



# *The Red Clay Rambler*



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## **FROM THE PRES**

**...by Jeff Puras**

Lately I have had the opportunity to spend a few thousand miles behind the wheel of a people haulin, soccer mom type carry anything vehicle. As I started the engine for the first time I noticed all the lights, and there are many, doing their thing on the instrument panel. SRS computer self checking, ABS looking all around, low tire pressure sensors sensing a low tire and traction control all ready to help me get around. I wondered why this thing needed traction control. After all it is a Mini Van. I thought about getting a paper bag and cutting some eye holes and try to be invisible lest someone I know sees me. Me, driving a van, un-purpose. My capable co-pilot and nephew decided he would lay on the floor under blankets and be a lump. He gave it a try and decided wisely that the view out of the windshield would be a little better and that he would take his chances being in plain view. I told him that if any of his friends see him in the van, he could say he was being kidnapped. I figured me spending a couple hours in handcuffs would be fair trade for his not loosing all his street cred. Him being an up and coming musician and all.

So we load up and launch out of the driveway and start out on our adventure. Launch is a good word. "What the heck is wrong with this thing and what is all the racket?" The van went into it's "insane driver aboard mode" and decided to take matters into it's own hands. The computers didn't cotton to my intended acceleration and put the traction control to work. I look over in the passenger seat where my co-pilot was on the look out and thinking of lies in case he was spotted by friends and his worried look became a look of "Hey, what we got here?" What we got here is a dang "Muscle Van". We both start feeling a little better about ourselves and start exploring the capabilities of our ride. Little pockets here, widgets there. A built in trip computer provided us with all sorts of enjoyment. Maximum mpg obtained was 99 and lowest attainable was 4. We tested our nerve using the distance to empty mode. What fun!

Our ride was a Toyota Sienna. I wish I had one! There. I said it out loud. We're always needing transportation for 5 or more people and this would fit the bill. I did a little research and found out that the Sienna is the most powerful Mini Van ever made. With it's V6 power it is actually fun to drive. How much fun? The vans zero to sixty mph times are within a heartbeat of a stock 1968 390 AMX. What a sobering thought. That's technology for you. So the next time you are at a stop light in your classic ride abusing hydrocarbons and that Mini Van driving soccer mom gives you a sideways look....ya better think twice!

Be careful out there!

Jeff P.

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## **JIM'S RAMBLINGS**

### **...by Jim Graubard**

Well the temperature has finally risen above 45 and I hope it will keep climbing. With the good news the thermometer was showing I headed out into my garage about the middle of March and lifted off the car covers. Sure enough both cars were still there and begging for some attention from their months in winter slumber. With the Javelin AMX heading off to the Atlanta auto show a week later she was the first to be serviced. First up was remove the dash to fix a wiring problem that had popped up last fall, not to mention re-attaching the speedometer cable which tends to pop off for some reason. With that out of the way I then installed a new custom filler plate from the grill to the upper radiator support to cover that wide open area the Javelin was born with, it makes a much neater looking area now and I have a place to rest things while I am working under the hood! After that it was just clean this, polish that and she was ready for the people of Atlanta to see.

Last year I only attended one local show as I had several big shows on the agenda. This year is really up in the air as my experience with Hilton Head makes local shows less appealing. But I did try, last Saturday my bank here in the hills was hosting a car show and I promised the bank president I would attend. With the Javelin down in ATL the AMX came out of hiding and ventured down to the show with me. But not for long, we were there for about 20 minutes and I was not a happy camper. While my bank's location is great for a bank it bites as a car show venue. The show was in the parking lot, along a main road across from a chicken processing plant (hey, we are in the mountains and I do call it Goober County!!) While there is no smell from the plant the huge ventilating fans they use made a lot of noise. Couple that with the road noise and the DJ playing his country music (from the Deliverance album I think) and I was out of there. I like to relax at a show, talk to people, take in the sights of the cars and so forth. But with all those distractions it was going to be hard so I cut my losses and left. It actually turned out to be a good day, however, as I got to go shopping and had lunch with a pretty red head. There has been some discussion of late on the AMC forum about music at car shows and from what I have read the majority of people could do without it. I guess the show promoters think they need to entertain people with music, door prizes, etc.

