



# The Red Clay Rambler



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

I really have not much to write about this time around. I have been so busy since the middle of December running back and forth to the shop where my current AMC project is. As of this writing I still do not want to go into detail about 'Ol Rusty, not till it get it presentable anyway. Fortunately for me during this project I have had the good fortune of having access to several knowledgeable club members who have made this journey a bit more tolerable. As the "restoration" unfolds I will reveal more detail of both the subject and my tutors. I know the work I have done so far would not have been possible without them, this is why I am glad I found Peach State AMO when I did.

Our holiday party was again held this past December at the home of Karen and Steve O'Neal. As mentioned in past newsletters, their holiday display is one to rival a Hollywood set. Good food and good times were had by all, topped by ornament exchange, which of late has become a climax of the party. If you were not present, a special ornament was created this year and awarded to the person who was born closest to Kenosha, WI home of AMC. It turns out that not only was Jeff Puras the person closest to Kenosha, he was born within a mile of the AMC plant itself! See picture to get a glimpse of this unusual ornament he received.

## **Chattanooga World Of Wheels...**

Doug Noland's recent showing of his award winning 1970 AMX at the Chattanooga World of Wheels resulted in him winning his class that had two Corvettes in it and won best engine in the street driven class, which consisted of more than half of all the cars at the show.

## **The Rambler Ranch...** **...by Jeff Barfield**

While I was in Denver to attend the AMO International Convention this past July we were invited to visit the Rambler Ranch. The Rambler Ranch is home to a true gentleman and huge AMC aficionado, Terry Gale. I had been told about this place, and had set myself up to be disappointed, because it could not possibly live up to the build up that I had heard. Not only did it live up to the hype, but surpassed even my most vivid imagination.

The adventure began on Thursday, prior to the national show. We caravanned out to Terry's place and Theresa and I were driving the Three Jeff's Hornet. The caravan was lead by a newly finished Rambler Ranch bus. It was done in red, white and blue, and featured many interesting logos. Later we all had a chance to sign the inside roof of the bus. Also as part of the caravan was Terry's Grand Wagoneer Limo. Many people were in non-AMCs and as we arrived they were sent in one direction and those of us in AMC vehicles were sent in the other. We were allowed to park right in the middle of the action and the brand X vehicles were parked in some out of the way corner. We all gathered and talked and looked at the beautiful area, the large picnic area and the huge buildings. Everyone was given a goodie bag, that included a Rambler Ranch logoed soft side cooler, bottle of water, key chain, disposable camera and more. After everyone arrived Terry came driving up in a 1954 Ambassador to great his guests.

When he arrived he gave us a short talk, informing us that the 1954 Ambo that he had arrived in, originally belonged to his dad and it was the car that “started it all”. The car had sat in a field for 18 years before Terry decided to restore it. It took 3 years to restore, but once it was finished and he drove it “he was hooked”. His mission is to preserve the history of the car company that we all know and love, and he has done a fine job of it.

When he finished speaking, both of the buildings were opened for everyone (several hundred people) to peruse and enjoy. The original building housed about 30 cars, mostly Nash, and more AMC and Nash memorabilia than I have ever seen total, much less all in one place. There were several walls lined with glass cases full of memorabilia as well as tables and shelves and displays full of stuff. At one point I thought that he might be interested in a pair of Spirit cufflinks that I own, but upon further inspection he already had a set in one of his cases. Of course there were also signs hanging everywhere. This building also had an attachment on the side with 20 or more additional cars, but they were mostly other makes.

Then we headed to the “new building”. When I say new, I mean that they finished building it on Tuesday and then moved in all of the cars on Wednesday and painted the AMC emblems on the floor that morning. These emblems had to be blocked off, because the paint wasn’t even dry yet. This building housed approximately 120 cars all AMC. He had almost everything that you can think of in this building. From the older Ramblers to the newest Eagles, even a couple of Renaults almost everything that AMC made. I say almost everything because certain noticeable cars that were missing included the SC/Rambler and Rebel Machine (although he did have some regular Rebels). He also had only a few Javelins and only 2 AMXs. He later explained to me why, but you will have to wait until the end of the story to learn that answer. This number of AMC cars all in one place is amazing enough, but each one of them would likely have taken a gold award if shown. The level of detail on most of the cars was impeccable, and most were either stock or very close to it.

If all of this wasn’t enough out behind the new building was Terry’s “field of dreams”. It was, to most, a junkyard, but to AMC enthusiast like us, it truly was a field of dreams. This area contained another 200 to 300 cars, that were used as parts cars and some of them may have been the next car on the block to be restored. His ranch would have been awesome if it included only this area, but no tools were allowed.

Another car that he had just finished was a 1966? right hand drive postal Ambassador. The car was made to match an ad for the same car and was displayed complete with mailbox including the same name as the ad. This car was on display at the show and also in the room during the banquet.

Also present on this day at the Rambler Ranch, were 2 very well known AMC drag cars, Pete’s Patriot and the Drag-on-Lady. Along with the Drag-on-Lady car was the well known driver of it, Shirley Shahan. I didn’t get much of a chance to talk to Shirley, because as you can imagine, she was quite popular. I did get to shake her hand and take a few pictures.

