



10 Questions With...

Porsche Featured Marque Chairman Mike O'Krongly

1. What is your history/experience with Porsche?

When I saw a picture of a 911 for the first time in grade school, I vowed I would own one and bought my first Porsche, which I still own, in 1978. I have organized many Porsche Club of America regional events and was fortunate enough to be the Concours d' Elegance Chairman for the national event held at Veterans Park in Milwaukee in 2001.

2. Why was Porsche chosen as one of 2011's Featured Marques?

Leon Flagg has become a friend of mine and I think he simply got sick of me asking to make Porsche the Featured Marque every year.

3. Explain what makes Porsche unique.

Porsche has a remarkable racing history based on engineering that is renowned worldwide. The cars are known for reliability on and off the track. The styling is timeless and unlike other automobile design whims, you can still see the original 911 concept almost 50 years later in the newest of today's Porsches.

4. How will Porsche be represented as one of this year's Featured Marque?

We are fortunate to have many first-time participants that will be displaying some amazing cars. The objective is to not only show the beautiful early Porsches, but take a little liberty with the entry requirements to create a living history of iconic cars regardless of age. Bob Tenges has been instrumental in identifying wonderful early 911 Porsches through his Masterpiece Preservation Class and Tom Speigel has found some great entrants due to his active involvement with the Masterpiece, PCA and 365 Owners Club. Thanks, guys!

5. Are there any historically significant examples coming to The Milwaukee Masterpiece?

I am always enamored by 356's and Speedsters which will be here in full force. Fred Stratton's 356 Carrera 4 Cam will be here for the first time and that is pretty close to the Holy Grail. I tapped some old fiends for their cars and we will have everything from a very old 911 to a 914 to a national award winning 924; yes, a 924. It is iconic and the best example this side of the Porsche Museum. Tom Grunnah is bringing a purpose-built 356 rally car and his Porsche tractor; yes, a tractor. Buckle up, this will be so cool!

6. How has Porsche changed automotive history?

If you really want to know, either read the book by Karl Ludvigsen; over 1,000 pages chronicling the amazing history of a car company started in a sawmill in Gmund, Austria look at the expression on the face of anyone driving a Porsche while in the left lane.

7. Where did your interest in classic cars begin?

My first love is Porsche, but I can find desirability in almost any well prepared car. In most cases, classic cars are an extension of a person's passion for life. Each car, whether at the Masterpiece, Pebble Beach or tucked away in a garage and only occasionally driven on sunny days represents not only an investment but a dream, a love and an accomplishment only enthusiasts know.



8. How did you become involved with The Milwaukee Masterpiece?

Another friend and amazing car guy, Chief Judge John Ling called me a few years ago to see if I was interested in judging at the Masterpiece. It took all of a few seconds to say yes and the rest is history.

9. Which cars are in your current collection?

I have a leaf green 1973 911T Targa with S trim that has won several awards at national Porsche Club of America Parades. I also have two 911 race cars being prepared for club racing. One is a RUF tub.

10. If you could describe the Masterpiece in one word, what would it be?

Excellence