



North America Edition



cycles parked on the side of the restaurant until I entered the place – WOW! There was more leather in there than a stock yard and only two staff on duty too. I elected to wait for Kim Groenendyk to arrive before deciding on the food arrangements.

A few short minutes later, she arrived and we ended up getting a table. About an hour and a half later, we were ready to meet up with the rest of our small group (three trucks total) for a bit of trail riding with their significant others.

We ended up on the same trail we attempted the year before. I say attempted, because we started about four hours later and barely made it off the trail in one piece. You can re-live the mishaps of

that event-filled afternoon in the September 2006 issue of **LRM**.

This time, however, we all managed to make it out in one piece. In fact, for a change of pace, I rode in the passenger seat and Kim drove me in her 'new' Range Rover Classic. I did manage to offer some guidance and advice while she manned (or is that womanned?) the controls.

Everything went great and only once did she need a winch up a tricky up-hill turn. This was the same tricky up-hill turn where, last year, I got hung up with a large rock that had to be winched out of the way – the rock was still where we put it. So, not bad at all for 'six hours experience' of off-road driving for Kim, I'd have to say.

*Top: Kim navigates a tricky turn.*

*Inset: Disco waiting its turn at the hill.*

*Below: It wouldn't be the same without using the winch at least once!*

Toward the end of the day, all the women had taken over the controls and the driving was just perfect. Then, after we got back to Silver Lake and set up the roof-top tent for the evening, we made our way over to Patrick's lake-side cabin for a bit of barbecue and drinks. As we watched the sun set on the lake, we grilled sausages, steaks and hot dogs while sharing stories from past off-road adventures, long into the night.

The next morning, we all assembled at the main event site to register and prepare for another off-road adventure. We started the day with an intermediate run, again with Kim at the helm of her trusty steed. A nice mix of mud, rocks and the usual branches (and let's not forget the man-eating deer flies) made for a fun and at times challenging drive.

My job was to operate the power windows in such an orchestrated way as to keep the carnivorous insects out and the cool breeze in. I think driving the ice roads was easier, you know...

Later in the day we ended up on the RTV course, which, instead of 'Road Taxed Vehicle' should have been officially changed to 'Reduced to Trash Vehicle'. Oh yeah, the course was nasty this year.

### first time girl

Kim stepped up to the plate as an unwilling participant. Not only was this her first time on an RTV course, she was also working with less than ten hours in the saddle. On top of that, she was the first one (outside of the organizers) to use the new course and the first long wheel base

