



The Red Clay Rambler



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FROM THE PRES

...by Jeff Puras

Here we are, well into the New Year already. The fast passing of time was explained to me that as we get older each year is a smaller increment of our life. Probably true but I don't feel much better about the fast passage of time armed with that information as I am coming to grips with the fact that a certain '68 AMX is in year number 42 of my possession. It seems like yesterday when I ripped the last payment coupon out of the book and sent in that important check. The excitement of the arrival in the mail of the title was second only to when those little packages arrived from [Battle Creek, Michigan](#) after sending in the box tops. "Expect delivery in 21 days or less." Anybody remember those? Uh oh...the mind is starting to wander already. Missed the 2:00 nap today.

About 2 years ago, or was it 10 years ago, our club had the honor of being involved in the shooting of a show for the Speed TV series "American Muscle Car." Jeff Barfield got a call from the show producer asking if he could round up some AMCs for the show. Jeff's answer went something like, "How many, when and where?" The rest is history. We all met up at the assigned time and place with the production crew. During the interview portion the producer and I were talking like he was waiting for something to happen. Then suddenly he said, "Good, I think we have some good stuff there." There I was waiting for the interview to start and then it was over.

One of the remarks I made was how my car is "my buddy." I always wished I hadn't said that, seems weird, even though I believed it then and naturally, I still feel that way now. Since then I have seen exactly the same sentiment expressed in print and television. Much to my relief, there are others of us out there. "That car is my buddy, that airplane is my buddy." Like any old friend I can look at my AMX and see the years. With almost all original paint, the body isn't pristine. I don't know if I would want it to lose the age marks. That crease? A sheet of plywood flew off a truck during a northern Indiana wind storm and landed on the car. How about that small depression on the fender? Some kid jumped up on the car. Please don't ask. Parking lot dings? I worked at a place where people came and went all day. Front bumper chrome dull? It has never been off the car. [Rear bumper](#) is starting to look bad again. The original was fixed after a cross country adventure pulling a U-Haul bent it. Remember those clamp-on trailer hitches? So could my buddy use a face lift? Sure. Is it going to get one any time soon? Nope. I like looking at the Matador Red car. I little scuff here, a little dull there. Character.

My AMX is an old friend. This old friend has a power though. Hop in and crank it up. Snick in into first gear, go back in time and look at the world over the distinctive hood with 21 year old eyes again. I clearly remember the first time I drove it out of the dealership lot that day looking for dry pavement to "see what she'll do." I still get the feeling. Always will.

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LETTER IN HEMMING'S MUSCLE MACHINES

...by Jeff Barfield

One recent Friday afternoon, I received a call from Jeff Puras. He stated that he had just received his copy of Hemming Muscle Machines and when he looks at the letters to the editor section, he noticed the letter of the month featured a car that look very familiar. Yes, in fact, they had actually printed my letter, with all 3 pictures of the car that I sent to them. Needless to say I was thrilled. It was nearly a week before I could find a copy at the bookstore and since I had let my subscription lapse and had just renewed I finally received my copy in the mail 3 weeks later. The text of the letter is below:

I enjoyed reading the November 2010 issue Dare to be Driven, about high mileage cars that are still driven. I also enjoyed reading about people who still have their original car several months ago. I have a 1969 Javelin with a 343 that qualifies in both of these categories. My dad bought the car in 1973 when I was 13, the first time I laid eyes on it, I told him, "Do not sell this car before I turn 16 because it is mine!" I did indeed purchase it from him at 16 and my feelings about the car have never changed. The Javelin currently has 253,000 miles and counting.

Over the last 12 years I have been attending most of the AMO (American Motors Owners) international meets. I have driven the car from Atlanta to Dayton OH, Kenosha WI (Where it was born), New Berlin CT, St. Louis twice, and Lansing MI (Including a trip across Canada to Niagara Falls before returning home). I have also driven it on numerous other shorter trips. The car has never undergone a "complete restoration" but has had an engine rebuild, several paint jobs and the interior was redone 15 years ago.

