

Cool



TRIMES

Volume 8, Number 5

Official Publication of the *Georgia Cool Cruisers*

May 2020



◆ CONTENTS ◆

Message from Rick	2
New Members	2
Contact Info	2
Club Events	3
Car That Named Itself	4-6
Club News	7
Horvath's New "Boat Tail"	8
Yco Upgrades his R/T	9
Sonic "SD" Cruise-in	9
Getting your Ride Ready	10
Stout's New Garage	11
Quarantine Car Show	11
Our Sponsors	12
Our Charities	12

TIME TO RENEW?

Please send \$30 (\$40 for USPS mail Newsletter) to:
Georgia Cool Cruisers
P.O. Box 942291
Atlanta, GA 31141

The NO-SHOW Edition

CAR SHOWS NOT ALLOWED



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



***BUT
Lots of "Cool"
articles
submitted by
our GREAT
Members!!***



www.GeorgiaCoolCruisers.org

Find us on:
 **facebook.**



Our New Member!
Tim Hallmark
Debra Hallmark

Thanks to
Dan Quartarone
for the referral!

Contact Info:

Club Founder / President

Rick Ellis

404-732-6842

RNE680@mindspring.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Dennis Behnken

770-900-3025

BehnkenD@bellsouth.net

Charity Coordinator

Karen O'Neal

770-331-4344

KarenhOneal@yahoo.com

Mailing Address:
Georgia Cool Cruisers

P. O. Box 942291

Atlanta, GA 31141

A Message from the "Prez"

Hello Cool Cruisers,

It has been a STRANGE Spring to say the least! I will try to bring you up to date on our shows.

The May 3rd show at Snellville Days was canceled (along with the entire festival). Terry Hayes from Hayes Automotive in Baldwin recently informed us that they thought it best to cancel our May 23rd show. He did say that we could look at rescheduling it later in the year.

I spoke with Dennis Williams about the show at the Pink Pony on June 20th. With no time-table announced on when bars and night-clubs can reopen, he feels there is a good possibility that we will have to postpone this show. We will keep you up on these details.

Once things start to get back to normal, and it is safe and we're allowed to gather in numbers, we will get busy planning some club events.

Several possibilities: reschedule the 'Cue BBQ show in Lawrenceville that we had to cancel in early April, set up a Cruise-in at a Sonic location. We are always open to your suggestions.

We are still waiting on word from some of the shows we have partnered with, including the Boy Scout Car Show at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, the Stone Mountain Village Cruise-Ins, and the Tucker Main Street Cruise-Ins.

Things are changing almost daily, so for the latest info, please follow our Facebook page or visit the club's website. I will also email info as soon as I get it. If you are not on the internet, you are welcome to call me at 404-732-6842.

With NOTHING to report on, it looked like this issue of "Cool Times" would have either been *REALLY SMALL* or not happen at all. Then I got an email from Ken Yokelson with his article for this issue. The old light bulb went off in my head and I sent out a plea for more articles. Well y'all responded! So much that instead of a one or two page newsletter, we ended up EXPANDING to TWELVE pages!

I was *THRILLED!* Thanks to all those that sent in articles and photos for this issue. We will need more for the June issue, so you still have time to tell us about your cars and car related projects.

I know car shows are a very minute issue in this world wide crisis, but to us "Car Folks," it is a big deal. I, for one, can't wait to get back out!

On a personal note, I lost my older brother, Bart, to cancer on April 14th. He had been diagnosed only 2 weeks earlier. Please keep my Sister-in-Law, Chris, and their son, Andrew, in your thoughts and prayers.

Sharon and I are looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Please stay safe and healthy!

2020 Club Shows & Events

PLEASE NOTE: In these uncertain times, our schedule can continue to change, so please check our Facebook page or website for the latest updates!

