



**ASSOCIATION OF
LAND ROVER CLUBS**

A.L.R.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Association of Land Rover Clubs

Issue 71

November 2008

**NFU Mutual is pleased
to support The Association
of Land Rover Clubs**



NFU Mutual

Each edition of ALRC NEWS can be found on the **ALRC website** www.alrc.co.uk

STEERING COLUMN

I would like to congratulate the "Calendar Girls" from Peak & Dukeries Land Rover Club on raising £2,400 profit from the sale of their 2008 calendar. This money was distributed to their chosen charities, £750 to Breast Cancer; £800 to Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance, £800 to Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance and £100 to Cam Rescue. This was a superb effort by the P. & D. girls and everybody involved in the production and selling of the calendar, I purchased one; will there be a 2009 edition? If so please ensure you save me a copy.

ALRC Green Book 2009 Edition

Our Handbook Editor is currently compiling the 2009 publication which we hope will go to print just before Christmas and will be delivered to your Club Secretary for distribution to members early in January 2009. Will all Club Secretaries please ensure Simone has your correct contact details?

Tom Barton Award

Congratulations to Ted Ivory who is this year's recipient of the Tom Barton Award. This perpetual Trophy is awarded annually to a person or persons who have contributed to the well being of the Association of Land Rover Clubs for the benefit of its members. Ted is a member of Cornwall and Devon Land Rover Club; he has been a past Chairman of C&D and is currently one of their Honorary Vice Presidents. For many years Ted was editor of The ARC newsletter "Runes" and is known to many members of the Off Road world for taking up the challenge, later in life, as a Competitive Safari Driver and going on to compete in several of the Hill Rallies. Ted has slowed down a little bit now but is still active within the club and as an elder continues to act as mentor for the younger members.

Welcome G4

Welcome to G4 Challenge Owners Club who joined the Association at the July EGM, their details can be found at www.g4ownersclub.com

Dartford Crossing

The new Charging Order will start at 10pm on Saturday 15 November 2008. Motorists will now pay £1.50 to drive a car over the bridge or through the tunnel. Vans will pay £2.00 and Lorries will now pay £3.70 although there is no longer a charge if you tow a trailer. Night charges between the hours of 10pm – 6pm allow all vehicles to cross for free.

Denis Bourne
ALRC Chairman.

A.L.R.C. NATIONAL RALLY 2009

The ALRC 2009 National Rally will be held at Manby Motorplex near Louth, Lincolnshire over the Spring Bank Holiday 21st - 26th May. The event will be organised by the ALRC Council with many ALRC member clubs offering to run specific events and assisting with the Camping and site services.

With the absence of any of our member clubs coming forward, this is seen as an effective alternative to one member club hosting and running the whole event and will perhaps encourage smaller clubs to co-operate in future years to co-host and run a National Rally.

We now have Clubs to run the R.T.V. Trial, C.C.V. Trial, Tyro Trial, Team Recovery and Comp. Safari, however, we need a Club (Or even a group of people) to volunteer to run the CHILDREN'S BIKE TRIAL. This event is crucial to encourage our younger members in the ways of off-roading and contributes to a great family atmosphere during the event. If you feel you can offer assistance in this way please contact me as soon as possible?

Preparations are well under way with most organising officials in place. The Beer Tent is booked; National Rally Clothing is available for order. Trader enquiries and Sponsor contacts are welcome and forms can be found on the ALRC website. Event bookings forms are also available from your club secretary or from the ALRC website.

Entry numbers are increasing daily so get your booking in now and avoid the disappointment of many in 2008 where event places were booked very quickly. You can keep up to date with the bookings position at the ALRC website

Sandra Bourne
National Rally Co-ordinator

LAND ROVER NEWS

Land Rover has cut production at its Solihull plant, including the introduction of a four-day week on some lines.

Discoveries and Land Rover Sport models will no longer be manufactured on Fridays.

The motor giant insisted that it has no plans to make any of its 5,000 workforces on the West Midlands site redundant. The firm, which, along with Jaguar, was taken over by Tata in June, said it was taking essential action in response to tough economic conditions. The financial slowdown had reinforced the need to match demand with supply, adding that it was not prepared to stockpile vehicles. The change would be effective from early next month until the end of the year. There will also be a "slight slowing" of the production line, the company said. In addition, the nightshift manufacturing Range Rovers will be suspended from early October for the rest of the year. The company would not say how many vehicles will be affected by the changes, but a spokesman said it only added up to a "very small" percentage of its annual production. He added that sales were strong in China, Russia, Brazil, Australia, the Middle East and North Africa, but conditions have become "very challenging" in the UK and United States

LAND_e

From the moment Land Rover unveiled the first permanent 4 wheel drive in 1948, the company has been dedicated to innovation in engineering and design. We created the ingenious concept vehicle Land_e in 2006 showcasing our intelligent environmental technologies. We then refined those innovations and in early 2008 revealed the pioneering LRX Concept Car at the Detroit Motor Show.