Over the 35 years that I have owned this car it has brought me immense pleasure and has a very rich history. The car has been on television on Speed Channel's American Muscle Car (AMX episode). It was a background car in the movie Dumb and Dumber and was Matthew McConaughey's car in the movie We Are Marshall. It was stolen and recovered the same day in 1979, and stripped of wheels, front fenders, side mirrors and battery in 1983. Other stories of this car include rebuilding the engine in the trunk of my 65 Impala in an apartment complex parking lot. Finding out that a magnetic mount CB antennae will stay on a vinyl roof until you reach approximately 105 miles per hour, at which time it will come off, making you think that something on the car broke at 105. The stories are endless, but space in you magazine is not, so I will end here. I hope to have at least another 35 years of fun with this car.

PASS THE PLATE PLEASE

...by Jim Graubard

Did you know that you can use classic car license plates on your classic car here in Georgia? Any classic car 1970 or older qualifies to do so. I recently had to learn how to do this the hard way up here in back water Georgia. When I went to register our newest addition, the 1960 Nash Metropolitan I am currently restoring, I inquired about getting a 1960 plate to use on it. I was told by the young lady behind the window that I had to get an Antique car plate to qualify to use a 1960 plate. I was hoping to avoid getting any special plate from the state as the rates are now \$55. So with that information we just got a plain Jane normal plate for the Met. But when I got home I got on line to look up the official Georgia code, here it is in a nutshell.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'authentic historical Georgia license plate' means a license plate originally issued in the year 1970 or earlier and originally required to be displayed on motor vehicles operated upon the streets and highways

of this state in the year 1970 or earlier pursuant to former motor vehicle registration laws of this state.

(b) The owner of any antique motor vehicle manufactured in 1970 or earlier shall be authorized to display in lieu of and in the same manner as the license plate otherwise required under Code Section 40-2-41 an authentic historical Georgia license plate which clearly represents the model year of any such antique motor vehicle, provided that the owner has properly registered such antique motor vehicle for the current year as otherwise required under this chapter and has obtained a current Georgia license plate or revalidation decal for such antique motor vehicle. Such currently valid Georgia license plate shall be kept in such antique motor vehicle at all times but need not be displayed in a manner to be visible from outside the vehicle.

I armed myself with a printout of the above and was also able to print up the correct affidavit (form) to fill out and bring with me back to the courthouse to present to the person and get to use my 1960 plate. When I did this I made sure I went to a different window so I could start new and not have a confrontation with the same girl. This was a wise choice as the person I spoke with this time just said "sure, we can do that", and all she had to do was sign my affidavit and I was good to go. Now I will put the '60 plate on the Met (if it ever comes back from the paint and upholstery shop) and all I have to do is keep the real registered plate in the car with the affidavit to show if ever required by law enforcement. That all took place a few weeks ago, and today I went back down to the courthouse with my 1968 year plate to put on my AMX. I was waiting for the same young lady who took care of me with the Met plate, but she was real busy, so I went to another window. This time at the new window that young lady said she had no idea how to do that! So back to the waiting area for 15 minutes but when she was free I got to the one who knew what to do and now the AMX sports a fully restored beautiful 1968 Georgia plate. Here are the two links to the information you will need to do this.

http://motor.etax.dor.ga.gov/forms/pdf/motor/MV_Authentic_Historical_Tag_Affidavit_Form_T224.pdf

http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2005_06/fulltext/sb117.htm

You will, of course, need the correct year plate for your car. I have found them at some vendors at local car shows and also on eBay. If anyone wants a recommendation for a place to restore the plate I can give you that information as well.

TOTALLY WIRED **...by Jeff Barfield**

In the last newsletter you read about some of the problems I had with my taillights, blinkers and the car actually not running at all due to wiring issues. In addition I had intermittent troubles with my dash lights and gas gauge. All of this meant it was time to do something so I rewired the car.

I ordered 3 new wiring harnesses from Kennedy American. The main harness covers the engine compartment and behind the dash. The rear harness connects to the main harness and covers taillights and backup lights (including new sockets) dome lights, connection for trunk and tag lights and fuel sending unit. The 3rd harness goes to the neutral safety and backup light switch.

Prior to Christmas break I spoke with one of the teachers at the school where I work and told him that I was going to work on rewiring my Javelin over the break. Mark, also being a car guy (77 Nova) said that he would like to help, so I accepted. He came over on Wednesday before Christmas. When he arrived I had already taken a lot of pictures and removed the old wiring harness. Removing the harness was not very difficult once I removed the brake booster. I let the master

cylinder hang by the brake lines, maybe not the best idea, but I thought it was better than letting brake fluid spill all over my engine compartment. Doing this was the only way that I could gain access to the plate that had to be removed to pull the harness through.

