



July 11, 1984

Giddy eh.

Well, we did it. The first ALROC chapter is off and running. We've elected three officers, got \$221 in the bank and it looks like it's going to be a very busy summer.

This is a larger-than-usual newsletter but there's a lot happening and we want to keep everyone up to date. (We promise they won't all be like this.)

First of all ... THE CLUB

Twenty-one Land Rover lovers gathered at Dave Smithers' house on June 22 for a feast of steamed mussels, wine and all the trimmings. The occasion, while a rather boisterous affair, did manage to elect club officers and get the show on the road.

Election chairman David Smithers set the trend for the evening by nominating himself for all the offices ... then didn't vote. He said something about not wanting to belong to any club that would have someone like him for a member.

Mike McDermott was elected president and, together with David ... and a little help from the grape ... thanked all who voted for him by shooting a double moon with David from behind the Land Rover flag.

Jerry Dowell took vice-president unanimously after promising everyone a free can of motor oil if they voted for him.

Al Pilgrim ... the man whose creative financing in Operation Frank made the Great Train Robbery look smalltime, was, naturally, elected treasurer.

We've put a rough plan together to get us through the immediate future and need to hear from members about what they'd like to see ... and do.

Here's what we've got so far .....

We'll put out six newsletters a year, one every second month ... plus little bulletins whenever the need arises.

We'll stage something at least every month, more if the demand warrants. Activities will range from a cheap get-together in a Chinese restaurant or a tune-up or mechanical seminar to a road trip or full-gear mud, sweat and flies bush expedition. Imagination is the limit.

Our aim is to provide a balanced program to meet the interests of all in the organization. The key to success here, of course, is your input.

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We'd like to do a little bulk buying of the things we all use when sales make them cheap. Canadian Tire, for example, recently had a half-price sale on EP 90 gear oil. The club could buy several cases and sell to members at cost when they needed it.

We'd also like to keep a photo slide record of all our activities during the year to show at the annual meeting which will be held under the guise of a huge party.

All that brings us to the matter of dues ... sorry. While we have a healthy bank account right now, it comes from a garage sale and we should have a more regular ... and stable ... means of support.

Our main expense is the newsletter. It costs about \$15 an edition to produce, thanks primarily to the Post Office.

We're suggesting a \$5 dues to take us to next March when we'd like to begin our fiscal year. We'll re-evaluate our finances then, keeping in mind we want to keep dues as low as possible while having sufficient funds to finance the odd project or parts buy.

Remember ... this is dues for the Ottawa chapter and is separate from the annual ALROC dues.

#### WHAT'S YOUR NAME, CLUB?

Now that we're organizing locally, we have to call ourselves something. It's not so much that we want a fancy name, but rather we need some identification for banking, mailing and dealing as an organization with the rest of the world. (Treasurer Al volunteered to keep club funds in his personal bank account. Someone allowed that that was like keeping chickens in a fox's den. We declined.) We'll open a two-signature bank account as soon as we get the proper identification.

Some of the names that have been put forward include: Valley Rovers (as in Ottawa valley), Ottawa Valley Land Rovers, ALROC Ottawa, Ottawa Chapter of ALROC and Capital City Land Rovers. You can choose one of the above or suggest another, but we need to know ASAP. Please call one of the executive listed at the end of the newsletter before Friday, July 20 with your opinion.

#### HELP WANTED

Still on the club organization ... we need a few volunteers to help out with some of the routine service work that makes a club fun and useful to its members.

We need a phone committee ... just three people to share the calling of members to alert them to upcoming events, to get potential attendance for our activities ... a function we've found to be very helpful in planning and getting people involved in the things we do.

It would amount to making a half dozen calls each month ... and would be a real help to the executive.

We also need a volunteer to be "parts coordinator". This is a job that has been talked about for years locally but never done. The plan is simple. The parts coordinator would compile a list of what spares each member has for sale ... or at least is holding onto. Then, when a member needed something, he would simply call the coordinator to find out who might have the part he needs. The coordinator doesn't deal. That's up to the buyer-seller.

