

In the last issue I said that the Call-Out number had been quiet. Not so this time!

We've had a busiest response period ever, and with it a good amount of media coverage on TV and radio. Our membership is steadily increasing and we've got a packed year of events and training ahead of us, including hosting the National 4x4 Response weekend. We've already had one beach driving training session and another is booked for March, you can find out what we got up to over the page.

Yorks-Lincs 4x4 Response get busy in the snow

The long cold spell in January brought problems across the whole of the UK. A combination of snow and ice challenged all road users, and as persistent low temperatures began to put pressure on the grit supplies, local authorities were forced to prioritise the major roads, leaving some side roads difficult to use.

In general the snow falls weren't around rush hour, and didn't cause large numbers of people to get stuck in the same way it did in February 2009. A significant amount of our work this time was of a support nature to front line services, by getting staff to and from work. We were asked to attend a handful of incidents related to stuck vehicles, including ambulances.

We were asked to assist the following user organisations: Local Care Direct, East Midlands Ambulance Service - Lincoln Control Centre, Kirkwood Hospice, York and District Hospitals - Adult Services and District Nurses, Sue Ryder, Boroughbridge Surgery, East Riding Council and provided mutual aid to Peak 4x4 Response.



Responders assisting at the roadside

We have also improved relations with some other users, who are very interested in the ways we can help. It's sure to only be busier next time.

In all we were requested to perform over 100 separate tasks and made use of 43 different responders, selected on the basis of availability and proximity to the task assigned. Our responders met a variety of conditions, often finding that road conditions didn't present any particular difficulties. At the other end of the scale there were a few journeys that were more challenging, either because of atrocious weather conditions, or, in one case, when a recently travelled road was blocked on the return journey, due to a large bank of snow made by a snow plough clearing the main road.

Our procedures held out very well, especially considering that this has been our busiest period to date. As one would expect, there are areas where we can improve and streamline the processes, which will better enable us to deal with an increasing number of call-outs.

We have received many letters of thanks from organisations that we assisted. Congratulations are deserved by all who participated, including the controllers, and in particular Simon Bentley, who devoted so much of their time to providing the excellent service that we did.



IN DEPTH: Dave White

Position: Chairman
Location: Hull
Occupation: Electronic Engineer
Vehicle: Land Rover Defender 200tdi
Land Rover Series III Fire Engine

This month it's time to find out about the man at the top, our Chairman. Dave joined the group back in early June 2007. He'd actually been considering starting a 4x4 Response group in the area after reading an article about Wessex 4x4 Response in a magazine.

By chance Dave saw the web address on the side of Ian's Discovery as he was leaving the maternity unit after visiting his wife Clare and their new son Daniel. He filled his forms in a few days later.

He says he's been attached to Land Rover ever since his next door neighbour, Uncle Jack, had a S2A.

Dave recollects, "When I was only a few years old me dad borrowed Land Rovers from work, to do jobs with like towing big stuff and taking us on holiday. Once I could afford to have a second car I got one for myself."



Dave in action in the Floods in Hull 2007

Dave used to co-own a sound and lighting company, and the Land Rover was often used for towing generators, and more often than not, extracting heavy lorries full of staging from muddy fields.

His current vehicle has a 5kVA factory fitted generator and Fairey Husky 8500 winch. Extra equipment includes invertor, second battery, CB, Ham radio, beacon, cloth seats, intercooler and lots of storage.

Dave lists his hobbies as walking, renovating his Series III Fire Engine, and setting off fireworks. This is all in addition to the huge amount of time he spends working on Yorks-Lincs 4x4 Response.

INCIDENT LOG

A short list of call-outs, standbys and assistance given by the group.

Dec 2009 - A number of incidents attend
Assistance offered during snow

Jan 2010 - Over 100 separate response actions
We were deployed in all areas to assist during the period of bad snow. See the main article for more information.

More details on these incidents may be found on our website.

Our first beach training session



For the last couple of years we have attended Withernsea's Beach Safety Awareness Day, and on each occasion provided a demonstration of vehicle recovery on the beach. The Yorks-Lincs 4x4 Response area includes over 150 miles of coastline, and we have had a few incidents that have required work on the shoreline.

