



The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

www.PCSNortheast.com

Second Quarter 2015

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Editor's Message
by Bill Marcy

Summer will soon be here, after a brutal Winter. Hopefully you will enjoy the coming days, driving and showing off your professional car to many admirers. If you have been putting off getting your professional car on the road, now is a good time.

Take advantage of any opportunity you may get to display, your car and enlighten people about it;s history/ pt's coach builder, it's low production numbers and relatively low survival rates. People become interested and may even gain some enthusiasm for our cars.

In this edition, we have an introduction to a brand new member and his cars. We have some member news, some good and some sad. And best of all, we have an invitation to a very special event.

I sure hope you enjoy this edition of The Criterion!

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SHOW!!

Northeast Chapter member Roy Garretson is hosting the Third Annual Shook Funeral Home Car Show. It would be really nice, if you can possibly attend this excellent charity car show, Roy and his family have graciously hosted our chapter meetings, several times and quite honestly, they have given us the royal treatment. This show raises money for a charity that is very near to the Garretson family's hearts. So please, let's show our support for a Northeast Chapter member and a worthwhile cause. You will really enjoy the day, there is food, music and lots of spectators too!

A Special Limousine

Story and photos by Gregg D. Merksamer

This past weekend (May 30th-31st, 2015), I went to Connecticut to serve as one of the official photographers for the 20th Annual Greenwich Concours d'Elegance. Having attended the event every year since its 1996 inception, I can vouch that truly unusual cars can always be counted on at this venue, especially in the case of Sunday's import-focused Concours International.

I was nonetheless completely stunned and captivated by this year's appearance of a Soviet-made 1985 ZIL 41045 limousine shown by Vinnie Baksht, a Moscow emigre (actually named Vitaly) who's a partner in a New Jersey Chevrolet dealership. As this hand-made Politburo Rolls is almost certainly the only one in the U.S. out of ten-or-so in private hands worldwide, he was inevitably coy about how he obtained it about a year ago. "I've got connections" and "it was put out for sale through certain people" was all he offered, while a Ukrainian friend of mine who showed his Zhiguli at last year's Greenwich Concours (y'all might know this beefed-up Fiat 124 design better by the Lada name used for Western European and Canadian sales) observed perceptibly "all cars like this are like that."

Comrade Baksht was, on the other hand, thankfully generous in detailing the awe-inspiring technical specification of his ZIL, which measured 6.3 meters in overall length (roughly 248 inches) and was the last version of this iconically-blocky body style to employ circular headlights (with their own wipers!) before rectangular Bosch units freshened the front end. Even without full armor this is a three-and-a-half ton behemoth with doors like bank vaults, touting two brake calipers for each wheel and 245/70 4x4 Michelin blackwall tires with a weight rating of 2,149 pounds per-corner! I was hardly surprised to hear a \$100 bill is required to fill the gas tank and that FIVE mpg was averaged on the drive from NJ to Connecticut, thanks to a 7.7 liter, 315 HP V-8 that was also used in the Soviet army's 4-wheel BRDM and 8-wheel BTR armored personnel carriers. Vinnie/Vitaly truly made my day - maybe my year or my decade! - by allowing me try out what might be the most comfortable back seat I've EVER experienced in a car, deep and plush like my living room recliner plus copious head-and-legroom and two Fleetwood Seventy-Five-style jump seats folding out from the partition. While the incredibly-busy carpet pattern would not have been out of place in a 19th Century Victorian parlor, it supposedly keeps dirt out of sight and there was undeniable old school appeal in the fitment of curtains to the rear quarter windows.

One surprising detail was that Mr. Baksht's purchase of this car was NOT its first trip was the U.S., as it had been part of the fleet of ZILs used by Soviet officials that accompanied Mikhail Gorbachev on his December, 1988 summit visit to New York City (another, Queens-based friend of mine at the Concours still fondly recalled seeing them on the Van Wyck Expressway north of Kennedy Airport). Though I'll almost certainly never have the chance to own one myself for a hundred obvious reasons that only begin with purchase cost, parts support and my rudimentary Russian language skills, a ZIL has always been at the very top of my dream car list along with Australian Ford Falcon GTs touting eight

cylinders, four doors and three pedals; if the dream ever comes true, I'm dibbing the NYS special plate CCCPLIMO (Mr. Baksht suggested CCCPLNMO so I'd be incorporating a Cyrillic "I")! As it was such a treat to finally examine one in-person as opposed to a photo or scale model, I could not have been more thrilled to see Mr. Baksht evince interest in possibly showing the car at PCS Gettysburg next year. Cue Basil Poledouris' theme to THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER as we "sail into history!"



A NEW MEMBER AND HIS CARS

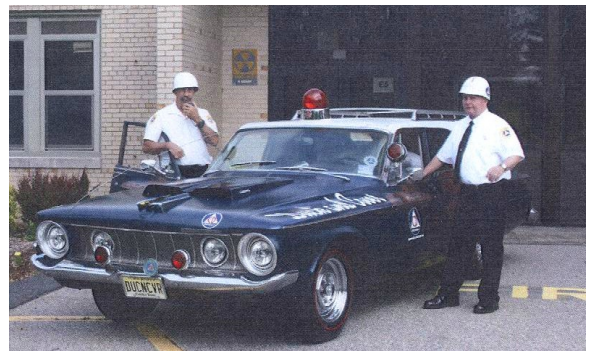
by Bill Marcy

We have a new Northeast Chapter member. Keith Adams and his wife Gale are residents of East Hanover, NJ. They are very active members of a number of collector vehicle clubs for cars, trucks and military vehicles. Recently, they have become members of the Professional Car Society and our very own Northeast Chapter.

