



G-WAC Notes

A news Sheet for those who are interested
in the factory registered G-WACs



February 2025

It has been a very frustrating month for me, medically. After the cataract removal in my left eye on 28th January, I knew that I would not be able to drive for 4-6 weeks, then the removal of another cataract in my right eye last week has now extended my inability to drive right into late March. My son Stephen will be taking Daphne and me to the NEC with G513DHP, which will be on the stand.

We have been very fortunate getting about though, Stephen and Dylan, my step son-in-law, plus very helpful neighbours have been very obliging. Only needed a taxi once, so far.

No shows to report this month but looking forward to the NEC on 21st to 23rd March and hope to see you there.

What is the history behind the G-WAC registered Land Rovers?

When discussing the Jays which were at the launch on the Plymouth Hoe in October 1989, we always refer to them by their registration numbers as 'gee-wacks' and there must be a story behind the registration of so many Land Rovers using the G-WAC sequence.

The AC registrations during the 1980s were from the Coventry DVLA office, so perhaps the clerk responsible for factory registrations asked the Coventry office to reserve the 300, 400, 500 and 600s for their use?

All the ones for which we have records are on page two of the January issue of G-WAC Notes, but on the DVLA website there some G200WACs also listed as Land Rovers.

PJPG archivist

Rhys Williams is the keeper of anything of interest regarding the early days of the Discovery and writes about his findings in the PJPG newsletter Jay News.

On page two he gives his report on some aspects of the launch in October 1989.

Tea on the Tailgate

A new social media page has really taken off for the benefit of Land Rover enthusiasts who would like to meet other enthusiasts: it will be very useful for owners who are not members of a regular Land Rover club.

If anyone knows of a meeting local to yourself in April and would like to publicise it in the March G-WAC Notes, then please email me before the end of March.



G610

The Discovery Launch: By land, sea and rail

During the 1989 Plymouth press and dealer launch of the Discovery, Land Rover had plenty of events and publicity stunts running to promote the new model. Along with the 86 cars of varying specifications laid out for the journalists to test drive, there were displays going on too.

Amongst these was a floating 90 which would periodically take to the water complete with its large buoyancy aids branded 'Discovery Launch'.

This was one of many exciting exhibitions that served to leave an impression on attendees. It wouldn't be the last time that the Discovery launch would have something to do with an amphibious Land Rover though, as the 90 had caused such a stir at events it attended that not long after the launch the decision was made to convert surplus ex-launch car G459 WAC, which was previously a black V8, to become a floating vehicle for Cowes Week 1990. The changes completed by Special Vehicle Operations included a 200Tdi conversion, repainted in white and roof removal along with of course the fitting of appropriate buoyancy aids and a rear mounted motor for water use. This saw use in the aforementioned Cowes Week (a large sailing and boating event) and was later presented to a German museum.

It was here that it sat relatively untouched as it decayed until 2011 when it was given on loan to

the Dunsfold Collection, it was then brought back to life and was then present at both the 2012 and 2014 Geneva Motor Show completing displays and passenger rides out on the lake.

Arguably one of the most iconic scenes from the launch was G491WAC, complete with its police livery and external gear it would be seen taking to the railway line.



Fitted with a Bruff rail track guidance system both front and rear, which allowed it to transition quickly and easily from a road going vehicle to railway ready, with just the push of a lever.



Organised by Land Rover Demonstrations Team, the Discovery (along with five carriages behind it) would pull into Buckfastleigh station, in Devon, as a means of both concluding the day for the journalists, also demonstrating the immense capabilities of Discovery with its new Tdi engine, which had huge low down torque. This meant that at around 2000 RPM it was able to comfortably tow the train.

It is said to have pulled the carriages behind it smoothly and relatively effortlessly, an impressive feat and one that left a lasting effect on many of the press and passers by alike.

Rhys Williams



Practical Classics Classic Car & Restoration Show NEC Birmingham. 21-23 March 2025

An update

We have been allocated a 93m² stand at the NEC, in hall 5, stand number 5-845. so we now have four Jays for the stand, and they are a good combination to show our visitors.

The 3-door, 5-door and van (Discovery Commercial), all three engine types fitted to the Jays, the V8, 200Tdi and the 2.0 Mpi

The cars will be delivered on Thursday 20th March and will not be removed from the show stand until approximately 18.00 on Sunday 23rd March.

There is a discount on the entrance price for members quoting the code. **CCC5M876.**

For further information regarding shows which we will be exhibiting at this year, please visit the calendar on the PJPJG website, www.pjpg.co.uk.



The poster features a yellow classic car on a blue background with technical drawings and tools. A red gear icon contains the text 'CLUB DISCOUNT SAVE £3.50 PER TICKET*'. A blue gear icon contains a QR code and 'BOOK NOW'. The website 'NECRESTORATIONSHOW.COM' is prominently displayed. The event title 'Practical Classics CLASSIC CAR & RESTORATION SHOW' is in a white box. Dates and location: '21-23 MARCH 2025, NEC, BIRMINGHAM'. Three car categories are shown: 'RUSTIC GEMS', 'RESTO PROJECTS', and 'PRISTINE CLASSICS'. A red banner at the bottom states '£3.50 DISCOUNT ON ADULT TICKETS WITH OUR CLUB CODE*: CCC5M876'. The right side lists official show partners: practical CLASSICS, LANCASTER INSURANCE, GCA (CLASSIC CAR ASSOCIATION), Footman James, and Meguiar's. It also mentions 'In association with CLASSIC CAR WEEKLY' and 'Classic Cars'.



Sew-on badges

Cloth badges are now available, at £4.00 each, plus post and packing.

I will take some to the NEC or they can be ordered by emailing me on shop@pjpg.co.uk Daphne.

Compiled by Roy Preston.

If anyone would like to contribute an article for these notes, or receive a copy, please email me at roy@g-wac.com or post your address to ; -

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