

# The Buckeye Coach

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope you had a joyous holiday season and that 2012 finds you in good health! I am writing this on New Year's Eve, a time for both reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the new one.

2011 was a landmark year for the Ohio Chapter, as we played host to the International Meet for the first time. Our meet shattered all previous attendance records, drawing hundreds of participants and 131 procars. We left the folks in Florida with big shoes to fill and loved every minute of it. Hopefully, you were there to experience it. I am most proud of the success of our meet when measured by the number of new friendships formed and old ones that have been revitalized.

So, what's in store for 2012? Well, many of us will start the pro car season in Flint with the Mid Winter Board Meeting and Micro Meet. I had to skip that meet last year, but will be there from beginning to end this year. If you've never been to Brady Smith's Garaj Mahal, you're missing a real treat. Some ideas still on the horizon for 2012 include returning to Hudson to take the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Rail Tour that we had to cancel last year, and I am definitely making it to the Bring Your Own Coach Picnic this year as it snuck by me last year.

So how about you? What events are you planning to attend this year? Do you have any ideas for meet locations or activities? I would love to hear them – you can email me at [ron\\_devies@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_devies@yahoo.com).

I wish all of you a happy and joyous New Year!

Your President,

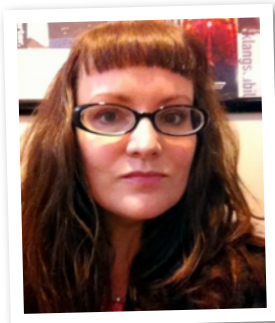
Ron Devies, President -- Ohio Chapter  
PCS



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



It certainly has been a big year for the Ohio Chapter. We had some successful regional meets and we managed to host the largest international PCS meet in the history of the organization. We wouldn't have been able to that

without the participation of all of you. Whether you were an event organizer, a registration room volunteer, car judge, trophy maker or even just someone who brought a procar to Hudson and spent a day or two with us, we thank you all for your participation. We couldn't have done it without you.

instead of later in the summer, our annual Procar Picnic and Night at the Drive-In will be taking the year off, but it will be back in 2013. Though this means that the chapter doesn't have a meet in June, we are hoping that you join us in Daytona Beach for the 2012 PCS meet. Richard Vyse and Bill Wright have a great meet planned for us and they are looking forward to being our hosts for the week. Maybe we can get a convoy to drive down from Ohio together.

Like Ron said, if you have any ideas for additional meets, let us know. We would love to add some new events to the schedule. You can contact me at [ssnook@kent.edu](mailto:ssnook@kent.edu)

Hope to see you soon!

Sarah

Even though the international meet is over for Ohio (for a few years at least), don't worry. We still have a fun schedule of meets planned to keep you entertained. Because of the international meet being in June this year

A PCS WEDDING

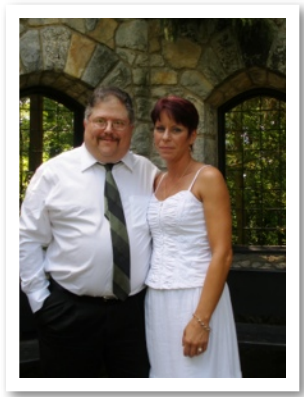


Though this year's international meet was full of excitement and memorable events for everyone, Ohio's own Tony and Nina Militello have some extra

special moments to cherish from the meet. After spending 11 years together, Tony and Nina got married this summer during our international meet.

After meeting while working at the same pizza shop, the two realized they had a lot in common, including their love for animals and classic cars. Nina also enjoys gardening and crystal jewelry making and Tony loves toy cars

and has an extensive Hot Wheels collection. The two got the procar bug about eight years ago, when Tony began searching for a classic Cadillac like the 1959 sedan his parents owned when they were first married. He quickly realized he could never afford a '59 that was in nice shape, so he broadened his search to



A PCS WEDDING CONT.



other classic years. He then really fell in love with the stacked headlight years.

One day in October 2004, while searching eBay, his results included a 1967 Miller Meteor limo style hearse. It was an amazingly clean 1967 Cadillac 'station wagon' with a buy it now of \$4500 (about a third of what short 1967 Caddies were selling for). He clicked the mouse, bought a one-way ticket to Flagstaff, Arizona, and drove it back to Columbus, and then to the Midway Drive-In for the Ohio PCS' first night at the drive-in movies. Tony says he met some of the best friends he's ever had that night at the drive in and within four months, he owned two more professional cars.

