



# The Red Clay Rambler



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

Ten days ago (as of this writing) in my mini newsletter sent out on July 10<sup>th</sup> I asked for any suggestions as to what you, the membership, would like to see the club doing. I also gave some suggestions as to what I would like to see happening more often. As of this writing I have received the following comments: ...*nada*

From what I can interpret from the lack of response is that everyone is quite happy with our club doing: **nothing**. This is something that concerns the new officers, not sure about how the old guard feels about it, but we will definitely have to discuss this at the meeting in August at Barb Valentine's house.

*Frankly, after reviewing what I just wrote above I am at a loss as to being creative to write anything else at this time, that is how disconcerting this issue is.*

Jeff and Theresa made it home safely from the AMO show in Denver with good news. They drove the famous ThreeJeff's Hornet out there and flew home courtesy of it's new owner Terry Gale. The car now resides in his famous "Rambler Ranch" museum I would imagine. I am sure as soon as Jeff gets caught up with everything we will have a more detailed story on this and the AMO show.

Jeff reports as of July 16<sup>th</sup> we have a total of 15 registrations for the October show. I really think it is more like 10 as David Campbell has five of his beautiful AMX's slated to adorn the show field. So far I only see three other members listed (but my members list could be outdated, I hope). Jeff said that is normal and he is getting about one a week but I was hoping as a club we would be a bit more aggressive in getting behind this effort that Jeff has so graciously undertaken by registering and declaring our intentions of attending.

At this time the October meeting is up in the air. Being that we are hosting the regional event the first week in October that might be the best place to have a meeting being we will have a majority of members there at that time. This is something we will discuss at our August meeting and I will advise further.

If you have not checked out the club web site lately ([www.peachstateamo.com](http://www.peachstateamo.com)) please do so. Ron Waters has been busy posting more of the club members cars. If you have not as of yet sent your pictures to him please do so at: (email) [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com) or call 770-413-9126.

## From The Pres... ...by Steve O'Neal

I am starting to look forward to our Regional Show and want to thank Jeff for his knowledge and efforts and to those that have assisted in the different prep needs so far for this program.

This was a request I published in my first newsletter as a new President; "I would like to discuss some of your idea's that would make your participation in club events more attractive at the next meeting". Jim has published several topics/idea's in the e-mail newsletter and reminders from the club charter of why this club was formed. We had several members bring up topics, but no buy-in. Do we need to change our by-laws to reflect a new purpose? The officers are not solo event planners and this isn't the Steve, Jim, Jeff B. and Karen show. Jeff is pulling the regional show coordination, what do others want to do for club activities outside the meetings? The officers can assimilate ideas, help facilitate and encourage club activities and even prod individual participation but there is no point if no one bothers to interact or participate.

Since the last newsletter, Karen and I attended the following car shows:

- Wild Bill's Spring Fling (see my article below).
- Year One/Foose Show (we attended without our cars to support Jim and only stayed as long as we could stand it). It wasn't as big last year's show and the Foose crew wasn't there. Read Jim's write up below, it was REALLY hot.
- Dixie Cruisers in Winder (see Karen's article below)
- Sonic Cruise-In sponsored by Julie & Jerry Belk's Corvette Club (free food at this Lawrenceville Sonic). I didn't lose any rubber there this time.
- Commerce Christmas in July Event; different, interesting, we found some great food and it was HOT.
- We plan to attend the downtown Tucker car show on July 14<sup>th</sup> & August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-9 (specifically because it is AFTER the heat of day, we will probably show up before 6).
- And several other maybes are on our list subject to other life needs.

The following are known points to discuss at the next meeting:

- Regional AMO show update from Jeff Barfield. If you have not signed up for something already or talked directly with Jeff, please attend this meeting or at least call him.
- Other club activities of interest to club members (if any).