We then proceeded to clean up the wiring that was not part of the harness. We put new spade clips on the wires to the front parking lights, the plugs had been cut when the car was stripped back in '83 and the wires had been spliced ever since. There is no new AC harness being produced so we cleaned up the old wiring. Two of the wires that go to the AC resistor are part of the new harness and one is not. We soldered on an end that would allow it to clip into the three prong plug and all plug in as one unit, just like the factory did, the original end had been cut off years ago. We also replaced another wire that was part of the AC. Since I have a Delco alternator with internal regulator I had several plugs that I did not need, but I could not bring myself to cut a brand new wiring harness. To make it look its best with the large regulator plug I pulled a voltage regulator out of the basement. I was afraid that if I just plugged it in, it may cause problems, so I cut off all of the wires and attached them to the back of the regulator in such a way that they were not making any electrical connection, then I plugged it in. The field and ground wires, I simply folded back and taped them up. We cleaned the engine compartment, taped up other wires, etc. When he left, after working all day, the new wiring harness was still on the work bench.

He planned to come back on Tuesday after Christmas. When I called on Monday to verify, he couldn't come over until 6:30pm. So I started Tuesday alone and when he arrived the harness was in place, everything in the engine compartment was done and most everything under the dash was completed. The engine compartment was actually fairly simple. If you route the wires properly everything lays out right where it needs to plug. Under the dash was a little more convoluted but with a little time and patience, still not too difficult. I did not remove the dash for this operation, other than the cover for the instrument cluster, the cluster itself and the clock everything stayed in place.

After finishing the main harness we installed the rear harness. The most difficult part of this operation was fishing it through the rocker panel. We simply tied a string to the old harness and pulled it out. Then tied the string to the new harness and pulled it back through. Getting the grommet through the bottom of the trunk for the sending unit wire was also a challenge.

Once that was finished we removed the console and installed the neutral safety and backup light harness. The hardest part of this operation was getting the wires under the carpet. I was glad to have this harness since years ago I was blowing fuses every time the backup lights came on and I had made my own wire to go from the switch back to the trunk. Now they are wired just like the factory meant for them to be.

Mark left at midnight and by then the car ran, all lights, horn and gauges worked. I did drive the car to work one day with no problems. I'm still fiddling with some things, like my keyless entry system, painting the needles on my dash cluster, and other assorted items, but soon it should be back together and more road worthy than ever.

GEORGIA STREET ROD ASSOCIATION **...by Karen O'Neal**

Steve and I received a call from Wayne Herubin with the Georgia Street Rod Association. He is interested in our clubs participating in events together. Their upcoming events include a Swap Meet and Picnic. The Swap Meet flyer and map is attached to the newsletter email. For the Picnic, they provide food, beverages, music and door prizes. Take your car and have fun! Please check out their website at www.gsra.com. If you would like more information on GSRA please email Wayne, I know he would enjoy speaking with you - wherubin@comcast.net.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 1:00 P.M.



3265 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096-4712
www.R2B2Motors.com

Directions from 985/85 South

Take 985 S to 85 S toward Atlanta. Exit #107, GA-120/Duluth and turn Right. Make your first Left onto Satellite Blvd. Go 1.9 miles and turn Left onto Commerce Avenue (old Gwinnett Place Ford dealership on corner). R2B2 Motors is on the right.

Directions from 85 North

Take 85 North toward Greenville. Exit #103, Steve Reynolds Blvd and turn Left. Turn Right onto Satellite Blvd (third traffic light). Go 1.7 miles and turn Right onto Commerce Avenue (old Gwinnett Place Ford dealership on corner). R2B2 Motors is on the right.