Soon after, Nina purchased her first procar. She chose a 1971 Miller-Meteor combination coach because she loved the idea of owning a hearse that could also have all the lights, sirens and accessories of an ambulance.

Nina and Tony didn't plan to marry during the international meet, but shortly after the previews began at the drive-in movies, friend and meet committee head Sarah Snook learned they had brought both their wedding license and rings with them to the meet, and in the next 17 hours, she and her husband

pulled together a picturesque private ceremony.

During the first movie, Sarah ordered a custom wedding cake and contacted a friend who is a licensed wedding officiant. After the movie, she drove home to pick flowers to make Nina's bouquet. Ohio PCS member Shawn Blyler donated his extra Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens ticket to the officiant and the following afternoon, Nina and Tony married in the garden. After pictures, the happy couple went to their favorite restaurant, Swenson's Drive-In, for a celebration dinner, followed by a small private reception.

Congratulations to Nina and Tony! We wish you many years of happiness together.



## 2011 PCS MEET INDEX

Since the PCS' special souvenir meet issue with all of the general meet details has already been delivered, we decided to make our official meet report a bit more interesting. Here are some of the facts about the meet that you might not have known, along with some behind-the-scenes info and pictures.

Record number of professional cars to appear at an official PCS meet prior to the Ohio Chapter's International Meet: 100 (estimated)

Total number of professional cars at our 2011 International Meet: 131

Amount of money raised with the dunk tank: \$462

Number of hotel windows broken by a spherical object that may or may not have been thrown by Jeremy Ledford in the general direction of the dunk tank: 1

Net profit from the dunk tank after paying for rental fees and a broken window: -\$196.25

Range of years between the oldest and newest procars at the meet: 129

Most popular year for cars found on the show field: 1972

Chances that the eager crowd awaiting the sound and light show while waiting for the PCS banquet to finish were going to riot in the parking lot: 1 in 3

Mile radius that the sound from the sound and light show was heard: 9+

Longest distance travelled by a PCS member to attend the event in miles: 1388

Shortest distance travelled by a PCS member to attend the event in miles: 8

Distance Bill Peoples traveled to get his five cars from Marietta to Hudson : 1278

Distance in miles put on the ambulance themed snack cart in the parking lot: 52

Number of cans of pop purchased from the snack cart: 480

Days between the hotel's new parking lot being paved and the meet starting: 4

Minutes spent by Jim Schultz to polish each trophy: 30

Number of Goodyear blimps that cancelled their surprise appearance on show day due to strong headwinds: 1

NPR stations that covered the PCS event: 560

Number of Ohio National Guard deployment family events that occurred at the Clarion Hotel during the weekend of the meet: 1

National Guard families who complained about the "freaky" cars in the parking lot: 0

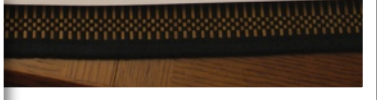
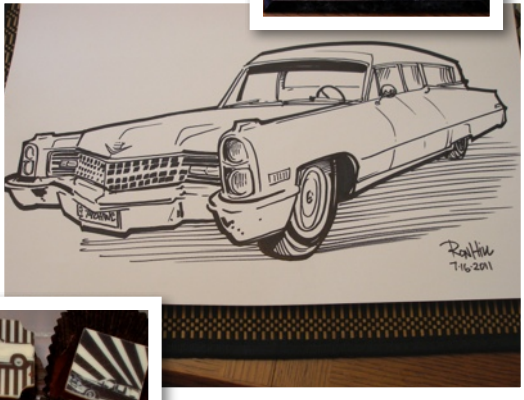


