



➤ A slight breeze eliminated any benefit from the sun's warmth and all the vehicles had their heaters on full all day. Even Evan in the 88 had the heater on, but I believe it only served to keep the transfer box lever warm.

Our lunch stop was a convenient trail crossway with a plentiful supply of storm felled tree branches. A small fire was lit and we were soon enjoying our sandwiches with everyone jostling for heat and escaping the smoke. As the fire became more established the embers melted through the snow causing the firebase to sink 18 inches, giving us a safe, self-extinguishing fire.

Having progressed about a mile and a half, we decided to still attempt our ascent to the crows-nest.

The trail continued its steady climb and we traversed a second gully with a stream. The exit from the gully was quite steep, followed by a sharp right turn and wiggled/waggled through some trees.

Most of the group had got through but one of the Range Rovers jumped the tramlines and stuffed the front left hand side into a non-bendable tree.

The impact caused extensive exterior damage, lights, fender, bonnet, front panel. Luckily the radiator and brakes were unaffected so, after some rearranging of body work, the vehicle could be driven out.

The ascent was cancelled and we made tracks for the cabin. In the shuffle to turn vehicles around, unfortunately one picked up a stone and smashed a headlight of a following Discovery.

Returning to the cabin, via the mud pond trail, we all thawed out and opened various cocktails and beverages of choice. The evening 'fish' stories were about to begin.

After a suitable break and enough time

to absorb some warmth from the fire a small group decided that a night run was in order.

Ensuring that we had several winch equipped vehicles we departed to do a

circuit of the lower 'Mud Pond' trail.

Temperatures had certainly dropped again, so the trails were decidedly crunchy. Brilliant sunlight was replaced by moonlight and the piercing light patterns of auxiliary lights.

Having negotiated the lower trails without any problems we decided to attempt an uphill section to visit a neighbouring cabin – Seese's

Camp.

The lead vehicle, a D90 had to cut the trail and required winching up the later part of the hill.

Various Pennsylvania road signs that had

**the trail continued its steady climb and we traversed a second gully with a stream and sharp exit**



**Top:** Evan in the Series II kept the heater on, but it didn't help much in the cold wind

**Above:** Tree vs. Range Rover. Tree wins