So, with the intent to provide some suitable training for our responders, we contacted Withernsea Town Council to see if they would be willing for us to use their beach. We were met with an enthusiastic response, and it was then just a matter of matching up the tides with the available weekends.

On a bracing January 31st, our training team, support staff and sixteen delegates met on Withernsea esplanade. To keep disruption to a minimum, the delegates were split into four groups to be trained on the beach in turn. The training team also managed to provide additional training in other competencies, including group induction, vehicle safety and recovery and winch awareness.

For the beach training the delegates were taken through a powerpoint presentation giving some theory and background, it was then onto the beach. The first stage was to drive on the beach with standard road tyre pressures, this was followed by partially deflating the tyres and driving again, to show the greatly improved traction that this brings.

There were only two stuck vehicles all day, but these proved good training and gave some practical experience in recovery.



Esplanade line up

This was the first such exercise that we've done, and a lot was learned by both trainers and delegates. Sadly the final session had to be cancelled due to the a storm surge not giving us as much time on the beach as we'd hoped.

We had a lot of interest from the general public who generally gave a very positive reaction to what we were doing. A big thank you goes to Withernsea Town Council and their emergency planner, Gordon Hodgson, for allowing us the use of their beach and supporting the group.

We already have our next training session booked for March and it's looks to be just as popular.

Reducing tyre pressure to improve traction



National 4x4 Response Weekend

We are proud to announce that Yorks-Lincs 4x4 Response will be playing host to the National 4x4 Response Weekend at Frickley 4x4 Offroad Centre, on 9-11th July 2010.

It's a great site and we'll be putting on a range of activities over the weekend, including stuff for the kids, and a bar in the evening. For the other groups the location is actually about as central as possible to the whole Network, as we now have Highland 4x4 Response.

The plan is for the event to move around the country with a different host group each year.

The National 4x4 Response Weekend will also be the venue for the National AGM. Full details of this will be announced nearer the date. While there will be some serious elements, the aim is to have a fun weekend for the whole family, and get to find out a bit more about what the other groups do, meet some more like-minded people and generally have a good time.

Costs are being kept low at £10 per adult for the whole weekend, children go free. This should hopefully keep it affordable for everyone. There will also be chance to use the off road course for £20/day.

Changes to National Executive

There have been some changes at National level. After committing a lot of time to National 4x4 Response, Alasdair has decided to step down from the trustees.

This left National without a secretary and 'webmaster'. After some discussion at a meeting of the remaining trustees, and as provided for in the constitution, a new secretary was sought from among the trustees.

The result was that Bob Hatcher (Wessex 4x4 Response) has stepped down as Chairman to become Secretary and Simon Bentley, has become Chairman. For those that do not know, Simon has been involved with Yorks-Lincs (Humbs-Yorks) 4x4 Response from very early in its formation and spent two years as group secretary before stepping down from committee when he became a national trustee.

National 4x4 Response is an organisation that acts for all of the 4x4 Response groups across the country, representing us at a National level to government and other large organisations. National 4x4 Response also acts as an umbrella charity, achieving charity status in 2008, acknowledging the voluntary and charitable work done by the organisation.

They have also been instrumental in securing sponsorship from the Community Resilience UK, who have donated enough to provide 1000 4x4 Response Jackets Nationally. These are due to arrive with us for distribution very soon.

Calendar

February

- 10th West Yorks Meeting - Old Commill. HD6 4HA
- 10th East Yorks Meeting - The Bay Horse. YO25 6AS
- 21st Green Laning - South Yorks/Derbshire
- 24th South Yorks Meeting - Beverley Inn Hotel. DN3 2JE
- 28th Basic First Aid Training - Red Cross, Bramley. LS13 4EL

March

- 1st Committee Meeting - The Brewers Arms, Snaith.
- 10th Central Open Meeting - The Oddfellows Pub. DN14 9LY
- 17th North Lincs Meeting - The Royal Oak. LN11 8LZ
- 21st Beach Driver Training - Withernsea, East Yorkshire.
- 21st National Indoor 4x4 Show - Bingley Hall, Staffs

April

- 12th Committee Meeting - The Brewers Arms, Snaith
- 16-18 Backwoods Camping Weekend - Melton, East Yorkshire