



The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

www.PCSNortheast.com

Fourth Quarter 2014

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From the Editor

As we are approaching the end of another year, it is only natural to reflect on the year 2014. We certainly had beautiful weather, which encouraged many of us to attend and participate in events, car shows, parades, picnics and the like.

It was a sad year too, we said good bye to a couple of good friends, Leo Maren and Fred Feiser, both long time members of The PCS, they are both sorely missed.

This is an excellent time to ponder 2015 and the events it will bring. Will you restore a car? Will you be buying a vintage car, hopefully a professional car? Maybe you are thinking of getting more involved in the club, or in the hobby? Is this the year you become an officer in the club, or chair a committee? Let's make 2015 a good and successful year for everyone.

This edition of The Criterion is packed with pictures and articles, I certainly hope you will enjoy them. Please remember that we always need your literary contributions, photos, news of upcoming shows and events, etc. There is always room for you in The Criterion.

Bill Marcy

SEASONS GREETINGS!

To all of our Northeast Chapter members, please have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Stay warm, stay safe, may you have all of the joys of the holidays and let's make 2015 a fantastic year for everybody!

Northeast Chapter News

At our November Northeast Chapter meeting, there were nominations and the election of club officers. Congratulations to the winners!

Daniel McCann President

Fred Goerlitz Vice-President

Mary Hookway Secretary

Jeffrey Hookway Treasurer/Membership Director

There was discussions of membership dues, which will stay at \$15.

There was discussion on the Peddlers Village Lahaska Car Show. It was decided that we will not host a show in 2015.

The upcoming Gettysburg Meet in 2016 was discussed at length. Please read more about the plans so far, in this edition.

BEAR MOUNTAIN INN LUNCH/BRUNCH MARCH 29, 2015

The Northeast Chapter will gather at the beautiful Bear Mountain Inn for a lunch/ brunch on Sunday March 29, 2015 at 12:00 Noon. We will meet in the lobby and we will proceed to Restaurant 19/15 for a delicious meal. The Bear Mountain in has recently undergone a facelift, so everything is fresh and vibrant, while retaining it's charm. There is a roaring fireplace to enjoy, gather and socialize in front of, if we so desire.

The prices are not too expensive, but it isn't Wendy's either. We will request separate checks, so that everyone can order as much, or as little as they like. And be prepared, as there is an \$8 charge to enter and park your car.

In addition, for anyone interested, we may either tour the park, if weather permits, it is beautiful and tranquil place. There are trails to walk and exhibits and a zoo to see. We can also go up the road about five miles, to tour The West Point Museum. The museum has some interesting artifacts on display. And in case this is not enough, there is a possible tour of Fort Montgomery, just a few minutes ride from the Bear Mountain Inn.

Please RSVP to bmarcy@optonline.net for purposes of a head count. Should the weather be questionable that day, please call my cell phone at 201 954 3159 after 9:00 AM for a message.

Please plan to join us! It will be a nice way to break the long, cold days of Winter

GETTYSBURG MEET COMMITTEE

As you may know, our Northeast Chapter, along with the Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Henney Chapters, will be hosting the International Meet in Gettysburg, Pa from August 15 through August 20, 2016. We are celebrating the 40TH Anniversary of the Professional Car Society in historic Gettysburg! This promises to be a really big Meet.

We have already secured our host hotel, The Wyndham Gettysburg, which is already showing us a very warm reception. To date, there have been several Meet Committee meetings, to plan our events for the week. Here is a short list of our planned events, so far, but there will be more!

Monday A possible tour of one, or two local funeral homes.

Tuesday A bus tour to The Fallen Firefighters Museum.

Wednesday A bus tour of the Gettysburg Battlefields and surrounding area.

Thursday A bus tour to The AACA Museum, in Hershey with lunch.

Friday A bus tour of The Eisenhower Farm.

Saturday The Field of Dreams Concours, Banquet and Light & Sound Show.

Please mark your calendar now! We would like to have as many members participate and enjoy this Meet, as possible. We would also like to see as many professional cars on display, regardless of their condition, as possible. We have set a goal for this to be the biggest PCS International Meet so far!