## How I spent My Easter Weekend...

**...or Caveat Emptor (Let the buyer beware)...by Jim Graubard**

In April I purchased a 1971 Javelin off of e-bay for \$12,600, sort of. Now while I was not looking to buy a car by any means when I saw this listing it was intriguing enough to look into. This car was listed as having the following awards: 3 regional silver, 2 regional gold, 2 national silver, 3 national junior gold, 1 national senior gold, 2<sup>nd</sup> place twice and 1<sup>st</sup> place once at the Mopar Nationals held at National Trails. The seller also went on to say that this car has been in the Cavalcade of Customs 2 times with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the muscle car class, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Kettering Invitational Auto Show and an appearance at the "Councours d'Elegance" show in Cincinnati. I spoke with the owner prior to bidding and asked if the car had any issues. His response was that the car is "perfect" and needs nothing (I was surprised he did not say the car was once owned by Elvis!). So I bid at the last moment (I love to snipe) and won the car (how can you be a winner when you have to pay money?). I would have preferred a '73 Javelin as that was my first true new car, but what the heck, this was a perfect award winning car, right!

The following morning I had a doctors appointment and after that I went to the bank, withdrew the cash and headed home to load up my trailer and get ready for my trip to Cincinnati. I left on Friday morning around 7am and got to the sellers house at 3:30pm in a driving snowstorm, could this be an omen I thought?. I waited for an hour until the seller came home from work, watching as the snow got thicker by the minute. Fortunately it was not sticking to the roads, but it made me very nervous. When the owner opened up his garage door I immediately had a sick feeling. First of all the car had been billed as being painted Quicksilver. I had looked up this color on the AMC paint chip chart and saw it was a bluish-silver, something I could live with. Regular silver is not my favorite color by any means but bluish silver is ok I thought. This car was pure silver, not a hint of blue in it. The half vinyl top had a 3 inch semi-circle tear that had been just glued down in place, visible from 10 feet away. The owner said it never bothered the AMC judges.....guess they were not considering buying, were they?

### *Peach State Officers*

*President*  
Steve O'Neal  
2629 Summerfield Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770-638-9674  
redchevelle@bellsouth.net

*Vice President*  
James Graubard  
80 Bear Tract Drive.  
Talking Rock, GA 30175  
706-276-1634  
jsgchg201@yahoo.com

*Secretary*  
Karen O'Neal  
2629 Summerfield Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770-638-9674  
koneal@pogolaw.com

*Treasurer*  
*Newsletter Editor*  
*Event Organizer*  
Jeff Barfield  
394 Creek Crossing Ct.  
Grayson, GA 30017  
770-466-8463  
jrbarfield@comcast.net

*Newsletter Publisher*  
*Membership Chairman*  
Ron Waters  
4857 Pine Hill Court West  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088  
770-413-9126  
peachstate@classicone.com

[www.peachstateamo.com](http://www.peachstateamo.com) • [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com)

Moving on to the engine bay where the master cylinder had been leaking for a long, long time, eating away most of the paint on the driver side of the engine bay. I said I would need to pull the engine to fix that and he replied "no, you can paint it with the engine in". He must know what he was talking about as he apparently painted the engine itself while it was in the bay by evidence of the blue over spray on various items that should not have had blue paint on them. Alternator looked like it had been salvaged from the Titanic with all it's rust. Ok, that was enough for the review of the engine bay. Turning my attention to the outside I counted no less the 8 dings in the "perfect" trim as well as the same number of rock chips which, I assume, he let one of his young children touch up. Plastic chrome trim on the back of the bucket seats, while I am not sure is a factory item, was peeling on both sides. Did I mention that the 304 engine had been replaced with a 360 (I knew this going in) but I did not realize that the transmission was a 904 and I am fairly sure it should have been a 727, this was never mentioned in the auction

