

1016 NORMANDY CRES., OTTAWA, ONT., K2C 0L4

G, Day eh

Aug 10/90

IN THIS ISSUE: More than 100 Land Rovers meet at the Atlantic British Rally and the Dowells win big...final plans for the Picton get-together with Toronto's Rover Club...OVLRL featured in Off-Road Canada magazine...a new member weighs in at eight pounds, one ounce and some news on "greenlaning" problems out west.

Now the details. OVLRL made a strong showing at this year's AB Ltd rally in Mechanicville, NY., earning honorable mention for the turnout. The brothers Dowell won the award for Best Original Equipment with their impeccably done Series 1/86. (It was the club's second vehicle award. Two years ago McD's Series 1/86 took Most Original at the Rovers North rally.) The Dowells and McD left Ottawa Thursday evening, joined Harry and Lyn on the road and pulled into the New York State campground at Cranberry Lake in the Adirondack foothills about 10 pm. Already on site were Doc and Gabby Watson and Tom and Jo-Anne Tollefson of Toronto's Rover Club. After breakfast next morning it was across the mountains, down into Mechanicville and into a growing melange of Land Rovers of every description. There were dozens of basic 88s and 109s, lotsa military versions, softops, no tops, Rover cars, Range Rovers and a real live Camel Trophy Range Rover from the Madagascar race. There were alterations, additions, gadgets and accessories of every description from campers complete with fridge, stove and toilet to heavy duty, off-road versions with custom roll bars, skid plates and 12,000 lb winches. Restoration is getting popular and several Land Rovers were displayed in showroom condition. They kept arriving through Friday night and Saturday morning and hosts Steve and Dick kept serving up the hotdogs, hamburgs and free beer.

After a lot of poking under bonnets, tire kicking and frame checking, it was time for the "scenic off-road tour" through and around the nearby mountains and lakes. While several dozen vehicles made the circuit, the rest of the camp continued to overdose on things Land Rover, napped in the sun or visited the highlights of downtown Mechanicville. Around 7 pm, the tattered tour lurched back into camp and the smell of barbecued chicken was soon wafting through the air. After chow, it was time for some heavy-duty socializing. Several more from the Toronto club had arrived as well as old friends from down east, the Land Rovers Owners of America, the Michigan Land Rovers Association, Virginia Land Rovers and several other clubs. At last count, 27 Canadians made the trip.

Al Pilgrim had forsaken Sally, his faithful 107, and driven down in a rented car Saturday. A cake was produced and it was a surprise birthday party for McD and Dave Lowe of the Toronto club before fumbling for the ol' sleeping bag around midnight. Sunday morning came too soon and, after a hearty breakfast and g'byes all round to friends old and new, the Land Rovers were fired up and we headed for Vermont. Al aimed for Ottawa.

Stores are open Sunday in those parts and, after several stops for "good deals" (quarts of engine oil, \$1.15 Cdn,) we pulled into the Vermont campground for the night. Accompanying our little band was Terry Stone of Montreal in his immaculate rebuilt 109 station wagon and Abe Bell, friend Terry and his dog "Bo" who had driven 26 hours all the way from Florida for the rally. Abe won the "Greatest Distance Travelled" award for his efforts.

Chef Harry created a major spaghetti feast and, as we settled in for a little after-dinner relaxation, the sky opened up in a storm that rivalled Noah's time. Fortunately, Harry had rigged the "Taj ma-tent", a polyethelene shelter that covered most of the campground so we kept relatively dry--except for Harry who almost got washed away when he fiddled with a guyrope and emptied an hour's contents into his ear.

Another morning and a quick visit to see our friends at Rovers North before heading home. Problems were minor. Jason and McD experienced ignition gremlins during the journey but, being at North America's two largest parts suppliers made fixing them easy. Steve and Dick have already set the date for next summer's rally (July 12-14) and asked for suggestions on making things even better. That's a tall order. All who attended agreed they did a great job this time.

