



**August 2022**

## **Headliners**

### **Officers**

**President:**

**Patrick Lee**  
210-870-6141

**Vice President:**

**Eric Johnson**  
912-339-2105

**Secretary:**

**Jeff & Diona Ford**  
863-409-2654

**Treasurer:**

**Erina Koch**  
803-522-2825

### **Cruise-In**

Our July Aiken Horsepower Cruise-in was one of the more sparsely attended in recent memory, with the change in schedule due to the 4th of July holiday producing fewer than normal vehicles, but that did not deter us from having a blast and raising some cash in the process. One trend that hopefully continues is the rise in number of Corvettes present.

We conducted our usual 50/50 raffle to raise funds for the Cumbee Center, as every little bit helps. Our 50/50 winner, Lorenzo Guevara graciously donated his half back to the Cumbee Center. Be sure to note the properly captioned photo to the right.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Cruise-In on August 6th from 4pm to 6pm. See Cruise-In Pics on Page 8.

### **Monthly Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting for July was a real treat as our club President Pat hosted us at his home. We were treated to home cooked ribs, chicken, beans, and potato salad. The pool and hot tub were open as well as Pat's garage to see his latest



Our lucky 50/50 Winner Lorenzo Guevara!

## **Cumbee Center Update**

Domestic Violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It is a pattern of behaviors that one person uses over another to gain power and control.

It can be classified into the emotional, mental and psychological, financial, sexual and physical types of abuse. The Cumbee Center has been helping people escape these types of abuse since 1979. The funds we raise as a club go to support that mission.

## **Announcements!**

- ◆ Cruise-In August 6th
- ◆ Club Meeting August 8th @ Aiken Brewing Company

# Headliners (continued)

additions. It was a great time sharing stories, discussing club business and learning more about the many different people that make up our club. Come on out to our next meeting!

Our August Meeting will be held at the Aiken Brewing Company. We eat from 6pm to 7pm and then talk club business from 7pm until 8pm. We value your feedback and input on the direction of the club. As a club we are looking for ways to grow and be more effective in our mission while improving the club experience for our club members.



## Notes

We will also be adding to our newsletter a section for searching or selling. If you have parts to sell or cars to sell, we will include them. If you are looking for parts and cannot seem to find them, we will include them. This will allow the club to be a network in finding those hard to find parts or buyers. Take a look and help out a fellow club member if you can. Don't forget we also highlight our club member's businesses, if you have a business or parts to buy/sell contact Eric Johnson @ ericjohnson1@gmail.com to add to newsletter.

## Feedback

We are looking for feedback on our Spring Fling Car show. If you have any feedback on the show we would like to hear it. We do two shows a year and the more professional those shows are the better our turnout will be. Drop us



# Desperately Seeking/Selling!

Member	Seeking
	Are you trying to find parts or have something to sell? Contact Eric Johnson to include in our newsletter.

# Car Tunes

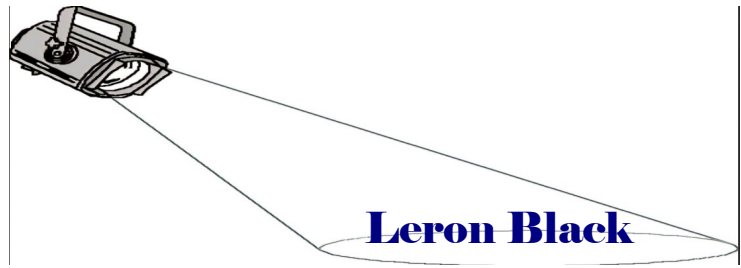


By Eric Johnson

Hopefully you gave it a try naming all the bands that were also car names from memory before going to the internet. This is not all inclusive but is fairly extensive. Some are just automobile references, but here goes:

- Pantera
- Chevelle
- Galaxie 500
- Road Runners
- The Fabulous Thunderbirds
- Mord Fustang
- Lincolns
- Tempests
- Ferraris
- Booker T and the MG's
- El Caminos
- John Cougar
- The Safaris
- The GTO's
- REO Speedwagon
- Triumph
- Reliant K
- E type
- Valiants
- Avantis
- Rivas
- Gran Torino
- Aldo Nova
- The Cars
- The Beatles





I first became infatuated with cars and anything motorized at the very young age, 5 years old. I still remember my first ride-on toy was a red plastic motorcycle. It had training wheels on the back and you would pedal it with the front wheel like a tricycle. It had a horn button on the handle bars that would make a sound like a motorcycle. I thought I was so cool.