Now I am setting my sights on going to Charlotte, NC to the Auto Fair at Lowe's International Speedway April 9-11th. It is perhaps the largest show/swap meet on the East coast and something I have wanted to check out. The Carolina AMC club will be having a display there and I will be joining them with one of my cars. I have a two fold reason for attending, first I have wanted to check out the show/shopping for quite some time but also this year I need to talk with the AMC people in attendance about joining my group to display at the Hilton Head show on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Originally I had planned on a Peach State AMO display but with only two of our group having stepped forward for this venture I am reaching out to others for help. If anyone is still interested please let me know, I am getting near the deadline of when I need to give the Hilton Head people the names and addresses of those who will be attending so they can send out the proper paperwork. After that show my only plans will be a cruise in here and there as well as just driving my cars though the mountains on nice sunny days. Of course there is the AMO International Convention in August up in Detroit on the far horizon as well. My wife and I will be traveling up there again this year, not only with car in tow, but as vendors as well. While I have sold over 125 of those shirts I made I still have another 75 to go. My wife also had been creating some new AMC shirts and such for sale there as well as a couple of very special embroidered denim one of a kind jackets with, of course an AMC theme. Come up to Detroit and see them for yourself.

## **DUES**

If you have not yet done so please download a renewal form from the club web site, [www.peachstateamc.com](http://www.peachstateamc.com), and either bring your renewal form and \$18 to our next meeting or mail your form and check to Theresa Barfield, 394 Creek Crossing Ct., Grayson, GA 30017.

As of March 15<sup>th</sup> the following people have renewed their membership with Peach State AMO.

Bob and Terri Reno  
Doug and Andrea Baker  
Jeff and Lynn Youngkin  
Bill Ward  
Bud turner and Bobbie Mistretta  
Mac Kemp  
Louie and Carol Lanthrip  
Steve Abercrombie  
Jeff Reeves  
Bruce Griffis  
George Doughtie  
Steve and Karen O'Neal  
Jeff and Geneva Puras  
Ron Frost  
Doug Sears  
Jim and Chris Graubard  
Doug House  
Jeff and Theresa Barfield

## **2010 ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW ...by Jim Graubard**

I just returned from the Atlanta Journal Constitution International Auto show here in Atlanta where my Javelin AMX had sat for the past 11 days. While these shows are for the manufacturers to show off there latest wares they do include a sprinkling of classic rides as well. This year's sprinkling was more of a downpour as there were at least 50 classic type cars in attendance. I guess with the economy in a downturn some manufacturers were not in attendance and thus the show promoters needed to fill the spaces. Missing from this year's show were Nissan, Porsche and BMW just to name three. I am sure there were more but with the plethora of cars these days it is hard to think of some. I remember as a kid we could tell what kind of car was coming down the road at night just by it's headlights! These days with all the cars looking alike if you took the badging off of them it would be hard to tell a Toyota from a Honda from a Kia, etc.

Doug Noland has had his AMX in attendance quite often at these shows and this year he spearheaded an effort to fill a 15 car slot on the show floor. Besides Doug's 1970 AMX I had my Javelin AMX there and Gary Stokes brought his 1970 Big Bad Blue Javelin down to compete the trio of AMCs. Doug also managed to round up the following to fill our display: '67 Camaro, '65 Mustang, '59 Edsel, '32 Ford Roadster, Twin Turbo '09 (?) Corvette, '67 (?) Mustang full blown drag car, Factory Five custom build and several others. I was only at the show for a few hours here and there but did spend most of the last day (Sunday) there and was surprised at what I saw. The amount of people who stopped and really looked at our cars was amazing. What I thought was more amazing was the age of the people who really looked over our cars, I would say the majority were under 40!! Perhaps these people who normally would not attend a "classic" car show and were here to review the new cars were viewing our cars because they had never seen one before. Either way it was quite pleasing to see such attention bestowed upon our rides. My first thought about displaying my car down there would be that no one would be looking as they came to see the new cars, but I was proven wrong. Besides our display of 15 cars the Mopar Club had their own gathering of about 15 cars as well. There was a Corvette Club display and also a display of Micro Cars, such as a '50's Messerschmitt and so on. Autotrader also had an area with about 12 classic cars for sale as well.