All too often, members are buying from strangers or mail order houses when the parts they seek are available ... and rusting away ... in another member's basement usually for a much better price.

We don't want to sound like we're headed for a complicated, over-organized club. What we do want is a club that provides a benefit for its members ... a reason for belonging. The success of this organization, like any other, is directly related to the involvement and effort put into it by its members.

We're off to a good start. Come out and do your bit.

#### COMING UP

First event is a movie-night slide show with the boys from the military vehicle club. Some of you met these fellas on the May 1 mudder. Like us, they've amassed a collection of slides and a movie. We're getting together at 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 18 in the Orleans Legion Hall, upstairs, to share some laughs.

Then, the following Sunday, July 22, we're holding a one-day light off-road trip to Larose Forest near Bourget. It's a beautiful sand and pine tree area crisscrossed with well-maintained dirt roads. We'll leave from in front of the Bay store at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre at 9 a.m. sharp, convoy to the forest for some outdoor fun and barbeque some burls for lunch. In the afternoon we'll play a little more then head for home in time for 5 p.m. \$2 a head buys lunch. You supply your own firewater. This is a family trip with no heavy off-road challenges.

Then on Sunday, August 12, it's the first annual Harold Huggins fun rally and feast. We'll meet at Vincent Massey Park at 1 p.m. (Vincent Massey is the scene of the first get-together by Harold and some club oldies and led to the formation of ALROC.) At 2 p.m. we'll leave the park for a time/information contest (i.e., what are the words on the cenotaph?) and meet back at the park an hour or so later for prizes and a lobster cookout. Jason Dowell, who's in the maritimes for a race, is returning with a truckload of fresh lobster just for us. Fee is \$5 each for a pair of the succulent seafood and garlic toast à la camp stove. You bring your own drinkies and chairs.

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The Labor Day bush trip, for real men of course, will see us departing after work Friday, August 31 for the Calabogie hills and a route we haven't tried before. We're looking at two nights under canvas ... or one of those neat little hunting lodges ... and be home Sunday so you've still got Monday off to recover. It'll be a toughie trip and more details will be coming later.

On Saturday, October 6 we'll hold a combined oil spray and fall tuneup. We now have the technology to spray the inside and outside of your precious LR frames with thick, gooeey oil to help keep the devil rust away. Also on hand will be our trusty tuneup team.

Then later that month, we'll sponsor a welding seminar to learn the tricks of welding cast iron and Birmabrite. Class size will be limited to ensure everyone gets lotsa help and practice. First choice goes to members who have some welding experience. After that, it's open to all. We're hiring a welding teacher and will let you know the price later.

#### IN OTHER NEWS

For those who missed the "Mussel Spasm" at Dave Smithers', here's the story. More than 20 of us put away a large portion of the 50 pounds of mussels, hamburgs, hot dogs, salad, garlic bread and wine.

Some of the highlights besides the election included Jason's conversion to a rabid mussel-eater, the arrival of John Pritchard in a lovely 109 wagon ... sans licence plates..(When it came time to depart, John found he didn't have any head-lights either.)... and finally slides of the May 1 mudder with the military club.

Special thanks to host David and daughters, Tammy, Amanda and Shannon as well as Al, Sharon and Olga who did a lot of the running around and organizing, new member Jacques Delamarche for his contribution as professional salad chef and Kelsey for her "magic" brownies.

We broke it up after midnight for a quick nap before the Saturday garage sale. After a hearty breakfast, we opened the doors at 9 a.m. and began peddling the multitude of stuff donated by members.

By the time we closed shop at 2 p.m. we had collected \$242.69 ... enough to subsidize the \$5 party charge (actual cost was \$7), pay the food and wine bills and open a bank account with the rest.

Special thanks for their garage sale contributions to Mike Smithers, Bob Hussey, Walt Saveland, Mike McDermott and his dad, John Bennett, Jacques, the Dowells, Gordon Bernius, Mark Hill, Bruce Ricker, the Huggins, John Pritchard and a nice lady name of Edna Scott whom we met for the first time. Hope we didn't miss anyone.