Horsepower at the Pony

Saturday, June 20th

Noon - 4:00 pm

The Pink Pony

1837 Corporate Blvd.
Brookhaven, GA 30329



USO Benefit Car Show

Saturday, July 25th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Greater Good BBQ

4431 Hugh Howell Rd
Tucker, GA 30084



“Cool Day” on Main Street

Saturday, August 8th

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Downtown Tucker

Main Street

Tucker, GA 30084

Cool Cars & Old Trains

Saturday, September 5th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Southeastern Railway Museum

3593 Buford Hwy

Duluth, GA 30096

Cool Cars at Coolray Field

Part of the Gwinnett Public Safety Festival

Date TBA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coolray Field

2500 Buford Drive

Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Cool Cars at Briscoe Park

Saturday, November 14th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Snellville's Briscoe Park

2500 Sawyer Pkwy

Snellville, GA 30078

Toys for Tots Cruise-in

Saturday, December 5th

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Greater Good BBQ

4431 Hugh Howell Rd

Tucker, GA 30084

The Car That Named Itself

Story & Photos by Alan "Dr. Z" Ziglin



In 2015 I bought my 1968 Grand Prix (Virginia). At that time, I had four Pontiac's, two Studebakers and a Plymouth as collector cars. The Pontiacs were: 1947 Streamliner four-door sedan, 1959 Bonneville convertible, 1967 Grand Prix convertible and the 1968 Grand Prix. I was very satisfied with the Pontiac part of my collection and was particularly proud that I had gotten written documentation from GM stating

that my 1968 Grand Prix was one of 77 produced with the 428 engine, four-on-the-floor and factory air-conditioning. I knew that was the rarest car I would ever own.

Unfortunately, 2 1/2 years of operations on my left foot and leg meant that I shouldn't be driving a car with as stiff a clutch as the '68 had. Some friends had suggested I have the clutch converted to hydraulic but I generally prefer to have my cars configured the way they could have come from the factory. So, sadly, I had to sell the '68. After that I began looking for my next Pontiac...preferably a Grand Prix. I had always admired the 1969 Grand Prix's for many reasons...but truth-to-tell, I have admired **lots** of cars.

After considerable searching I wound up finding a 1969 Grand Prix for sale in metro Atlanta, just 30 miles from my home. This was a real plus for me since, at one point in time, I bought three cars in a row that were located in Iowa...a long way from Atlanta!

Just as the 1968 Grand Prix had been the last of the full-size Grand Prix's, 1969 was the first year for the downsized model. It is believed this was the first American car to be "downsized". This downsizing effort was obviously successful since they sold more 1969 Grand Prix's than the three previous years combined! As I've read more about this downsizing, it appears that John DeLorean wanted to use a platform longer than the A-body (like the GTO) and shorter than the B-body (like the Catalina). However, the cost of doing that based on the projected volume of Pontiac Grand Prix sales would not have been financially feasible. So, he approached Chevrolet asking if they wanted to share the platform but with the proviso that in 1969 only Pontiac would use it. The Chevrolet folks agreed and that explains why the Monte Carlo did not first appear until the 1970 model year. Regarding John DeLorean, he apparently wanted to be sure that the '69 Grand Prix had the longest hood in the industry and so he had just over an inch added to the hood length to bring it to an even 6 feet long! It is said, that he wanted to be sure everyone knew the hood was longer than the Lincoln Continental. I have joined two yardsticks together so that at car shows people can see that the hood is literally six feet long.

The only historical document that came with the car when I purchased it was the plastic warranty card. That was a great piece of documentation. It told me that the car had been originally purchased here in Atlanta at Tabor Pontiac in May 1969. Since I bought the car in May 2019, that means I purchased the car 50 years to the month from when it was delivered new. An interesting point is that, printed on the warranty card, it says very clearly that the owner was to

Continued on page 5

The Car That Names Itself - continued from page 4

since, to my amazement, the 1969 Grand Prix had no glove compartment! In fact, apparently, no Grand Prix from 1969 through 1972 had one. It is believed that they omitted the glove compartment so that the dashboard in front of the passenger's seat would be closer to the windshield. In that way, the wraparound cockpit-style instrument panel in front of the driver would be further accentuated.

I attended the 2019 Pontiac International Convention in Gettysburg, PA and heard that there was a '69 Grand Prix there that had a bench seat. The bench seat meant there was no console which would have otherwise been between the bucket seats. I am told there actually was a glove compartment in this bench seat car. Unfortunately, I never got to see it.



The other interesting aspect to the warranty card is that it states, "Whenever your Pontiac is resold, please destroy this Protect-O-Plate...." I am, however, glad the original owner did not comply with that instruction since, as I noted above, this is the only original documentation that came with the car.