While there were some very nice new offerings from the various car companies most of what I saw was "old news". There was a concept car there from Chevrolet, the "Stingray" which was quite impressive. See picture. The new SLS from Mercedes caught my eye with it's retro gull wing doors. I inquired about it with the sales staff on hand but was advised that they are only making 800 world wide and all have been spoken for. That made me a bit unhappy but my wife assured me that I was not getting a car for \$249,000

anyway. Darn it! The auto show, I think, is a good venue for someone in the market for a new car, where else can you see all the choices you have in mind side by side? There were even a few cars to test drive, like the new Kia SUV made here in Georgia as well as the new Camaro. I saw many Camaros on the road each time I came down to visit the show, they were very popular test drives. It was a good experience but I am not sure if I would do it again. Cost quite a bit to travel back and forth several times during the week to visit, not to mention the \$8 parking each time!! You think with you lending your car for their display they would give you parking, but no. Gary Stokes, who was there every day spent over \$80 just on parking! But you never know, I have a whole year to think about it...



## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS...**

### **Peach State AMO Meeting - April 18 - 2:00**

George & Libby Doughtie  
8065 Jot Em Down Road  
Gainesville, GA 30506  
(770) 886-3080 (Home)  
(678) 428-8649 (Cell)  
[grdamc@comcast.net](mailto:grdamc@comcast.net)

### **Gremlins & Hornets & Eagles...oh my! 2010 AMO Southeast Regional Show**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the AMC GREMLIN & AMC HORNET and the 30th Anniversary of the AMC EAGLE

Show will be held October 9th at the Golden Corral, 106 Southern Center Way, Easley, SC 29642. Host hotel is the Hampton Inn, 8 Southern Center Court, Easley, SC 29640, Tel: 1-864-343-3636 Fax: 1-864-343-3626. Register before Sept. 17th and mention the AMC show for rate discount. Contact Frank Swygert 803-604-6548, [farna@att.net](mailto:farna@att.net) or Derrek Dorroh 919-676-6746, [carolinaamc@earthlink.net](mailto:carolinaamc@earthlink.net), or see <http://www.carolinaamc.com> for more info.

## **PARTS DEPARTMENT**

**...by Jim Graubard**

Once again our major vendors have some new offerings in their catalogs. There are now reproduction gas tanks for 68-70 Javelins and AMX. Outside door handles for 68078 Ambassadors, Rebels and Matadors. Quite a few different radiator hoses for various Rambles, Americans, Classics, etc ranging from 1958-1965 as well. Check out the web sites such as Classicone, American Parts Depot and Kennedy American for more information.

We received an e-mail from McLellan's Automotive History to greet all AMC lovers and introduce us to the literature they have for sale:

SALES LITERATURE (1958 - 1979)

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bymake/amc/index.shtml>

DEALER LITERATURE

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bytype/dealer-inhouse/amc/index.shtml>

BOOKS

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bytype/outofprint/bymake/amc/index.shtml>

MANUALS

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bytype/outofprint/manuals-technical/bymake/amc/index.shtml>

MAGAZINES

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bytype/mags/bymake/amc/index.shtml>

MEMORABILIA

<http://www.mclellansautomotive.com/lit/bytype/memorabilia/bymake/amc/index.shtml>

McLellan's Automotive History

Original literature, no re-prints

Email: [Contact@McLellansAutomotive.com](mailto:Contact@McLellansAutomotive.com)

Website: [www.McLellansAutomotive.com](http://www.McLellansAutomotive.com)

## **HELP NEEDED**

**...by Bruce Griffis**

I have a '65 Rambler American 4 door sedan that I use for running around to the grocery store over in Marietta. I've got some small rust spots and scratches in the paint. I tried touching up two spots with special order rattle can paint in Mystic Gold Poly. Well, it looks exactly like I used rattle can paint on those spots! So - if you will be working on small rust spots, hitting them with primer and glazing compound and paint and wet sanding and all that fun stuff - and if you don't mind showing someone how it is done - please give me a shout. I'd like to learn how to touch up the scratches on my car, and how to do a better job than spritzing with a spray can. I'm over on the northwest side of town, but would be happy to travel for some learnin'!

Bruce Griffis

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