ford at Mission Raceway Park.



There were few FF's to race against in the early part of the 2000's so I went back to sedan racing. I had been running the RF80 in Formula Libre when, in about 2012 I was offered a 1979 RF79 Van Diemen for 'a price I couldn't refuse' (the transmission was in pieces in a box!). I had lots of fun in that car for 3 years, it was easy to drive and I actually finished 2nd in the FF Championship in 2013. In 2016 I had acquired two more race cars, a sedan and a sports racer (too many race cars) so I sold the RF79 to local racing legend Rick Payne (SCCA National Champion in FF).



A matter of weeks after that the 50th Anniversary Race for Formula Fords was announced by the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association to be run at Indianapolis Motor Speedway! Having been involved, albeit on and off for the last 50 years with FF, it was immediately clear to me I had to go to that race, I mean Indianapolis, Formula Ford, how can you not go to that race? But now I didn't have a FF so finding Frank Winterlink's car on VRCBC website was another clear sign I had to go to IMS for the 50th. I built a wooden box on my two wheel trailer, put gas in the 2001 Ford Escape and Susan and I headed east. Keith Robinson

