

G'Day eh

September 15, 1985

LABOR DAY

Five Land Rovers bumped into the Calabogie Hills last Labor Day weekend for a "light n' easy" trip under promises of near perfect weather. We took a new approach this time, entering the bush at Levant Station near Ompah and travelling north on the powerline road several miles. Our expedition included Al Pilgrim in "Sally", his newly-renovated Series I-107 pickup in her first crack at the rough-and-tumble, Treasurer Johnson and family in their 109 wagon, Bob Wood and Shirley Des Biens in the 109 military "breadwagon", Michel Gagne and his buddy Pierre in Michel's 88 and President McD in his 86 ragtop. VP Jerry Dowell, sans his 109, floated from vehicle to vehicle and John de Veth, a friend of the Johnsons', coaxed his BMW motorcycle over the terrain.

The first night under canvas was spent at Little Pine camp -- after a short rescue mission to free Bob from the clutches of a bottomless mudhole he found after taking a wrong turn. Once safe in camp, Bob set up his version of the "Big O" roof strung between two Land Rovers and a batch of poles. We dined in near elegance by candlelight, finishing with a round of hot Baba au Rhum. Pilgrim was locked in the cab of his 107 for the night in the hope the aluminum would shield the rest of us from his snoring -- it didn't. Meanwhile, horrible sounds from the Johnson tent kept siblings Maggie and Malcolm -- and most of the forest creatures -- awake all night.

Next day, after a hearty breakfast, our little expedition trundled on toward Big Pine, across the dam and into Calabogie. The powerline road is being straightened to allow logging operations into the area so it was a pretty easy run. Just onto the highway, Sally developed a severe case of the delirium tremens and before Al could get her stopped she cast off the diff end of her rear prop shaft. Seems "someone" had forgotten to check tightness of the U-joint bolts. (Insiders say that makes him a shoe-in for the 1985 Lugnut of the Year award.) The Johnson and Gagne Land Rovers set out for home -- they only planned to stay one night -- and the remaining three crews set about replacing Al's U-joint. It didn't take long to discover the new joint we had was the wrong size so it was front wheel drive only the rest of the trip.

After a cocktail hour in the Calabogie Inn overlooking the lake, we headed back into the bush and our second night camped along a dead-end section of the railbed beside a lake. Al's lack of four-wheel drive meant we had to stay away from tough roads. Next day about noon, we broke camp and headed for home.

The September OVLR meeting was held at west longitude 76 degrees, north latitude 45 degrees. No, that's not the name of a new outdoors restaurant. It's plumb in the middle of the Calabogie bush, Little Pine Camp in fact. Seated around the campfire, the seven members and five non-members heard Treasurer Johnson say we had \$427 in the bank. Bob Woods volunteered to examine the ins and outs of ordering things from overseas in a bulk purchase. Bulk buying is one of the things we want to talk about at the October 30 general meeting. If you're interested, bring your questions and expertise if you've ordered bits from England before.

The general meeting will get underway at 7 p.m. at the National News building, 2655 Lancaster Road (enter by the parking lot door). We've got all kinds of things we want to talk about so the executive can stay on track with membership wishes. Some of the issues are outlined in the attached working paper. If you can think of anything else you want discussed, bring it up at the meeting.

VERMONT TRIP

The October 12-14 caravan to Vermont has been cancelled because of a decision by the operators of Rovers North not to extend their noon closing on Saturday to enable us to drive down from Ottawa. A spokesman for the company, whose catalog says visitors are welcome during business hours or by appointment, said the operators will be "too burned out" to stay open a few hours longer.

GOSSIP....RUMOUR....GOINGS ON....FACT....FICTION....AND A FEW TRUTHS

- .Michel Gagne trying to figure out the linkage on his new Zenith Carb. Everything is backwards on his 88 after running with a gas-guzzling Rochester.
- .Fred Barrett, "punkin" to those who love him, breaking speed records in his 88 after installing a new ignition coil. Fred still has a few bits from the Hollywood LR for sale seat box, fenders, steering gear, instruments.
- .Al Pilgrim decided to bite the bullet and buy a new CB brake cylinder after careening home on the parking brake recently.
- .Bruce Ricker ready to ship his "perfect" military 109 frame off to a Montreal galvanizing dip.
- .Prez McD finishing up the details of his engine swap. His valiant but tired two litre made way for a spiffy $2\frac{1}{4}$ in a five-day assault assisted by Pilgrim, David Johnson, Michel Gagne, Fred Barrett and Jason Dowell. Peter Parsons saved the day with a rare motor mount from his vast parts box.
- .Walt Saveland has a new clutch in his 109. His old pressure plate had three breaks in the assembly.
- .Elizabeth Johnson's Series III-88 looking smart with a new canvas top.
- .ABP now stocking stainless exhaust systems for 88 and 109 LRs. They're giving OVLR members 10 percent discount which makes the 88 system \$295 and the long one \$320.
- .McD has a brand new stainless LR 88 muffler of the above system for sale at its \$127 cost. Damn thing won't fit his custom-designed 86.
- .OVLR has emergency parts in stock that include brake flex hoses, hub seals, U-joints, spring bushes, a variety of oil seals and oil filters. If you need one in a hurry call Prez McD at 224-8300. We also stock ALROC crests and EP-90 gear oil at considerable savings over current prices.

That's all for now....

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Jerry 731-5098