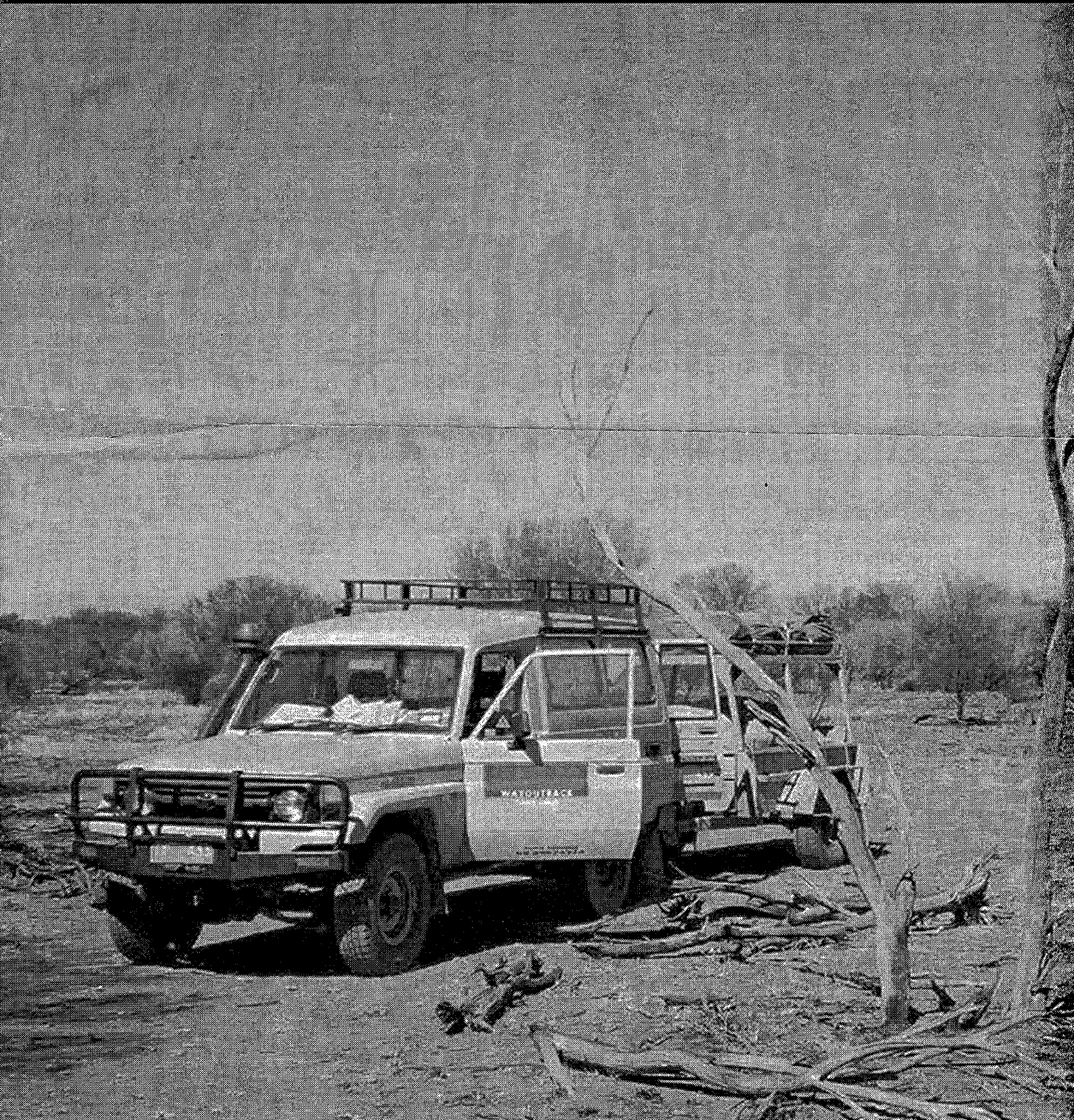
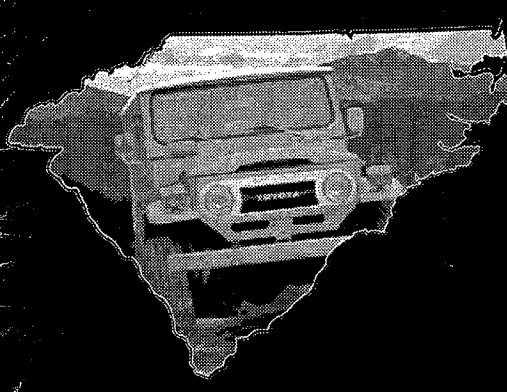


SUMMER 2003

Upstate Cruisin'

THE NEWSLETTER OF UPSTATE CRUISERS



From the President

David Harrison

Hi all. Hope you are are doing well. I've sure enjoyed this 2nd year of my term as your President. It's up in August. All officer positions are up for elections. Voting will once again be by those present at the annual meet on August 9th. It will be at Lake Jocassee. The club seems robust. The most recent rides were fun and the Christmas Dinner had a real strong turnout. Here in Pumpkintown we've had a couple of nice snows since then. Ahhhh...fall approaches. Camping/wheeling. I can't wait.

I would be remiss as your CEO if I didn't mention our need of support to fund the things Upstate Cruisers does for us. It's found us all great friends. So, I propose that hence forth, whenever we meet, a hat is passed so those who wish may kick in a buck or two. Let's continue the giving trend which helps this club service us all and yet retain fiscal health. I'm also very happy to see we are again having members contribute material for Travis's Newsletter.

Joel and Rebecca have performed their duties flawlessly. Thanks to all, newbies and old guard alike. See ya'll where the pavement ends soon. About notices, I really need to reach as many of us as possible via the mailing list I send out for time to time. If you have received this newsletter yet haven't received a recent e-mail from me let me know and I'll correct it, I remain at your service.

From the Editor

Travis Brown

I love Land Cruisers, I really do. I truly love the friendships I have made within this club. This silly little club for Japanese trucks, but you will never find a more good hearted, kind, generous, wise and nutty bunch of people. That is why I really want everyone to start making an effort to come to events we put together.

Two events come to mind where everyone had such a great time I just thought to myself "man, where is everyone at, this is such fun". One is our trip up to the Parkway. That was a great time for the whole family. We just cruised up on the Blue Ridge Parkway, people staring at times but we still had a great time and a lovely dinner at the Pisgah Inn. We had five cruisers, but I was hoping for at least ten. The other is our April trip, fabulous time but nobody but the stooges showed. It was Alex, Mike, Jeff and myself. That was quite an adventure, pictures to come later and believe me when I tell you I got in a mess and these fellas got me out. Just ask one of them I am sure they will be more than happy to tell you all about it.

Y'all start participating. Don't say you're going to go somewhere unless you are going to go. And to all of those who have not renewed memberships please do so, that is the only way we know who still owns a cruiser, who still is interested in the club and who has given up and gone to the dark side (J*#ps). Seriously memberships are the only way to tell who we need to worry about letting know about events and trips. The only way. Enough of my ranting, keep the rubber down.

Oh and don't forget, elections in August, if you want really help in the development and the planning of the club, there's no better way. Y'all take care. God bless.

Tales from Oz

Mike Hall

Thursday, Sept 12

Well the day has finally arrived. It's time to go to the Land Down Under but before we arrive we must endure 25 hours of airports and flying. This also happens to be Scott's first plane ride. We arrive at the airport and board the plane for what seems like will be an on time departure. 5:15pm pull back from gate here we go. 5:20pm engine trouble return to gate. Well that was a quick trip. We finally get airborne at about 7:20pm. Luckily we had 4 hours in LA to spare to begin with.

