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G'day eh:

Sept. 8/92

FIRST THE HEADLINES: Land Rover Defenders will attend the British Invasion rally; an OVLV survey shows members want more out of their club---but most are too busy to help make it happen; Robin's column says we should expect the Disco here next year and....there's lotsa things for sale.

Now the details. The British Invasion, the mega party for vehicles from "over 'ome", gets underway Friday, Sept. 18 in Stowe, Vermont, and runs the whole weekend. Highlights include a classic car parade, Rolls-Royce engine display, auto auction and a whole gaggle of demonstrations as well as polo, cricket and rugby matches. A British Colonial Troop encampment will depict the way it was before the yanks told HRH to "Stuff it and take your tea tax with ya". But the wiley Brits are sneaking back in the form of the new Defender that's going on sale in North America. There's lots to see and do and, if you've never been to Stowe before, now's the time. It's "off season" rates and the leaves are already turning on the mountain.

The September meeting found us gobbling wings and gurgling draft as the exec turned its attention to the fall Land Rover season. The frame oiler is scheduled for late October and the cost will again be \$25 per vehicle, same price as the last several years. The exec is working on the lunch menu and, if your're planning on attending, you should be busy cleaning the old dear and drilling access holes to make sure it gets a good coat. More details next newsletter.

In other news, results of a poll on club activities originally distributed at the June birthday party and through the newsletter indicate that while most members who responded were content with OVLV's operations, some wanted a little change. While the number of members responding was low, (15 out of 70) some of the responses were a little confusing.

For example, six members indicated they wanted more activities, especially during the early Spring and Fall, but said they didn't have any spare time to help organize things. Five said they did not support the suggestion of a dues increase to offset the income loss that would occur should the exec cut back on traditional fund raisers like the annual garage sale. The cutback is being considered due to lack of volunteer help at the events.

While 13 respondents were happy with the newsletter, six wanted more technical information, two wanted more photos and two wanted more news from other clubs. One suggested a "Special of the Month" ad from a supplier. The exec will discuss poll results again at a future meeting.

On the mechanical front, things were buzzing at the Hammond, Barrett, McD, Bates and Desprey households during the last several weeks. Tom and Derrick Hammond were struggling with a wiring problem on their rebuilt 88. It surfaced earlier this year when the duo couldn't get the damn thing shut down after a test run. A misdirected alternator wire was the culprit.

At McD's, the faulty pressure plate that failed at Rovers North underwent a change in record time. McD and Bates did the switch in less than eight hours--fast for them--with a little help in the shoving department from Prez Jason who wandered by to help mate the transmission and engine. Dale Desprey--summoned earlier when the boys thought they might need a little more help--arrived after the job was done but still in time for a pint--or was in two.

Dale explained he was tardy because he was working so hard on his Series 111/88 petrol to get it ready for sale. (See ad later) Meanwhile, his newly acquired Series 11 diesel is looking pretty good (cough) with new lug tires and canvas top.

And of course Bates was also busy with his beloved "Sally". After limping home from Rovers North with a wobbly distributor, he dropped the big bucks and installed a new one. Made no difference. So, exhausted by the 13 minutes he spent on the 107's troubles and not content to limit his misfortunes to Land Rovers, Bates spent more hard cash to purchase a badly used boat and trailer...which he promptly dragged over to McD's for some "minor" repairs. Several weekends--and 348 welding rods--later, the trailer might now carry something heavier than a single smallmouth bass. But don't count on it. The boat however, is another story. While it's a little "bent" due to a tree falling on it some time ago, Bates is confident it's seaworthy. His test: After filling with rainfall over the past several weeks, it hasn't leaked a drop. He's now looking for a motor...and some oars...and a rope...and an anchor (how about the trailer?) and (please) a lifejacket. Stay tuned. Could be a whole new source of chuckles.

Meanwhile, over at Fast Freddie Barrett's, the engine oil spewing from the clutch housing of his 88 had reached epic proportions. Freddie is now in the process of tearing it down again. Think it's number 37.

NEWS...GOSSIP...FOR SALE...HOT TIPS...WANTED...MISSING PERSONS...

*-"Doc" Watson has a "good" Series 111 bulkhead for sale. Looking for a Series 11 for use as a yard truck. (514) 357-2148.

*-Dale Desprey selling his trusty petrol 88 to make room for his diesel. The '73 Series 111 has a good frame, brakes, body and interior and is certifiable. So is Dale. Asking \$3,750. He's also peddling a Southbend metal lathe. It's got a 36-inch bed and a 10-inch swing. (whatever that means) Asking \$700. (613) 567-8973 during office hours.

