



trial, with numbered canes and a twisting, winding course. The Series Is rapidly emerge as the most suitable machines for the job, nimbly negotiating the tight turns with ease. Discos and Range Rovers struggle to make the turns in one, and there are plenty of canes being mown down.

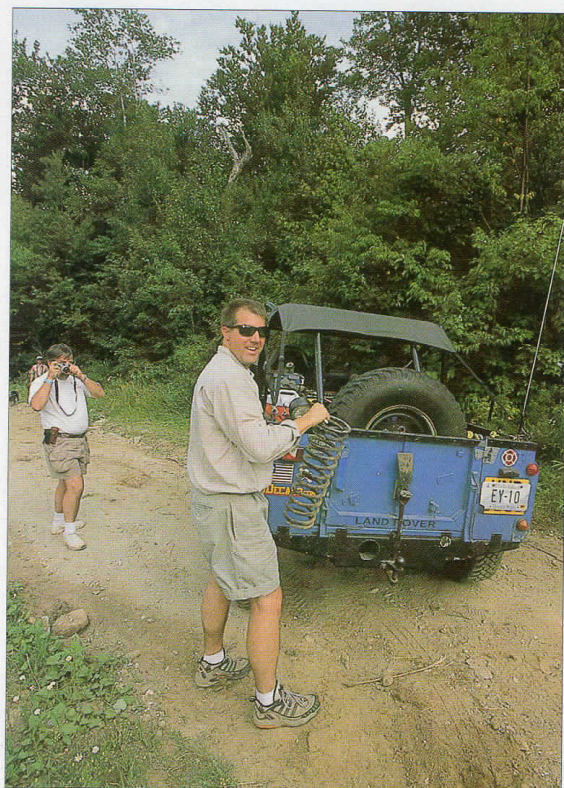
The standard of driving varies wildly, from real experts to novices, but particularly striking are two middle-aged women in a battered 80-inch. Their preferred method of dealing with the course seems to be to get round it as quickly as possible, even if this does mean flattening every cane on the way.

The trials course also causes a big stir, or rather the damage that a couple of drivers suffer en route does. Two Discoverys equipped with the ubiquitous ARB winch bumpers manage to total the bumpers by nudging them against a rock – at

A fine selection of tee-shirts was on display over the weekend



Lost something? This 90 (below) rolled on the trials course, popping a spring in the process



crawling speed. The bumpers split down the seam and opened up like they had been cut with an angle grinder. Much scratching of heads and discussion follows, to the delight of traders selling bumpers.

At the hotel that night, where the closing awards ceremony is held, the sight of a car park full – and I mean full – of dozens of Land Rovers is an inspiring one, lined up as they are next to much more mundane machinery. You can see the looks on people's faces as they pass, wondering why these vehicles are here, and, secondly, what the hell are they? The Land Rover has something special about it in America, something unusual from another place. Maybe one day the Landy will be as popular as homegrown metal, but I think that would remove a large chunk of the attraction for many people.

As for Roverfest 2001, it was a well-organised event, although it would have benefitted from some more off-roading and less vehicles out on the trails at one time. But this is only its second year, and the organisers seem to be determined to improve it each time. The vast distances that are a part of travelling in America means

it's nearly impossible to put on a truly national event, but the Land Rover movement is getting stronger and bigger each year, and new events are cropping up all over the country.

At the last count there were 34 US Land Rover clubs, stretching from Maine to Florida and from Texas to Seattle. The collective consciousness is beginning to wake up to Land Rovers as a force to be reckoned with, and it can only get better from here on. **LRC**

