

## **LYON AIR MUSEUM TO HOST PORSCHE 356 'CARS & COCKPITS DAY' SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011**

### ***CLASSICS 356s – PORSCHE'S FIRST PRODUCTION AUTOMOBILES 1948-1965***

SANTA ANA, Calif., March 18, 2011—Lyon Air Museum, a premier Southern California showcase for vintage military aircraft and automobiles, is scheduled to host dozens of rare Porsche 356 sports cars as part of “Cars & Cockpits Day,” scheduled for Sun., April 3, 2011, from 10 a.m. to noon at the facility, located on the west side of the runway at John Wayne Airport in Orange County. (NOTE: Weather permitting).

The classic Porsche 356 vehicles will be driven by members of The 356 Club of Southern California. Based in Costa Mesa, the club is the world's largest regional 356 club, with more than 1,000 current members and growing. The Club has attracted members from throughout the U.S., Canada and countries around the world. Owners will be bringing in their 356 cars from across the western U.S. Various types of the Porsche 356 automobiles will be on display, including the Speedster, T-5, Pre-A, Convertible D, Carrera 2, SC, Roadster, 356 B, T-6, S-90, Cabriolet, GT Coupe and Continental.

Gourmet food trucks will also be stationed at the Museum ready to serve hot refreshments.

“This special event has a definite excitement factor because it presents Museum visitors with an exceptional opportunity to view some of the rare Porsche 356 sports cars in pristine condition,” said Mark Foster, president of Lyon Air Museum.

356 Club President Jim Liberty will be showing his 1952 Pre-A “body bumper” 356 (early bumpers appeared to be attached to the body, but were in fact removable).

“Production of these Pre-A cars totaled 750 vehicles, so this is one of the few surviving models,” said Liberty.

Porsche SE is a German automotive manufacturer of luxury high performance automobiles. The Porsche 356, the company's first production automobile, was a lightweight and easy-to-handle rear-engine, rear-wheel-drive, two-door sports car available in hardtop and convertible configurations. Production started in 1948 at Gmünd, Austria, where approximately 50 cars were built. In 1950, the factory relocated to Zuffenhausen, Germany, and general production of the 356 continued until April 1965. A total of 76,000 of the limited production vehicles were made and it is estimated that approximately half of these still survive.

Design innovations to the 356 that continued during the car's years of manufacture contributed to its motorsports success and popularity among consumers. In 2004, Sports Car International ranked the 356C tenth on their list of Top Sports Cars of the 1960s. Today, the Porsche 356 is a highly regarded collector's item. The Porsche 356 Carrera (with its special four-cam racing engine), the Super 90 and the Speedster are today among the most desirable 356 models.

According to Autozeitung magazine, a new generation of Porsche 356 will be produced in 2013.

The 30,000-sq.ft. Lyon Air Museum opened in Dec. 2009. The facility represents the fulfillment of a dream of Maj. Gen. William Lyon, USAF (Ret), who held the position of Chief of the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1975 to 1979. Currently, Gen. Lyon is Chairman of the Board and CEO of William Lyon Homes, Inc., Newport Beach, Calif. His passion for aviation history and youth education is the driving force behind Lyon Air Museum. In establishing the Museum, Gen. Lyon sought to create a world-class facility that would be available to the local community and would offer educational exhibits designed to inspire young people. The Museum has on exhibit some of the world's rarest operational aircraft and vehicles.

Lyon Air Museum is located at 19300 Ike Jones Road, Santa Ana, CA 92707. P: 714/210-4585. F: 714/210-4588. Email: [info@lyonairmuseum.org](mailto:info@lyonairmuseum.org). Web: [www.lyonairmuseum.org](http://www.lyonairmuseum.org).

Hours of operation are daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission rates: General admission--\$8; Seniors and Veterans--\$6; Ages 5-17--\$4; Under age 5—Free. Groups of 10 or more--\$1 off each visitor. Pre-arranged school groups—Free.