The LRX makes clever use of bio-fuels and hybrid technology to significantly reduce CO2 emissions and fuel consumption. With £700m joint investment over the next five years to developing these technologies, your next Land Rover will be equipped for the future while remaining a true Land Rover at heart.

- Bio-diesel Engine: In the future our diesel engine range will have the capacity to operate with fuels produced by renewable biomass sources, which will extend our current existing capacity.
- Terrain Response®: Land Rover continues to evolve this acclaimed energy-efficient system, which fine tunes the vehicle's power and responses according to whatever nature throws at it, optimising fuel efficiency.
- Intelligent Stop/Start system: The system turns off the engine when the vehicle is stationary and power not required for in-cabin comfort, it then automatically restarts it when the driver is ready to move off. From early 2009 all diesel manual Freelander models will feature this clever system.

A.L.R.C. MEETING DATES FOR 2009

A.L.R.C. meetings take place at NFU Mutual Tiddington Road, Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon – all A.L.R.C. members are welcome to attend EGM and the AGM meetings which are open to any member of A.L.R.C. EGM and AGM meetings start at 10.00am. Please note that A.L.R.C. Council meetings and Scrutineering and Off Road Committee meetings are open only to elected representatives or their guests.

ALRC Meeting Dates for 2009

S&ORC – 10th January, 25th April and 19th September.

Council – 14th February, 6th June and 17th October.

AGM / EGM – 14th March, 11th July and 14th November (10.30am start).

CHANGES TO OFFICIAL / CLUB CONTACTS INCLUDE:

Change of Club Secretary details

- Aylesbury Land Rover Fanatics Club – Lyn Moulds – lyn.moulds@tesco.net .Further details still to be confirmed.
- Breckland LRC – Susan Eltringham, Park House, Crow's Lane. Merton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6QW. 01953 882350 / 07932340114. s.eltringham@btinternet.com
- Discovery OC – Chris P Gorvin, 16 Kurtus Dosthill, Tamworth, B77 1NX. secretary@discoveryownersclub.org 01827 261758 / 07774963577
- East Northants LROC – Michelle Reading, 42 Berrymoor Road, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 2HS. 07876 646970. reading_michelle@hotmail.com
- G4 Owners club – Augusto Carvalho, 4 Holm Walk, Blackheath, London, SE3 0HD. secretary@g4ownersclub.com
- Liverpool LROC – Samantha Leight, 07528864806

COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

Items from the October LARA meeting.

If a member club considers that a local authority or government agency is acting inappropriately or unfairly, details should be reported to me so that I can notify LARA of its concern. One of the benefits of ALRC membership of LARA includes guidance and assistance to its organisations' member clubs.

A hearing date for the LARA high court challenge to a number of TROs made by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority earlier this year is currently still awaited. The Park Authority has now made traffic regulation orders to remove public vehicular rights from a total of thirteen routes in the Park and LARA believes that an incorrect procedure was adopted in making the orders. All legal cases are expensive, win or lose, and the ALRC has donated £3000 towards the costs. The issue is of national concern with far reaching implications as if these vehicular routes are lost, it would be seen as a precedent for other National Parks and highway authorities to follow. YLROC is prepared to contribute to the cost of the challenge and it is hoped that other ALRC clubs with members who use 'green roads' will do likewise by sending a donation to LARA HQ.

Tony Kempster.

ALRC Countryside Officer

NEWS FROM NFU

A deer danger for drivers

Drivers warned to be extra vigilant as deer danger grows on Britain's roads.

A staggering 75,000 deer are thought to be hit by motorists in the UK each year, causing huge damage to British wildlife as well as human fatalities. Research conducted by breakdown service, Autonational Rescue, found there

are around 200 accidents a day involving deer and, with each accident costing an average of £300, claims costs can amount to more than £21 million a year.

Accident black spots include The New Forest in Hampshire, Cannock Chase in Staffordshire and the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. Ronan Hart, of Autonational Rescue, is urging motorists to be extra vigilant when driving near to hedgerows or woodland.

He says: "What many motorists don't realise is that deer related traffic accidents very often don't kill the animal outright – which is bad enough – but the animal has to be either put down by rangers, vets or RSPCA staff afterwards or it escapes to die later of its injuries.

"Also, deer are a major safety hazard to road users especially at night in winter fog and rain. Accidents can lead to expensive damage to cars and to human injuries and even deaths."