I never am one to back out on a deal, after all I bid and won it and it was my word. However a little voice inside said that if you load this on the trailer you will be mad at yourself for a long time, that cash is happier in your pocket. Were the problems fixable, sure but the only reason I was there in the first place was because it was billed as an award winning, perfect car. I did not want another project, something to put money and time into (this little talk with myself took place in about a minute). As I walked back to my truck the owner needless to say was getting mad, telling me that if I did not think this car was worth \$12,600 to leave. Being the nice guy I am (ok, stop laughing) I told him it is worth more then that, but not to me. It had been misrepresented in the ad and I was sorry. I gave him \$200 ( I did not have to but I did) and told him to offer the first bidder a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance offer and he would be \$100 ahead of the game. I climbed in my truck and drove off into the white wonderland that had been engulfing me for the past 2 plus hours at this point, with a smile of sorts on my face. The next 4 hours going south yielded nothing but more driving snow. Getting tired and having tractor trailers whizzing by at 80mph finally convinced me to stop for the night. I finally got home in the early afternoon on Saturday, my 32 hour ordeal over. I kept an eye on his e-bay items over the next few months and never saw the car on e-bay again, so perhaps the first bidder did buy it and I am sure he was happy.

Lessons learned: When I purchased my 1968 AMX in June of 2005 it was a similar experience, but at that time I did not know anything about the hobby, my two years in have taught me lots. Pictures are not worth a thousand words, anything looks better in pictures then in person. Beauty is in the eye of the owner not necessarily the beholder. 2<sup>ND</sup> place at the Mopar Nationals means 2<sup>nd</sup> place AMC and there were probably two cars entered. "Awards" can be such a misleading statement, heck I recently won best AMC at a show and, of course, I was the only AMC. Caveat Emptor!

## **Peach State Web Site Update... <http://www.peachstateamo.com> ...by Ron Waters**

Last update was in July. I still need pictures and info on your AMC's. You can email them to [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com)

## **Jim's car gets "Overlooked" ... ...by Jim Graubard**

Well I just returned from a 12 hour baking session at Year One's Brasselton Bash featuring Chip Foose from TV's "Overhaulin." It was HOT!!!! This poor guy (Chip) started at 9am and did not finish until 8:30pm (or later as I left by then), pressing flesh and signing his name to just about anything anyone would bring him to do. One of these days I will figure out what is so important about a signature on a piece of paper. from someone you don't know. One guy even had Chip sign the hood of his '90s mustang. I can't imagine why Chip would want to sign a hood unless he had a hand in the making of the car. The only signatures I like are those on checks that I can then take to the bank. Maybe it stems from a job I did in the 1990 with my friend Rich Johnson. His wife Debbie owned a company called East Meets West, which took care of important people waiting for flights or having downtime at Miami International Airport. Among the no-names we dealt with we also had the task of taking care of Goldie Hawn on several occasions during several 3-4 hour stints. We had to keep the autograph seekers and such away from her. People would try to approach her with things like ticket folders, napkins and other items they wanted her to sign, but we kept 'em all at bay. I also had to do the same with her husband, Kurt Russell twice by myself (the first time I was to meet him I had to ask a flight attendant to help point him out as I did not know what he looked like). Once we even had to meet Goldie, Kurt, with their five children (including a young eleven year old Kate Hudson) and the nanny that accompanied them.

The day at Year One's outstanding facility started out as each of the 100 "selected" cars lined up for their photo with yourself and Chip standing next to your car, I was number ten. I love the term they used "select"—the way you were "selected" to have your photo with Chip taken and your car "reviewed" by Chip was to be one of the first 100 people to send in 100 dollars. It all went to a good cause, toward the research of the disease Progeria, so I had no problem with sending my 100 bucks in early on. The far fetch hope at the end of the rainbow was for Chip to select your car and make one of his famous drawings of it as well as having dinner with him the following night. Those of us who have seen the show "Overhaulin" know what a fine artist of cars he is. I knew he would never select my AMX, but I tried anyway.