In speaking with Keith Adams, it is clear to me, that he literally lives and breathes antique cars and trucks. Keith is very active in the car hobby, he loves to show his collector vehicles and share his passion. To the point of Keith's enthusiasm and affiliations within the hobby, he has managed to get the PCS invited to display our 1974 and older professional cars at Lead East this coming Labor Day weekend, on Sunday September 6, 2015. More on this later in this edition of The Criterion, under Invitation To Lead East.

As you look at photos of Keith's professional cars, you may be interested to know that Keith has owned his beautiful 1957 Chevy sedan-delivery for over thirty years. For some clarification, sedan-deliveries were very often used as service, or removal cars, as was the 1957 Chevy we are currently speaking about. The 1962 Plymouth has been used as an ambulance. You may also be interested to know that Keith rescued this rare Plymouth station wagon ambulance from life as a hot rod, as evidenced by the hood-scoop. This Plymouth has served in the military, a police department and as a Civil Defense unit.

Although I have only spoken to Keith Adams on the phone, I think he and his wife are going to be valued members of the PCS and the Northeast Chapter. Please join me in making Keith and Gale Adams feel welcome and glad they joined us. (Photos courtesy of Keith Adams).



INVITATION TO LEAD EAST September 6, 2015

The Professional Car Society has been invited to display our 1974 and older professional cars at Lead East in Parsippany, New Jersey on Sunday September 6, 2015. This event will start on September 2ND and runs through the 6TH. Although this event is billed as the world's biggest oldies party, cars up to model year 1974 are encouraged to attend. There are all types of show cars, custom cars and trucks, lead sleds, music, lots of food and beverages, not to mention seminars, a drive-in movie and much more!

New member Keith Adams was instrumental in arranging this invitation to be a part of such a huge event. If you enjoy showing off your professional car to thousands of people, this is the event you must attend. You can visit www.lead east.net for information about Lead East, hotels, driving directions, or simply to see what they have to offer. You can also print a registration form in the category they call "old car registration."

When you register, we have a discounted rate of \$45, you MUST write Professional Car Society on the form. I know that you might be thinking that the fee is a little rich and I am not going to disagree with you, but this is much more than a car show and it might be a golden opportunity for us to gain new members, which we could really use.

Please consider joining your PCS friends for s great day! We will meet at 11:00 AM and enter as a group. We will then proceed to the Daichi lot, where we will display our professional cars together.

Please call me at 201 954 3159 with any questions, or concerns. See you there!



MEMBER NEWS

Wedding bells rang for our very own Northeast Chapter President Daniel McCann and his lovely bride Stefanie. They make a lovely couple, don't they? Please join me in wishing Stefanie and Danny many happy years together.



On a sad note, the PCS has lost Robert "RF" Parsons and Dorothy Feiser, who both recently passed away. Many long time members may recall seeing The Feisers and The Parsons together, talking, laughing and having a wonderful time together. All four of them are gone now, after living long, successful and loving lives. Their presence will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure of knowing them. I hope they are all talking and laughing together in Heaven. May they all Rest In Peace!

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION!

by Bill Marcy

As you probably know, I am slowly restoring a 1968 Superior Pontiac ambulance. As a step in the process, there were some lights that were not functioning. So, I called a car electrician, whom I have used for nearly forty years. He really knows his stuff. As expected, he got all of the lights operational by replacing a fuse, cleaning a ground wire and tightening loose connections. However, the alternating bullet lights required a flasher unit, which is located under the hood, on top of the inner fender. He did not have a flasher unit, but he said I could buy a non-original unit, with no problem.

After the electrician left, I began to think about it, I would really like to keep the original part, for a correct look and proper function. So, I went to the official Professional Car Society website and under the Technical Section, I asked for advice and I got several replies, for which I was grateful. The best advice for me, came from Paul Sternberg. Paul told me about the company that supplied these flashers for Superior Coach back in the day. The name of the company is Julian A McDermott of Ridgewood, NY. I spoke to a man named Vern, who was amazingly helpful and he knew exactly the part I was looking for. Even more amazing, they had it in stock! Several days later, the new unit arrived and it is identical to the old unit, I mean exactly!

This company builds the parts they sell, right here in America! So I ask you, how cool is that? The man I spoke to, Vern, is Vern McDermott, son of Julian A McDermott. Vern has worked there his entire life and he is very knowledgeable and interesting to talk with Vern told me that his father started the company in 1943 and they are a company employing forty eight people..

I am grateful for the wealth of knowledge available to us on our wonderful PCS website and through our club members and our publications. This time I needed a unique flasher unit, what do you need? Avail yourself of all of our club resources at theprofessionalcarsociety.net and you will be glad you did!



3rd Annual Shook Funeral Home Car Show
at the **Van Houten Avenue Street Fair**

639 Van Houten Ave., Clifton, NJ 07013

September 13, 2015 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Space is limited to 50 cars!

Pre-Registration is required

Please only cars 1990 and older

To register: e-mail: shookfuneralhome@aol.com

or call: (973) 471-9620

Registration Fee: \$25 per vehicle

All checks made payable to: Shook Funeral Home

All proceeds will be donated to St. Peter's Haven

Street vendors, food, petting zoo, pony rides, live
entertainment and music!

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Northeast Chapter

159 George Avenue

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18705

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Extremely rare Soviet made 1985 ZIL Limousine which appeared at the recent Greenwich Concours d'Elegance.

Photo courtesy of Gregg Merksamer