

John Clinard Bio (11/2009)

John Clinard is a lifelong student and enthusiast of automobiles. Surrounded from his youth by neighborhood and family car collectors in his native North Carolina, John gained hands-on experience across a wide variety of American and European classics by age 20. At age 21, he took up SCCA racing in Formula Vee, H Production and Formula Ford and, years later, enjoyed a season of vintage racing with a Lotus 23B. To no one's surprise, he chose a profession in the auto industry, joining Ford Motor Company the day he finished college in 1972. That was also the year he married his equally-enthusiastic wife, Linda, attending a racing drivers' school on their honeymoon.

His career with Ford has spanned positions in marketing, product planning, motorsport and public relations, and has included roles in management of Formula One, TransAm and IMSA racing as well as production car projects including the De Tomaso Pantera, the Mustang SVO, the AC Mk IV and the 2005/6 Ford GT supercar. He is presently Western Regional Manager for Ford Public Affairs in Irvine, California.

Additionally, John confesses to being "an avocational automotive historian." His work has been published in magazines including *Road & Track*, *Car and Driver*, and *European Car* and he has appeared in SpeedTV, History Channel and Fine Living Network programs on automotive subjects.

John has owned and restored a continuing array of European sports cars and has served as an honorary and class judge in numerous concours d'elegance events nationwide. Also active behind the scenes, he currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.