About 2 hours into the flight the stewardess comes on the intercom and asks if we have any doctors on the flight. Looks like a lady in first class is dead. Luckily she'd only passed out for some reason and we continue on to LAX. Land in LA at about 8:30pm LA time. We walk over to the international gates and check in for our flight to Sydney. At 11:15pm we board the plane for Sydney. A 747 is just a huge plane. Have I mentioned that I love Business Class? This is where I'm glad I cashed in my 200,000 miles for Scott and I to travel in First and Business class.

Business Class is plush with nice reclining seats, good food and your own personal TV. Well once again it's engine trouble time but we finally manage to depart around 12:45am or 3:45am at home. We eat dinner, I watch a movie and then go to sleep for a couple hours. Wake up look at my map on the TV and still have 8 hours to go. At that point we were flying close to Hawaii. Finally we arrive in Sydney at 7:30am about 25 hours after leaving Charlotte. In Charlotte it's about 6:30pm. As we are taxiing to the gate I see my first Land Cruiser. WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA.

Saturday Sept 14

So much for Friday the 13th. After clearing customs it's time to find an ATM and get some Australian currency. I'm really looking forward to today as a couple guys from the Sydney Land



Cruiser Club are dropping by to pick us up and take us to a couple 4WD shops, 4wheeling and then throwing a BBQ for us that night. We get to the hotel (Inter-Continental Sydney) and have to wait about an hour before the hotel room is ready. Around 9:45am Rod from the Sydney Cruiser Club shows up and introduces himself. Just from meeting Rod I know that we are going to have a great day. Luckily at this time we also get our hotel room and go shower and change before our day with the Sydney Cruiser guys.

Member Profiles

Jay Wilson

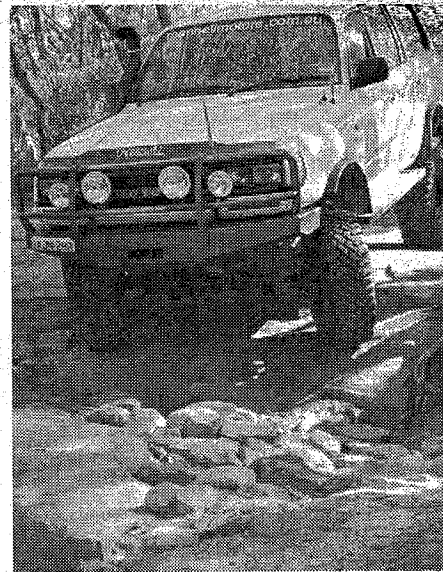
1. Name:
Jay Wilson
2. What year cruiser/cruisers how long had them?:
1979 FJ40 - 8 years (rust bucket)
1972 FJ40 - 3 years (drive train in garage)
3. What are their nickname/nicknames:
Junk, More Junk
4. Family info:
Happily Married - 18 years - 4 kids
Wife - Lucy
Daughter #1 - Jacey, age 15
Daughter #2 - Ainsley, age 12
Son #1 - Ian, age 11
Daughter #3 - Brenna, age 8
Multitude of horses, cats, dogs, fish, and birds.
5. Where do you work, what is your position:
Yamas Controls Carolinas Inc.
Project Manager - HVAC Controls
6. What is something we would never know about you:
I used to be able to see my toes.
7. Tell us how you got into TLC's:
Lived in Wisconsin for several years. 4x4 was a necessity. Found the 1979 listed above with a snow plow. With a 1/2 mile long driveway and 4 ft of annual snowfall this was a plus.
8. What can we do to make the club better (be honest):
Remind me when it's time to re-up my membership.
9. What do you like most about the club:
Diversity of members
10. What would your dream cruiser be if you don't already own it, if so what future modifications do you hope to make:
I'm actually in the process of creating my dream cruiser. I'm starting with the '72 body and frame (no rust and no emissions inspection). Stealing parts off of the '79 and have purchased the rest. I have almost all of the parts, just need to start putting it together. Specs will read as follows:

1972 FJ40 - soft top, family style roll cage, spring over on FJ55 leaf springs, full width FJ60 axles, ARB lockers w/4.56 gears, 1998 Chevy 4.3 Vortec HO V6, SM-465 tranny, Marlin Crawler Toybox, etc.



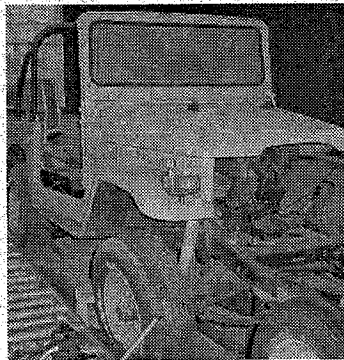
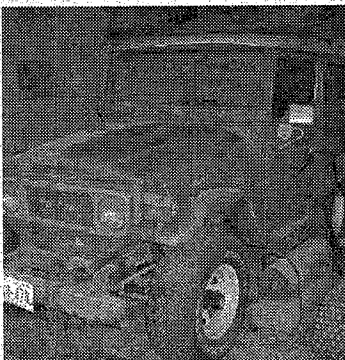
Oz, continued

We walk outside and meet Rhettes who will be driving around Sydney with Rod. He has a brand new 1998 Chevy Diesel. It feels weird sitting in the front seat as I feel that I



should have a steering wheel on my side. This is where I feel that I am sitting in a Corvette and not a Cruiser. Rhettes is ready to show us what this Cruiser can do and let me tell you this cruiser had the power. He whizzies around curves and down the interstate. As I sit in the front seat drooling over this cruiser Rod and Scott are in the back

seat holding on for their lives. The interesting thing about cruisers in Australia is that all the ones that I saw were fairly stock (vinyl or cloth seats, basic AC, no sunroofs, or factory roof racks), 5 spd, diesel, factory snorkel (yes factory snorkel) and factory bullbar. As we are driving there are cruisers everywhere and all of them had bull bars and snorkels. I have died and gone to cruiser heaven. We get to the first 4wd shop, which is kinda small but had the Tyre Deflators I needed to get





Oz, continued

and also some huge ARB stickers. Here we also see an old FJ45 Troop Carrier, FJ60, BJ40, Nissan Patrol and a Hilux. On the way to the second 4WD shop I see a 70 series with soft top and a 75 series.

Have I mentioned I love Australia? The second 4WD shop has about everything you could ever imagine. Lights, racks, bullbars, snorkels, ARB coolers, drawers for cruisers, tow straps, lockers, swags. You name it they had it. At the shop we also meet Kelly one of the other guys that will be joining us on the trail ride. Then it's off to Rod's house to get some lunch, switch vehicles and go into the Bush. As we pull up I see Rod's 80. It has a 4" lift and a 2" body lift, and ambulance doors. He used to run 38's under it but now only has 35's. At this point Stuart shows up for the trail ride and we are about ready to go. Grab some lunch and off to the Bush we go. I ride with Rod in his 80, Rhett's (80 series) with Stuart and Scott rides with Kelly (80 series). 15 minutes later we are at the trailhead. We get out and lock the hubs in Rod's 80.

