

OTTAWA VALLEY LAND ROVERS

No. 7

Gidday eh

December 18, 1984

From all reports the OVL R Christmas party was a success. Attendance was a little lower than expected ... but that meant larger helpings of the pasta or chicken dinners for the rest of us. The slide show of the year's events began with the rush to complete McD's 86 rebuild before the May bush trip, Harold's goodbye party, people stuffing themselves at the lobster and mussel pig-outs, getting dirty at the tuneup and oiling, looking silly in a mudhole and embarrassed when caught in a "private" moment by the ever-searching eye of the camera.

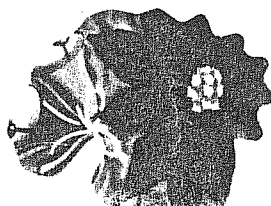
Awards went to Gordon Bernius and Neil Brewer for winning last summer's Harold Huggins ralley ... Gordon took home a genuine Land Rover tool kit (good luck with that sucker), while Neil collected Castrol and a filter for his disassembled wagon Jason got new tires to replace the rubber he wears off during mechanical mercy missions and Mike Smithers collected a new frame ... both miniature, but at Christmas time it's the thought that counts Club navigator-for-life Ron Tysick got a new compass. This one doesn't have a needle because the old one just confused him anyway. We tried but failed to get him a sense of direction The Club's top honor, the annual Lugnut Award for the member who distinguishes himself above and beyond the limits of normal silliness, went to Walt Saveland for neglecting to check his wheelnuts before leaving on a bush trip. You guessed it ... three-wheeled Land Rovers are no good in the mud Several people won Land Rover key fobs and patches and Bruce Ricker came away with an oil filter for guessing the five items in the mystery feel box.

Special thanks to Neil Brewer who provided the sound system and music ... we attracted eight ladies this year compared to only two last time ... to Jerry Dowell and Maggie Johnson for their great poster displays and to Tony, Manuel and Edgar who dished up the great vittles. Those of you

Those of you who attended the bash saw Neil's rendition of the club crest which will be available early in the new year.

Lap joint, butt joint, 7014, brazing, neutral flame, slag ... just some of the terms members learned December 8 at the all-day welding session at the Woodlawn home of Bob Hussey. Professional welder Dave Dolan brought eight of us through the basics of oxy-acetylene welding, brazing, cutting and arc welding. Several of the lads had to leave early, but those who stayed got a good grip on the "how-to's" ... all they need is lotsa practice ... and McDermott learned how to weld aluminum ... which he'll do for you for \$1,000 an hour. We're working on another class for those who missed the first one ... or want to take it again ... and you'll hear more about it a little later. Thanks to Bob for his work in setting up the course and the use of his shop and a special bouquet to wife Ricky for the super spread she laid out for lunch.

Get those questionnaires completed and in to Andy Graham. We're laying plans for 1985 and need to know what you'd like to do.



OVLRL Prez Mike McDermott and sidekick Dave Smithers presented their cross-country report on the health and welfare of Transfer Box and ALROC to a hastily-called meeting with ALROC executive. The get-together was arranged after the pair reported to the November OVLRL meeting and local members thought the message was important enough to warrant immediate action by the national association.

The survey idea got started after Dave and Mike, who carry an ALROC directory with them on their cross-country trips for the federal gov't in the hope of mooching a free meal at a member's home, realized they were gathering a lot of complaints and not much praise for ALROC. Main points of the survey were that Transfer Box's benefits and value were being nullified by its erratic and undependable publishing schedule and ALROC was unresponsive to members' needs.

Criticism was similar in Halifax, Toronto, Ottawa and the Vancouver and Victoria areas: ALROC members felt they weren't getting much for their money. Complaints ranged from unanswered mail to lack of action on decisions made at the ALROC annual meeting. Less than half the people in the West Coast club are members and some have let their memberships lapse. It was pointed out that while ABP now has 1,200 Land Rover customers, ALROC has only managed to attract 242 into the national organization. It was suggested that the situation was so bad in Halifax and the West Coast that ALROC was in danger of collapse in those areas. Transfer Box also caught it for irrelevant stories, too much copying of articles that have appeared in other magazines, stories appearing that are months out of date, the use of one-page "flyers" between late TB's that are expensive to mail and contain little information and the constant change in Transfer Box's appearance.

The meeting was held with ALROC President Mark Pankhurst, VP Jerry Dowell, Secretary Andy Graham, TB editor Walt Saveland and several local members. It went on for more than three hours with some pretty candid talk. Prez Pankhurst explained some of his plans to put Transfer Box back on schedule and deal with ALROC's problems. TB will be published four times a year and mailed on the 15th of January, April, July and October. An editorial board composed of the editor and several members at large will plan and produce each issue. Mark is looking into problems surrounding ALROC's slow response to members' mail and has already answered many inquiries.

OVLRL meets the first Monday of each month to do its business in a local eatery. Call McD for reservations.

Condolences to Dave Smithers whose wooden snowplow disintegrated into kindling recently when he Land Roved it into a snowbank.

Dave is investigating the replacement of his 2½ Solex with a rebuilt Vega single throat. The set-up was prevelant among Land Rovers seen on the West Coast.

David Johnson, not satisfied with just his new 109, is looking for a Series III-88.

That's all for now.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL FROM

Mike 224-8300

Jerry 731-5098

A1 731-6616