I loved going for a ride in my Dad's '55 Chevrolet Del-Ray Coupe. It sounded so good with dual, exhaust, Smitty Glass Pack mufflers exited out the rear of the Chevy's bumper. Man those rumbling exhaust notes sounded so good! Needless to say, I was absolutely addicted to the sounds any engine was capable of making. From those days forward I always dreamed of owning a '55 Chevrolet Bel-Air like my dad's.



The cute one in the middle is me on the hood of my Dads

Although I've owned a variety of cars and trucks' my first was a 1966 Buick Special. Since those days I've had the privilege of owning everything from a Toyota Corolla to BMWs and Chevy Silverado trucks. Somehow though I've always been fond of the GM Product Brand and especially the Tri-Five Chevys.

In late 1980 my day finally came. I purchased my first 1956 Chevrolet Bel-Air 4 door sedan for \$850.00. I put a \$30.00 battery in it and drove it home without any problems. I refurbish the '56 and enjoyed it until 1999. By then I was in the middle of restoring a 1963 Chevrolet Monza Convertible for my wife and moving into a new home. Yea, everyone told me I had lost my mind to restore a "Corvair". But this was a labor of love for my wife. Unfortunately, the '56 Chevy had to go. However, the person that bought the '56 did a full restoration on the car and it is still being enjoyed by the current owners.



## Continued...

Yes, I had been bitten by the Corvair bug, so badly that I later bought a 1963 Corvair 95 Rampside truck, a rarity as they were only produced by Chevrolet from 1961-1964. It was a real attraction at the car shows.



I finally finished a nearly 10-year restoration on my wife's 1963 Corvair Monza Convertible. It turned out beautifully. From the custom interior that my wife designed, to the custom canvas top similar to the higher end cars of today. Equipped with a power glide transmission. We still enjoy driving her "Ms. Vair" and showing her off.





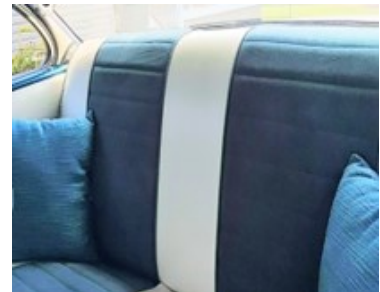


## Continued...

My dream was still a 1955 Bel-Air. As luck would have it, one day I ran across a 1956 Chevrolet Bel-Air 2dr hardtop. The car had been sitting in a carport for several years. I was hooked. I had to have her. Although it was drivable, it needed a lot of work. Digging deeper into the cars past history, I found that the Bel-Air I purchased was originally restored in the late 80's by Jensen Bunn from Aiken. I was able to contact him and collect some great documentation on the car as well as some helpful tips along the way.

It has taken countless hours, blood, sweat, frustration and money to bring the Bel-Air into the shape that she is today. "Ms. Grace" is currently powered by a small block 327 cubic inch engine, turbo 350 transmission. She was slightly lowered by 2.50" utilizing a spindle drop with tubular A-Arms with gas shock & stock springs. Leaf Springs on the rear with Coil-Over shocks and 2.73 gears.

She is a joy to drive with Vintage Air Condition, Chrome Tilt Wheel, Power Steering with an original restored 1956 Chevy Steering Wheel. She still has her Vintage White & Teal Fuzzy Dice hanging from her rearview mirror. Jensen and I became really good friends. He jokes that he still "wants his car back". Sorry Not Happening! But I did agree to give him first dibs **IF** I ever decide to ever sell.





## Continued...

In 2018 I became the owner & caretaker of my Dad's 1969 Firebird coupe. He had owned the car for over 38 years. He and I had originally restored the car years ago. But it was beginning to need a lot of TLC.

So here we go again. The Firebird is currently in process of yet another restoration and should be back on the road again soon. Digging into of the cars history I found that it has been in CSRA all its life. It was a special order for the original owner. Well equipped to include Tilt Wheel & Power Steering, Power Brakes. Factory Air and Power Windows. When is the last time you saw a bench seat in a Firebird or Camaro? Yes, Automatic on the column shifter. The engine is a Pontiac 350 cubic inch with turbo 400 transmission. I'm looking forward to showing it off at our cruise-ins.

