



# The Red Clay Rambler



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## **Jeff's Ramblings...** **... by Jeff Barfield**

I became the newsletter editor in 1999. At that time, I was excited and I had a lot of ideas about how to change the newsletter and many ideas of stories that I wanted to write. By 2002 I had made all of the changes and written all of the stories. From that point to now, I basically went through the motions and put out the basic information and any articles that other people wrote for the newsletter. Occasionally I had a moment of brilliance (OK maybe just a decent idea) and wrote a good article or 2 but the majority of the great ideas were gone. I continued to be the editor, because the club had to have a way to tell everyone when the meetings were and what was going on, and no one else wanted to do that. At our last club meeting, someone did want to do that and I was more than happy to hand over the reins.

Jim Graubard has agreed to be the new newsletter editor. Jim said that he has the time to devote to it, and I believe that he also has the enthusiasm to make our newsletter something more than I have been able to do for the past few years. This is the last "Jeff's Ramblings" that I will write, I will leave the editorials to Jim. But don't think that you have heard the last of me. I will still from time to time write technical articles, some little ditty about a show that I went to, and definitely information about the Southeast Regional this October.

I have enjoyed being the editor these last 8 years, but I am happy to have someone else take over now. I feel that I am leaving the newsletter in very capable hands. One last time, I will beg you all to write articles and send them to Jim at [jsgchg201@yahoo.com](mailto:jsgchg201@yahoo.com).

Best of luck to Jim, and I look forward to reading my newsletter.

## **Jim's Ramblings...** **...by Jim Graubard**

Well taking over this job from Jeff Barfield will be a tough act to follow as he has done such a fine job over the past 8+ years, but I will try.....bear with me, and no, I will not change my name to Jeff!!

As the past newsletter listed those who have volunteered to work various jobs for our upcoming 2007 AMC Southeast Regional to be held on October 5<sup>h</sup> and 6<sup>h</sup> I will not duplicate it here. But please keep in mind that we will need your help to accomplish this and make it a class event and a good time for all. Many hands make light work. Please, please let us know if you are willing to give a little time at the event.

I just returned from a car show held up here in the mountains in downtown Blue Ridge. It was a nice day although they had called for rain which kept the attendance down to about 175 vehicles. If I had a nickel, err, let's correct that for inflation, if I had a dollar for every time I have heard someone as they viewed my AMX say "haven't seen one of those in years" I would be rich. It reminded me of three years prior when I attended this same show, my first car show ever. At that time I had a 1943 Ford GPW (WWII military jeep) and thought it would be fun to bring it to a show, heck I even got a plaque for it that day!! But as I strolled around looking at all the cars it struck me funny that there were no AMC vehicles there. My first new car was a 1973 red Javelin but in high school I drove everywhere with my best friend in his 1969 AMX.

Sooooooo I decided to go find a AMX and start introducing my AMC to a few shows here and there. This past Saturday in Blue Ridge I was, again, the only AMC to be found. I would really love to see more of us out there. I mean think of those poor people who have to view Mustang after Mustang, Camaro after Camaro. And it would be great if we could all get together at least one time at a show (not our own) and have a large display of various AMC's. It is not about winning a trophy it is just great to talk with people about our unique toys. If we can't do it together at least try to get out to a show or two in your area, spread the word about AMC's.

### **Ebay dreamer of the month:**

Now being new to this hobby I may be wrong, but I spotted this e-bay sale running the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>. (E-bay #330118066591) if you want to look it up. From my limited knowledge I think the price may be a bit high on this item. I have seen fully rebuilt ones on e-bay for much less—let me know if I am wrong. **1968 AMC AMX 390 Engine/Clutch/T-10 Transmission OEM US \$6,900.00**

“We offer for auction one complete engine/transmission setup from a 1968 AMX. This engine has never been rebuilt and shows 80K miles on the odometer. As you can see it is still in the car and in good running order. This auction consists of the complete engine with all accessories including the complete smog system. The smog pump is seized but is the correct original unit with the white fan. The air injection manifolds and hoses are in good shape as is the divertor valve. Also included is the original radiator, bellhousing, new clutch and pressure plate and the original T-10 4 speed transmission with the AMC shifter” (See page 8 for picture)

Needless to say, it did not sell—perhaps if he had offered a can of degreaser and rust remover??

