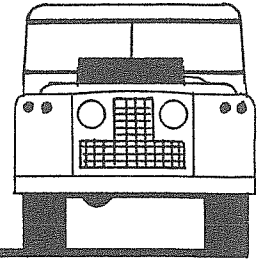


OTTAWA VALLEY LAND ROVERS



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G'Day eh

December 18, 1985

First, the headlines: Al Pilgrim is Lugnut of the Year for 1985 -- Diane Grant wins a set of bumper overrides for \$2 -- David Johnson shows how to get stuck -- a lot -- this year's Land Rover cake actually looks like a Land Rover.

These were just some of the highlights at the OVLRL Christmas Party December 11 as 30-some members and their dates waded through the traditional Xmas chicken or pasta à la Ho Ho.

Several boxes of new club parts were on sale at holiday prices. Events coordinator Al Pilgrim outdid himself with some fiendish guessing games for big prizes and the now famous but still diabolical magical mystery feel box challenged all who thought they knew Land Rover parts.

We gave away several Land Rover books, cookbooks, some hats, ice scrapers and oil filters as prizes with the biggie, a new set of Land Rover bumper overrides valued at \$80, going for the price of a \$2 ticket.

The slide show, an annual embarrassment capturing members' faux pas during the past year, once again zeroed in on a whole bunch of unsuspecting souls in acts they'd much rather not have on film. The all-seeing eye of the camera caught club treasurer David Johnson getting his 109 stuck on several occasions on surfaces looking awfully like a city park, VP Jerry Dowell showing how to catch falling branches with his head and a number of people who didn't look behind themselves when answering the call of nature in the wild. And we relived the Snow Day at the Smiths Falls farm of Audrey and Fred Cole last winter when we towed an old outhouse tandem-style across several fields and cooked our lunch behind a windbreak of parked Land Rovers. The Johnson's shots of their cross-Canada odyssey in the 88 they purchased from Ron Low's Victoria stock contrasted with the fender-plowing sludge of the May 24 mudder weekend in Calabogie. The Harold Huggins rally and the June party at a Kemptville farm marked the club's first anniversary. The ribs crackling over the barbeque pit and silly Land Rover drivers trying to thread their way blindfolded through an impossible obstacle course seemed a long way off from the snow outside. Highlights of the fall bush trip, some fun with the Newfoundland rovers and a nostalgic visit to ralleys past when the Dowell brothers were too young for facial hair, rounded out the show.

The Lugnut award ceremonies began with a special tribute to winner, Al Pilgrim. Photos taken during the year gave the distinct impression that he could sleep through almost any situation, including one shot that looked suspiciously as if he were catching a few winks while pretending to spray the underside of an LR during a club oiler. For those new members unfamiliar with the Lugnut award, it goes to that individual who sets himself apart from the rest of us through some action that goes above and beyond the limits of normal human stupidity and silliness.

Merry Christmas

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Pilgrim was a shoe-in.

Al's efforts included misdiagnosing a cooling problem as a broken water pump when he had forgotten to tighten the lower rad hose clamps and all the water drained out. He ran out of gas three times, filled his overalls with a blast of silicone when the bottom of the tube burst after he forgot to clear the cap end and broke a half shaft at a city stop sign. Then there's the classic photo of him trying out the driver's seat of his partially-rebuilt Land Rover -- but facing the wrong way.

However, they were minor compared to the dandy that clinched the award for him. It happened during the fall bush trip when his rear prop shaft parted company with the dif at highway speed. After the excitement died down (and we found most of the bits) it became apparent that "someone" hadn't tightened the bolts. Photos of the event have mysteriously vanished.

Honorable mentions went to John Pritchard for showing his lady how to spend the night stuck in a mosquito-infested bog, Pres McD for failing to check for fan belt tightness during a month-long search for his alternator charging problems, Kevin Burton of St. John's for his submersible Land Rover and several members for breaking half shafts when there really was no need.

Special thanks go to Cliff and Bobby Cochran at Atlantic British Parts and Mike Rundle at Campart for donating some of the gifts we gave away. Thanks also to Al, David and Elizabeth Johnson for organizing and collecting on party night, Neil Brewer for his music, Kelsey for helping with the cake and the folks at Leone's restaurant.

Gossip....ads....rumours....tall tales....oooops....news....

- *The annual meeting of the Association of Land Rover Owners of Canada (ALROC) has been postponed until further notice. It had been planned for January.
- *Welcome to new OVLR members Jim Moore of Arnprior and Harry Bligh of Nepean. Jim can be reached at 1-623-5223 and Harry, who has Series II parts for sale, is at 825-1431.
- *Thanks to project coordinator Bob Hussey for the spiffy towbar now available to club members when their LR quits away from home.
- *Jason Dowell is first out of the starting gate in the race to next year's Lugnut award. He broke a half shaft on the way home from the Xmas party.
- *Entrepreneur Al Pilgrim, who marketed the T-shirts at the Xmas party, says he has a few more than he planned so he'll keep the price at \$9.50.
- *Pres McD had a slight mishap the other day. Seems a sporty Datsun tried to slip under the driver's side of his 86. The LR bruised the bottom half of the door. The Datsun lost a fender, grill, hood, bumper and lights. Seems fair.
- *The Honorable Harold Huggins Xmas card includes two photos of the ALROC founder with his favorite pasttime .. his two Land Rovers. We hope Elizabeth's OK too.
- *Al Pilgrim and McD both huddled over brake problems these days .. in spite of brand new brake systems on both vehicles.

OVLR ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION TAKES PLACE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 7:30 at the NATIONAL NEWS BUILDING, 2655 LANCASTER ROAD (enter by side door). If you're considering running for office, read the job descriptions of the elected positions included with the newsletter. They're busy, demanding jobs and our club deserves dedicated leadership.



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