You are cordially invited to participate in our Meet Planning Meetings. We will only be able to make this Meet a success, if we have your input, your help and enthusiasm and your participation.

John Ehmer Meet Chair 412 969 7240

Bill Marcy Meet Co-Chair 201 342 4871

GOOD & WELFARE DEPARTMENT

I am happy to report that Northeast Chapter member Peter Grave, is recovering very nicely, after having a double hip replacement on November 10.

He is up walking around and in good spirits. I bet the next time we see Pete at a chapter event, we won't even recognize him. It is nice to hear some good news!

On Saturday, October 11th the Northeast Chapter displayed cars at the New Jersey State First Aid Council's Annual Meeting and Education Symposium in Somerset, NJ. Rich Litton contacted all of the squads in the state with professional car ambulances and invited them to participate.

PCS Members in attendance were Paul Vickery with his 1956 Miller Cadillac Ambulance, Rich Litton with his 1965 Superior Pontiac, Jeff and Mary Hookway and Dan McCann. I had my 1976 Superior Cadillac.

We were joined by the Liberty Corner First Aid Squad's 1972 Superior Cadillac, the Washington Emergency Squad's 1972 S&S and the Arbor Rescue Squad's 1976 Miller-Meteor. Thanks to Fred Miller (Liberty Corner), Charlie VanDeursen (Washington) and Joe Rosenberg (Arbor) for bringing the squad vehicles.



NON-PROFESSIONAL CAR INTERESTS

In an ongoing search for articles and items that might interest our members, we are trying something just a little different. The idea came from Mary and Jeffrey Hookway, who thought we might kindle the human interest side of our members. I sure hope that our members will enjoy seeing and reading about how some of our Northeast Chapter members enjoy themselves when they are not otherwise playing with their big toys. It is our hope, that you will also participate by submitting a picture, or two and a short article on one of your hobbies, passions, or interests. And yes, this is for the ladies, too!

As always, I look forward to your thoughts and concerns. Best regards, Bill Marcy

Pets: The day we closed on our house we didn't have high hopes for the koi in the "fish pond/water feature," since the house had sat empty for three months. We learned how resilient koi are; we could see several dozen fish in the murky water that day. After a change of pond water we counted more than 70 fish. Most are four to six inch size. They winter-over in the pond. It's nice to come home, throw them some food, and watch them almost come up onto the rocks to get it. We're glad to have these pretty, low-maintenance pets.

Collectables: From my little pro car non-vehicle collection. Mary and I frequent "garage sales" from time to time. I missed these glasses, and Mary's sharp eyes found. I do not know anything about Spotswood Ambulance Squad; a quick Google search did not find a squad that started in 1941.



ITEMS FOR SALE

The Northeast Chapter club store has numerous items for sale. Please take a look at the list of items and see if there is anything you need.

Fire Extinguisher/Wine bags \$3.00

2008 PCS International Meet T-Shirts (Med, XL, 2XL, 3XL) \$8.00

Old Chapter Patches (1975 M-M Cadillac Criterion) \$5.00

Henney Patches \$5.00

Lahaska Dash Plaques (magnetic) \$2.00

2010 Lahaska (two 1954 Studebaker Ambulances)

2011 Lahaska (1986 Pontiac Eagle Hearse)

2012 Lahaska (1942 Cadillac Formal Sedan Limousine)

2008 International Meet Dash Plaque \$2.00

All prices include shipping. Pictures of all items are on the Northeast Chapters website:

www.pcsnortheast.com

A TALE OF TWO PONTIACS

In recent weeks, there has been an unusual event within the Northeast Chapter. To be specific, it is the arrival of not one, but two Superior Pontiac ambulances. One is a 1956 Superior Pontiac ambulance, recently purchased in Northern California, by Northeast Chapter member Mike McDonald. The other is a 1968 Superior Pontiac ambulance, purchased by your editor.

Not so unusual for Mike, or me to buy another professional car, because we have both owned many, over the years. But as a long time Pontiac admirer and seldom seeing Pontiac professional cars among us, I thought it was very unusual to have two of them come into our Northeast Chapter.

The things that these ambulances have in common, is that while not abused, they have both suffered many years of inactivity, neither was running and they both require a full restoration. I am excited and I hope you are too. Mike will tell his story and I will tell mine.

