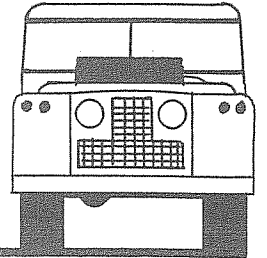


OTTAWA VALLEY LAND ROVERS



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G'Day eh

March 15, 1986

Howling engines, gnashing gears and icy roostertails flung high against a bright blue sky, the exhilaration of careening into a corner at breakneck speed, the glory of the checkered flag when the race is won. Well, maybe that's a little overstated but, for Land Rover lovers who competed in the OVLRL ice races at Val des Monts, it was the real thing.

Eight Land Rovers, loaded with 14 people, camp stoves, food, deck chairs, a stopwatch and a gaggle of balloons, left centretown Ottawa in near blizzard conditions and convoyed to the land of lakes and little mountains near Perkins, Quebec last week.

After a quick breakfast in the Chateau Brilliant overlooking Lac McGregor, it was down to the ice surface and onto the track. The oval (sort of) race track is maintained on the lake by an Ottawa auto racing club and OVLRL arranged to borrow it during a scouting trip several weeks ago. In the interest of keeping unblemished what few pristine body panels remain on our little beauties, contestants ran against the stopwatch rather than each other. To maintain the competitive spirit, each race consisted of a team of two Land Rovers -- each facing a different direction. The idea was simple ... the first Land Rover raced around the track in a clockwise direction, the driver handing a relay baton -- in this case a handful of unwieldy balloons -- to his partner in the second vehicle who would then race around in the opposite direction. Total times spelled the winner.

The results, while mystifying local onlookers, were good for a lot of guffaws as drivers stepped triumphantly from a record-breaking lap only to fall on their bum while passing the balloons to their partner. Then there was the confident wave of an obvious winner as he sped down the straightaway -- and disappeared in an explosion of snowbank on a slippery corner.

With Al Pilgrim lurking vulture-like with his new winch, John Gilliland left the track on an inside curve. Pres McD managed to get stuck getting ONTO the track. Both had to be rescued by a gleeful Pilgrim. Speeds reached 40 mph on the stretches -- not very fast, some armchair racers might conclude -- but some of those -- like "Fast" Freddie Barrett -- were reached while travelling sideways.

In the end, Jason Dowell cleaned up the trophies for fastest times. It was loudly noted by the losers however, that the little weasel races the track regularly with the auto club.

The race done -- and several Land Rovers wheezing with exhaustion -- it was off to the Dowell's nearby cottage for hot dogs and a little relaxation in front of the woodstove before heading for home.

The awards ceremony for the winner ... and the mandatory prize for buffoonery ... will be held at the April 2 Slide Night.

Speaking of the SLIDE NIGHT, things get underway at 7:30 pm in the party room at 1081 Ambleside Drive. Park in the visitors' lot at the rear of Ambleside I and ring the red party room buzzer. Nobody volunteered a place to hold this year's "Poke-fun-at-your-friend" night, so we had to rent a hall. Admission price is \$2.00 to cover the cost of the room and a few nibbles.

OVLRL meets the first Monday of the month. Join us for some laughs, libation and business talk. Call the exec for details.

OVLRL supplies the projector and a spare carousel. You bring your slides and your own libation. Come see what Jerry Dowell looked like before he was old enough to drive, watch Al Pilgrim build his 107, see how McD's flip-front works, watch your friends caught unawares in the forest. In addition to the slides, this year we have a bunch of videotapes shot during some of our activities ... like the Calabogie bush trip, the June birthday party and the rescue of John Pritchard from a Winchester bog.

We'll have a prize for the best Land Rover slide, the most embarrassing photo and something special for coming in the door.

News from Britain via Gordon Bernius tells the tale of General Motors' attempts to purchase Land Rover. According to newspapers there, GM was approached about selling our favorite pasttime through its extensive dealer network throughout the USA. Greedy GM, however, wants total control of LR, one of the few British auto companies making any money. Land Rover clubs throughout Britain are mounting a campaign to convince the British parliament it's not a good idea. While some might think it nice to have a dealer network back on this continent, others feel GM dominance would mean an end to long-lasting quality and the introduction of its standard profit-oriented commitment to built-in obsolescence.

Plans continue for the MAY 17-19 TRIP TO ABP in Waterloo, Quebec. Hosts Bobby and Cliff Cochrane have been scurrying around and report the Granby Zoo will be getting its summer feathers, Brome Mountain provides a grand view and the largest flea market in the eastern townships is a just a few short miles from town.

The March OVLRL meeting found us in an Orleans restaurant where work continued on plans to incorporate the Ottawa chapter. Lyn Leduc provided the exec with a "how-to" kit. Al Pilgrim noted the high incidence of running into Land Rover strangers who have never heard of our club or ALROC. To remedy the situation he suggested a poster be created, sent to members and stuck on everything from telephone poles, grocery store bulletin boards and garages to taverns in the outback of Quebec. VP Neil Brewer, who doubles as our graphic artist, is working on it.

TUNE-UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 in a corner of Shoppers City EAST at the intersection of Blair and Ogilvy Roads. We'll have more info in the April newsletter

Your 1986 membership directory is included with this newsletter. Any problems with the info that's in it -- call Jerry or David. Members who have not yet returned their application form for this year's club directory may find themselves left out. The info on your vehicle helps the exec determine what spares to keep in stock. It's also helpful to other members with the same model when they're having problems. Most importantly to members, it's the list we send to our discounters to ensure you get your reductions on parts.

SALES....BUYS....GOSSIP....TALL TALES....LIES....LEFTOVERS.....

*Welcome new OVLRL member Tom Hinkle of Vancouver.

*Mark Pankhurst is looking to sell his Series II/88. It's got a rebuilt engine and gearbox, new clutch and lotsa other good stuff. Body and frame also good. Mark's asking \$5,000.

Pres McD 224-8300

VP Neil 830-1458

Treas David 225-6527

Sec Jerry 731-5098

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