### **Feature Car Of The Month... ...by Karen O'Neal**

1973 JAVELIN AMX, 401, SILVER, AUTOMATIC

Owner: Doug House  
(Picture On Page 8)

This car was purchased by Doug's brother, Dan, from a retired AMC photographer. This car and a Jeep were part of his retirement package from AMC. The car had approximately 32,000 miles when purchased in Stevensville, Montana. The interior (Pierre Cardin), rear window defroster, and radio were special options requested by the original owner. Most rear defrosters were dealer installed but not this one. In 1980 Dan was going to trade it in on a new pickup truck but Doug intervened and purchased it for the trade in value of \$1200. Doug was in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, this was his first car and he didn't even have a license. He's owned the car for 27 years.

*I am sure some of you have interesting stories behind one or more of your cars. I will be including a feature car in each bi-monthly newsletter so if you have something you'd like to share please email a photo along with your interesting facts to [koneal@pogolaw.com](mailto:koneal@pogolaw.com) and I will write a short story to share with others.*

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## **Members Paid 2007...**

### **... by Ron Waters – Membership Chairman**

Records currently show the following members have paid their 2007 dues as of 04/10/2007:

Mac Kemp, Rita Allen, Steve & Karen Oneal, Jeff Barfield, Jeff Puras, James Graubard, Julie & Jerry Belk, John Garza, Robert & Bonnie Reed, Jeffery Youngkin, George & Libby Doughtie, Bill Ward, Ron & Pam Waters, Carol & Louie Lanthrip, Kevin Smith, Doug House, David Campbell, Andy Cmapbell, Mike Martinoff, Steven Abercrombie, Alan Gray, Mark Pusen, Mike Gray, Tracy Noeth.

## **New Members Paid 2007...**

Rick Flock - Colbert, GA - 74 Matador, 78 Gremlin.

Nickolas Skouteris - Moreland, GA - 77 Gremlin X, 75 Pacer DL,

## **Peach State Web Site Update...**

**[www.peachstateamo.com](http://www.peachstateamo.com)**

**...by Ron Waters**

Still have received very few pictures for the web site. None since February. I need 3 pictures of each of your "AMC's" and a paragraph about it. You can email them to me at [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com) If you do not have email give me a call at 770-413-9126. Thanks..

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **June**

Our June meeting will be Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the home of Steve and Karen O'Neal. This meeting is a week earlier than normal to avoid meeting on Father's day.

Directions, from the SOUTH:

85 North, exit STEVE REYNOLDS and take a RIGHT, go to the 2nd light, which is CLUB and take a LEFT, stay on Club until it ends at CRUSE (approximately 2-3 miles) \*\*\*and take a LEFT on CRUSE, go to the next light at BETHESDA SCHOOL and take a RIGHT, go to the third street on the left and take a LEFT into SYCAMORE CROSSING subdivision (Wyndham Place Circle is the street name) (Before Believer's Baptist Church), then take your FIRST LEFT, which is SUMMERFIELD WAY - straight ahead to 2629 - additional parking down driveway to the right.

From the NORTH:

85 South, exit PLEASANT HILL and take a LEFT, go to CLUB (approximately the 5th light) and take a LEFT, stay on Club until it ends at CRUSE (approximately 1-2 miles) - follow directions above starting at asterisks.

2629 Summerfield Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
(770) 638-9674

### **August**

Our August meeting will be held Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the home of Barb Valentine.

Directions: Going North on I-75, exit on exit 267A, 5 spur. Make right at first light on to Sandy Plains Rd. Go approximately 7-8 miles, to Highland Point Entrance (Bricked Walled Entrance), make a left on to North Mountain Road. Make 4th left on to Forest Peak Circle. Make 4th left on to East Forest Peak (our street). 4681 is the 3rd House on the left gray stucco.

These are the only directions I have at this time, perhaps I will be able to expand this in the next newsletter which will come out before this meeting.