When I first met Chip in the morning we talked for a moment and I tried my amateur psychology on him. Telling him that I admire his work and it was too bad there were no after market companies who made AMC parts that would afford him the chance to do an AMX as it would be great to see what he could do with the lines it offers. His reply was that last year when they did a special episode of "Overhaulin", the one where the owners knew they were in the running to have him do his thing on their cars, he wanted to do the AMX. Those who saw that show may remember that the crew first visited a 1929 Model T, then an AMX that had more race items than stock and finally a second generation Camaro. The Camaro was in the best shape and the other two really could have used "Overhaulin". But alas, it was the Camaro that was chosen to be overhauled. I remember laughing to myself (I do that quite often) and saying "what the heck was that all about", they would never do an AMX, after all the sponsors are the ones who supply the parts and naturally they were going to select the Camaro. So I thought, OK Chip here is your chance to do an AMX. It did not happen. In fact watching him later in the day review each car, he spent a good amount of time with some really nice custom cars but when it came to my AMX he looked it over very quickly and moved on. Kneeling down beside the passenger door looking in at the interior he did say it is the finest AMX he has ever seen, but what would you expect him to say? Before he moved to the next car we engaged in some small talk and I gave him an AMX patch and told him it was to remember the poor orphans, one day our time will come. We shook hands once more and my time with Chip and the chance for him to work with an AMC had come and gone. He chose a very nice custom orange 1970 Chevelle this day.

All in all it was a great day, some of the nicest cars I have ever seen outside of the World of Wheels show. I am not into taking pictures of many cars, in fact the only one I photographed was a very fine SC/Rambler that was part of the regular car show going on at the same time as the Foose show. The only other "car" I took a picture of was a baby stroller—see photo. It even shot out nitrous when Chip had his picture taken with it. Year One did an outstanding job of hosting the show, having the showroom and other inside areas available for some relief out of the sun. Hard working staff was everywhere and included our own Geneva Puras and Jeff Reeves to make sure everyone was taken care of.

Side note: this was the first show I have ever attended I did not get a Year One bag, how strange is that?

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

### **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.

All forms and info are available on the peachstate website at <http://ww.peachstateamo.com>. The "Events" button will have downloads for the Registration Form, Meet Flyer, Activity List, and Directions.

## **WILD BILL'S SPRING FLING...**

**...by Steve O'Neal**

*Wild Bill's sets an image in your head that something different is to come:*

I attended the 1st Annual Spring Fling Car Show at Wild Bill's on May 12<sup>th</sup> with our Red AMX. It was held in their parking lot and attracted a different participant contingent but the show was pretty traditional. I started the day off giving blood at the Mud for Blood Drive & 4x4 Truck Show at the Bass Pro Shop parking lot. There were some very nicely built vehicles there.

This is what Karen & I did before getting involved in the much more relaxing muscle car scene. Then I was off to Wild Bill's. I was participant #114 of approximately 130 muscle cars, rods, trucks, stretch limos, rice burners and crotch rockets so there was quite a variety of vehicles to look at. I was the only AMC but since there were no classes it didn't matter. The day was warm, but shady by building and pretty nice - I thought about cutting some doughnuts on the warm likely greasy asphalt to create some action as I was sure others would follow but was too comfy under the shade tree. Then I heard the sirens...apparently some of the bikes were doing wheelies on the street in front of WB's and one of them didn't bother to stop at the intersection hitting a truck at about 60 mph (he lived but got hauled off). The top 20 awards were by public vote and I learned a lesson. There were probably 20+ vehicles there from one club (each participant got 1 voting slip w/20 spaces), guess who got the majority of plaques + largest club there? I stopped counting at 7 awards, they probably got 15. I was just about to give up & go home but the trophy's were judged by people that had more sense and I received the Sponsor's Choice Trophy, 4 tickets to a concert at WB's and a picture with a WB's Girl presenting it to me (I haven't seen the picture yet but she's going to look like a real stick next to me). Plug for sponsor: I did go into WB's to use the restroom, nice place and NO smoke stench (Gwinnett has a no-smoking ordinance) in case you are looking for a place to party. While this was executed by the Mustang Club I think they had less than 10 cars there and they didn't stack the deck. Like I said, it was a little different...'til next time giddy up.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **August**

