

Legend™



The West Connecticut Rover Owners' Club has organised Roverfest, and most of the vehicles here are from around New England. Traditionally, Land Rovers have been popular on the East Coast, and there's a relatively high proportion of Rovers in this area. Some of America's longest established Land Rover specialists are also here, companies like Rovers North and East Coast Rovers. This is its second year, and the organisers are hoping to pull in more Rovers than last year.

What's immediately apparent is the way Land Rovers attract a huge variety of people in America, as they do in England. There are financial advisors, website developers and freelance photographers. Many people here are connected to the Land Rover trade in some way, which is definitely a growth industry in America. There are military enthusiasts, Defender drivers and some first-timers in shiny new Range Rovers and Discos. It's going to be one of those inclusive events, where everyone's there for fundamentally the same reason - to have some fun.

Scouting around the site I'm struck by the lack of Defenders and the high proportion of SII Discos that are obviously used in anger on a regular basis. Outfitting a vehicle is taken really seriously here, and there's plenty of money spent on getting machines just right to tackle America's varied terrain. Most of the SII Discos have been prepared for off-road use in some way, with raised suspension, BF Goodrich Mud Terrains and ARB front and rear bumpers being the most popular mods.

One very common modification is to reconnect the centre diff lock. New Discos are sold in America with centre diff lock disconnected, in an attempt to stop people from using them and getting it wrong. I'm still not sure I understand the rationale behind this train of thought, but it's a simple job to hook it up again, involving 15 minutes of delving round underneath the vehicle. When people find out my SE7 is from Land Rover North America, they immediately start planning what mods they could make to it. I have visions of returning the vehicle fully equipped with a roof rack, Old Man Emu suspension and a set of rock sliders, and then trying to explain to the very nice lady from LRNA what had happened.



Extreme Ford Bronco/SIII hybrid



A line-up of rare 101s



Classic Land Roving - Disco and Series IIAs out on the trail together



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