Items contributed included an air conditioner, clothes dryer, snowblower, lawnmower, humidifier, ice coolers, cameras, clocks and just plain good stuff.

It was a tremendous turnout and put an unexpected stash of money in the bank. Not bad for a club that was only one day old.

## BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

Some of us have been busy the last little while keeping up with Land Rover projects. Al Pilgrim, John Smiley and Jerry Dowell recently journeyed to Joyceville to retrieve a badly decomposed 88. The spoils of the 11-A were divided with the Dowells taking the rear box for Jason's Series III, John getting the engine, transmission, fenders, brake master and sundry bits and Al taking the front and rear axles and casings for his 107.

Next weekend the Dowells, Al and McDermott were on the road to Burnett, Quebec to pick up a donated Land Rover. It's for sale from the club and details are listed later in this newsletter.

The Dowells, Al and Mike also joined Jacques in pulling his six cylinder. The crank bearings looked like cigarette package foil and deliberations are underway to find a suitable end to his problems.

Jason is rebuilding Al's 2½ litre engine for fitment in his 107. The former 2-litre has had a frame rebuild and is being updated as a toughie.

Bob Hussey made an emergency trip from the Calabogie hills to Mark Pankhurst's when his starter packed it in while launching a boat on the family vacation. All's well now.

In the mercy mission department ... we need a crew to visit John Bennett's Series I to investigate the case of the vanishing brake fluid. John lives in Nepean and can't figure where all the fluid's going.

And Audry Cole in Smiths Falls is expecting a visit to find out why her recently-rebuilt 88 won't start.

Any volunteers out there care to lend a helping hand to fellow members? Please call Mike to coordinate things (224-8300).

## FOR SALE

We have a few items for sale, some private, some for the club.

John Smiley (778-7923) has a near perfect roof with sides from a II-A.

Mike McDermott (224-8300) has four 6.50 X 16 tires for \$5 each. All are snow grip with lotsa lug left. Some have tubes. Mike also has a rear box for a Series I-86. It needs a new floor and the sides show the years but it's going to a member free ... or to the dump.

And the club has for sale one of the nicest II-A Land Rovers we've seen. It's a 1970 station wagon with only 30,000 miles on it. The interior is very close to showroom condition. The 88 body is very good with just a little evidence of a bink on the front passenger fender. The frame needs a little work, especially the rear cross member, but is fixable. This was donated to us and all proceeds will go into club coffers.

#### THANKS

Mike McDermott wishes to thank all members who answered his call for help several weeks ago when the "two-man" powered post-hole digger used in building a fence found a layer of clay in his backyard and headed for China. It took five large-size members and a lot of grunting to wrestle the beast into submission. That's one McD owes ya.

#### HAROLD UPDATE

We phoned Harold and Elizabeth in their new home in White Rock, B.C. and Harold reports that he and John Parsons made the trip in five days. John did the driving and Harold helped out with such things as highway philosophy, pipe smoking and keeping track of passing Land Rovers. Harold's 109 Regular, trundling along behind the rent-a-truck, arrived happily and in good shape.

Elizabeth went by plane and now they're settling into the laid-back life of the west coast (if you can imagine Harold any more laid back than he's always been).

One of the first things he did was to sit down at the typewriter and rattle off some of the famous Huggins' prose on the cross-country saga. It has arrived and you should be seeing some of it in the next issue of Transfer Box.

Well, that's about it ... and about time you're probably saying.

You'll be hearing from us by phone soon about the Larose Forest trip. (Somebody please volunteer for the phone committee!)

If you agree with the dues, please mail a cheque care of Mike McDermott (until we get a club name we can open a bank account under) at 1016 Normandy Crescent, Ottawa, K2C 0L4.

If you don't agree with the dues, please let us know ... we'll be around about midnight to break your knees.

Mike - 224-8300

Jerry - 731-5098

Al - 731-6616