## **Upcoming AMC Events...**

### **2007 AMO International Convention –Aurora CO July 5-7 2007**

The 2007 AMO International Convention will be held in Aurora Co, a suburb of Denver. The entire show will be on the hotel grounds. The host hotel is the Radisson Hotel – Denver Southeast, reservations can be made by calling 800 333-3333 or call the hotel directly at 303 695-1700. Tell them that you are with the AMO convention to receive the special rate of \$79.00 per night. Thursday will feature a trip to Terry Gale's Rambler Ranch for a tour of over 400 Nash, Rambler and AMC products and much memorabilia as well. Friday is, of course, the swap meet and official club meetings and Saturday is the actual show. If you have never been, Denver is a beautiful city and well worth the trip. For further information contact Bob Kenworthy at 303 680-0139.

### **A Kenosha Homecoming - Kenosha, WI July 28<sup>th</sup> 2007**

Sponsored by - The Kenosha History Center.

Events Include:

1. Tuesday, July 24, 07 - Cruise-in at Wendy's 39th Ave. at 75th St.
2. Wednesday, July 25, 07 - Cruse-In at Andy's on Roosevelt Rd.
3. Thursday, July 26, 07 -Cruise-In at The Spot on Washington Rd.
4. Friday, July 26, 07 The Swap Meet begins!
5. NEW EVENT\*\*\* Friday, July 27, Parade of Nash/Rambler/AMC/Jeep/Hudson vehicles (Anyone with an AMC/Rambler/Nash/Jeffery/Jeep/Hudson/Renault may be in this large parade.) to Kennedy Park.
6. Saturday, July 28, 07 Car Show/Swap Meet at Kennedy Park
7. Tour the former AMC Test Track (MGA Research Proving Grounds) on Sunday July 29

We expect about 500 AMC vehicles and 100+ Nash/Rambler/AMC related vendors!

For more info contact: Kenosha History Center \* 220 51<sup>st</sup> Place \* Kenosha, WI 53140 Call 262-654-5770 ext 102 or Mike Spangler at mspangler@jefnet.com

### **2007 AMC Southeast Regional – Atlanta GA October 5-6**

The Southeast Regional Homecoming will be held at the Hilton NE on Peachtree Industrial Blvd (the same hotel where we held the national in 2005). We will be keeping this event simple so that everyone can have a good time. We will not have a banquet or cruise-in, but we will be judging cars and have our Friday night hospitality room at the hotel. Everything will be held on hotel grounds.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ORPHAN VEHICLE CELEBRATION...**

**...by Karen O'Neal**

This event was held May 5<sup>h</sup> in conjunction with the Snellville Days Festival. The weather was overcast with a light mist in the air and it was *freezing*, which may have kept participation a little on the low side. However, Rick Kamen and the many sponsors did an excellent job and it was a fun event. We secured a prime spot next to the gate where everyone had to pass, set up our awning and displayed club information. Jeff Barfield, Rita Allen, Steve and I showed our vehicles. We also recruited a former club member, Michael Gray with Goodmark, who was there with his 1970 AMX. Steve and I finally have 2 plaques for our wall, placing Gold and Bronze in the AMX/Javelin division with Michael winning the Silver award. Rita won the Silver award in the AMC division. There was a lot of interest in our vehicles and Jeff and Steve talked to people all day long. Jeff seemed to know almost everyone there! This is a fun event in a beautiful park with arts, crafts, vendors, food and entertainment. We would love to see more club participation next year!

