

EUROMASTERS CLASSIC CARS Tech Session

Story by David Miranda, Photos by David Miranda and Ken Fredrickson

It was a beautiful Saturday morning on November 1, 2008, and we had just finished another enjoyable monthly Breakfast at Original Mike's in downtown Santa Ana. Cooper Boggs, our Technical Activities Director, had planned a Tech Session at EuroMasters in Fountain Valley after breakfast, so off we went into the streets of Santa Ana, driving our Porsches of course.

About two dozen Porsches (and a few other daily drivers) quickly filled the parking lot of EuroMasters Classic Cars, where upon arrival I huddled everyone outside for a *Kodak Moment*. We then entered their beautiful 37,000 sq. ft. showroom, where we were immediately dazzled with a museum-like presence. Upon entering, we were introduced to John Calicchio the CEO/President of EuroMasters and Don Andreasen, Sales & Consignment Manager and Porsche Specialist. After both John and Don briefly introduced us to EuroMasters we were given the tour of their beautiful showroom where various Porsches for sale were arranged like exquisite and priceless pieces in a museum. We then went into their future parts department area and into their large service area, where they not only take pride in their servicing and repairs but also do full restorations. We learned that Jack, their mechanical technician, has been servicing Porsches for 30 years.

We were shown a video on one of their many flat screens that adorn the showroom walls of one of their restorations of a 1981 Porsche 911 SC that was recently completed. This poor SC was the shell of a mess when they first started—having no windows, doors, hoods, engine or transmission; it was given about an 80% ground-up restoration. The end result was stunning to say the least with everyone in our group giving their "Wow's" and "Ah's" as they viewed the final photos of this beautifully finished SC.

EuroMasters is not just a showroom where you'll find some of the finest European autos for sale such as Ferrari, BMW, Mercedes and of course, Porsche (and even an American classic or two). It's also a location where some of the most knowledgeable salesmen, technicians, and craftsmen pride themselves in their work. It shows the minute you walk through their doors. It's a place where you can take your Porsche for service and have peace of mind knowing you will be well taken care of. It's also a place where you can leave your "baby" on consignment, like I did, as opposed to going through the hassles of trying to sell it once that time comes. EuroMasters is also the national distributor for *Stuttgart Spyders* and *Vintage Speedsters*, beautiful replicas of two of Porsche's most renowned vehicles—the 550 Spyder and the 356 Speedster and both replicas are manufactured locally.

After our session ended at EuroMasters, I asked John and Don to tell me a little bit about themselves and here's what they had to say:

John Calicchio:

John and his family moved from New Jersey to Costa Mesa, California in September of 1959. Growing up in Southern California in the 60's was a very memorable time for him. Hot cars, hot women and cold beers—that's what life was all about. In 1964 John opened up his first business out of his parent's home in Costa Mesa working on customer's cars and motorcycles.

In 1970 John founded John's Racing Cycles in Costa Mesa, repairing and racing motorcycles. His love for the sport found him as the 7th-ranked Southern California flat-track expert (District 37) after only racing for 5 months that year. In 1974 John's Racing Cycles became the number one Bultaco dealer in the world with top sales. In 1975 John founded J.R.C. Engineering, quickly becoming the largest national Triumph Motorcycle parts manufacturer and distributor in the United States.

Between 1977 and 1999, John focused his efforts in the computer software market, developing several different systems and programs to help businesses better structure their handling of sales, inventory, purchasing, & accounting. These systems and programs are still in use today. In 2000, John assumed 100% ownership of AlfaKleen Chemical laboratories, Inc., a manufacturer of biodegradable cleaning products, primarily supplying to the Federal Government.

In 2005 John opened a restoration shop in Fountain Valley, specializing in Chevy cars. Eight cars were completed, four sold and four remain in his collection; a 1955 Chevy Bel-Air, 1967 Chevelle Convertible, 1970 Chevy El Camino daily driver, and a complete frame-off museum quality 4-speed Chevy El Camino SS-454.

In 2007 John sets up an assembly line producing a small number of completely re-manufactured Porsches. These vehicles are from Porsche's most desirable years (1978-1989 911's). All vehicles are completely disassembled and run through his re-manufacturing process. Bodies are walnut shelled down to bare metal, sealed, blocked & sanded to laser-straight perfection, then painted with a two-stage process. The engines, transmissions, and clutches are completely rebuilt. The interior has all new pieces, and new brakes, suspension, wheels and tires. The final process produces a reliable vehicle with modern conveniences superseding the factory originals including deeper sound-proofing, additional interior lighting, free-flow exhaust system and much more. All vehicles come with a choice of color, equipment, and accessories and feature a 3-year/36,000 mile bumper-to-bumper warranty.

In 2008 John organized his new company EuroMasters Classic Cars and intends to expand the company's visibility by becoming the Porsche – BMW – Mercedes capital for pre-owned vehicles specializing in Sales, Services, Parts, Paint, Upholstery, & Detailing.

Don Andreasen:

"I came to Orange County in 1958, already with an inbred knowledge and love of cars. My father was a mechanic and had built racing engines. I watched him every night work on the engines and soaked in as much as I could. I learned about auto mechanics as soon as I could walk. Ever since a small child, I was able to distinguish between the make of cars by their taillights at night. Before I was ten years old, I fell in love with the small round car on the road that was introduced to me by my father as the German car Porsche. From that moment I dreamed of owning one some day. I worked and saved since I was 12 years old to buy my first Porsche. I owned a few cars since I turned 16 which I fixed up and turned for profits to get closer to my dream. I traded my car out on weekends in able to drive a friend's Porsche 356.

*Since the first time I was behind the steering wheel of a Porsche in the 1960's, I have not looked back and have owned over 50 cars under Porsche's marque, my first being a few-years-old 1967 911S. Going through college I bought and restored Porsches to get myself through school and have never stopped driving them. To this day I still can remember where every tiny part belongs in the process of a Porsche restoration or service. John Calicchio and I met in the 1970's and reunited to bring you a unique place for your dreams to also come true. At EuroMasters Classic Cars my dreams as a small kid have been realized living everyday surrounded by Porsches. I guess that's why my card just reads **Porsche Specialist.**" Don is also a current OCR Member since 1999!*

And so we had another enjoyable morning learning about EuroMasters and how we can benefit from their services. Knowing that EuroMasters is one of our newest advertisers in our Pandemonium, some OCR members have already taken advantage of their services. Some have had their Porsches serviced there (20% off for PCA members!) while others have actually put their Porsches on consignment with EuroMasters. And on November 15, 2008 they had their official Grand Opening with food, drink, and live entertainment. It was a spectacular first-class red carpet affair and everyone in attendance had a very enjoyable time to say the least.

EuroMasters! Check them out at www.euromasterscc.com - And as Don Andreasen says:

"Through these doors dreams come true"