The other neat thing about the 80 is that the front end looks like an FJ62 as it has the same headlights. Now it's time to go down the trail the club uses for their driver training. I would consider this trail as tough as most of the trails at Tellico. It's definitely the toughest trail I've ever been on and the 80's kicked butt. Everybody had lockers and used them numerous times. I was just amazed at what these 80's could do. We finally turn around and head out to get ready for the BBQ. Stop by the store on the way and get some beer for the evening. Rod and the group cooked up a feast for us. We had steaks, sausage, pasta, potatoes and some great dessert. We all sat around drinking beer and having a great time. Around 8pm we both started to drift off as it had been a long day and we had not adjusted to the new time yet. We said our goodbyes and Rhett's was kind enough to give us a ride back to the hotel. I could not have picked a better way to start my vacation in Australia. The guys in the club made us feel like family and all

of us brought together because of one thing a Toyota Land Cruiser.

Sunday September 15

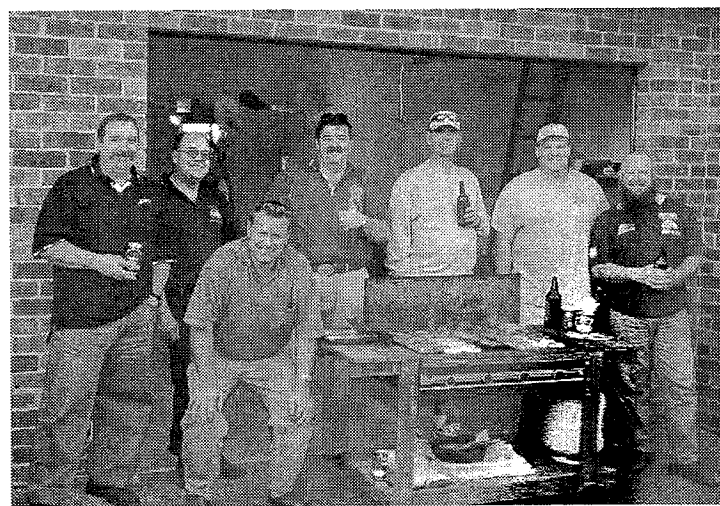
8am alarm goes off. Time to get ready to do the Bridge Climb of the Sydney Harbor Bridge. We suit up, get our harnesses and start climbing. Luckily today was a clear day as the smoke from the brush fires cleared out as we were walking to the bridge. As much as I hate heights this was a very neat way to see Sydney. At the top they take some photos of us and let us look around a

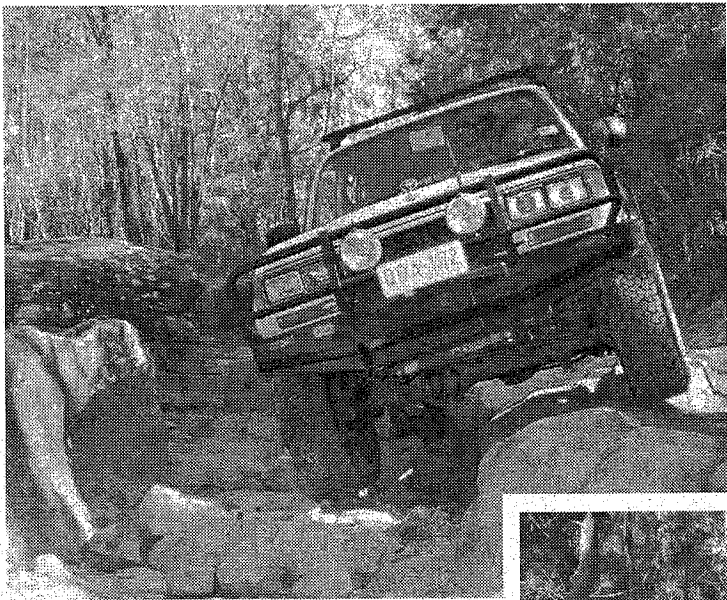
little bit before we head back down. The climb took about 3 hours but was well worth it. They say Sydney is the most beautiful city in the world and I totally agree with them. At lunch we find a little



restaurant/pub and I try a kangaroo pizza and one of Australia's fine beers while Scott eats an Australian sausage pizza. Kangaroo kinda tastes like beef. After that it's time to check out Sydney.

We start off at the market in The Rocks section and buy some souvenirs. We then stop by this place everybody told us about and get a Corn on the Cob and a coke for \$5.00AU. For a couple minutes I felt like I was back in SC. We then continue to check out Sydney and walk along the water to the Opera House and over to the Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens has flowers and trees from all over the world. It's right next to downtown Sydney. One of the neatest or scariest things we saw was these huge bats, 1000's of them. These are not your friendly fruit bats these are the bats that carry off your kids. Since darkness was approaching and I didn't want to get killed by the





Oz, continued

deadly bats we head back to the hotel and go to dinner. We decide to eat at this nice restaurant and make some reservations. As we get to the restaurant both of us wearing pants and a polo I inform Scott that he may want to remove his hat. Now I have known Scott for a very long time and have never seen him without a hat but either he figured this was a nice restaurant or he knew that I had the plane tickets probably the later. After trying Barramundi (an Australian fish) and I think Scott had steak we head out and take a taxi over to the aquarium. I was not very impressed with the aquarium so after we walk through it we walk back to the hotel and start packing for our flight to Alice Springs in the morning.

Monday September 16

We wake up early and go to the airport for our flight to Alice Springs. We are leaving the harbor and heading off to the desert. This is also Scott's first time sitting in Coach and after a 3 hour plane ride we arrive in Alice Springs. This is a small town but we're in the dessert. Check into the hotel and walk to downtown.

Hello Land Cruisers. I whip out my camera and go through about a roll of film in less than 3 minutes. Cruisers everywhere and these things are loaded with expedition gear. We finally find a place for lunch and a get a burger. Well burgers in Australia have a burger, ham, fried egg and cheese on them. Even though it's a little different it tastes pretty good. We then did some more souvenir shopping and walked to the Harley Davidson store for Scott to buy some shirts. On the way I saw what I thought was a dessert Oasis but ended up being a Toyota Dealership. Of course at that time an immediate diversion across the street was made and I stopped and looked at all

the brand new cruisers. And they are even affordable. After I asked the salesman for some brochures we continued our hike to the Harley dealership and then back to the hotel to get ready for the camel ride and dinner. At the camel place I get my picture taken on a camel and then we ride the camel for about an hour. One hour on a camel is more than plenty and after that we have a good steak dinner we head back to the hotel and pack for the 5 day outback trip.

Tuesday September 17

5am alarm goes off. We make it to the front of the hotel and wait for our pickup. After awhile a 75 series troopy with a trailer shows up to pick us up. Let me just say that finding an outback trip in which they use only Land Cruisers was not the easiest thing in the world. Scott jumps in the back of the troopy and I take shotgun. We pick up a couple of people and end up with a group of 9 including Sam the guide, myself, Scott, Verity, Michelle and Neil all from Britain, Mikah from Germany, Susie (the New Zealand doctor), Jack (Sydney).



Today we will drive about 500km to Uluru. Along the way we stop for breakfast and firewood. We arrive at camp around lunchtime and grab a quick bite to eat before heading off to Kata Tjura for an 8km hike. The hike is beautiful. The sky down here is the prettiest blue I have ever seen. No pollution, no clouds just blue sky. After the hike we make our way over to see the sunset at Ayers Rock (Uluru). As we pull in we realize that we are the outcasts here. There are huge tour buses everywhere and everybody is sitting around sipping on champagne in champagne glasses and eating fine cheese. We of course pull up as the outcasts which we very much enjoyed doing. We grab the cooler and head over to where everybody is to watch the sunset. We open our cheap champagne bottles making sure to aim the cork at unsuspecting wine and cheese tourists. After a couple near hits we get out our deluxe champagne glasses, which are actually little plastic (kid) cups of multiple colors and salsa and biscuits (crackers). Then we stood around drinking our champagne and making fun of all the wine and cheese groups. Even though this may not sound like fun it was a blast.