The August meeting is to be held at Barb Valentine's house on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Directions are as follows:

Going north on I-75, exit at 267A, 5 spur. Make right at first light onto Sandy Plains Rd.. Go approximately 7 to 8 miles to Highland Point Entrance (brick walled entrance), make a left onto North Mountain Road. Make 4<sup>th</sup> left onto Forest Peak Circle. Make 4<sup>th</sup> left onto East Forest Peak (Barb's street), house is the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the left, gray stucco.

4681 East Forest Peak  
Marietta, GA 3006  
(770) 973-6112

## **Dixie Cruisers Car Show... ...by Karen O'Neal**

Steve and I took our Red AMX to the Dixie Cruisers Car Show in Winder on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A friend of Jeff Reeves and Jeff & Geneva Puras saw our car, gave them a call and they ended up paying us a surprise visit. Until Jeff R. showed up we were the only AMC there and ended up winning a plaque. The Dixie Cruisers have it right, they start their shows at 5:00 p.m. and end between 8:00 and 9:00. It's not during the hottest part of the day and it's not an all day affair. As usual, nice cars and a great group of people!

## **Southeast Regional... ...by Jeff Barfield**

The Southeast Regional is almost here and this is where the hard work begins. In many cases the people that have jobs assigned to them have not needed to do anything yet. Now is the time to start preparing. In most cases I don't expect people to handle the jobs alone, I just expect them to make sure that the jobs get done. For example, Jim and Chris Graubard are in charge of the registration table. It is not their job to sit at the registration table all day Friday and Saturday, it is just their job to be sure that someone does. The club meeting at Barb's house would be a great time to drum up some help.

If you have not registered already, please take some time now to fill out your registration form and send it in, or at least bring it to the next meeting. Also if you plan to stay at the hotel, please call and make your reservations now! I want to be sure that we have dash plaques, t-shirts and awards for everyone.

This should be a very laid back and fun show. I am looking forward to the spark plug changing contest. We will have 2 AMC

V-8 heads sitting on a table with a ratchet, socket and extension for 2 people at a time. It will be like a drag race, with head to head (pun intended) competition, with elimination of the slowest person until a champion is crowned. We will have prizes for at least the top 2 competitors.

We have had numerous people working to get door prizes and goodie bag stuff. I think these will be our best goodie bags ever! Thanks to everyone for everything that they have done so far and for everything that you will be doing in the near future. I hope to see all of you, and your cars, at the show.

### **This just in from Steve...**

Webb Classic is closing so everything is on sale. Currently the prices in the thier parts file will be discounted 30%. If anyone is interested they need to move quickly as this will go to National AMO soon then everyone will know about it. Discount may increase as he gets closer to end, but part you want may be gone. If you need a lot of stuff you might want to ask for a deeper discount. May be easier to contact him with your needs as the part file is 160 pages long and covers lots of models and years.

Contact Jim Webb - Webb's Classic Auto Parts at 260-344-1714

### **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...**

- I am contacting the club to see if any of your members would be interested in a 1965 330 Rambler wagon and a 1965 220 two door. Both are in need of restoration, but both also contain many good parts including all glass. The wagon is on rollers, I was in the process of restoration. And the 220 is located under my pole barn where I last parked it a few years ago. At this time my health does not permit me to work on them, but I do not want to call the local salvage yard to have them hauled away. **The price for the two vehicles are \$0.00 to the right person.** I am selling my property and will need them to be removed from my garage and barn. The cars are located near Waynesboro, South of Augusta. Joel A. Trainor. Phone 706-339-9632 Email: Joel.A.Trainor@sas02.usace.army.mil

## Pictures

**Jim Graubard's AMX At Year One  
Chip Foose Standing Behind It**



**Hot Rod Baby Stroller**



***WSC***  
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Performance Parts  
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