I always name my cars but this one was an exception. My '69 Grand Prix actually named itself. There, on the side of the fender, it clearly said "J" and so it would have been impolite to give the car any name other than Jay. (All 1969 Grand Prix's were either "J" or "SJ" models and that information was shown on the fender.)

I had originally planned to take my 1967 Grand Prix convertible to Gettysburg but when I bought the '69 and realized the 50-year-old, 1969, models would be highlighted, I decided to take the 1969.

I knew from previous experience that whenever I get a new (to me) collector car, there will always be issues that have to be sorted out. This is especially true with a car that has not had much use recently. Jay had spent a number of years in a museum, so I knew there would be issues to be addressed.

Jerry Burge (Atlanta Rod Shop) has done a lot of high point restorations on Pontiacs. He has kept all of my collector cars in good repair for years. He worked diligently in the two months I had the car before heading to Gettysburg. Even so, I knew two months was not a long period of time to find and address issues on a newly acquired car.

The carburetor that came on the car when I purchased it was not working very well and was apparently not the correct carburetor. After rebuilding it, we decided to replace it with a new correct one.

My wife, Rochelle, and I headed out from Atlanta on a hot July day (not realizing that the temperatures in Gettysburg for the week we were there would be higher than the temperatures in Atlanta!). About 2 1/2 hours into the trip the temperature light came on. We turned off the air conditioning, turned the heat on high and opened the windows. Shortly after

Continued on page 6

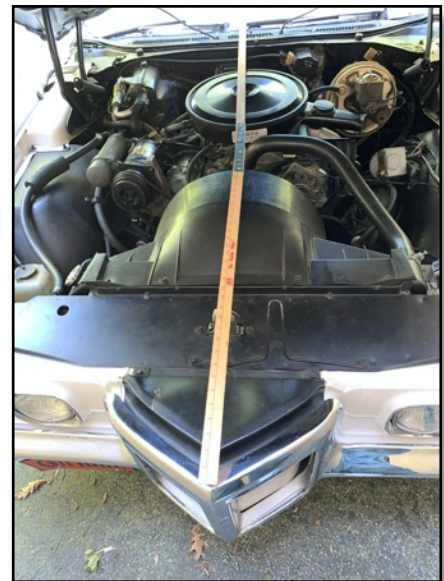
The Car That Names Itself - continued from page 5

that, the temperature light went out. I turned to Rochelle and asked if she wanted us to go back to Atlanta and get another car. To her great credit, she said, "if we do that, you're just going to get the Grand Prix convertible and then we will not be using the air conditioning, since we will have the top down, so we may as well continue". As I have told that story over the ensuing months the most frequent response I get from someone is, "I like the way your wife thinks".

Since there was some evidence that the radiator may have started leaking, we topped off the coolant and added stop leak at the next exit since I knew when we got back home I would be replacing the radiator. From there we kept the air conditioning off and checked the coolant level frequently.

With stopping to visit friends in Baltimore this was about a 1500 mile round-trip and except for the cooling system issue we had no further problems...until we re-entered Georgia. Eighty-one miles from our driveway the car suddenly lost power. I pushed on the accelerator and it backfired a little. I pushed even harder on the accelerator and heard the loudest backfire ever. I knew it was time to look for a place to pull over.

Since we have excellent roadside service protection, we had a very nice young fellow pick us and Jay up and take us home. Upon inspection, the timing chain had not broken, but had stretched just enough to alter the timing. The next day, I had Jay towed to Jerry's shop where he put on a new timing chain and a new radiator.



Interestingly, about a week later coming back from a Cool Cruiser event in Stone Mountain, the exact same timing symptoms developed and I had to be towed in again. This time it was also a timing issue, but not a problem with the timing chain. Back by the distributor, when everything is set up correctly, a bolt has to be tightened to hold everything in the correct position. You can't really see the bolt so it has to be tightened mostly by feel. As it turns out somewhere over the years somebody had either used an incorrect bolt and it was too long or they had left the washer out. In either event, it meant that when the bolt felt tight it was really just bottoming out and was therefore not holding everything in the correct position as it should. Again, Jerry diagnosed it and Jay was once again in good shape.

More recently, Jerry was able to locate a factory-original cruise control set up. With that I now have a reliable highway (cool) cruiser.