As soon as the sun set everybody left and we were the only ones there still enjoying the scenery. By this time Scott and I were on a roll and as we had spent most of the day with the group and I thought it was time to introduce them to Blazing Saddles quotes. This went over very well even though nobody



Oz, continued

had ever seen that movie. Then what could be better than this quote that all Australians will remember me for "A dingo ate your baby" and "here dingo, dingo". And that started my quest to take a picture of a dingo. After we get back to camp it's time to cook dinner, look at the stars and sit around the campfire bonding with our new group. That night we were introduced to swags which are pretty much just sleeping bag covers that includes a pad and leaves your head exposed to spiders, snakes etc. That night we slept under the stars in our swags.

Wednesday September 18

Wake up to a warm fire before sunrise, as today is the day to watch the sunrise at Uluru. Luckily we only have to walk a couple hundred yards to the lookout. Pack up camp and head to the Uluru Cultural Centre and then to Uluru for a hike/climb. I decide to do the base walk, which is about 9km, and Scott decides to do the climb. After the hike/climb we stop for lunch and then head on to Curtain Springs for our second night. We arrive at 5pm and set up camp and grab a couple beers to go watch the sunset. Watched a beautiful sunset and then looked at all the stars in the Southern Hemisphere. We are really out in the middle of nowhere. After dinner we sat around the campfire telling jokes.

Jack decided to tell us a story but we all thought it was a joke of some sort. Anyways I decided that we needed to liven this joke/story up a bit and turned it into one of the funniest stories ever told. It ends up that this is an Australian Folklore story called Waltzing Matilda that I with the help of Scott helped butcher beyond belief. We had everybody in the group rolling on the ground with laughter. As the night rolled on eventually everybody went to his or her swags to get ready for another day.

Thursday September 19

Today we actually got to sleep in a bit. After we woke up and broke camp we headed to the store to try to get some more beer. Unfortunately you cannot buy beer till 10am so we left without any. Today we drove through a cattle station about 140km long. This whole time we were the only vehicle on this track. Along the way we saw some wild kangaroos and a bunch of wild camels. For lunch we stopped the vehicle in the middle of the road and ate. Then we continued on and got to camp around 3:30pm.

Once at camp Scott, Susie and myself decided to go on a quad bike ride. Luckily we had about an hour to spare and got to take a quick swim in the swimming pool before we took what ended up to be our last shower and then headed off for the quad bike ride. There were about 15 quad bikes and we had a group of German tourists, one guy from Melbourne and the 3 of us. Some of the German tourists had never ridden a bike before as one of them managed to pull out and drive into a pile of rocks before figuring out she needed to turn the wheel to go somewhere. Our goal for the next 15 minutes was to get past these slow people so that we could cut loose. Well after we passed them the only thing that slowed us down was the dust from the quad bike in front of us. This was one of the best rides I'd been on. I managed to almost rollover a couple of times and almost kill Scott once so overall it went very well.

Scott managed to almost kill himself once by thinking he had an ARB bumper on the front of his quad bike as he destroyed a tree and then almost killed Susie, which would not have been good because she was the doctor. When we got back to camp we headed to our campsite, which was probably 5km from the

Oz, continued

nearest campsite. Once again we are in the middle of nowhere. We cook dinner and sit around the campfire. Slowly everybody drifts off to sleep for our long day on Friday.

Friday September 20

Sam wakes us up at 6:30 today as we have a lot to do. We pack up camp and head to Kings Canyon for a 6km hike. The canyon is awe-

some one of the prettiest sites I'd seen so far. We hike up the canyon and lie down and crawl up to the edge to look over it. Surprisingly it had no rails or



anything. We then hike down into a part of the canyon and find a water hole with one lonesome duck. We walk around the side of it and find us a little place to relax looking down over the canyon. After we hike out we have lunch and start our 200 km drive to Finke River. The whole 200km is on a dirt road.

Along the way we stop for firewood and look at this giant meteor crater. Along the way I figured out why all cruisers have snorkels in Australia. It seems that they do not put bridges over water here because there is only water when it rains. Instead all would be water crossings have depth markers so that people know the depth. On our way to camp we drive along the river (dry) for about 10km before getting to our campsite. This is also the road to the Finke River Gorge National Park, which we will be visiting in the AM. We get to camp and set up. After we eat dinner I show everybody how to play some American card games. After doing that for a couple of hours and finishing off all the beverages everybody slowly fades out.

Saturday September 21

This is our last day on the trip. We pack up camp and head towards Finke Gorge National Park. About 1.5km into the park the truck starts smoking. We get out and quickly notice that the alternator has seized and killed the battery. Sam goes to the ranger station and calls for another truck. It takes a couple hours for the truck to arrive so meanwhile we sit around and play cards and just hang out. Nobody really cared that the truck broke down because we all still had a blast. Eventually the new truck arrives and we continue on our journey into the park. The trail to get to the actual Gorge is pretty impressive. I was wishing I had my cruiser.

We get to this sandy area and Sam decides to give it a go. Well about 200 feet into the sand pit we are officially stuck. I mean what's a good trip without someone breaking down and

someone getting stuck. We all get out and start getting rocks to line up as Sam starts digging out the sand. Once we've lined up a decent path we all start pushing the truck and away she goes. We finally make it to the parking lot for the park and find out that something is wrong with the trailer. We decide to look at that after the hike. We do a quick 3km hike as it is already 3pm and we haven't even had lunch yet. Along the hike we see palm trees and enjoy the sights. By this time I think we are all ready to head back as we make this hike pretty quickly. We get back to the truck and start looking at the trailer. Not good we managed to break both sets of leaf springs.

The main problem is that one of the bolts on the mud flaps is cutting into the tire. As in every good trip you should always do some trail repairs. We whip out the tools and start to fix the trailer as best as we will be able to. Man this has been a great trip. After we get the trailer fixed we drive back to the area where we got stuck earlier and all get out of the vehicle to let Sam fly through there. I managed to get some cool pics of red dust flying everywhere. Looks like the trailer is going to make it back in one piece even though I did have my doubts. We finally make it out of the park and onto a paved road for the last 130 km back to Alice Springs. On the way back we decided that we'd meet at Bojangles (not the chicken place) for dinner and some drinkies. When we get back to the hotel and check in both Scott and I are covered from head to toe in layers of red dirt.

This just happens to be one of the nicer hotels in Alice Springs and as usual we managed to get a lot of attention. After checking in we had to walk by the restaurant to get to our rooms and I saw many people pointing at us and talking about us. Time to get changed and get ready for a night on the town. We call a taxi and head off to Bojangles. Once we arrive I think we both realized that it was going to get ugly. The place was full of people and I've been told there was a band there. We grab a beer and wait for everybody else. Slowly everybody starts to arrive and we order dinner. After dinner the band cleared out and the DJ started playing. Somehow we all ended up on the dance floor busting a move to all the songs. I remember them playing 4 or 5 Garth songs and Scott and I were probably the only 2 people in that place that knew all the songs. Before we knew it, it was 2:30am and the place was closing. We dropped the doctor off at her place and then went back to the hotel.