## **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LANDMARK MOPAR SOUTHERN CLASSIC...**

**...by Karen O'Neal**

For those of you that didn't attend this show you missed a good time, okay, other than the fact there were time trials going on all day that left you unable to hear or talk to anyone or hear the announcements and then there was the wind factor. Peach State AMO had a good turnout: Jim Graubard, '68 AMX, Steve & Karen O'Neal – 2 - '69 AMXs, DJ House, 2 - '73 Javelins (Doug was flying in from Germany and showed up later in the day, his friend Brian drove the other Javelin to the show), Kevin Smith, '77 Hornet and a friend of Kevin's was there with his '83 Jeep Cherokee. The North Georgia Mopar Club hosted a great show that was well organized despite the fact that they were not expecting such a huge turnout. Judging was done a little differently than usual as owners lined up their cars in a judging area rather than judges coming around to each car. The line was long all day and, to my knowledge, Kevin and Jim were the only two to participate in the judging option. Regardless, Jim won the President's Choice Award (huge trophy) and First Place for AMC. I thought the best part of the day was the opportunity to drive on the Atlanta Motor Speedway Track! A long line of cars but well worth the wait. Unfortunately, I only made 1 lap around the track due to lack of fuel to the carburetor and the "engine dying factor" that ensued. Apparently, I wasn't the only one, there must have been at least 20 cars leaving the track right behind me. Steve ran 4 laps and got up to 100 mph on the high banks. AMS does not allow event holders to sponsor their own food vendors so the only part of the event with NO waiting line was the food stand and you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out why. The Mopar crowd was a very nice group of people and many stopped to talk with us. Steve and I also had the pleasure of running into an old neighbor with a '69 Cuda as well as a friend from our off-road club. We had several people ask for information, handed cards out and placed the Regional Flyer in the upcoming car show area at the DJ's trailer. Two others stopped by asking if anyone was interested in AMXs they had for sale. We gave them cards as well and will post their information in a newsletter in case anyone is interested in a project car (the 3 Jeff's???) or a parts car.

## **TEAM AMX Update...**

**...by Jeff Puras**

This is the first installment of the antics of TEAM AMX Racing. To condense the story, here is a quick history of TEAM AMX Racing.

TEAM AMX began life when a couple of guys, George Doughtie and Jeff Puras, thought it would be a grand idea to go vintage road racing. We had a little experience with some vintage events at Road Atlanta and we had gotten bitten by the road racing bug. We acquired our racer after seeing it in Ohio at the Richard A Teague event in the summer of 1987. Our find had been campaigned out of the St. Louis area as a SCCA B Production race car. We picked up the car that winter in Indiana during the aftermath of a very entertaining ice storm.

We prepped the car and entered our first event in the spring of 1988 and the rest is history. Fast forward to almost 20 years later and we're still at it, sort of. We raced our AMX, the famous IMSA RS Gremlin that was Amos Johnson's and Irv Hoerr's former IMSA RS Spirit. We had a great time doing Vintage events at several tracks each year but we were having a hard time justifying the bang for your buck aspect of vintage events. Track time was being limited by the size of the entry list. Vintage racing was getting very popular. What to do, what to do? The two of us decided to change gears and go racing with NASA. No, not the space guys but the racing guys. National Auto Sports Association. After some checking we couldn't run the Spirit or the AMX in the class we wanted. The wheel base was too short by an inch or two. Ok, so plan "B" went into operation.

So what is plan "B"? Plan "B" is a major change of direction for TEAM AMX. So major that there isn't even an AMC involved much less an AMX race car. We still have the 1968 AMX and the IMSA Spirit. In fact plans are in place to get the AMX running again with the 401 we have waiting in the wings. The AMX hasn't seen the track in a while.

The next decision is what car to run. After attending several NASA events as a spectator the choice became clear. The class is called Spec E 30. It is for the 3 series BMWs made until 1991. Very few modifications are allowed by the rules which make for very close and exciting racing. So far we have done 3 races and our time on the track has been spent learning how to drive a car with little power but good handling and brakes. This is just the opposite of the cars we have been racing. The AMCs are point and shoot type cars. Get stopped and turned in the corner as best as you can and then blast off for the next corner enjoying the power. In the BMW if the pedal isn't to the metal almost all the time you are slow.