Doug Cell Phone: 404-307-9166

DUES ARE DUE

Please plan to pay your Peach State AMO dues (\$18) at the next meeting (2/13) or mail a check to Theresa Barfield, 394 Creek Crossing Ct., Grayson, GA 30017 by March 31st. New members or those that need to make any changes can download the renewal form from our website:

www.peachstateamc.com

UPCOMING CAR SHOWS AND ADDITIONAL CLUB INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.peachstateamc.com>

If you would like to add an event please email Jim at jsgchg201@yahoo.com



**13TH ANNUAL SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AMC CAR SHOW
Atlanta, GA**

**Saturday, October 8, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Hosted by Peach State AMO

**Show is open to all AMC, Rambler, NASH, Hudson, and all other marqueses that eventually formed AMC
Club membership is not required**

This year will be similar to the 2007 -2008 shows, it will be fun, and we will keep it low key and simple. Judging will be strictly on points (Bronze, silver and gold) with no classes, all cars will park together and be judged on their own merit, not against the other cars. Come see all of your old friends and enjoy the Southern hospitality, Atlanta style.

Host Hotel: Hilton Atlanta NE, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, GA 30092, (770) 447-4747
For Reservations: Call the Host Hotel at 800 HILTONS and mention the American Motors Owners Association for the special rate of \$94.00 per night. Reservations must be made prior to September 16, 2011 to guarantee the special rate. Reservations may also be made online at http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/ATLHPHF-AMOA-20111005/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG or follow the link from <http://www.peachstateamo.com>

For more information and registration forms contact:

Jeff Barfield - 394 Creek Crossing Ct., Grayson, GA 30017 – 770-466-8463 Email: jrbarfield@comcast.net
Jeff Puras – 423 Four Seasons Ct., Dacula, GA 30019 – 678-376-8901 Email: amx@mindspring.com

**Registration forms and information also available on the Internet at:
<http://www.peachstateamo.com>**

ITINERARY FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AMC MEET

The show field is in the Host Hotel parking lot.

Friday October 5, 2007

2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Pick up registration packets and goodie bags at Host Hotel
8:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Hospitality room at Host Hotel - follow signs (snacks & soft drinks)

Saturday October 6, 2007

9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Car Show
9:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m. Pick up registration packets and goodie bags at show field
11:00 a.m. All cars must be on the show field, judging begins
2:00 p.m. Spark plug changing contest
4:00 p.m. Awards presentation at show field

Other activities: Vendors, judging, trophies, door prizes, spark plug changing contest, 50/50 raffle etc.

Charity event: We will be collecting children's video tapes at registration that will be donated to Egleston and Scottish Rite Children's hospitals in Atlanta. The hospitals have installed VCRs in every patient room and these tapes will be donated to help occupy the kids while they spend endless days in bed. Donations are not required to participate in the show. Coloring books and crayons also welcome.

Please Print Clearly Form must be signed

Registration # _____ (AMO use only)

**2011 AMC Southeast Regional
Atlanta, GA October 8, 2011**

Please complete and return this form with your check/money order in U.S. funds to: Jeff Barfield, 394 Creek Crossing Ct. Grayson, GA 30017. **Make Payment Payable to Peach State AMO.** Registration Confirmation will be sent.

Name _____

Address: _____

Email _____

City: _____

State/Prov. _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone (____) ____ - _____

Registration Information

Year	Model	Cost	Amount
1 st car	_____	\$10.00	_____
	Concours Judging Fee – Add	\$15.00	_____
2nd car	_____	\$5.00	_____
	Concours Judging Fee - Add	\$15.00	_____
	Late Registration Fee (after September 15 add this fee)	\$5.00	_____
Official Convention T-shirts (Please indicate number of shirts wanted in each size) ____SM ____Med ____L ____XL ____XXL ____XXXL @ \$18.00 each			_____
Vendor space – \$10.00			_____
Car Corral - \$10.00 per car		_____ # of cars	_____
Total Registration Fee			_____

Need Trailer parking I will assist with judging

Club officers reserve the right to restrict entrants to acceptable behavior during any and all activities during this event. In consideration of acceptance to participate, entrants and participants by execution of the entry form release and discharge the meet committee members of and from any and all known and unknown liabilities and/or claims from any cause whatsoever, that may be suffered by an entrant to his/her property or person. My signature on this entry form signifies that I have read and understand the contents thereof and hereby agree to abide by the concours and convention rules as set forth by Peach State AMO

SIGNATURE OF ENTRANT _____ DATE: _____

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO THE SHOW FIELD

Aluminum Radiators for AMC's
Custom Made - Show Quality
Downflow Design
See at www.customaluminumradiators.com
Price - \$650.00 plus shipping.
Transcooler is extra

Peach State AMO
2629 Summerfield Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30044