Sunday September 22

Not a good day for me. The alarm goes off at 10am and we have to get moving as our flight to Cairns leaves in a couple of hours. At about 5pm we arrive in Cairns. We have left the dessert and arrived in a tropical climate. Everything is green and there are a lot of mountains. We find our transportation and get to the hotel. Ended up with a nice room overlooking the water. We settle in to our rooms and decide to go check out the city. There are shops everywhere here you can actually

Oz, continued and finally finished

tell that this is a real touristy city. All the restaurants are open to the street and we find a nice Italian restaurant for dinner. After checking out the city and eating dinner and head back to the hotel and start packing for the kayak trip.

Monday September 23

Breakfast arrives at 6:30am so that we can be downstairs and ready to roll at 7am. The group picks us up and we head to the kayak place to put our gear into dry bags and get the rest of our gear. We will be traveling in tandem kayaks and these are huge boats. We have a lot of gear and have to take all our water for the trip. We finally get to the put in about 1.5 hours outside of Cairns. We load up the boats and get ready to go. I'm taking my time getting into my boat and cooling my legs off in the process when the guide says, "you may want to hurry up as there are crocs in these waters." Well needless to say I was in the boat immediately and ready to paddle.

We paddle for about an hour and stop on this deserted beach to have lunch. After lunch we paddle for a couple more hours and finally get to the island that we will be staying at for 2 nights. The beach on this island is coral and we are able to set up our tents on the beach. We have some wine and appetizers as we watch the sunset. While we are watching the sunset our guide Jason shows us a shell and advises us not to get near it if we see one on the beach as it has a mollusk in there that shoots a dart out strong enough to go in your fingernail and contains 78 toxins. The end result dead in less than 5 minutes. My conclusion is that everything in Australia can kill you. After the sunset we sit around and watch the stars as the guides cook dinner. After dinner we go back to the beach and do some more star watching.

Tuesday September 24

We get up and eat breakfast and get ready for a day of snorkeling. We get in our kayaks and paddle around the island to the place where we will be snorkeling. Our guide Jason anchors his kayak out in the ocean and ties everybody together. This time we will be snorkeling right out of the kayaks. We jump right out the kayak into the water and snorkel around. This was not the best place we snorkeled, as the water was rather murky. We get back in the kayaks and then head back to camp for lunch.

Before lunch a couple of us go snorkeling right off our beach. This was probably the best snorkeling of the day as the water was clear and I saw plenty of fish. Later on that afternoon we went to one of the other islands and saw this giant clam. This thing would probably make enough clam chowder to feed the eastern seaboard. After we get back from clam watching we decide to do a little more snorkeling and I check out the reefs on the other side of the island and look at all the cool fish. Once again we watch the sunset then do a lot of star watching.

Wednesday September 25

Time to pack up camp and paddle back to the mainland. After we have breakfast and pack up we head to our last island

for some snorkeling and lunch. We even see some small sharks in the water but never saw any while snorkeling. After lunch it takes us another 1.5 hours to get back to the bus and load up. On the way we stop while Jason dives down to get us some starfish.

These are some really cool starfish and nothing like the ones in the US. You could just look down at the bottom and see hundreds of them. Finally we get back to the bus and load up. We then head to the showers before we depart to clean up some. On the way back the bus stops at a pub to let everybody get a drink. I get a coke. Eventually we make it back to the hotel and go to dinner. We decide to walk to a place called Hogs Breath to get a steak. It was a long walk but well worth the great steak. We then head back to the hotel to relax.

Thursday September 26

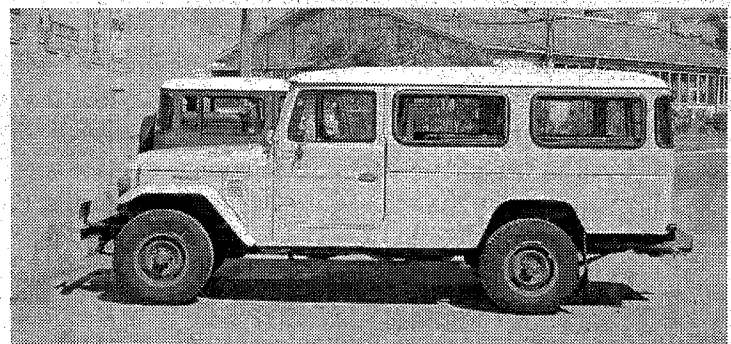
This is our last day in Australia and our only day that we had nothing planned. We sleep in some and go do some shopping. I stop by a 4WD shop and get another towrope while Scott gets some more Harley gear. We then walk around downtown and eat a nice lunch at one of those outside restaurants before heading back to the hotel and going for a swim. For our last night there I get some more seafood and then we head back to the hotel, as I have to get everything into my bag.

Friday September 27

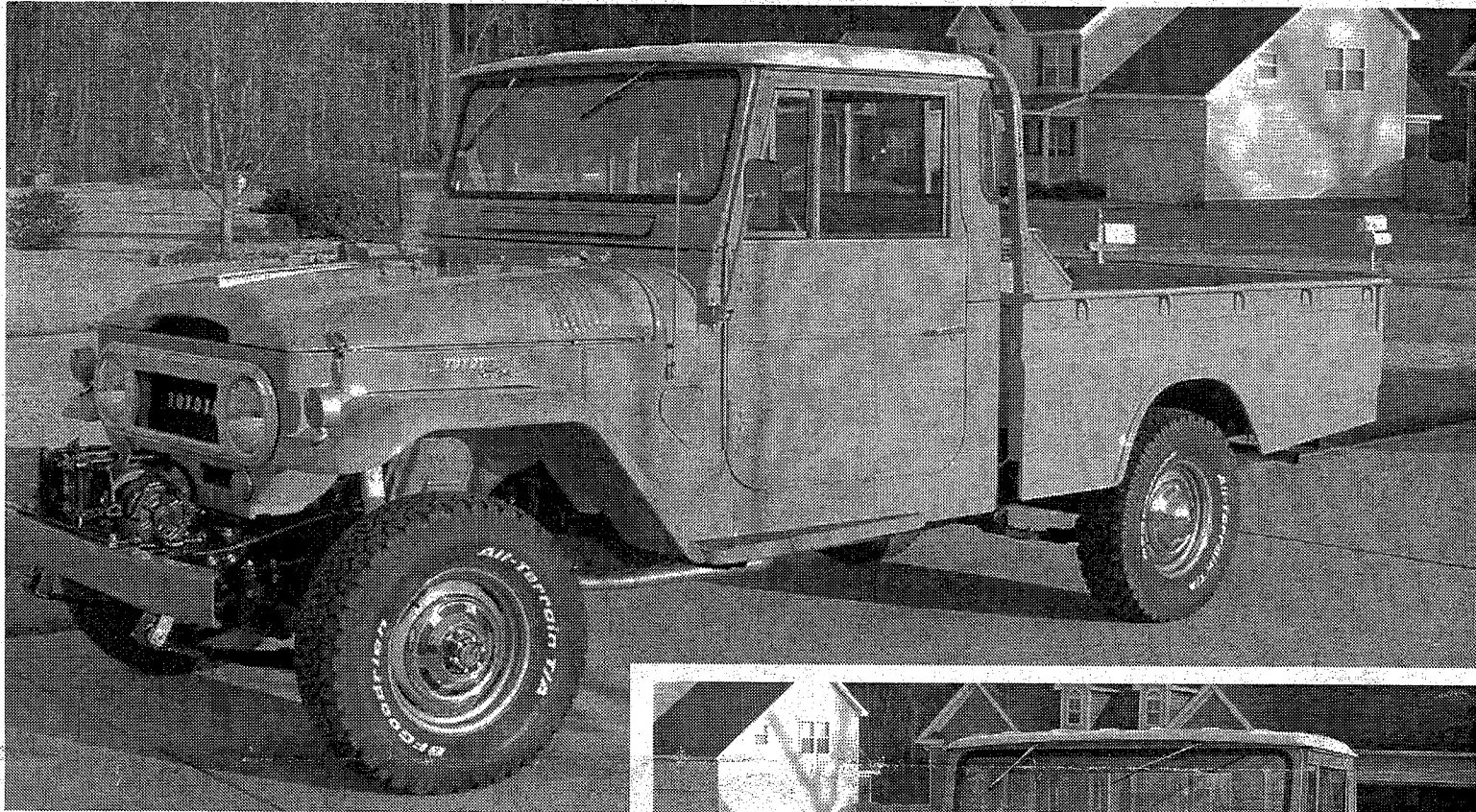
4:00am time to get moving. Plane departs at 6:30am to go to Sydney. When checking in my bag ends up being within 2 lbs of having to be cargo. Maybe I bought a little too much truck stuff. We leave a little late out of Cairns but arrive in Sydney in plenty of time to catch our flight to LA. On the flight out of Sydney Scott goes right to sleep but I decide to watch every single movie since I'd just gotten up a couple hours ago. Once we arrive in LA we have about 3 hours before our flight leaves.