PICTON is where it's at Aug. 25-26 when OVL R marks its last road tour of the season at a two-day rally with the Toronto-based Rover Club. It's a weekend of peaceful road tours along the St Lawrence River, picturesque Prince Edward Country, (see map) Picton and the famous Sandbanks Beach. We'll leave at 8 am sharp from the parking lot at the junction of Fisher Avenue and Highway 16. There's a gas station, coffee shop and mini-grocery store so we can load up for the trip to Picton. We'll blast down Highway 16 to Prescott, take the 401 to Gananoque, then switch to Highway 2 for a more leisurely drive along the St Lawrence, through Kingston and into Picton. There'll be a short "stretch stop" in Gananoque. Host Richard Copple has a lovely spot on the coast where we can camp for the weekend.

The agenda is relax mode. After camp setup and lunch members can choose between a "free" afternoon of touring Picton's historic sites and museums or a light four-wheel trip to a secluded beach. No serious off-roading is planned.

Master Chef Harry is creating a joint-club community supper Saturday night. The menu and cost will be determined by the turnout but be assured it'll be good and as cheap as possible. After a bonfire, late night swim and nappies, Sunday will dawn bright and sunny for another day of Land Rover fun. We'll strike camp about 2:30 and take 401 and Highway 15 to be home by suppertime. Bring full camping gear, food, (except supper Saturday) personal utensils and cameras. If you're joining us, call Mike McDermott (McD) 224-8300 by Aug 23. We need to know who's coming to dinner.

See back page for surprise rally offer

NEWS...TALL TALES...FICTON...FOR SALES...RUMOURS...OTHER STUFF...LIES

*-Congratulations to Stephane Bergeron and Lady Natalie on the arrival of son Etienne last week. Steph and Nat were enjoying a little summer evening fishing when OVLRL's newest member made his intentions known.

*-OVLRL thanks the publishers of Off-Road Canada magazine for their article on the club in the summer edition. Also for their generosity in sending a complimentary copy to members. It's Canada's only off-road magazine and is full of local and country-wide happenings, four wheel products and interesting articles (like the item on tires we've "cribbed" from the latest edition). It's available through subscription or from the newsstands. If you haven't seen it, call McD and he'll pass on the subscription address. Next edition they're testing the Range Rover. Get it.

*-Prison guards in BC are referring to former OVLRL president Neil Brewer as the "Air Traffic Controller" after a spectacular jailbreak several weeks ago in which two baddies escaped aboard a stolen helicopter. It seems Neil was discussing house plans with his contractor--during office time--and had to raise his voice to overcome the shriek of a helicopter landing in an exercise yard outside his window. "Seconds later it took off again and I noticed everybody running around shouting," he said. Neil, who runs one of the prison shops, says the house plans escaped injury.

*-Ever think about offering a guiding hand to OVLRL? Election time is rolling around. Can you help?

*-Welcome new member Cdn Forces Maj. Ken Gatehouse of CFB Ottawa South. Ken is looking for a 109 wagon

*-Canada Post returned 24 newsletters last month as overweight. It was two the month before. Seems we're limited to six sheets. Any more and postage soars to 61 cents a copy. We're mailing 80 a month.

*-Disturbing news from Vancouver. The Rover Landers of BC, once the largest club in Canada, has fallen on hard times. Its existence is in doubt after only three members showed for a summer rally and an emergency meeting called to discuss its future.

*-Prez Robin is OVLRL's co-ordinator for the US-Canada cross country tour in the summer of 1992. The event, which will see Land Rovers from North America and overseas trek from Newfoundland to Alaska, is being planned by seasoned tourer Ron Mowry of LROA. The tour is looking for logistics support from local clubs across the country.

*-Jason Dowell has a brandynew lower passenger door for sale at cost--\$207 US plus applicable federal taxes. It ain't cheap but you're saving freight. It'll go back to Rovers North first trip south, so act now.

*-Another thankyou to Vincent Hammersley of Land Rover in England for sending the copies of Range Rover's birthday cards. Call McD for yours.

*-Next OVLRL exec meeting is Sept 5. Call Prez Robin for location.

That's all for now.
Editor McD (224-8300)

Prez Robin (738-7880)

VP Jason (731-5098)

Treas Tom (234-861)

Sec Harry (1-284-0228)

PS- the guy trying to get out the escape hatch of the sinking LR on page 5 of Off Road Canada is Neil Brewer. There. I said it and I'm glad.

