



# The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

[www.PCSNortheast.com](http://www.PCSNortheast.com)

**Second Quarter 2019**

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## President's Message

by Fred Goerlitz

I hope this message finds that everyone had an enjoyable summer. Our next two chapter events will be the Shook Funeral Home Car Show on September 15 in Clifton, NJ, and EMS Council of NJ Convention on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel in Parsippany, NJ. Rich Litton has already started to contact some of the squads to bring their antiques to this event which coincides with their annual convention and trade show.

For those of you who did not attend the International Meet in South Dakota you missed a very good event. The Northeast Chapter was represented by several chapter members. The list of upcoming International Meets is as follows: 2020 in Latham, New York (Albany area), 2021 in Warren, Ohio (eastern side of the state) and a very tentative 2022 in the Lima/Cincinnati area (in western Ohio). The New York meet will be detailed in depth in an upcoming issue of The Professional Car.

At the Board of Directors' meeting in Rapid City the board heard a proposal to allow truck-based ambulances and hearses to be included in judging at PCS meets. The board will revisit this issue at the Winter Board meeting in Flint, Michigan and the membership will vote on the proposed changes in the future. Please express your opinions to either myself or Jeff Hookway via email prior to the February Board meeting.

*Fred*

## 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Motor Madness

by Gregg Merksamer

PCS Northeast Chapter members proudly participated in the 25th anniversary Memorial Motor Madness car show staged on Sunday, May 26th, 2019 at Mars Chocolate North America's headquarters in Hackettstown, NJ, which also happens to be the hometown of Chapter President Fred Goerlitz and his wife Tracy. Convenient proximity to the Interstate 80 corridor ensured this "Garden State Hershey" attracted numerous Long Island and Pennsylvania entrants and an estimated 3,500-5,000 spectators, ensuring the sponsoring Hackettstown Rotary Club/Foundation would be making substantial post-event donations to area food banks and domestic abuse programs plus the cancer ward at Hackettstown Medical Center.

Fred's 1976 Superior Cadillac "54" high-top ambulance (Chapter VP Jenn Morin served as co-pilot) and the 1966 Superior Cadillac Royale Rescuer ambulance brought from Lafayette, NJ by Jeff & Mary Hookway turned their share of heads in side-by-side display spaces supervised by the giant M&M statues marking the entrance to Mars Chocolate's administrative offices, while PCS Publicity Chair Gregg D. Merksamer's Pale Jade 1978 Ford LTD four-door pillared hardtop touted 35,421 original miles on another section of the show field. All told more than 500 vehicles spanning the historic spectrum from Century-old brass to contemporary carbon fiber had joined the PCS member cars on exhibit by the noontime playing of "The Star Spangled Banner," which was followed by an equally memorable firing of the entered muscle car engines to The Beach Boys' "409" that was probably as ear-splitting as Fort McHenry's 1814 bombardment must have been!



*Fred & Tracy Goerlitz's 1976 Superior 54-inch headroom high-top has a Federal TwinSonic light bar, while Jeff & Mary Hookway's 1966 Superior 51-inch Rescuer ironically employs Mars Beacons including a rooftop Aurora Borealis and fender-mounted 888s whose lenses wobble to clear the way.*

## Ambulance Trains

by Jeff Hookway

Ambulance trains were first used during the First World War in France and Belgium to transport wounded or sick soldiers to hospital. Ambulance trains were also called "first-aid trains", "hospital trains", "casualty evacuation trains" or "travelling hospitals". They were specifically designed so that nurses of the Red Cross and the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) and army medical officer doctors and orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) could continue the care of evacuated soldiers. As can be seen in the drawing below, the interior of the ambulance train would be fitted with beds down each side to maximize the number of wounded that could be transported.



Interior of No. 23 British Ambulance Train which entered service in France on 3rd March, 1916 showing one of the Ward Cars of the Ambulance Train, constructed by The Caledonian Railway Company, on the order of the War Office, for conveyance of Wounded British Soldiers in France from the Front to the Seaboard. The wounded were transported to Calais for transfer to a Hospital Ship bound for England.