I struggle to stay awake, as now I've been up for 24 hours. As soon as I get on the flight and the wheels leave the ground I lean back in my chair and go to sleep. I wake up as we are starting our descent into Charlotte. 30 hours later we are back in Charlotte.

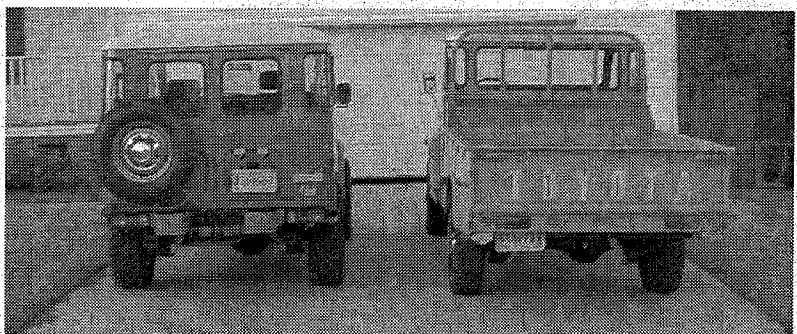
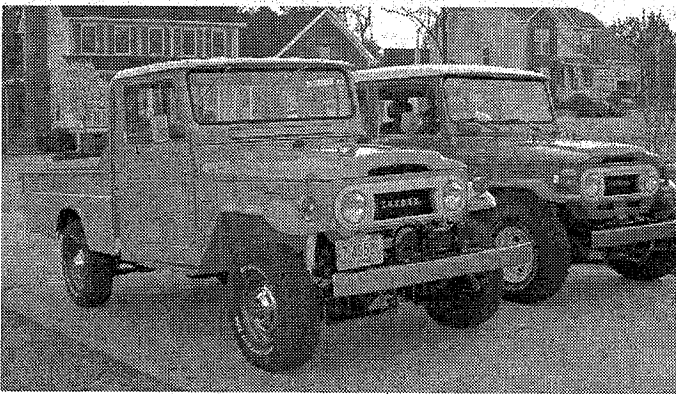
-G'day Cruiserheads



A BEAUTIFUL CREATION.....



Once again the man from the capital city has done it. Here is Jere Peterson's latest creation. Once you are done looking please wipe away the drool from your lip! We will see this baby in person at the August meeting, Jere is trailering it up!! :^)



Blue Ridge Parkway Trip



Above: The group posing for a picture at the beginning of the day. The attendees for the day were, Right to Left: Alex and Robin and the dogs, Joel and Rebecca, Mike and Scott, Bruce, Travis and Amy with Orvis.



Right: A real pretty overlook near the end of the day.



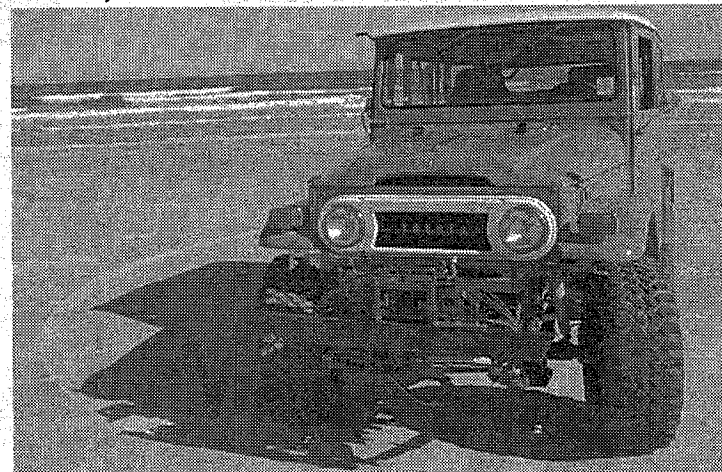
Left: Lolita posing up high on the parkway. Pretty ain't she?

John Sherwood's new addition



Lolita goes to the beach.....

On a recent trip to visit the grandkids Bruce lets Lolita catch a few rays.



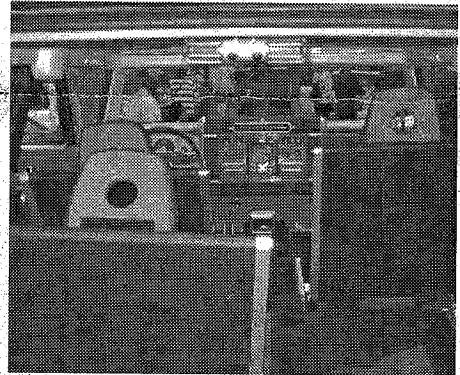
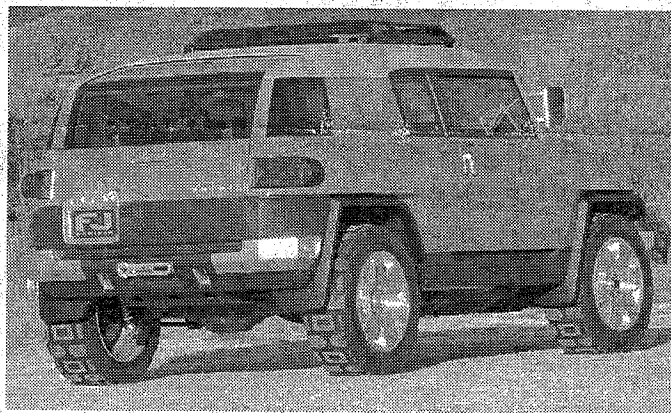
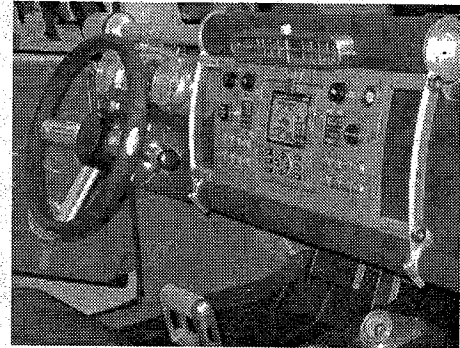
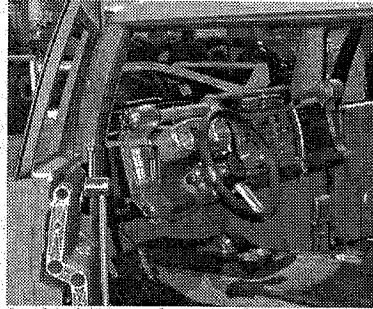
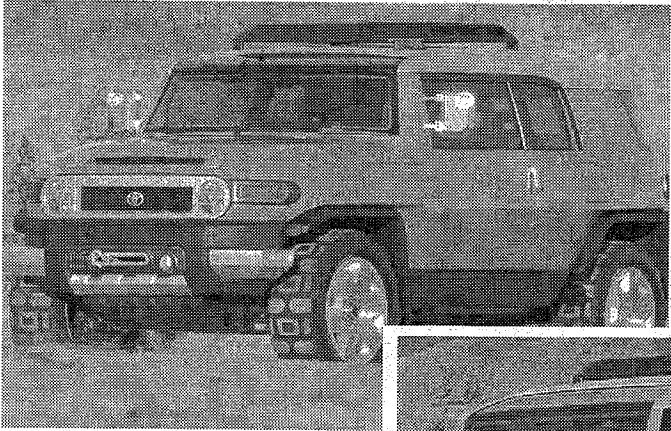
FJ Concept Vehicle.....want one?