So there we are. All updated to the point of having to talk about a German race car with AMX on the flank. Since we are AMC folks and we all love to talk about and hear AMC stories the future TEAM AMX updates will be about our racing experiences with the powerhouse AMX, the IMSA RS Gremlin that was the very first factory backed effort in the series, the IMSA RS Spirit, our on track experiences with the AMX/3 that George owned at the time and other cars we managed to drive at breakneck speeds without breaking our necks. Ever wonder what it is like to watch a million dollar Ferrari do a slow roll in front of you? Ever wonder how it feels to be doing 150 mph and think you're pretty fast and get startled when you get passed by something like you're stuck in second gear on the mile long back stretch at Road Atlanta? Want to know what it is like to "do the kink" wide open at Road America, Wisconsin? Definitely a rite of passage, folks! We can have the pleasure of blasting down the front straight at Mid Ohio Sportscar Course and after a quick check of the gauges look ahead just to see a real live genuine article worth more than a neighborhood Shelby AC Cobra sliding sideways right in front of you. "This won't be good!" thoughts start going through your head.

So we'll get the way back machine all warmed up once in a while and see if we can come up with some goodies that you might find fun, AMC style.

## **PEACH STATE AMO MINUTES FEBRUARY 2007...**

**...by Karen O'Neal**

- Attended: Jeff Barfield, Jim Graubard, Steve & Karen O'Neal, Jeff Puras, Julie Belk and Rita Allen.
- A question was raised regarding judging at events, stock vs. non-stock, types of awards, Driver category, etc. Jeff Barfield explained this to us in great detail.
- We have not heard anything from Ron or George regarding the April 28<sup>th</sup> Mopar event, so we will not be manning a club booth. Doug House, Jim Graubard, Steve and Karen O'Neal will be attending to represent the club in the AMC category.
- No new news on the Regionals but Jeff Barfield still needs volunteers so please contact him if you can help out. We also need items for the goodie bags and door prizes so please ask at your local auto parts store, restaurants, oil & lube shops, etc.
- Jim has volunteered to prepare a secondary monthly email newsletter for everyone's benefit. Hopefully, this will allow more participation among club members and more participation at the numerous upcoming car shows!
- The 3 Jeff's Hornet will soon be listed on eBay so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please pass on the information.
- We discussed the need to update our web site including, among other things, photos of member's cars but we need Ron's participation for this.
- We discussed the possibility of meeting every month during the summer and that these additional meetings (May, July, September) be held in conjunction with a car show event. Possibilities discussed:
  - May 5<sup>th</sup> – Snellville Days Orphan Car Show;
  - July was dismissed due to participation of others at the AMO Nationals in Colorado and a Kenosha Homecoming;
  - September 16<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show "On the Square" in Madison, Georgia (hosted by Jerry &

Julie Belks' Corvette Club);

- o PoBoy's Cruise-In, Canton, Georgia (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday through October – usually hosts 600+ cars).

Let us know what you think.

- Julie had some great ideas for club jackets, shirts, etc. and she brought a wonderful example of her Corvette Club jacket. Julie and Jeff Barfield are going to look into options for us.
- Jim's Trivia of the Day: Ft. Payne, Alabama is the "Sock Capital of the World".

June meeting will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> at the O'Neal's.

## Swap Meet...

**Send Your Swap Meet Listings (For Sale or Wanted) to Ron Waters**

**By email: peachstate@classicone.com**

**By Mail: 4857 Pine Hill Court West - Stone Mountain, GA 30088**

## For Sale...

- One pair of leftover, used tail light assemblies—housing and lenses for a '64 Rambler Classic. And 2 hub caps. Also the steering linkage as it came off the car, center link, tie rods, adjustable links, idler arm, rusty, was fairly new but the rubber boots need replacing. \$40 Thanks, Warren  
Email: warrenworks@yahoo.com
- 1976 Hornet Sportabout A6A087A722981 258, Auto, AC, needs timing chain
- 1979 Concord Sedan Delivery A91087H182833 304 was rebuilt, hasn't run in 5 years, dogs chewed the wiring.
- 1979 Concord 4 door sedan A9A057H147860 complete V8 car, 304 Dana 20 rear axle, runs  
For information on any of the above cars, please call Rita Allen 706 598-0304 or email at autumn2@bellsouth.net

## Pictures

### Team AMX (From Page 5)



### Ebay Engine (Page 2)



### Feature Car (Page 2)

1973 JAVELIN AMX, 401, SILVER, AUTOMATIC

Owner: Doug House



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