BIG DADDY GERGERON SAYS:

Better go to Picton
I stayed home with Natalie
last year and look what happened to me



LOCALS NOT HAPPY

Road closure blocks access to park

By JOHN ARNETT
Mirror Staff Writer

A decision by the Greater Victoria Water District to close off a section of Harbourview Road in Saseenos with iron gates firmly planted in concrete footings has angered Sooke conservationists and off-road enthusiasts.

Bill James, president of the Sooke Conservation Society, says he's convinced that it is a public road and he is seeking evidence to prove it.

Ron Lowe, a member of the Island Rovers 4X4 Club, said a major off-road event involving vehicles from B.C. and Washington State had to be cancelled at the last minute last December because organizers turned up one day to go over the route, prior to the event and found that the gates had been erected.

However Ken Pleasance, chief commissioner for the water district, says the road runs through private property owned by the water district and the district has every right to close it off.

He said owners of a tract of land above the water district property are interested in buying the water district land because it would give them gazetted road access to their property if they want to develop it and if that happens there could be public access "but I have no way of knowing that."

Mr Pleasance said the reason the road was closed off again (it was closed a few

years back) was "because people were dumping garbage on our property, felling trees and causing damage." He said the property is not a watershed because a dam on Ayum Creek is no longer in service.

Mr Lowe said he talked

with Howard Sturrock, chair of the Greater Victoria Water District and was told to send a letter outlining his concerns to the district, which he did, but he has received no acknowledgement.

He said he and members of his club plan to attend the next meeting of the water district to air their concerns.

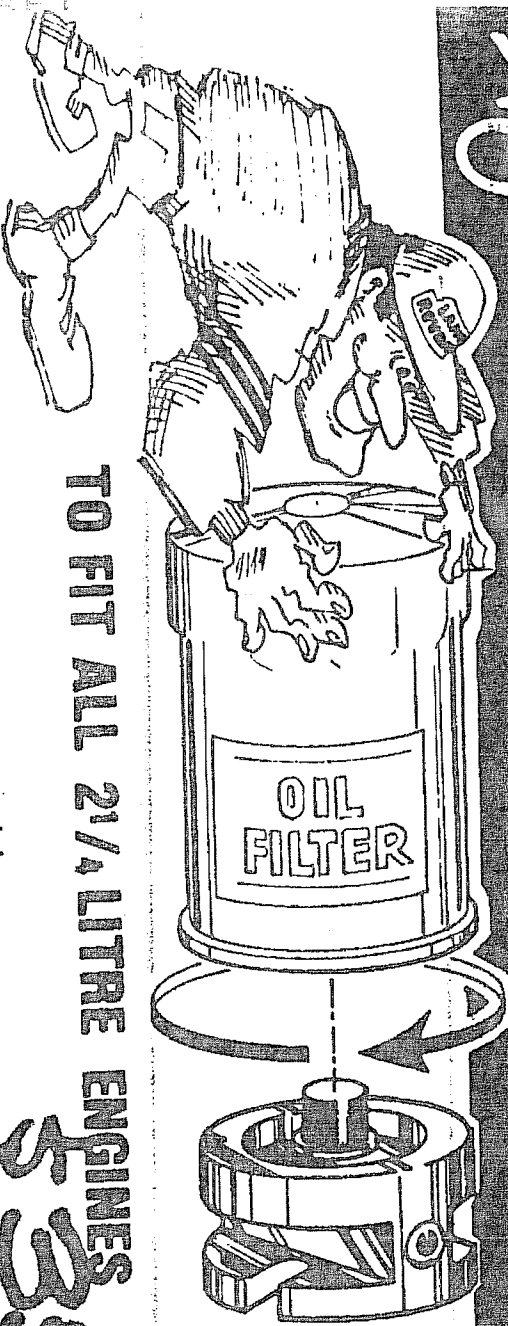
Mr Lowe said he and his group would settle for a key to the gates to allow them to go through for their events, but the water district has turned this down "though we know there are people who have keys."

Ron Low is Vice President of the Island Rovers on Vancouver Island, BC



SOOKE off-road enthusiast Ron Low stands beside iron gate that seals off Harbourview Road. Gate was erected by Greater Victoria Water District.(Story page one)

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