Maybe in 2004/2005!!

I saw this and I just freaked out. How cool is this thing? It is very reminiscent of the FJ40s yet ready for the 21st century.

Utility features include spotlights on both outside mirrors and a front-end winch. All the seats can be folded completely flat. Power is supplied by a 3.4-liter V6 engine equipped with a Toyota Racing Development

(TRD) supercharger that creates 250-horsepower. The engine is paired with a four-speed automatic transmission and four-wheel-drive with low range. The FJ Cruiser rides on a modified Tacoma pickup platform and is equipped with rear coil-over long travel suspension, 20-inch wheels and 33-inch tires, and a TRD cat-back exhaust.



Please bring to the meetings or mail to: Upstate Cruisers Membership at 13 Payne Road, Taylors, SC 29687

UPSTATE CRUISER APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

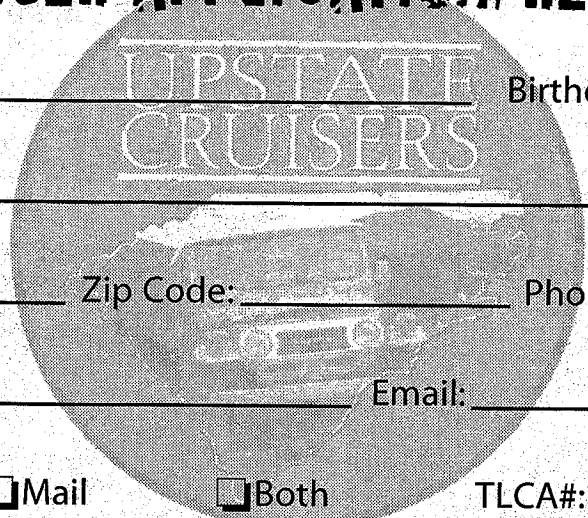
Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone# _____

Truck year/make: _____ Email: _____

Newsletter: PDF Mail Both TLCA#: _____



Muster Grounds & Burrels Ford



Left: Alex stuck once again, not to worry the 62 has been retired, he just bought a 40!!!

Right: Joel showing Alex a real wagon!!



Right: David and Gundy going through the muck.

Below: Mike seeing if his 80 can actually FLOAT in the mud.



Right: Yes, yes that is a Jeep. Tito joins the crew from time to time.



Left: Bruce and Lolita, that freakin' truck never ceases to amaze me.

Right: The boys taking a break for a photo opportunity. Me, Alex, Jeff B., Joel, Bruce and Mike. A great time was had by all.

Below: Alex getting hi-lifted after we broke Bruce's pin in his winch.....sorry Bruce.



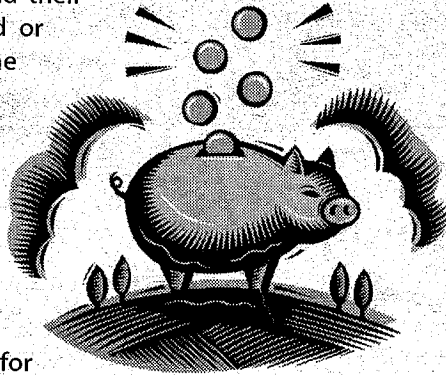
Above: Who's beautiful 60 series is that...oh wait a minute that is mine!!

From the Treasurer

Rebecca Sudduth

Hello Upstate Cruiser Members!

Members who have paid their dues and corresponded or participated with the group this year. If you do not fit in that category, we need to hear from you. Membership is only \$10.00 per year. This helps to cover the newsletter, food, door prizes at events, deposit for GSMTR cabin, etc.



As we grow as a group, our balance should also grow to give us leverage to make decisions for the group and plan activities. We would like to update our membership list again. We need to know if you are still interested in the club. Do you still own a Cruiser? Are you a multi-Cruiser owner now? Let us know.

Please send your membership to 13 Payne Road, Taylors, SC 29687 if you haven't paid for the August 2002-July 2003 membership.

From the Vice-President

Joel Sudduth

Just wanted to drop a note to all about what has been happening with the club since our last newsletter. As you can tell by the size of it a lot! This next year I think you will see our club grow and include a lot of new faces and cruisers. On July 13 I registered the name of UpstateCruiser.org. We are now working on a website that can be directly reached. This will expose us to a lot of new people. We are also working on the brochures to be handed out to anyone that you may come across that is in a cruiser. That was the catalyst for the web site.

On a personal note Bec and I are now the proud parents of three cruisers. We now have a 76 fj40 and a 94 fj80 to go with Mr. Jingles the fj60. We look forward to seeing people that we haven't seen in a long time and hopefully meeting some new ones. Thanks again!

AUGUST 9th

10a.m-Until

UPSTATE CRUISERS SUMMER MEETING/PICNIC

Devils Fork State Park on beautiful Lake Jocassee

Food • Raffles • Giveaways • Games

We will discuss all new business including trail rides for the upcoming months. We would like to also include that we would like to start the festivities at 10:00am. This will allow for the business to be taken care of first, such as the elections and information about our new web site!!! (more to come on this). The menu for the August meeting at Devils Fork will be picnic items such as fried chicken and all the fixins. The cost will be \$7.00 per person... a small price to pay not to fix anything
This caterer is fabulous!!!

RSVP to alfj40@aol.com by Monday, August 4.

It is located five miles north of Salem off SC 11 on Jocassee Lake Road and 15 miles northwest of Pickens. For further info just contact Travis at (864)244-4223.

MEMBERSHIPS

THEY ARE THE ONLY
WAY TO KNOW IF YOU ARE
STILL INTERESTED.

