




North American edition 



grouping, Patrick Findlay from Montreal (the flying Frenchman himself) who due to 'technical difficulties' with his off-road vehicle of choice (classic Range Rover) was forced to attend in his wife Nathalie's Freelander, proudly told the group that "I arrived driving a car but will be returning home in a truck!" It's funny what a little mud will do.

### RTV trials

Saturday afternoon the RTV trials were held. Many entrants in the different classes did their utmost to avoid those pesky, well placed canes but alas there were no clear rounds. As an added benefit, it was great exercise for the spectators who had to go up and down many hills in order to watch/ photograph the proceedings.

Saturday night brought a feast of roast chicken, ribs, salads, hamburgers, hot dogs and a truly scrumptious mountain of desserts. Well feasted, it was time for campfires, midnight swims in the cool lake, and exchange of off-roading tales and the sorting of equipment. For some there was a quick repair executed. In previous years we have gone on the 'Midnight Run' where off-roading is rather different and sometimes nicely 'spooky' when navigating obstacles solely by the light of head and special purpose driving lights. On a cloudless night with the moon and stars bright in the heavens it can be a rather mystical experience. Not this year though, the hot sun had taken its toll and we retire early – around midnight. Others stay up, sipping a



*Clockwise from top left: Early arrivals at OVLR Birthday Party site. Getting ready to set up camp; Grant Lawson – fire fighter by profession battling the thicket; Mike Ladden and friend from the US reacquaint themselves with Ted Matthews and friend from Canada (Mike, Ted and myself were on the first Arctic adventure in 1998 and see each other at various events in the US and Canada). Left: US stock Freelander being helped after high centering on rock. Below: Tony Smith's mellow yellow 'Lil Mule'.*



favourite beverage, discussing many an important topic until the park wardens inform them that there are some in the campground who are still trying to sleep.

Sunday morning brings well-appreciated hot coffee, rolls and buns of every description, fruit salad and 'donuts'. This year's auction of 'Land Rover' stuff donated by various sponsors was as great as ever with many going home happily with their treasures. There is also a special 'kid auction' where a bid of 50 cents can win you a genuine Land Rover cap or a model of a Land Rover.

Sunday afternoon brings the choice of more off-roading or heading home.

We chose both... returning to Toronto by way of defunct 'train right of ways' and Hydro Line trails. This extends our off-roading fun time for the weekend and it was the way we came.

Life can be so good. 