**Above:** Richard Vyse in a bikini making money for the Ohio Chapter in the first ever PCS dunk tank



**Right:** The window to the immediate right of the dunk tank target after an unnamed PCS member missed the target.

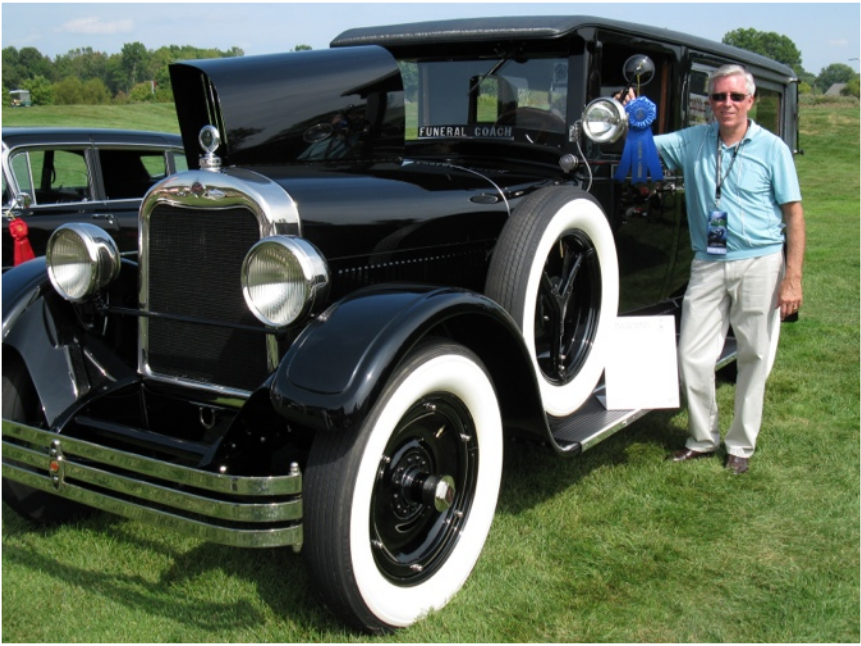
2011 PCS MEET INDEX CONT.



*Above: A variety of pictures taken during the 2011 PCS meet, including some of the meet committee members, beautiful hand made awards from Jim Schultz, procar drawings and chocolates and a photo highlighting the Cleveland skyline from the William G Matber steamship*



## INTRODUCING THE NEW JOHN KEEL AWARD WINNER



At the international meet this summer, the PCS was proud to award Ohio member Bill Peoples the John Keel Award for Youthful Enthusiasm. Since 2003, this award has been given in memory of John Keel, who was one of the PCS' youngest and most enthusiastic members. John died in 2002. The award honors John's memory and recognizes PCS members who are young (or young at heart) and who have an excitement for the professional car hobby and for the organization. Bill is the third Ohio Chapter member to earn this coveted award. His continued dedication to the professional car hobby shows when he displays his cars at funeral director conventions, has them in star studded movies and when he shares his collection at his funeral museum in Marietta. He shows his dedication to the Professional Car Society by being an active member for over three decades, graciously hosting chapter meets and most recently by trailering his collection 1,278 miles, so he could share all of his professional cars at the meet in Hudson

and help ensure that the Ohio meet broke records for number of cars in attendance.

We talked with Bill to learn more about life in Marietta, his gorgeous cars and what keeps the PCS fun for him after 30 years of membership.

Which of your professional cars is your favorite and why?

All of my cars are special - here are my favorite aspects of each one:

1895 Sayers & Scovill horsedrawn hearse - ornate carvings on an excellent coach

1927 Henney combination - photographs well in movies

1938 A J Miller Packard hearse - one of a kind and I love the open town car

1940 Henney Packard combination - it's a work horse, reliable, long, and fun to drive at funerals

## INTRODUCING THE NEW JOHN KEEL AWARD WINNER CONT.

1947 Packard limo - great car to drive around town. Fun to use for weddings because it gets lots of attention.

1948 Packard sedan - same as the '47. I love the vinyl top. It really sets this car apart.

1949 Packard parts car - may be my favorite, as it costs me nothing!

1960 Rambler Ambassador - my wife bought it - she won't let me touch it!

How did you get involved in the professional car hobby?

We decided to get involved due to our business. As funeral directors, we wanted a hobby to enjoy, as well as having a desire to promote our business. At the time, a horse drawn hearse seemed impractical - without horses. And we decided we liked the pre-war coaches more than the later ones. So, if you're going after a pre-war funeral vehicle, why not a Packard? "Ask the man who owns one." My first PCS event was when Pat (my wife) and I drove our 1940 Henney Packard combination from Marietta to Indianapolis in, I believe, 1982. Following that, she went in for a three year restoration...the Henney Packard, not Pat!

Bill, you have spent decades in the PCS. What makes the club a special organization to you?

As you know, I love the old cars, and stay involved because outside of the PCS, it's hard to find folks who share the same interest. Ordinary car shows are nice, but it's our group that appreciates the true craft of coach building.

What does earning the John Keel Award mean to you?

Being honored with the John Keel Award was marvelous. I don't consider myself youthful much, but I am enthusiastic about the PCS. Working in Marietta, I wasn't available to

help my friends out in the Ohio Chapter when they were trying to put together the 2011 International Meet. Therefore, I decided I would at least try to bring some of my vehicles to add to the number of cars on display. Yes, it was a lot of miles, and some expense to rent garages, but it was all worth it. I had a great week.