## In Case You Missed It...

by Gregg Merksamer

The "Auction News" section of HEMMINGS CLASSIC CAR's August, 2019 issue reported that RM Sotheby's Fort Lauderdale Auction found a new home at \$41,800 for a deep blue 1953 Henney Packard Corporate Executive Sedan that was shown at several PCS Northeast Chapter-sponsored Lahaska Meets by Huntingdon, PA Chapter Member Mike Satterthwaite. Though Mike had spiffed up the car's exterior with wire wheels and wide whitewall tires by the time many of us got to admire it, it was one of six originally built to U.S. government order as a Secret Service "stripper" escort vehicle with no radio nor power assistance for the steering, brakes or windows and a column-mounted three-speed manual in place of the more commonly seen Ultramatic.

## Message from the Northeast Chapter Membership Chairman

If you haven't paid your 2019 Northeast Chapter membership dues, this is the last issue of *The Criterion* newsletter that you'll receive.

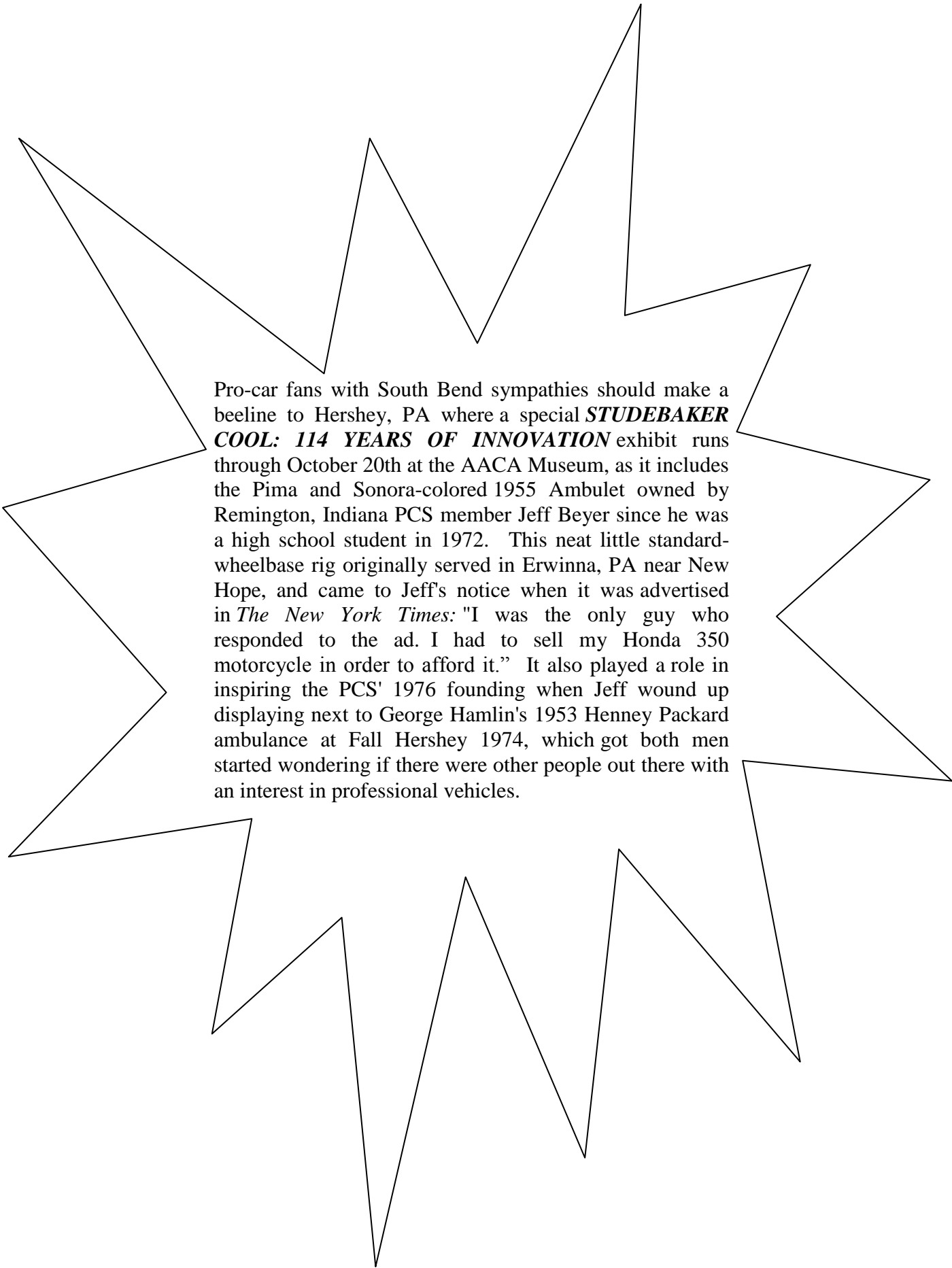
Please send your check for \$15, payable to PCS Northeast Chapter, to the address below. Thank you.

