



# The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

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

Third Quarter 2014

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## President's Message

The time has come to move into high gear with our planning for the 2016 International Meet in Gettysburg. I was informed that the membership voted at the picnic to have our Chapter Day on Thursday and run a trip to the AACA Museum. I have asked Bill Marcy to take the lead for this tour. Bill has already started working on this. As we move forward Bill will need all the help he can get. As of right now John Ehmer has planned a meeting for Oct. 25 at 11 am at the Wyndham in Gettysburg, this is the host hotel for the 2016 Meet. We are looking for someone to do the registration, as well as other parts of the meet. We are open to any and all suggestions and ideas. Please feel free to forward your suggestions and ideas to me. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting is welcome. We also have to work with the other Chapters to have presentation ready for the Board in February and for the 2015 International Meet in Houston, Texas in June of 2015. We need to make this meet the best we can as 2016 is the PCS's 40 th Anniversary.

Rich Litton is putting a display together of car based ambulances for the New Jersey State First Aid convention in Sommerville, NJ on Oct 11,2014. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this please contact Rich (856) 235-6715. Vehicles will be on display from 10 am to 3 pm.

**Dan McCann**

## NORTHEAST CHAPTER MEETING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2014

Our Fall meeting will be held on Sunday November 2, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Shook Funeral Home, 639 Van Houten Avenue Clifton, New Jersey.

Please plan to attend, your thoughts and ideas are vital to the growth of our club. Major topics are; nominations/election of Northeast Chapter officers for 2015, The International Meet in Gettysburg in 2016 and planning our activities for the upcoming year. Bring your thoughts and ideas, PLEASE!

## IN MEMORY OF LEO MAREN III

by Bill Marcy

It is with great sadness, that I am writing about the passing of a beloved member of the Professional Car Society and of our very own Northeast Chapter. Leo died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in Stirling, New Jersey on September 4, 2014.

Details of Leo's passing are not known to me, however, there is some speculation that his death was related to his very long battle with diabetes. I spoke with Leo's mother and she told me that she had spoken with Leo on Monday, just a few days prior to his passing and she had no idea that he was sick, or in danger.

Although I am uncertain of the exact year Leo joined the PCS, he was already a long time member when I joined, way back in the Fall of 1993. Leo was one of the first people to introduce himself to me and welcome me to the PCS, as I attended my first Northeast Chapter meeting that day. After my initial meeting with him, I had the pleasure of working with Leo a number of times through the ensuing years. Leo Maren served as Northeast Chapter President for a number of years. He also served as the 1999 International Meet Chairman and once again as International Meet Chair in 2008.

Perhaps best remembered for his participation at PCS shows, meets and other events, driving his silver over red 1974 Miller Meteor Cadillac Criterion ambulance, it is easy to overlook the other important parts of Leo's short life. Born in Jersey City on March 8, 1959, he was one of four brothers. Leo worked for Verizon for over twenty five years. He was also a certified EMT for the Long Hill First Aid Squad for many years. Leo had family and friends who will miss him dearly. There have been countless loving comments written about Leo Maren, both on the PCS Message Board and in the electronic guest book at the Valley Funeral Home website. It is plain to see that Leo Maren III touched many lives in his fifty five years here on Earth.

Rest In Peace Leo!



Photo courtesy of Steve Lichtman

## PROFESSIONAL CARS at SECOND ANNUAL SHOOK FUNERAL HOME CAR SHOW

by Bill Marcy

On Sunday September 14, 2014, Shook Funeral Home held it's Second Annual Charity Car Show, in conjunction with the Van Houten Avenue Street Fair in Clifton, New Jersey. Northeast Chapter member Roy Garretson and his wife Nancy ran the show to benefit St Peters Haven in Clifton, New Jersey. Saint Peters Haven operates a food pantry and a shelter for woman and children. This year, the show raised one thousand dollars for this wonderful charity.

As for the show, it was fabulous! First of all, the weather was sunny and warm. Secondly, the caliber of the cars there at the show was up significantly over last year. There were two Northeast Chapter member's professional cars present at the show. Roy Garretson had his award winning 1942 Cadillac Fleetwood Formal Limousine on display, as did Victoria and Mike Barruzza have their award winning 1963 S&S Cadillac Hearse/Ambulance Combination. on display.

Although there were plans for several other chapter members to bring their professional cars, in the end, it was not possible. There were thirty eight show cars present on the field. Of special note was a good selection of gorgeous Cadillacs that were proudly displayed by members of the Cadillac Club of North Jersey. In addition, there was everything from hot rods and custom cars and cars of all decades and body styles. All in all, Roy Garretson deemed the show a success, with the hope that next year will be even better. Perhaps next year, we can support the show with even more cars from the Northeast Chapter!



Victoria and Mike Barruzza's beautiful blue 1963 S&S Cadillac Hearse/Ambulance Combination.