Other than getting recognition for your collection of procars, what else keeps you coming back to PCS meets?

PCS meets are great to meet up with others who enjoy this hobby. I always come away with a few new ideas, and a few new contacts. To sit around and have a drink or two, with no deadlines or commitments to meet, I find very relaxing. And who knows, there may even be a ball thrown through your hotel window to liven things up a bit!

So what else keeps you busy in Marietta?

When I'm not working at the funeral home or showing my cars and antique funeral items in our museum, I enjoy time spent on our boat cruising the rivers in our area.

Thanks to Bill for chatting with us and congratulations to him on being the latest John Keel Award recipient!



NEW CHAPTER MEMBER CARS



*Amy and Jim Schultz' new 1995 S&S limo they purchased this fall from CW Coach in Cincinnati.*



*Dwayne Brooks just purchased this 1969 M-M hearse he found online in Virginia*





## NEEDFUL THINGS FOR PROCAR PEOPLE

Now that the holidays are over and you are done buying gifts for a while, it's time to treat yourself to some neat procar-related goodies. To help you with that, here is your official procar goodie buying guide - a list of some of the newest professional car-related items available in stores and online.

Humble Heroes is the new book from Ohioan and fellow PCS member Scott Reinbolt. The book is about funeral home-operated ambulance services. It covers the myths and misconceptions about these services, including response times, training, equipment and finances. There also is a chapter about a funeral home that still operates an emergency ambulance service. There are about 30 black and white period photos of funeral home-based ambulances. The book is softcover and 40 pages long, and is available for \$12 through Scott. You can contact him through the PCS message board or at [reinbolt@cinci.rr.com](mailto:reinbolt@cinci.rr.com).

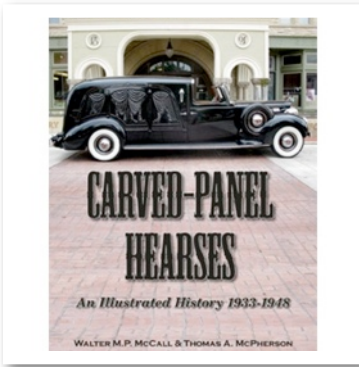


The Tri-State PCS Chapter's professional car calendar is back for 2012 and it's better than ever. Twelve gorgeous professional cars are featured in this calendar. It can be a great way to show your love for professional cars at your office and it can also serve as a handy way to count down the days to the next PCS meet. Calendars are \$12.00 each. Shipping within the U.S. is \$2.50 for the first calendar and 75 cents for additional calendars. You can purchase the calendar from the Tri State Chapter through PayPal. The e-mail address for questions or sending money through PayPal is [professionalcarcalendars@yahoo.com](mailto:professionalcarcalendars@yahoo.com).

Do you like to plan for the holidays ahead of time? Get one of the limited edition Meteor Motor Car Company ornaments from Mainstreet Piqua. The fifth ornament from the Made in Piqua series was designed with the assistance of PCS member Tom Caserta, who worked for Miller-Meteor. These brass ornaments feature the original Meteor Motor Car Company building with an ambulance and hearse in front of it. There are fewer than 30 left of this limited edition piece, so order yours soon. The ornaments are \$12, plus shipping. You can order them through Mainstreet Piqua online at: <http://www.mainstreetpiqua.com/products.php>

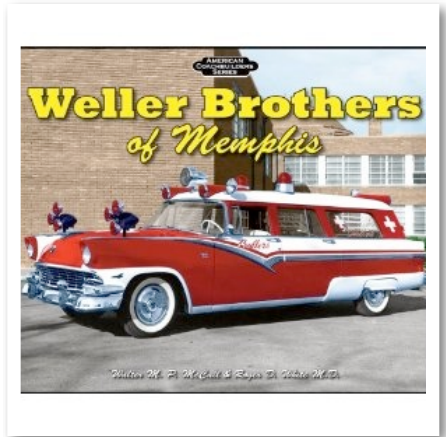


NEEDFUL THINGS FOR PROCAR PEOPLE CONT.



Like carved panel hearses? We have the book for you! Walt McCall and Tom McPherson's latest book focuses on them exclusively. The book is called Carved-Panel Hearses: An Illustrated History 1933-1948. This softcover book contains 128 pages of pictures and information. The book retails for \$39.95, but it can be found cheaper online.