*-Lock up the rubbing alcohol. Rumour has it Kevin Burton has found a way off "The Rock" and will visit in early October.

*-PEI member Sharon Cregier is parting with "QE 11", her '74/88. It's got 167,000 miles on the clock, good tires and \$400 in spare parts. Asking \$6,500. (902) 566-0621 and leave message. Calls returned collect only.

*-Tom Durrant has a Series 1 "cheap to a good home". Sorry. No other details. (519) 396-2005

*-Former Prez Neil Brewer called the other day to say--again--that he's lonesome and missing his buds back in the Ottawa Valley. We miss you too Neil---now quit your snivelling, get a decent job and get your pudgy butt back home.

*-Dave Meadows is pondering the drop of heavy change and a rebuild for his 88 south of the border.

*-McD is preparing for a trek west towards the end of September. He'll be visiting family in Seattle before a little leisure time in the Saltspring Islands and Vancouver. Plans to hook up with LR buddies if there's time...and Kelsey isn't looking.

*-Club secretary and major packrat Harry Bligh managed another house move the other day. Although they swore after the last move they would never help again, an OVLK task force comprised of Jason and Jerry Dowell, McD, Ernie and Bates spent several hours lugging broken patio stones, bent nails, cat bits, dried paint, pantyhose and sundry Land Rover parts---mostly broken---to Harry's new digs. This one's for keeps, says Lyne. They bought the place.

*-It's getting to be election time again, that portion of each year we search for the four good souls who will guide us through another 12 months. Next newsletter will describe the four executive positions and call for nominations. The election will be held during the Annual General Meeting in January.

*-(These three taken from the The Prairie Rover, newsletter of the Land Rover Owners Association of Manitoba, with thanks) For sale: Two LR difs, 3.54:1, 10 spline. Bill Lang (306) 373-6648. Four cyl distributor, AC fuel pump, new passenger side window curtain (non-glazed), capstan winch with mounting plate. Scott Shappard (204) 367-2141. LROAM decal in yellow and green. \$5. Todd Jackson (204) 889-5735

*-Wanna get in on a REAL off-road trip? How about the Trans-Dominicana Adventure Rally. It runs from Dec 2 to 9 across 1,200 miles of the Dominican Republic ranging from rain forest to beach. Fees are \$3,000 a person with your own vehicle. For more details, call editor McD in Ottawa or Michael Ruge in Miami at (809) 571-3553.

That's all folks:
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As many of you will have seen in the news, Land Rovers are being used by some of the warring elements in the Bosnian conflict. For the most part they are ex Dutch forces vehicles. I have even seen one described in a book recently as a "Land Rover jeep"! We must re-educate these people.

BBC TV are also using Land Rovers in their efforts to report the war. They were the first of several TV companies to buy from Glover Webb a number of armoured Land Rovers in an effort to protect their correspondents. There have been over 30 journalists / TV crew members killed so far. Glover Webb on the other hand do not seem to keen to advertise the fact that their vehicles are being used. You would have thought that they would have jumped at the chance of the publicity.

Last month I told you about the launch of Land Rover Defenders here in Canada. As you will be aware we ride on the back of the activities in the American market. It would just not be feasible to service this market alone. So in light of that, did you know that the US Government will commence passive restraint systems (air bags etc) for all sport utilities built after January '94 ? Can you see Land Rover modifying a ten year old model that will probably require an inordinate amount of engineering to accommodate it. MY PREDICTION is that this year will be the only year for Defenders in Canada and the US and after that we will see the launch of Discovery to fill its space.

By all accounts the US and Canadian Defenders will definitely need that winch that comes as factory standard. The factory tires certainly did not get the vehicle very far at Rovers North's little mud run! So much for the "best 4 X 4 X FAR".

It was good to see that Land Rover North America included in their latest Defender press kit the names and addresses of Land Rover clubs in the US. On the down side their press releases are riddled with mi#t*kes here is just one example, the "wheelbase of the 90 is 90 inches" WRONG !

If all goes well, Bob Morrison says he hopes to going to Turkey with the British Army. For those of you who do not know Turkey is one of the countries that still assembles vehicles from knocked down kits. Apparently there are some really weird local conversions and even some armoured types aswell. Should make for some good reading soon.

Myles Murphy has come up with a drawing of a one off prototype Land Rover that never made it into production. It was called the 88" Sky Rover and was fitted with free wheeling hubs all round. For flight it was powered by an auxiliary engine mounted in the rear load bed. This along with the wings were removable so once "in country" the vehicle could be used in the normal way. A 109" version was tried but because the aerodynamic shape resembled that of a flying brick too closely, it would not lift off.

Thats all..... Robin

