

The Motor City Minuteman

Official publication of the Professional Car Society – Motor City Chapter



Issue Number 1

Fall 2010



For Membership, send \$20.00 per year to:

**Professional Car Society
Motor City Chapter
1149 Charrington Drive
Troy, Michigan 48083**

**PRESIDENT AND EDITOR
Russ Dalziel - russpse@aol.com
734-368-8338**

**VICE PRESIDENT
Sandy Roegner**

**SECRETARY-TREASURER
Ken Austin**

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY: Founded in 1976 to encourage the maintenance, restoration, and preservation of professional cars which are loosely defined as custom-bodied vehicles based on passenger-car and light-truck styling, used in funeral, rescue or livery service. This includes hearses, ambulances, limousines, service cars, combination cars, flower cars, and others.

MOTOR CITY CHAPTER BIG HIT AT HIGHLAND GAMES

By Russ Dalziel

At the invitation of Ed Bullock, members of Motor City Chapter attended the 161st Annual Highland Games sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. The games were held August 6-7 at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.



Russ Dalziel Collection

Led by Jeff Mandziuk's Briggs Packard limousine, members' cars enter the Tug-Of-War field at the 161st Annual Highland Games in Livonia, Michigan.



Russ Dalziel Collection

Professional cars moving across the field.



Russ Dalziel Collection

There were many types of vehicles to see.

HOW IS THIS FOR ODD?

By George L. Hamlin



George Hamlin Photo

This 1949 Studebaker Commander flower car was a custom job, done locally for a Baltimore-area funeral home in 1949. It was for sale in the Baltimore suburbs about 10 years ago when I photographed it. The seller had, I thought, ruined it by cutting the sedan rear window off and substituting a coupe window. He figured it looked better, but I figured he killed the original idea. You can see the work area in primer in the photographs. I never heard from the car again; may still be for sale for all I know.



George Hamlin Photo

FERNDALE EMERGENCY VEHICLE SHOW

By Russ Dalziel



Russ Dalziel Photo

Ambulances were a large part of the Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show! Motor City Chapter was proud to be a part of this amazing event. We just can't wait to do it again next year.



Russ Dalziel Photo



Russ Dalziel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo



Russ Datzel Photo

Scenes from the 2010 Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show.

POLICE STATION WAGON AMBULANCES

Anthony J. Rzucidlo



Photo Ford Motor Company/Anthony J. Rzucidlo collection.

This group of 1957 Ford station wagons utilized by the Dearborn Police Department was taken in front of the Ford Motor Company World Headquarters (Glass House) in Dearborn.



George Patak Photo

This 1963 Plymouth station wagon has been turned into a replica Detroit Police "Scout Car" by George Patak. Units such as this one were not only used for patrol work, but also to transport ill and injured citizens to the hospital.

Before the federal government established laws and regulations in the mid 1970s regarding the construction of vehicles to be used as ambulances, and standards developed regarding the type of training that personnel assigned to ambulances had to have, police departments were involved in the transportation of ill and injured persons to area hospitals. This article will take a look at those operations in the Detroit area. For the most part the type of vehicle that was used by police departments for this function was the station wagon. Not only could the vehicle be utilized for routine patrol work, but when the need arose for medical transport duties it could also be used for that as well.

Unlike today's highly trained Emergency Medical Technician or paramedic back in the day, the most advanced training that police officers had as it related to the sick and injured was the basic first-aid class that they received at the police academy. Also unlike the ambulances of today with all of the equipment that they have to provide aid to those in need, the vehicles back then had only the basic items which in most cases was a stretcher, blanket, pillow and first-aid kit. The Dearborn Police Department had station wagons in its fleet of patrol vehicles from 1957 to 1966. The make of the station wagons were Fords and they were referred to as "Amblewagons." They were equipped with stretcher, fire extinguisher and first-aid kit. Over the years the color schemes changed. When they first appeared in 1957 they were red and white. I can recall back in the mid-1960s that the wagons were maroon.

It was reported that these vehicles were hardly ever used in transporting persons to the hospital since the fire department handled that task. However, the city still had them and they were able to respond and transport if required. From 1961 to 1973 the Detroit Police Department transported sick or injured persons to the hospital when called to do so utilizing station wagons. In June 1972 the Detroit Fire Department established the Emergency Medical Service which took over the responsibility of responding to calls for medical assistance. However, the police department continued to respond to medical calls until 1973 at which time the fire department had enough units in service to totally take over the duties for ambulance response. It should be noted that prior to 1961, Detroit Police would answer a request for ambulance service by responding with what they called the "Auto Patrol" or "Paddy Wagon" which each precinct had. From information that I received both with the "Auto Patrol" and the first station wagons there was not first-aid of any kind provided to an ill or injured person. They were only placed on a stretcher, given a pillow, a blanket and a quick ride to the hospital. Some common sayings used to describe this type of medical aid are "load and go" and "scoop and run." Each Detroit precinct had a set number of scout cars assigned to it. Out of that number depending on the geographic size of the precinct and the population within the precinct it was deter-

mined how many of those scout cars were station wagons. When the department started using the wagons for both patrol and medical transport they utilized 1961 Dodges. In 1963 they switched to Plymouth wagons.