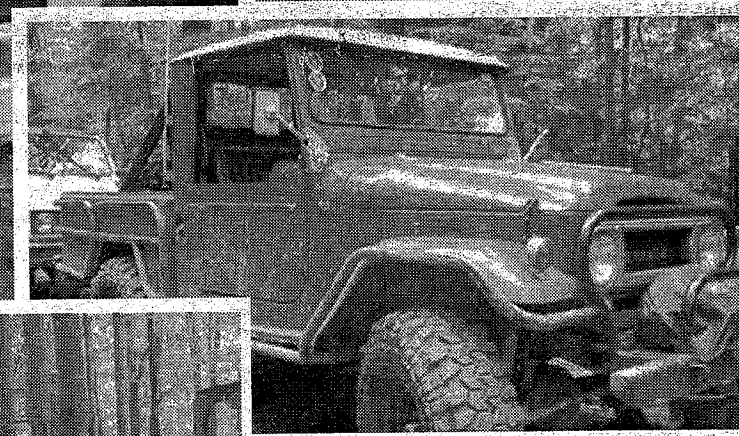
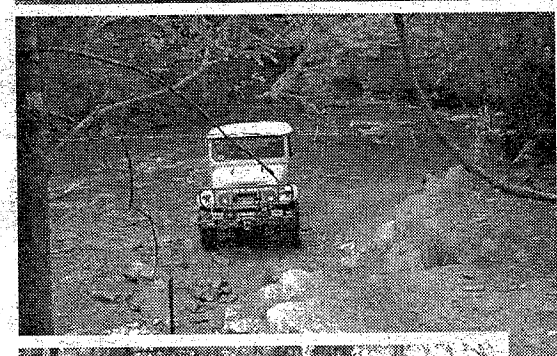
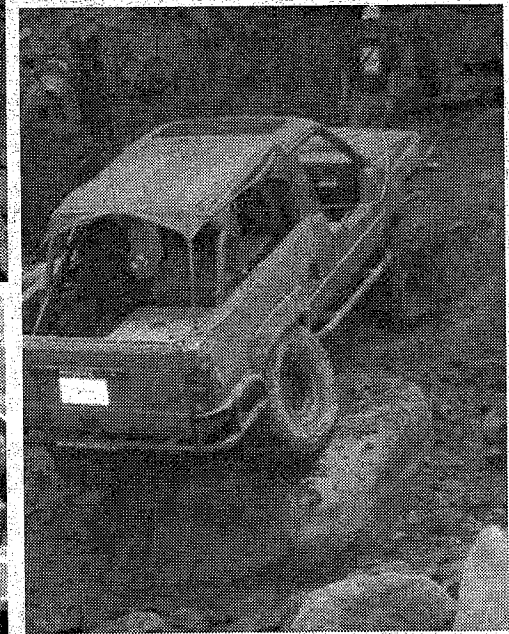
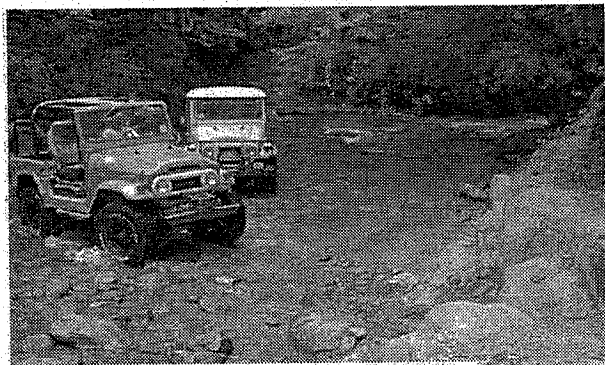
AUGUST IS THE TIME TO RENEW

AND PLUS YOU GET YOUR FREE
UC STICKER. A MEMBERSHIP
FORM IS ON PAGE 10, IF YOU
CAN'T COME TO THE MEETING
IT CAN BE SENT BY MAIL.

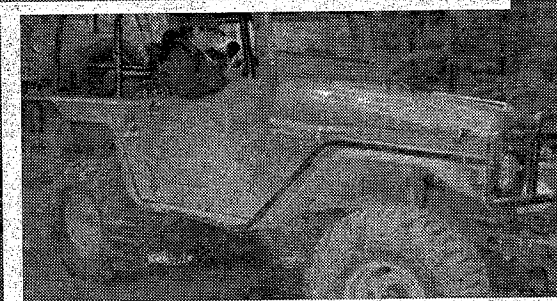
BEEN A SOMEWHERE COOL IN YOUR CRUISER?
GOT A CRUISER PROJECT GOING ON?
JUST THINK YOUR CRUISER IS THE BEST IN THE CLUB?
WELL.....TELL US ABOUT IT !!
TAKE A PICTURE. WRITE A PARAGRAPH. WRITE A NOVEL!

Just do it and then send it to carolinafj60@hotmail.com

GSMTR (GREAT SMOKEY TRAIL RIDE)



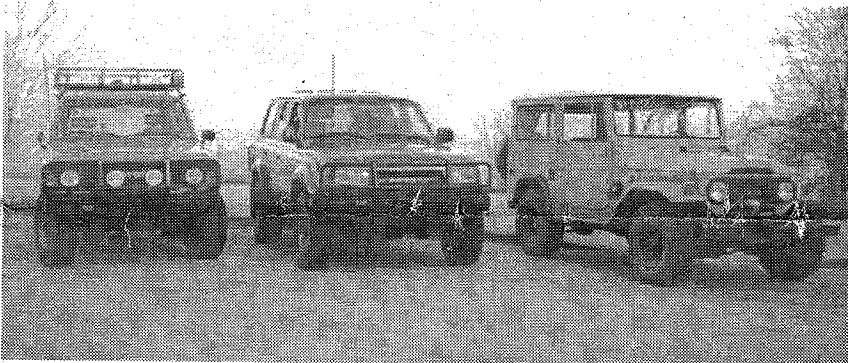
Members in attendance this year were David, Lynn, Mike, Alex, Bruce Jere, Marie, and Jim.



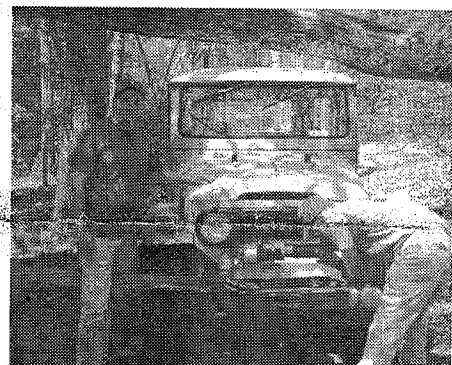
TRAIL ??? LET'S CALL IT 'THE TRAIL OF THE LOW HANGING TREE?'



I know what you're thinking, why tell on yourself. Education my friends, education. We went exploring one weekend and I tried to get on the low side of the tree, big mistake. Tires on ground good thing. I really thank Mike, Jeff and Alex for getting me strapped up so I would not flip that day. I came real close, and it would have been a slow and painful flip too.....painful as in Amy(my wife when I got home).



Left: All of us posing up on the high point.



Right: Alex and Jeff strapping me up to pull me in the opposite direction.

JUNE SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER



Left: Everyone checking out Alan's latest 40. Watch out Cool Cruisers! You don't have nothing on Hardin's Cruisers!



Right: All pretty ARB's lined up in row.



Left Bottom: The backsides of all of our wagons.

For our June dinner we headed to Seven Stars which is located in Greenville. It is a great little restaurant right on Wade Hampton across the street from the big Liberty Life Insurance building. Great food, anything you could want. Jim and his family drove all the way from Florida to eat with us, well he was coming up anyway but hey, I still felt special.