Roy Garretson's gorgeous black 1942 Cadillac Fleetwood Formal Limousine standing in front of Shook Funeral Home

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON NANCY & ROY GARRETSON

by Bill Marcy

You might say that Northeast Chapter member Roy Garretson is a typical car enthusiast and you would be correct, at least in many ways. After all, he belongs to a couple of car clubs, he goes to as many shows as time permits and he is never tired of talking about his gorgeous black 1942 Cadillac Fleetwood Formal Limousine, but there is more to Roy, than that.

Roy and his wife Nancy are the proud owners of Shook Funeral Home in Clifton, New Jersey. Established in 1955 by Nancy's parents, Joseph and Eleanor Shook, the business nearly failed in its early days, however The Shooks persisted and built a well respected and successful business. In 1986, The Garretsons, Roy and Nancy became part of the family business, which they began to run in 2000 and became the owners in 2005. Since becoming the owners, Nancy and Roy have continued to grow and expand their business.

As of today, their gorgeous funeral home has three chapels and is a full service funeral home. Their fleet consists of 2014 Lincoln MKT lead car, a 2004 Lincoln Flower Car, a 2007 Lincoln Hearse and two 2008 Krystal Lincoln Town Car Limousines.

The gorgeous and modern funeral home is only part of the story. Nancy and Roy Garretson are also great hosts, as anyone attending a Northeast Chapter meeting at Shook Funeral Home can attest to. This hospitality carries over to their business philosophy, as well. When I asked Roy what his proudest moments and accomplishments are, he said that he is very proud of the thank you cards they receive from families who have had funeral services there. Roy places great importance on making people comfortable and at ease in their times of great sadness.

In addition to their funeral home, Nancy and Roy Garretson are gourmet chefs. We have been treated to a bounty of gourmet cooking both times we had our Northeast Chapter meetings at their funeral home. In case you missed those meetings, we will be meeting there again on November 2, 2014.

Roy is very passionate about showing his antique limousine. Purchased back in 2011 and in need of some mechanical and cosmetic repairs, Roy has lovingly brought this 1942 Cadillac up to award winning status. A very rare limousine, this particular example was the first of only eighty built and is one of less than a few known to exist today. Seen in the movie The Aviator, this limousine replicated the one owned by Howard Hughes. Now, Roy proudly shows his crowd pleasing Cadillac at many local and national shows and events. The car has garnered many awards over the past three years.

The enthusiasm shown by Nancy and Roy Garretson for everything they do, serves as inspiration to all who know them.



## **Editorial by Bill Marcy**

As the car show season begins to wind down for this year, I think it is a good time to reflect on where the car hobby and more importantly the Northeast Chapter goes from here. It seems that some events and many clubs are struggling for participants, members and interest.

My question is, what is the cause? Is there anything we can do? Is it time, or money? Are there just too many clubs and shows? I would like to hear your thoughts.

## **NORTHEAST CHAPTER PICNIC**

Story and photos by Bill Marcy

Saturday July 25TH was a picture perfect day for a Northeast Chapter picnic at the beautiful home of Donna and Paul Vickery. Sitting on three lush acres of prime real estate in Millington, New Jersey, anybody who has been there in the past, already knows how gorgeous the property is. The mid 1800s home has had some renovations, too! A spectacular kitchen has been added, much to Donna's delight. And the huge porch that spans the front of the house, is a wonderful place for all of us to socialize.

We had a nice turnout of members, some brought professional cars and one member brought a collection of miniature ambulances. It seems that there was something for everyone to enjoy. The food was delicious and the conversation never stopped. We had many members who had been at The Vickery Estate in years past. And it was great to see Jan and Peter Grave, who joined us for the first time and Chuck Myers and his son, who were also new to our Northeast Chapter picnic and were kind enough to show us their collection of miniature ambulances.

It was great to see everyone again! In attendance were Fred Goerlitz, Joseph Buono, Chuck and Bob Myers, Gregg Merksamer, Mary and Jeff Hookway, Jan and Peter Grave, Victoria and Michael Barruzza, members of the Liberty Corners First Aid Squad, Joanne and Eugene Brown, Lucille and Bill Marcy and of course, Donna and Paul Vickery and their daughter Claire and son Ian.

A huge Northeast Chapter THANK YOU to The Vickery Family for their hospitality! It truly was a spectacular day!



Paul Vickery's stunning 1940 Flxible Buick ambulance.



Members of the Liberty Corners First Aid Squad brought their blue& white 1972 Superior Cadillac ambulance.. Parked along side is Jan and Peter Grave's green 1996 S & S Cadillac Masterpiece hearse

**THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY**

Northeast Chapter

159 George Avenue

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18705

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*The Criterion*

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Roy Garretson's 1942 Cadillac Fleetwood Formal Limousine at the 2014 CLC Grand National in Lake George, New York.