Another book you might be interested is The Weller Brothers of Memphis. From the American Coachbuilders series of books, Walt McCall and Roger D. White tell the history of this small, independent coach company that built custom professional cars from the 1930s through the 1970s. The book retails for \$19.95 and is available in books stores and online.



Do you need another official Ohio 2011 international meet t-shirt? The chapter has a few extras. Not all sizes are available, so contact us to find out if we have your size. Shirts are \$15 (including U.S. shipping). Contact Sarah for details - [ssnook@kent.edu](mailto:ssnook@kent.edu)

If you're interested in a more unusual procar related item and you're curious what the craft world has to offer, check out [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com). On Etsy, you can find vintage hearse and ambulance toys, t-shirts, procar related jewelry, handmade wallets, tote bags, postcards and even corsets with hearses on them.

Another unlikely source for goods has come onto our radar recently. Discount gift certificate websites like Groupon and LivingSocial offer limited time discounts at local businesses. Sometimes these deals are up to 90 percent off the retail price. Fairly frequently in Northeast Ohio at least, there are deals for detailing shops. So, if you know you'd rather spend time driving your professional car instead of cleaning it, sign up for their daily deal emails and try out a local detailing shop.

## BUCYRUS MEET

In late April of last year, Ohio PCS member Dwayne Brooks held an impromptu gathering at his house in Bucyrus. Local PCS member Jim Tighe was selling his Eagle hearse to PCS member Rocky Fluegge. Rocky flew in from Wisconsin to pick up his new coach and Dwayne posted on the PCS message board that he would host a cookout to give Rocky and his new car a proper sendoff. After being stuck inside all winter, PCS members must have been itching to get out as we had members from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Canada show up

for the event. The day was full of story telling, catching up with new and old friends, photo swapping and even chasing down the elusive Norfolk Southern business train, which passed Dwayne's house on its way south to the Kentucky Derby. Bummed that you missed this last minute meet? Have no fear! Dwayne will be hosting another meet for us this spring. Hope to see you April 28

at 1p.m. Dwayne's address is 1123 East Warren Street, Bucyrus, OH 44820.



*Above: Pictures from last year's Bucyrus meet.*

SPRING GROVE MEET



This past October, PCS members from as far away as Georgia traveled to Cincinnati for the annual Spring Grove Cemetery Car Cruise. We had a wide variety of professional cars in attendance, including the “twins” - two matching 1992 Cadillac Eagle hearses

that were brought by LeeAnn Boston and Jeremy Ledford. The day prior to the meet, PCS members gathered at restaurant owned by Loren Baldwin’s family and then went to Loren’s storage facility to check out his car collection. This year’s Spring Grove Car Cruise will be held on Sunday, October 14.



AS SEEN ON TV

There are a few PCS and professional car related items you can catch on TV starting this month.

On the History Channel, you’ll find Cajun Pawn Stars. This new show stars Jimmie DeRamus, a PCS member from Alexandria, Louisiana. Jimmie is the owner of the 1966 Superior Cadillac hearse that carried Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The show is about the pawn shop he runs with his family.

Also on TV, They Might Be Giants has a music video for their new song, ‘When Will You Die?’ In the video, the quirky alternative band creates a 1980s monster hearse. On the band’s website, you can find the plans to make your own paper model hearse.

Calendar

**February 24-26**

Michigan Chapter Micro Meet in Flint, Michigan

Contact: Kim McDonald or Brady Smith

**April 28**

Spring cookout at Dwayne Brooks’ house, 1p.m.

1123 East Warren Street  
Bucyrus, OH 44820

**June 18-22**

2012 PCS International Meet at the Shores Resort - Daytona Beach, Florida

Contact Richard Vyse

**July 8**

Western Reserve Region-Cadillac LaSalle Club Land Yacht Show - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Voinovich Park, Cleveland OH

Contact Chris Axelrod for more info: [info@christophergaxelrod.com](mailto:info@christophergaxelrod.com)

**September (date TBD)**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railway vintage train ride  
More info coming soon!

**October 6**

Fear Factory Halloween Car Show -  
More info coming soon!

**October 14**

Spring Grove Cemetery’s annual cruise-in from 3-7 p.m. Registration starts at 2 p.m.  
4521 Spring Grove Ave,  
Cincinnati OH 45232.

Officers

RON DEVIES

President

JERRY JACOBSON

Vice-President

SARAH SNOOK

Secretary/Treasurer/  
Membership director