***Thanks to Alan and ALL of our Contributors to the May Newsletter!
Next month, Alan will treat us to his article on Studebakers.
We will also be looking for YOUR submissions for the June "Cool Times!"
Please email them to Rick at RNE680@mindspring.com***

CLUB NEWS & UPDATES

New Club T-Shirts



Back Design



Front Left Chest Design

One of Rick's projects during the "Shelter in Place" was to design a new Club T-shirt. With all the COVID-19 related cancellations (including our Car Shows), our t-shirt printer was hurting for business.

We are quite pleased with the results! We will have them at our upcoming shows (hopefully sooner than later).

Sizes SMALL - XL @ \$15.00 each, 2X & 3X for \$18.00 each. **Quantities are limited.**

If you can't wait until our next show, we can mail an order to you. To order, email Rick at RNE680@mindspring.com or call at 404-732-6842. You can pay by PayPal or mail a check.

Best Face Mask Challenge



Karen O'Neal has Challenged our members to submit a photo of your best car related face mask. We will throw in a new Club T-shirt to the winner.

Send your submissions to Rick. We will have Karen pick the winner!



A Cat Named "Cruiser"



On Saturday, April 11th, Planned Pet-hood of GA posted on Facebook that they had 4 rescued kittens that were found without the mother cat. They were hungry and covered with fleas. Planned Pethood needed to

raise at least \$400 to cover their basic vetting so they offered the opportunity to name one of the kittens to the first four people to donate \$50 towards their care.

Sharon Ellis was one of the first 4 to donate \$50 so she picked the name "Cruiser" in honor of the Georgia Cool Cruisers, so the cute dark-colored tabby is now our Club's namesake!

Please remember to help **Planned Pet-hood of Georgia** with your much needed and appreciated donations!

Jim Puts Minions to Work



Jim Flowers is always kidding Rick about his "Crew" of Minions that helps assemble all the Car Show Award plaques.

When all the shows got canceled, Rick had to lay them off for a while.

Well Jim took them in and put them to work detailing his '72 Dodge Dart Swinger, so it will be all ready when the shows resume!

The Horvaths' New "Boat Tail" & Also Helped the MP's



Hello to "Cool Cruisers" from **Pat and Jack Horvath**. We are spending some of our sheltering time polishing our recently purchased 1973 Buick Riviera "Boat Tail". We call her "Big Red."

She is one of the 33,000 which were built in 1973. The same model was also part of the Buick offerings in 1971 and 1972.

We had been planning to take her on a series of Buick Club driving trips to Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, but these trips have been canceled. We are now looking forward to a Buick Club driving trip to Florida in November.

Some of our sheltering time has gone into clearing weeds from our gardens, and into clearing out our file drawers, closets, dressers, and basement. You may remember from seeing us at the USO Cruise-ins, our dog Duke is usually part of the festivities.



On the 6th and 7th of April, we were able to pick up crackers, cookies, and fruit from the airport USO and deliver them to the Georgia National Guard 170th Military Police Battalion site near the DeKalb Police Headquarters. Soldiers are always pleased to have snacks. The Georgia National Guard has been activated and has been sanitizing nursing homes throughout Georgia.

As a side note, I have included a link to my Vietnam trucking video from 1966-67. My company of 60 tractor-trailers had a daily, two hundred mile, round trip to the Central Highlands over two tortuous mountain passes and on an awful roadway. In nine months we ran two million miles.

www.youtube.com/embed/W50xn1h4Tus

Ed Yco Upgrades His '70 Dodge Challenger R/T



Before this shelter in place started (over the past several months), I took my '70 Dodge Challenger R/T to Blue Moon Automotive in Marietta and had

a bunch of repairs done. Marc at Blue Moon does a lot of work on classic and antique cars.

First, I had some repairs done to get the car working better: steering was sloppy, bolt holes for intake manifold and valve covers were stripped, carburetor vacuum advance not working right, dash lights were not working, and the backup light stayed on (I had to disconnect the battery). Marc disconnected the backup harness until he could get to it later. I bought a reconditioned steering box and had Marc install it. I replaced all the ignition components under the hood about 3 years ago: Electronic ignition module, coil, distributor, plugs, cables, and even the carburetor. I put in a Holley 750CFM Street Avenger, so all just needed to be tuned once the vacuum leaks were fixed.