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## Congratulations!

The PCS Northeast Chapter was pleased to sponsor the Medic's Choice Award at the 2019 PCS International Meet. The winner was a 1974 Miller-Meteor Cadillac Criterion owned by Leo Branstetter of Denver, Colorado. Congratulations, Leo!





Pro-car fans with South Bend sympathies should make a beeline to Hershey, PA where a special **STUDEBAKER COOL: 114 YEARS OF INNOVATION** exhibit runs through October 20th at the AACA Museum, as it includes the Pima and Sonora-colored 1955 Ambulet owned by Remington, Indiana PCS member Jeff Beyer since he was a high school student in 1972. This neat little standard-wheelbase rig originally served in Erwinna, PA near New Hope, and came to Jeff's notice when it was advertised in *The New York Times*: "I was the only guy who responded to the ad. I had to sell my Honda 350 motorcycle in order to afford it." It also played a role in inspiring the PCS' 1976 founding when Jeff wound up displaying next to George Hamlin's 1953 Henney Packard ambulance at Fall Hershey 1974, which got both men started wondering if there were other people out there with an interest in professional vehicles.

## Upcoming Events

**August 30-September 16, 2019:** The Lincoln Highway Military Convoy Centennial Tour. For more info visit:

<https://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/tour/2019/>

**September 15, 2019:** The Shook Funeral Home Car Show at the Van Houten Avenue Street Fair, Clifton, NJ. 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. For more info contact: Roy Garretson (973) 951-7757

**October 6, 2019:** Gold Coast Cadillac at 2123 Hwy 35 in Oakhurst, NJ will host its 10th annual Raritan River Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club Show from 9 am to 3 pm. All makes are welcome with non-Cadillacs being peer judged. PCS Northeast Chapter members desiring further info can e-mail [doug.lansing@verizon.net](mailto:doug.lansing@verizon.net) or visit [www.rrrclc.org](http://www.rrrclc.org).

**October 12, 2019:** Northeast Chapter at EMS Council Annual Convention at the Sheraton in Parsippany. For more info contact: Fred Goerlitz

**October 22-26, 2019:** The Cadillac & LaSalle Club's 2019 National Driving Tour at the Wyndham Gettysburg. For more info visit:

[https://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org/m/event\\_details.asp?id=1008245](https://www.cadillaclasalleclub.org/m/event_details.asp?id=1008245)

**CALLING ALL CARS!  
CALLING ALL CARS!**



**to the SHOOK FUNERAL HOME CAR SHOW**

at the Van Houten Avenue Street Fair



**sunday  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**sign-in/registration begins at 8:00 AM**

pre-register to save! \$15 per car or \$20 day of show  
all checks can be made payable to: Shook Funeral Home



for questions or to register:  
email: [shookfuneralhome@aol.com](mailto:shookfuneralhome@aol.com) or  
call: (973) 471-9620 and ask for Roy

**All proceeds will be donated  
to Saint Peter's Haven of  
Clifton! Don't miss the street  
vendors, food, petting zoo,  
pony rides, live entertainment  
and music!**





# THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Northeast Chapter

639 Van Houten Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey 07013

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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