In 1964 the department switched to Ford station wagons. The Fords had spilt rear fold-down seats provided for an officer to ride in the back with the ill or injured person. That of course was if only one person was placed in the rear of the wagon. The police department stayed with the Ford wagons until 1973 when the wagon service ended. At that point the wagons were used almost exclusively to transport injured or shot police officers. The city of Warren, Michigan was another government agency that utilized police officers for the transportation of those in need of going to the hospital after the fire department gave up this service. Warren police officers performed this task from 1966 to approximately 1968. The department operated 1966 Chevrolet Impala station wagons which were dark blue with gold lettering on the doors.

Note: I was contacted by Russ Dalziel and asked if I would write a column for your club's publication on the topic of emergency vehicles. I told Russ that I would and that I would try and stay on the topic of professional cars, but from time to time would write about other types of emergency response vehicles that I think that you folks would find interesting as well. I hope that you will find my first article interesting and informative and will find my other columns interesting as well. I would like to say thank you to Patrick O' Lear and George Patak for providing me information for this article. Also I used information from my memory bank. However, I should take some time to tell you a little about myself. I am married and live in Dearborn Heights, Michigan and in fact am a lifelong resident of Dearborn Township/Dearborn Heights. I retired from the Ford Motor Company Corporate Security/Fire Department after 33 years of service. During the course of my 33 years I have held a variety of positions within the department. However, for 14 years out of my 33 years I was responsible for emergency preparedness and training. I have two college degrees related to security and law enforcement. Prior to going to work for the Ford Motor Company I was employed by the Dearborn Heights Police Department as a clerk/dispatcher. I was a police explorer after becoming an Eagle Scout. Currently, both my wife and I are members of the Dearborn Heights Community Emergency Response Team and I am one of two group leaders for the program. I have my own Web page at <http://ajrcommander.cruisinmichigan.com> on which I feature photos of emergency response vehicles that I have taken and continue to take today. Also I had a book published on the topic of mobile command & response vehicles. For the past two years I have coordinated the emergency response vehicle display that is part of Cruisin Michigan Ave., and in 2010 I coordinated the Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show. I also write a column on the topic of emergency response vehicles titled "Patrol & Rigs" for Michigan Motor Enthusiasts.



George Patak Photo

This Detroit Police "wagon" was photographed in the downtown area.

MADISON HEIGHTS CAR SHOW

By Russ Dalziel



Russ Dalziel Photo



Russ Dalziel Photo

Each year, on the Sunday following the Woodward Dream Cruise, Madison Heights holds an “Afterglow” car show fundraiser for Boys and Girls Clubs. This year, PCS Motor City Chapter was pleased to be present to share our vehicles with the thousands of spectators who came to Madison Heights to wind down from the week of Dream Cruise activities.



Russ Daziel Photo



Russ Daziel Photo

Scenes from the Madison Heights Car Show.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 4th 2010 1st Dinner and a Movie Please RSVP To Russpse@aol.com
This Event will be Held at 1149 Charrington Dr Troy, MI 48083

Saturday December 11th 2010 Christmas party from 7 pm 'till??? Please RSVP To Russpse@aol.com This
Event to be Held at 1149 Charrington Dr Troy, MI 48083

Saturday January 1st 2011 No event due to Holiday

Saturday February 5th 2011 Dinner and a Movie Please RSVP to Russpse@aol.com
Event to be Held at 1149 Charrington Dr Troy, MI 48083

Saturday March 5th 2011 Dinner and a Movie Please RSVP to Russpse@aol.com
Event to be Held at 1149 Charrington Dr Troy, MI 48083

Saturday April 2nd 2011 Dinner and a Movie Please RSVP to Russpse@aol.com
Event to be Held at 1149 Charrington Dr Troy, MI 48083

July 12-16 PCS International Meet in Hudson Ohio

Friday August 19th 2011 Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show, Ferndale, MI Please RSVP to Russpse@aol.com



Superiorview Collection

This scene was recorded outside the Bowerman and Sons Undertaking Parlor in Munising, Michigan. Founded in 1896, the firm is still in business today under the direction of the fifth generation of the Bowerman Family.

WELCOME TO THE MOTOR CITY CHAPTER

Hello,

We hope everyone had a great summer. We would like to welcome you to The Professional Car Society Motor City Chapter. We hope you enjoy this Inaugural Issue of our quarterly magazine, The Motor City Minuteman. We are very excited that we have come this far, and are definitely looking forward to showing our vehicles even more.

We have had several phone calls and emails inviting us to show our vehicles at special events, open houses and public safety days. Several professional organizations would like our vehicles to come to their annual conventions. Our next issue will contain a complete calendar of events for 2011.

We also look forward to seeing everyone at The 2011 PCS International Meet in Hudson, Ohio.

Happy Holidays Everyone,

Russ Dalziel, President
Sandy Roegner, Vice President
Ken Austin, Secretary-Treasurer



Tom Goggin Photo

S&S Ambulance once owned by Superior Ambulance of Detroit.