Next, Marc replaced the dash harness, ignition switch, and the ammeter gauge. I also sent out my tach and clock to be converted to electronic and quartz, respectively. Tach was not registering correctly, and the clock died a long time ago. I had the speedo fixed a couple years back, and I did the swap myself. The cables to adjust the clock and reset the odometer also needed to be replaced. Marc also replaced the electrical terminator on the firewall in the engine compartment and rewired as needed. We also put in a replica radio and new speakers, front and back.

All this cost a fortune, but the car is running great now, and all the electrical is working. I may have missed something, but you get the idea. I also replaced the hood pin cables with some more original looking ones. The attached picture from 3 years ago does not show the new cables, but the car looks exactly the same.

I also attached a picture my 2008 BMW Z4 M-Roadster. I bought that in time to drive to South Carolina to watch the full solar eclipse in Aug 2017.

I hope you're doing well and staying safe. - **Ed Yco**

"Social Distancing" Sonic Cruise-in

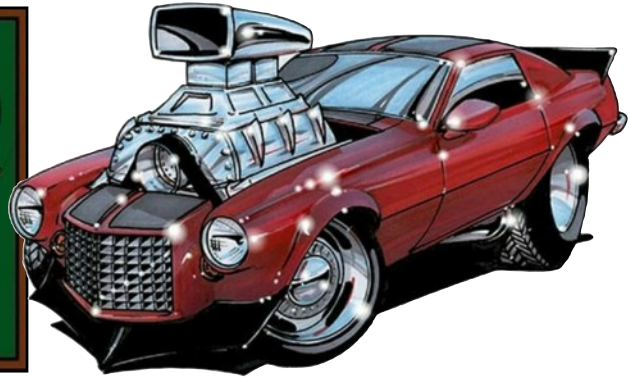
Hal King organized a lunch with members of the old "Wednesday Breakfast Bunch" at the Sonic in Norcross on Tuesday, April 21st.

Everyone had a great time, and **Dale Xenos** brought his trusty 6' pole to ensure that everyone stayed safe!



Thoughts to Get Us Through “Shelter in Place”

By Ken Yokelson, Cool Cruiser



After more than 6 weeks with no car shows to go to and standing in the garage looking at that large piece of metal, I'm sure that you like me are going crazy. So what can be done to alleviate the problem. The following are some ideas and tasks that can be done. Usually we are rushed to get some of these done because of all the shows on the weekends. But since there are none (for the moment), you can take the time to do them. Let's begin:

- 1) **Wash It.** Now that the pollen is gone have you looked at your classic? Doesn't look very good with that yellow tint to the color. Wash it. Take your time, as stated before, no hurry to get it done. Wash it with a good car wash soap, not dish washer or laundry soap. Next, have you ever used a clay bar on your car? I used one a few years ago on the Camaro I bought. The surface felt like fine sandpaper, but using the clay bar made the finish smooth as glass. The clay bar does take time, but you now have the time. Follow the instructions and do a panel at a time, take 2-3 days to do the car. It will be worth it, plus you use up a few days doing something better then watching reruns and the weather is nice this time of year. Remember there is no hurry as there is no show this weekend. I used the Mother's Clay Bar kit, but I'm sure the Meguier's is just as good. Most part stores (Autozone, Pep Boy's, etc.) carry the kits. After the clay bar, get a good wax and polish your baby up. The shine will be better than ever.
- 2) **Change the Oil.** I have a 1958 Triumph TR3A that I used conventional Valvoline 20W-50 for the last 25 years. Recently, the rear seal of the motor has been leaking more than usual (yes I know British cars leak, but this was a lot). I figured that the conventional oil was okay, as the motor was probably so oil impregnated. Nope. I found that after reading about the lack of zinc in the oil and that the seals would start to wear quickly (remember the rear seal leak). I switched to Valvoline Racing Oil with high zinc content 20W-50. Just after one change, the leak has all but disappeared and the oil pressure is holding more constant. Bottom line: if your car is older than 1972 (pre-unleaded gas days) try using the high zinc content oil. I found the NAPA store on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard just north of Holcomb Bridge Road has the oil in stock and on the shelves. It is expensive (\$7/qt.) but worth it.
- 3) **How about the other little jobs?** Brakes, valve adjustments, tire rotation, etc. You now have the time so tackle those jobs. Remember no hurry to get them done so your baby can sit on the jack stands an extra day.