After we had looked around a while they began serving lunch, this was not free, but the cost was very minimal,

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\$3.00 per plate if I recall. A plate included a hamburger or hot dog, chips and a drink. Terry had several grills going and they did an excellent job of feeding that many people.

While I was there I had a chance to show Terry our little Hornet and he expressed interest in purchasing the car. His biggest problem was that he only had indoor storage for about 180 cars and he didn't know where he would put it. Saturday at the show he decided that he would buy the car and offered me money and 2 plane tickets home so the Three Jeff's Hornet now lives at the Rambler Ranch.

When all of the festivities were over, Theresa and I drove back out to the Rambler Ranch on Monday to deliver Terry's new car. He then drove us to the airport in a Matador 4 door sedan. This man is a true AMC fan. It was during this trip that he answered the question of why so few muscle cars. He said that when club members asked him why he didn't have any Machines or SC/Ramblers and so few Javelins and AMXs, his reply, "My goal is to preserve the history of AMC and you guys are already preserving those cars, I don't need to."

If you are ever in Denver, look Terry up. He is always happy to open his ranch to any auto enthusiast, especially AMC folks. If he has the time, he will likely invite you out for a private tour. You won't be disappointed!

See Pictures On Page 7...

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

It's that time of year again. Club dues are due buy March 31th. of each year. You will find a renewal membership form enclosed with this newsletter. **Please take time to update your vehicle information.** Any space that you do not have a answer for (such as email address) and you do not have one please write "none". Membership Forms and renewal forms are also on our web site for download. [www.peachstateamo.com](http://www.peachstateamo.com)

Thanks... Ron Waters

### **Upcoming Meetings...**

#### **February**

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at the home o George and Libby Doughtie.

**Directions:** Take GA 400 north to exit 17 and turn right onto Keith Bridge road (GA306). Go 6 miles to a traffic light (BP station on right) and turn right onto Jot Em Down Road. Go ½ mile to 8065 Jot Em Down Road and turn left into driveway. There are two mailboxes there as well as a flagpole, go down driveway to George's home and shop in the rear of the property.

Or, I-985 to exit 14/Oakwood?GA53 and turn left. Follow GA53 to GA369/Browns Bridge and turn left. Cross Lake Lanier (what is left of it), Two Mile Creek and turn right at PlyMart onto Jot Em Down Road. Go approximately 2 miles to 8065 Jot Em Down Road and turn right into driveway, down to house and shop area in the back of the property.

#### **April**

Our April meeting is currently scheduled to be at the home of Jim & Chris Graubard on Sunday, April 20th. Directions will be in the next newsletter.

## Upcoming AMC Events...

**March 28-29-30, 2008**

### **Return to Daytona II: The AMX 40th Reunion**

Presented by: First Coast AMC Club of Florida

All AMC, Rambler, Hudson, Nash, and Jeep are invited to celebrate "the American Motors AMX"

Friday: show and shine, swap meet

Saturday: Judged show and swap meet, awards dinner

Sunday: Driving Tour of beautiful Volusia County, Florida

For more information, hotels and registration:

Contact Cliff Danley at am401@comcast.net or (904) 783-4177 (evenings)

Held at the Spring Daytona Beach all-makes Car Show and Swap Meet.

**May 2nd & 3rd, 2008**

### **6th annual Landmark Mopar Southern Classic**

#### **Infield of the Atlanta Motor Speedway**

### **Start Your Engines!**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the MOPAR world you are invited to the fastest growing, largest, all Mopar event in the Southeast! **The North Georgia Mopar Club, Landmark Dodge, and Vortech-Paxton SuperChargers** are hosting the **6th annual Landmark Mopar Southern Classic** all Mopar car show at the same great location we were at last year; the **Infield of the Atlanta Motor Speedway on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**. Last year we had in excess of **250** Mopars and over **90** Vendors, this year promises to be even better! We've added a **second day, Friday**, and we have added more space for the Vendors, Car Corral and Manufacture's Midway. In addition; we have added the **'Hotlanta Mopar Street Challenge'** to be held Friday night on Pit Road: Street Racing in a safe and controlled environment! **1/8 Mile street racing** where Mopar Racers challenge all comers! Race Trophies will be provided by **Mopar Collector's Guide Magazine**. We have added more food vendors with better pricing than last year and there will be **NO race cars on the track on Saturday!!!!**

We will be once again giving away, as our grand door prize, a **brand new 18' open car hauler**, courtesy of **Trailers for Less** of Fayetteville, GA, to one lucky participant of the show. In addition; **Air Tran Airways** is providing us with **2-roundtrip tickets** anywhere in their system to be given away as well. If you have ever wanted to take your car on the track, this will be the day as we will have **4 speedway cruises** for all participants! **Dyno Dave Dunbar** will also have his dynamometer there to test your car's performance. There will also be a **50/50 drawing** and of course **DJ Tommy Landrum** will be providing the tunes for the show. In addition to the normal judging, you and your car can have **your picture taken in Victory Lane!** Of course there will be a swap meet and a car corral so bring some cash and find part you have been searching for, or that next project/dream car.