So to say that I'm a car nut is an understatement! From a kid buying Tootsie Toys and Hot Wheels to-- Belairs, Corvairs, a Firebird, Cushman motor scooters and even a BMW Z3 Roadster (my mid-life crisis car?), You could say I've been a Car fanatic & Gearhead all my life. Will I ever build another car? Probably Not! Time to just slow down and enjoy what God has blessed me with.



A special thanks to the friendship of Jensen Bunn, Jeff Bulfinch, James Goff and Jay Dunham and many other car nut friends. These guys have been a tremendous source of knowledge and encouragement to me over the years. I owe a special thanks to my beautiful, patient wife who unconditionally loved and tolerated me through most all of these builds.

Last but not least – a huge thanks to the Aiken Horsepower club! Friendly people who love all things automotive. Who are willing to share their knowledge and experience in support of other car fanatics like me.

Leron Black



# Cruise Clicks



Send us pictures of your favorites or share on our Facebook page!





## Organization Info

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[www.aikenhorsepower.com](http://www.aikenhorsepower.com)

### Social Media Quotes:

- Needed running work truck willing to trade mother-in-law
- Runs but will not back up
- Very clean, only rolled once, less than 60k
- Kia Sorento EX with the soul of a Ferrari and built by craftsmen

Aiken Horsepower Association is a club of auto aficionados and car connoisseurs that meet to converse with others about their accomplishments and catastrophes concerning their pride and joys. Aiken Horsepower Association is open to anyone who has the desire to be a part of a club that hosts monthly cruise-ins and occasional special events.

Our fun and friendship has the specific purpose of raising funds to support The Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, a well deserving local charity. There are occasional focused drives to support emergent needs at the center and around the holidays.

We are truly a "Come As You Are" group you do not have to have a show car to show up. We want to foster relationships around our common interest: cars. Chances are one of our members has been there or done that and can share advice on your projects.

# Idea?

If you have any ideas for the newsletter, club events, or how to better support the Cumbee Center we are all ears! Either come to one of our meetings or contact a club officer. We are looking for club members to spotlight in upcoming newsletters, contact Eric Johnson if you would like to volunteer.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
08/06/2022	Cruise-In @ Home Depot Aiken	4:00 - 6:00 PM
08/08/2022	Club Meeting @ Aiken Brewery Company	6:00 - 8:00 PM
09/03/2022	Cruise-In @ Home Depot Aiken	4:00 - 6:00 PM
09/05/2022	Club Meeting @ Wild Wing Café Aiken	6:00 - 8:00 PM

# Support Our Local Businesses

<b>Automotive</b>		
AutoRestoMod (Jeff Ford) www.autorestomod.com	SC Collision Southern Yankee (Steve Bigg) (803) 649-0137	D & G Enterprises Custom Golf Carts (803) 292-8100
Jay-C Designs Custom Pin Stripping (Jay Cafasso) (803) 663-6336	White Diamond Detail Store (John Shea) (803) 663-1777	
<b>Cosmetics &amp; Beauty</b>	<b>Design - Graphic/Web/Photos</b>	<b>Hobby/Recreation &amp; Gifts</b>
Avon Cosmetics (Vickie Reynolds) (803) 270-3505	Roswell Designs (Tavares Hanks) (803) 571-3487	Southern Moon Pottery, LLC (Mary Cottone) 46 Enterprise Ave. Bldg. 8 (803) 616-2196
<b>Misc</b>	<b>Online Entertainment</b>	<b>Real Estate</b>
Clutter Clear Clears away your clutter! (Paul Volz) (803) 221-1004	(Allen Widener) www.bidlinkz.com/bidit	Aiken Properties (Dick Salsitz, Broker Associate) (803) 507-3877 dick@aikenliving.net
<b>Repairs</b>	<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>Retirement &amp; Insurance Planner</b>
Need it fixed, home & car repairs (Craig Walters) (845) 389-4506 Rivster64@gmail.com	Aiken Brewery Company (Lannie Pruiett) (803) 502-0707 140 Laurens Street SW www.aikenbrewingcompany.com	Bailey Retirement Group (Mary Baranek) (803) 648-5055 office@baileyretirement.net
<b>Security Systems</b>	<b>Senior Services</b>	<b>Advertising/Drone Mapping</b>
Aiken Systems Unlimited, Inc. (Manny Reynolds) (803) 641-7300	(Linda Cafasso) (803) 663-6307 1301 East Pine Log Road Linda.south@hotmail.com	Black Knight Productions (Jim Koch) (803) 522-3667 jim@BlackKnightProductions.net