So there you have some thoughts on how to get through these days. Stay safe and socially distant. I've been doing a "socially distant" coffee Saturday mornings with my neighbors on my driveway. Staying 6' apart. Or try a "socially distant" lunch. Go through the drive-thru and park at least 2 spaces apart from each other, take out your chairs, and have a parking lot picnic, but keep your distance.

Hang in there, as my Mom use to say "this too shall pass." - Ken

Shelter In Place Garage Raising at Tony Stouts Place!



After deciding to have a garage built in the summer of 2019, the first step was to have trees taken down, stumps removed (not grinded down), I did not want any settling later. Then I had compacted soil and gravel brought in and graded.

The next step took the longest, to find someone to quote the cost to build. I contacted several contractors and 2 construction materials suppliers. I never heard back from any of them. Months went by.

I finally figured out that what was probably preventing them from getting me a quote was a garage plan or material list. I Googled garage plans, but I couldn't find a plan to fit what I was looking for, and the plans were some what expensive for my budget. To my wife's credit, she found garage plans on Ebay. "Any size garage plans" for \$40.00. I filled out the form for the size, materials, ect... The plan was CAD drawn to scale, but with no material list.

I still could not get anyone to quote the cost to build just from the plan. I believe it was not having a material list, and everyone is so busy that they didn't want to take the time and effort to do a material take off for the quote.

So I sat down and googled how to estimate concrete, studs, siding, roofing, ect..... and came up with my own material list from the plan. (I was was pretty darn close to)

Now that I had a plan and material list, I Finally found someone to build the garage. They started the project March 7th and completed construction the end of March.

The crew that built the garage did a GREAT job. Level concrete, square walls, good lumber and materials, very well built. All on a tight budget.

If anyone in the club is seriously looking to have a garage built, I highly recommend the guy that built mine. - **Tony**

Quarantine Car Show!

Dennis Behnken was missing our car shows, so he decided to do his own . . . In his back yard!

The show featured his wife Amber's Jeep and his Comet convertible & Dodge Challenger. He even had a spectator, **Sam**, his dog.

Dennis took Best in Show, Amber won Best Jeep! :)



Our Sponsors & Supporters

 Diamond Sponsor


Gateway
CLASSIC CARS

 Diamond Sponsor

Denny Williams
MOTOR SPORTS

 Diamond Sponsor


Don Brock, Builder

 Diamond Sponsor

Streetside
CLASSICS

PRINTSONIC
INCORPORATED
PRINTING • SIGNS • BANNERS

YEARONE
Muscle Car Parts

Lawrenceville - Oakwood - Baldwin

Hayes FAMILY DEALERSHIPS

Chrysler - Dodge - Jeep - Ram
Chevrolet - Buick - Cadillac - GMC


TURN ONE CLASSIC CARS
Classic & Muscle
Bill & Leigh Whatley

Sharon K. Ellis
Independent Beauty Consultant
MARY KAY

The
HUTCHINSON
FAMILY

METAL OF HONOR
Mobile Metal Restoration
MIKE STANSELL 770-871-9199

SUMMIT
RACING EQUIPMENT

DRS
INNOVATION—INFORMATION—PEOPLE

Tucker Welding & Fabrication
Mike Perry, Owner

South East Wheels Events
Your Free Internet Calendar to All Events on Wheels!

Dr. Z's Fleet
THAT CAN'T BE BEAT

BMI
MERCEDES SERVICE


HANDY HARDWARE
Home of the Hard to Find Items

Tilly
LANIER


deatur estate & way back antiques
DecaturEstateAntiques.com

Please Support our Sponsors and Charities
Some of the Charities We Support

TOYS FOR TOTS

NETworks
Cooperative Ministry

USO
GEORGIA

 It's The *Journey* Inc.
Raising funds for Georgia Breast Cancer Programs

furkids
ANIMAL RESCUE & SHELTERS

HOT RODDERS
CHILDREN'S CHARITY


PLANNED PETHOOD
Choose Life for Georgia's Pets!

LifeLine
ANIMAL PROJECT