Peak times for accidents are between sunset to midnight with the majority of these occurring between October to December.

Useful websites:

The Deer Initiative (backed by the Highways Agency): www.deercollisions.co.uk

Hints and tips

Heed deer warning signs by driving below the speed limit

After dark, if there is no opposing traffic, use full beams on badly lit roads

Don't over swerve to avoid hitting an animal as you may hit an oncoming car. If collision is inevitable, try to maintain full control of your car when you hit the animal

Report any deer collisions to the police

Advice for keeping personal possessions safe and secure at Christmas

According to Home Office statistics, burglaries increase between October and January. An unwanted visit from a burglar on Christmas Eve, or a rogue spark from a log fire could leave you high and dry. Taking sensible precautions could save a great deal of heartache at Christmas time.

Reduce the risk of burglary at Christmas:

Alarms act as a deterrent to burglars. We recommend alarms made by approved UKAS accredited companies

Always set the alarm when leaving the house unoccupied

Lock all windows and doors securely and remove the key completely

Keep Christmas presents out of sight of potential thieves

Close curtains in the evenings

Dispose of boxes and wrappings carefully; they are an advert to burglars for attractive items inside the house

If you are going away, cancel the milk and newspapers and ask a neighbour to remove your post and keep an eye on your property. Inform your insurer if you are going to be away for a long period of time over Christmas

Leave main lights and a radio on if you are out for the evening. Invest in a timer switch if you are going away for longer

Mark all your property of value and take note of serial numbers. This can help recover stolen goods.

Keep all garages and sheds securely locked up with a suitable padlock

Top 10 Christmas safety tips:

1. Don't be caught out and find out too late that you are under-insured for the contents in your home.

Some home insurers, like NFU Mutual, will automatically increase your home contents cover over the holiday period at no extra charge to allow for the extra presents, food and drink in the house.

2. Update your contents insurance to include any new, high-value gifts (e.g. major electrical item or jewellery). You may need to list items separately.

3. Don't leave candles burning unattended.

4. Avoid leaving TV and stereos on standby. A small electrical fault can start a fire.
5. Check they conform to British Safety Standards (BS kite mark).
6. Inspect cables and bulbs for damage. Dispose of faulty ones.
7. Don't allow flexes to trail and don't hide them under a carpet.
8. If you are going away over Christmas, leave the trap door into the roof open. This will help prevent pipes from freezing and bursting!
9. Make sure your policy covers damage to food in the freezer.
10. Check that your insurer has a 24-hour emergency helpline.

For more information on NFU Mutual's home insurance contact one of our local agents. Find your local agent at nfumutual.co.uk or call 0800 197 1283

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COMMITTEE & LOG BOOK SCRUTINEERS

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SCRUTINEERING AND VEHICLE REGULATION NEWS

Rule Change Proposals.

A rule change proposal has been submitted by Paul Finney and Arthur Wilson from Peak & Dukeries LRC. The proposed rule would read:-

B.7.1 any brand / make of steel wheels are allowed but they must be of adequate strength, have a diameter matching that of factory fitted wheels for that model and have an offset between the

outer flat of the nave plate and the external face of the bead area (not the outermost turned-out flange of the rim) of 4" / 102mm or less. Also any Land Rover produced / manufactured alloy wheel and matching wheel nuts may be used when suitable hubs for that wheel are fitted.

The ALRC Scrutineering and Off Road Committee accepted this as being compatible with ALRC philosophy. The only clarification suggested would be the insertion of "aluminium" before alloy in the interests of accuracy; because steel is an alloy which the proposers have accepted.

Other changes to be introduced by the MSA:

Challenge Event regulations and tyre regulations are to be discussed by ALRC SORC.

Roll Cage Mountings - revised regulation 293, effectively an MSA/FIA cage required in vehicles with separate chassis and body but with internal superstructure of steel pressings from 1st January 2009.

Mud flaps - in competitive safaris, hill rallies and point to point - all road wheels must be fitted with a flexible mud flap of material not less than 5mm thick extending a minimum of 4cm each side of the tyre tread and a maximum of 10cm above the ground- recommended from 1st January 2009 mandatory from 1st January 2010.

A.L.R.C. MEMBER CLUB EVENTS FOR 2009

June 27th – 28th Charity Two Day RTVT, Cornwall & Devon LRC

IMPORTANT – Participation at any competitive event or show is at your own risk or that of the organisers. Although the A.L.R.C. is happy to publicise such events it does not act as an agent for the organisers. Statements or opinions expressed in A.L.R.C. News are not necessarily those of the A.L.R.C. Council. You are advised to obtain independent advice on all matters involving safety, finance or legislation.

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