**We are inviting all of the Mopar world to attend;** such as Vipers, Prowlers, PT Cruisers, Jeeps, AMCs, Hudsons, Willys, Mopar streetrods, Muscle and Custom Trucks, Drag Cars, Antique Chrysler, Plymouth and Dodges, and of course the Mopar Muscle Cars.

Put it on your calendar; May 2nd. and 3rd. 2008, The Atlanta Motor Speedway infield, 6th Annual all Mopar Landmark Southern Classic.

**For further information email questions to:**

2008moparshow@mindspring.com , or go to [www.northgeorgiamoparclub.com](http://www.northgeorgiamoparclub.com) or call 770-401-6542.

***Keep on Mopar'n and we'll see you there!!***

**July 1st to July 6st, 2008**

### **2008 AMO International Convention**

Car Show and Swap Meet

All AMC Cars from 1958 to 1988 including: Ambassador, American, AMX, Classic, Concord, Eagle, Gremlin,

Hornet, Javelin, Jeep, Marlin, Matador, Metropolitan, Pacer, Rambler, Rebel, Spirit.

Hosted by AMO PLUS of Ontario

Being held in Kingston Ontario

Expecting Participants from around the world

Host Hotel is: The Ambassador Hotel & Conference Center

Contact: 1-800-267-7880 or 613-548-3605

Pre-registration for Show & Pre-booking of Hotel recommended

For more information visit our website: [www.amontario.org](http://www.amontario.org) for full details or Contact: Don @ 613-372-5101

## **Received Below Info Recently...**

**.. Ron Waters**

### **Peach State Speedway**

#### **Jefferson GA**

#### **Monthly Car Show & Swap Meet**

I'm not sure that many of you may be aware we have started haing a monthly Car Show / Swap Meet here at Peach State Speedway in Jefferson, GA.

The track is just off of I-85 at exit #140. Direction can be found at our web site (listed below)

We have it the second Saturday of every month.

It's been going pretty well so far, but we would like to grow the event even more. We encourage vendors, car owners, and spectators to come join us for this festive day once a month.

We would like to see you and your club get together and join us at the show this month.

We have had pretty decent car counts over the winter months, even though the weather has been a little cool on some days.

This month we are looking forward to even bigger crowds as the weather begins to warm up, and spring slips up on us.

We try to cover our car show on our web site, and give out prizes for the best cars that attend every month. It is a 'fans choice' ballot, so that makes it even more interesting.

This month we plan on having a 50/50 drawing also so someone may go home with a pocket full of money.

This is just the first of THREE big events we have scheduled here right away at Peach State Speedway.

Next month we have a Car Show / Swap Meet in conjunction with the opening day of our race season. On tap is the National Vintage Racing Association (NVRA) There are old races cars from days gone by, and boy do they put on a show. They just don't get out and ride around in their cars,.. there's some full fledged fender to fender racing.

I would like to ask that you please get with your club members and assemble a group to come out for the day, both this month, and also on opening day at the races. Please help us spread the word, and come and join us. Drive your nice cars, and show them off.

I want to mention that we also have a "official Host Hotel" of Peach State Speedway for 2008, and if some of you come and want to spend the night, they give a reduced rate. It is the Dandelion Inn in Commerce GA. It is a nice place to stay and the new owners have spent quite a bit of money doing a big renovation project. Please stop by our web site and see their banner ad on the side of the page. It will give you all the information, a link to their web site, and a special passcode to get the reduced rate. <http://www.peachstspeedway.com/>

Here is a link to the speedway. I also want to list a couple links from news articles we posted about past car shows.

<http://www.peachstspeedway.com/News-2008-01-13.htm>

<http://www.peachstspeedway.com/News-2007-11-04.htm>

Just gives you an idea of the nice little shows we have had even in the cooler weather. We expect things to really pop over the next few months, and hope you will make an effort to come and be on hand with us.

Admission is \$3 for Adults. Kids 12 and under are FREE. The Car Corral is \$10, The Car Show is \$15, and Vendors are \$20. The Car Corral, Vendors, and Car Show comes with one free admission with entry.

If you got a old car,.. or a new one... bring it out and join the fun. Show car, antiques, race cars, muscle cars, anything and everything. Vendors are welcome. Buy, Sell, and Trade. Make sure you come and check out what is going on. We'd love to have you and your group.

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

**...by Ron Waters**

STILL NEED PICTURES OF YOUR CARS FOR WEB SITE!!! You can email them to [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com)

### **Swap Meet...**

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

**By email: [peachstate@classicone.com](mailto:peachstate@classicone.com)**

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

### **For Sale...**

- 1964 AMC Rambler 2dr hard top, rebuilt V-8 with auto- trans & power brakes. Very straight and solid body, primed and ready for paint. New interior, tires, & breaks along with extra parts. Poor health is forcing this sale. \$4000.00 - Ray Wehunt - (770) 819-1402 7:00 am - 11:00 pm

## Rambler Ranch Pictures



Rambler Ranch Sign



Terry Gale



Shirley Shahan & Drag-on Lady



Rambler Ranch Bus



Kenosha Sleigh



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