1968 SUPERIOR PONTIAC AMBULANCE

by Bill Marcy

It all started early on a September morning, before I left for work. I always check the PCS Message Board to see what is going on, before I leave the house. As a part of my morning ritual, I see if there are any professional cars for sale, that might be of interest to me. And I found it that morning!

A PCS member named Tom Leitherer from Downers Grove, Illinois, was offering this 1968 Superior Pontiac ambulance in turquoise and white and although the ad stated a non-running car, in need of refurbishing, I was in love. Even Lucille liked what she saw in the picture.

Needless to say, I called the seller and we started talking. Truthfully, I badly wanted this car. About a week later, we finally reached a price that we could both live with and the fun began. The ambulance was delivered and we pushed it off of the trailer, with hopes of getting it running, but we have done nothing to date.

The ambulance started out being owned and operated by Western Lane Hospital located in Florence, Oregon. At that time, it was a green color. Then it was used by Lowell Fire Prevention in Lowell, Oregon. It seems the fire department had it painted orange and white. Then it served as an ambulance at an unknown racetrack in Oregon, where it was painted yet again, this time to the turquoise and white it currently wears.

As some of you may know, a Superior high top ambulance of the Sixties, has long been a dream of mine. The fact that it is a Pontiac is just the icing on the cake for me! I am anxious to get my “new” ambulance running and roadworthy, in time to bring it out to some local shows, fire musters and cruise nights next year. And as the situation permits, hopefully it will be brought back to it’s original glory one day.



1956 SUPERIOR PONTIAC AMBULANCE

by Mike McDonald Edited by Bill Marcy

Over the past year, or so, there was a certain yellow 1956 Superior Pontiac ambulance listed For Sale on craigslist and posted on the Message Board, by a fellow PCS member. Originally priced at \$5000 and it did not run and was in need of a restoration, it did not seem like a bargain.

However, a few months ago, it was reposted at a significantly reduced price. Now we were paying attention. So, after contacting the seller, we made arrangements to go up and see this faded ambulance. Just finding it was an adventure all by itself. It was one of those, just turn right at the brown cow deals. When we saw the ambulance, it was a good solid car, not running and needing restoration. So, we start talking price and he says that he can't possibly sell it for his asking price. What? Need- less to say, we made an agreement, I paid him and got the title. A few days later, the ambulance was picked up and delivered to me.

Its history (that we have been able to verify, is that it was last in service from 1967 thru 1970 as a large construction site standby ambulance for the Perini Corp (NY) who built the Oroville Dam in in Yuba County (CA) Northeast of Sacramento, part of the Feather River Project. This huge, time sensitive project was a consortium of large national construction companies known as "Perini-Yuba Associates" that employed over 3,000 workers and continuously poured over 200,000 CY's of concrete in one phase of the project alone.

The closest hospital at the time was over 45 miles away via narrow two lane canyon roads and long before helicopters were ever used to medi-vac patients. After the job was completed it was sold at public auction circa 1971 to the private party in Yuba City. Years later that person traded it for a set of new tires to the person we bought it from who at the time owned a tire shop in Yuda City. When he retired and moved his family to Victorville about 10 years ago, he trailered it down with his other possessions. (NOTHING) has been done to it since it was last in service and is still painted (a very faded) CAT yellow with it's original stretcher in the back, still displaying it's Perini Corp. decals and equipment numbers. We will be completely restoring it back to it's last "in-service" look (painted CAT Yellow with Perini Decals) as nothing is known about it's original origins. The only significant items missing are it's original (Red Glass Lensed) S&M Oval lights for the front tunnels and a mechanical siren. I tried one S&M we have in stock, and it fits perfectly including the chrome retainer. I will probably have it finished by early in the Summer of 2015.



THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Northeast Chapter

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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FOR SALE

1982 Cadillac Flower Car with hydraulic flower deck and rear opening door. This car presents well, although it has cosmetic flaws. The chrome and stainless are clean, the car is extremely solid and it runs and drives very well. You just don't see this type of flower car very often. It will be a real prize to own. Pictures on request. Asking Price \$8900, but the owner is open to offers. Call Bill at 201 954 3159.

