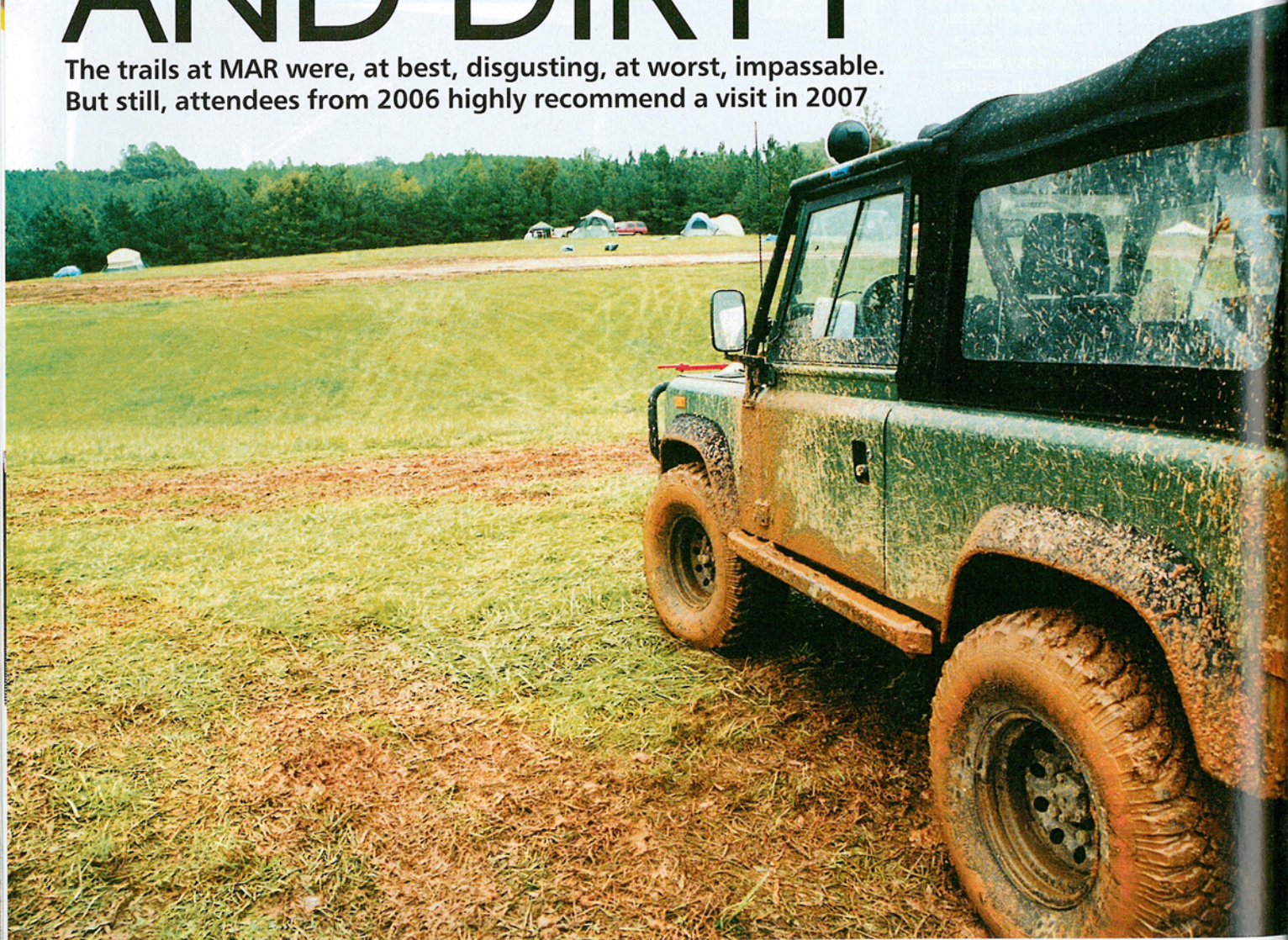


# GET DOWN AND DIRTY

The trails at MAR were, at best, disgusting, at worst, impassable. But still, attendees from 2006 highly recommend a visit in 2007



## DAY 1: 10/5/06 THURSDAY

**THE DRIVE** started from Long Island, New York at 11:45am. The Cross Bronx traffic, as reliable as ever, added a few extra minutes to the drive, to say the least. Once out of the Metro area, I was able to make good time on the road, with 72mph appearing on the GPS fairly regularly. It was all going so smoothly until a wrong turn outside D.C. Had me driving to the DC Beltway on surface streets, and best of all, it was at 5pm so I didn't miss out on any of the traffic.

Just as I was getting onto the beltway (which should really be called the 'parkway' due to all the parked cars) the rain started falling, which, combined with the failing light, made for some exceptional road glare, complimented beautifully by heavily fogged windows.

by  
**Jim Leach**

*Above: The camp site is getting scarce, but some people cannot get enough of the mud.  
Below: The essential Series repair kit... a roll of duct tape!*



Just driving by feel at this point...

Later, on the last leg to the hotel, I noticed a well equipped Discovery II parked in front of the Dew Drop Inn, and I thought it might be Steve Hoare's truck. A glance in the window confirmed it. It was now about 8pm and I was ready for some dinner, so I pulled over and joined Steve and his family.

Once we all arrived at the lodge and checked in, a game of pool and working our way to the bottom of a glass of single malt were the primary concerns for us after a hard day on the road.

## DAY 2: 10/6/06 FRIDAY

My 6am alarm was met with the sound of heavy rain on the roof. What's the hurry? I reasoned. Just a few more minutes rest... An hour later I finally got motivated enough

to bathe and get on with my life.

Breakfast shortly thereafter in the lobby – cold cereal, bagels and tea – was a welcome surprise. Slight drizzle was all that was heard; could it possibly be clearing up for us? I checked the weather on the TV and decided it might be smart to keep the room tonight as well. Don't get me wrong, I have no problem camping in the rain. I did it last year at the MAR as well. No, the problem is packing up a wet roof-top tent. You see, you can't just open it up when you get home, as it is bolted to the roof. Opening it up requires several sunny days and disuse of the truck. Since I had another week in Long Island before I could do that, I knew the tent had to stay dry.

We were off to the event site for the mandatory registration. The morning drizzle had turned to real