



(Above) One of the warehouses at the Beverly Hills Car Club was mostly filled with Porsches of every vintage. (Below) Three generations of air-cooled RSs.

# Everyone Should Go to The Los Angeles Lit Show

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GARY KOPPANG



**O**n the last Saturday morning in February for the last 41 years the LA Lit & Memorabilia Show has been drawing attendees from around the world. Some came to sell their wares, others to buy, and still others just to take it all in. The entire event focuses on air-cooled cars, 356s and early 911s with the occasional 914 thrown in.

Imagine getting to meet people you have been reading about, many for nearly 50 years. If you go early you'll get to see famous Porsche people like Magnus Walker of Urban Outlaws and YouTube fame; Rod Emory from Emory Motorsports (formerly of McMinnville) who carries on a family tradition of modifying 356s; Vic Skirmants of 356 Enterprises and a long-time 356 racer and parts supplier.

Jeff Zwart, Porsche ad director and photographer, had a booth where he was selling clothing and a book of his photos from the back of the *Panorama*. (He'd also autograph the book.) Also on hand was John Willhoit of Willhoit Restorations. He and his crew

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*(Above) No Porsche auto show would be complete without a 959. This one in pearlescent white really sparkles in the sunlight at the Sierra Madre Collection.*

*(Below) From the weird to the wacky to the wonderful. No matter what your taste Beverly Hills Car Club has what you want. Here is a 1957 BMW Isetta 300, a 1960 Messerschmitt KR 200 and a beautiful De Tomaso Mangusta.*



do a fantastic job of restoring 356s. Oh, let's not forget Steve Miller, past President of Oregon Region who came with his son, Scott. All of these guys were very personable and down to earth.

The show only lasts about four hours with things opening at 8 am for the early birds (They pay a bit more for the privilege) and at 9 for the masses. There are about 300 booths selling everything from old, worn

or new parts, to books and clothing to vintage auto posters big enough to cover a garage wall.

Vendors come from all parts of the globe and hundreds of people throng the two ballrooms. The show wraps up by noon. My wife said that the energy and enthusiasm in the room were palpable and I have to agree.

My recommendation is to go early and take the bus tours on Thursday and Friday. The bus stops at 5 or 6 different Porsche-oriented shops each day. It is well worth letting



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someone else drive you around unless you are familiar with LA traffic. Thursday started with a visit to the Sierra Madre Collection which is set in the beautiful Eagle Rock neighborhood. While they sell parts, the car show outside was more impressive with 356 speedsters next to 911R tributes. Theresa said “I could live here,” so it was a very nice, quiet area.

The second stop was at the Beverly Hills Car Club and the joke goes “it’s neither in Beverly Hills nor is it a car club.” But what they do have is four or five warehouses full of all types of cars for sale. One warehouse is mostly filled with Porsches of every vintage.

Friday’s tours included a stop at Rennwerkstatt (meaning “race work station”) which provides consulting on purchasing and optioning your new Porsche. They will also source cars for you. The second stop was at Willhoit Restoration.

They also offer bus tours on Saturday after the show and again on Sunday morning. A Saturday stop at Gorit FLATSIX which is known for building air-cooled engines, had a rare sighting of three generations of RSs.

Sunday’s tour was to a Porsche swap meet held at EMPI in Anaheim. There was plenty to do and see in four days in LA. So get out of the February rain. Everyone should go to the LA Lit Show.. ■



*I'm also a sucker for older cars like this lovely 1937 Cord 810 Westchester coupe.*



*Have you got an extra \$175k gathering dust in your desk? You can purchase this Furhmann 692 4 cam from Willhoit.*



*Or for a few bucks more you can buy the complete 356 Carrera 2. It's only \$425,000.*