

Vintage Underground

BY JOHN CLEMON | PHOTOS BY MANDY ASHCROFT,
TIM ASHCROFT AND HARRY DANBERG



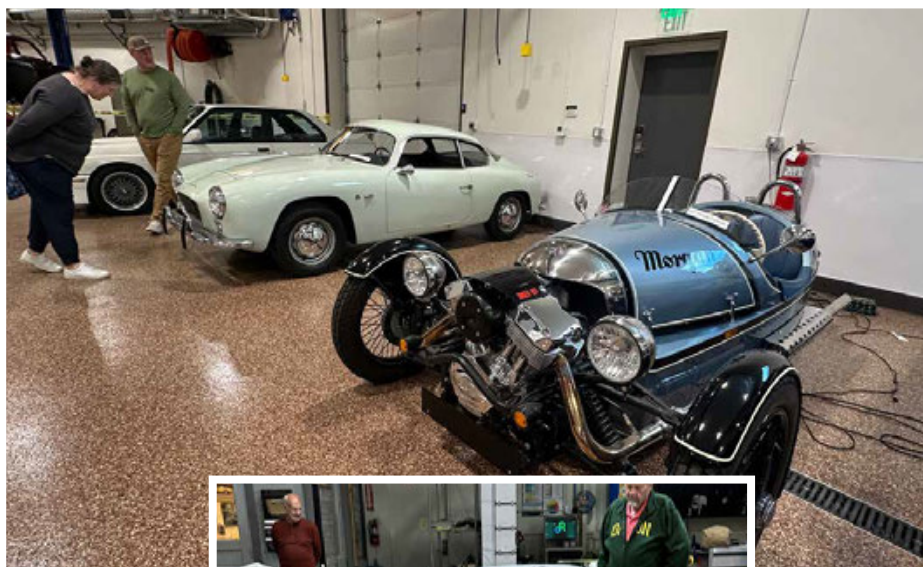
From left to right: Sue Counselman, Amy Haugland, Alex Haugland, Mandy Ashcroft, Tim Ashcroft

On April 12th, 30 Porschephiles drove to Eugene to the Vintage Underground restoration shop.

There we were greeted by Sue Counselman, Business Development; Trent Liles, Shop Manager; Bill Ryan, Mechanical Shop Manager; Emily Morris, Project Coordinator; Kai Potter, Project Manager; and Alex Haugland, co-owner. At each shop we were greeted by knowledgeable Vintage Underground (VU) crew. VU has three main facilities at separate locations in Eugene.

Their main shop includes a body and paint section and a mechanic's section. Another shop featured sheet metal fabrication. A third shop is the upholstery department and main showroom.

We were allowed to tour the facilities at our leisure. Spied in the body shop was a Lancia Zagato, a Fiat-Abarth and the paint booth is located here as well. Across the wall is the mechanic's shop. Cars observed in various states of assembly included a replica Healy 100S, several XKE's, two Ferraris, a Glas, a C type Jag





and others. VU has a full-service area and fabrication equipment where they make parts that are no longer available.

The group then went for a tour of the metal fabrication shop where the company fabricates its own wooden bucks to make one off body panels for their restorations. Incidentally, this is the same shop that does the electrification of XKE's and Minis, although due to safety concerns, this was off limits to our tour.

The metal shop was phenomenal where the crew can fabricate complete body section components including fenders, quarter panels and more.

Following the tour of the metal shop, the group departed to the upholstery shop and Vintage Underground's show room on 11th street where we were greeted by Alex Joersz, Upholstery Manager. Alex discussed his background and what all the shop was working on including a '64 Thunderbird, a mid-sixties Ford truck, an Alfa Romeo Berlina, a Mini Cooper S, and many other cars.

The group had a nice lunch at Forresters Bar & Grill and then departed for a tour of The Haugland



911 Turbo on turntable



Collection, hosted by Alex and Amy Haugland. Alex and Amy opened up a quarter of their collection for our tour in their main building. We were greeted with two of his recent purchases, the first road Maserati and an Alvis convertible, with a 911 turbo on their turntable!

With over 50 cars to view from virtually every manufacturer and country represented, we were all spoilt for choice and picked our favorites. Alex

was happy to share stories of each car as to why he bought it, when he bought it and all the interesting facts surrounding it. We observed a 1961 356 roadster, and a 1964 C Coupe, along with various British and Italian eclectic vehicles.

It was a beautiful, fair-weather day and a good time was had by all. Some of us even imbibed at the local chocolate store with ice cream dipped in Kona coffee! Looking forward to our next visit! ■