

## Rangers' Review

Volume 5 No. 9

Mount Lofty Rangers Inc. PO Box 1150, Blackwood SA 5051 December 1999 Christmas/ Year 2000 Issue



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# PRESIDENTS turning 40!!! REPORT

Another year has almost come to a close and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. If we reflect on what we have achieved this year we should be pleased with ourselves as we have accomplished so much as a group. A majority of our members have volunteered their services to assist with events throughout the year and are really getting into the spirit of being a club member. Most know that once all the components of a finely tuned machine are integrated and synchronized it runs as smooth as clockwork, this principal applies to our club as well. Next year is chock a block with trips for all and social outings top satisfy even the <u>fussiest</u> members. There is no excuse not to get involved and be included, so make time and not excuses to join in on the action.

Ted Bal conducted a very comprehensive trip leaders day at Cavan. This consisted of driver etiquette, planning a trip, preparing for the unexpected, survival techniques, checklists and more. I believe additional courses could be held in the future and even the more experienced drivers can learn from this course. I found it to be very interesting & enlightening and recommend everybody take some time to be educated from one of our most experienced drivers. Ted has also organised a Robe trip in January from 22nd to 26th so anyone who wants from a 1 day to a 5 day break come on down and join in on some of the most superb sand driving you can endure.

We need to sell more raffle tickets so dig deep, the more you buy the greater your chance of winning. Good luck and congratulations to all the winners. The Christmas social day at Clarendon Oval was once again a true success. The hard efforts from our social organizers Jane & Charlie were reaped by a large number of those who attended. A visit from Santa spiced up the day for the children. This was followed by a treasure hunt, games for the youths, then games and races for us all, even the weather was on our side. A thoroughly enjoyable day thanks again to the efforts of the organizers, Jane and Charlie.

To conclude for the year I must remind our volunteers to help with our Clayton raft and the rest of you to give your support on the race weekend in February.

Have a very Merry Christmas & a very Happy and safe New Year.

See ya round in the year 2000,

MOSSIAH

## MORGAN TRIP SEPTEMBER (Version 1) By Linda Moss

The trip began on Friday with the Bretts arriving first, then Moss's, Raphael's & Orbons. We all leisurely set up camp then the fellas decided to go out for a drive to collect firewood while the girls went for a walk. Later we all walked down to the Commercial Hotel to partake of their \$5-00 special night - a great way to start a camping weekend! Greg used his deductive powers when he couldn't find any club members back at the campsite and met us as we were leaving the hotel. He and Jacqui impressed us all as they set up camp very quickly and efficiently with the two boys. We later found out they had just returned from 6 weeks holiday on the Canning Stock Route where they had obviously perfected their camping skills. We sat around the campfire and most people retired at a reasonable hour - even our club president (unlike his last visit to Morgan).

Second day we went out for a morning drive exploring the many tracks and Michael demonstrated a balancing act on what was formerly known as 'Mark's massacre'. We returned for lunch and the arrival of the Saturday campers Steve & Chris Wrobel & new club members Peter & Jo & family. We had finished lunch when Chelsea (who should have actually received a spotters fee) told us there was a 4WD in the river. We all dropped everything & raced down to the riverside where a non-member had three quarter submerged his Toyota 60 series because his hand brake failed while reversing down to pick his boat up. To retrieve him it required a late model Toyota which was hitched to a tractor which was hitched to the 60 series. So much water gushed out when they opened the doors that a few fish would not have looked out of place.

Everyone went out in the afternoon for another play and the only casualty was the president denting his running board - he adds a bit of character to his car every trip! Enjoyed another night around the campfire but had to cook our own tea that night.

Next morning most campers enjoyed a leisurely breakfast whilst

(Continued on page 10)

## **News In Brief**

\*

A huge THANK YOU goes to Jane & Charlie Raphael for their excellent effort at our Annual Christmas Picnic on December 5th. A good time was had by all and the children were delighted to see Santa (thanks Max) with all his lovely presents. Games were a plenty and there were plenty of prizes available too! Well Done Jane & Charlie! PS Thanks to Clyde for the Santa Suit too.

We do not have a January meeting so our next meeting will not be until 14th February. If there are any trips or functions you have registered interest for, please follow them up and don't let your organisers down. The deadline for the February edition newsletter will be Sunday 6th February 2000.

Everyone is welcome to share New Years Eve with Joyce and Brian Gray at their home at Glenalta. Please contact them on 8278 1576 if interested. (Wrong number given last edition – sorry.)

The club is looking at purchasing at least 1 waterproof shade for events such as the Christmas Picnic, Clayton Raft Race and other trips where it may be necessary to have shelter from the wind, rain or sun. Keep this in mind if leading or organising any trip or function in the future.

Ken, Clyde & Dave helped Peter Warbout decorate his ute with a tree, decorations & 5 kids for the Blackwood Christmas Pagent. Good promotion for the club but not good numbers. Thanks and well done guys for your efforts.

> Desert Parks Hotline for road closure information 1800 816 078 (BH)



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Denny climbs mountains in Victoria – see report page 13



If you would like to attend any of the outings suggested, please register by putting your name on the appropriate list and support your interest. Any further questions on these or any other outings please call Jane Raphael on 8358 2552.

#### Pt River Cruise/Maritime Museum

Sunday 6th February 2000

Cost:

\$2 for 1¼ hour cruise

P

N

S)

No.

1

W.

Time:

 \$5 Museum

Come and join us on this relaxing cruise along the Pt River on the Queen Adelaide. There is lunch and beverages (including alcohol) available on board. Afterwards we can visit the Maritime Museum which will include a tour of the lighthouse.

You must put your name on the board at the Christmas meeting or ring Jane closer to the date.

We will be organising other social events If or the new year, so keep your eye on this nage and the trip board at the meetings for the latest information on a Rock'n'Roll night, the Mangrove Walk at St Kilda and a family day at Belair National Park.





#### 

#### **A GIFT**

A young man wished to purchase a gift for his new girlfriend's birthday and, as they had not been dating very long, after careful consideration, he decided a pair of winter gloves would strike the right note... romantic but not too personal.

Accompanied by his girlfriend's younger sister, he went to the shop and bought a pair of white gloves. The younger sister bought a pair of panties for herself. During the wrapping, the sales assistant mixed up the items, and the sister got the gloves and the girlfriend got the panties. Without checking the contents, he selected a card, and mailed the package to his girlfriend, along with this note:

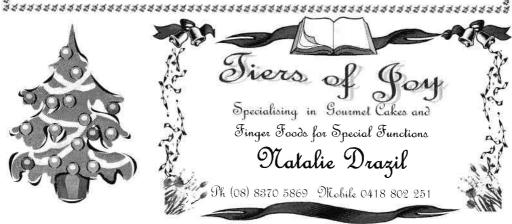
Dear Kate,

I chose these because I noticed that you are not in the habit of wearing any when you go out in the evening. If it had not been for your sister, I would have chose the long ones with buttons, but she wears short ones as they are easy to remove.

These are a delicate shade, but the lady I bought them from showed me the pair she had been wearing for the past three weeks and they were hardly soiled. I had her try yours on for me and they looked really smart. I wish I could be there to put them on for you for the first time as not doubt other hands will come in contact with them before I have the chance to see you again. When you take them off, remember to blow in them before putting them away as they will naturally be a little damp from wearing.

Just think how many times I will kiss them during the coming year – I hope you will wear them Friday night.

PS The latest style is to wear them folded down with a little fur showing.



## Calendar of Events December 1999 – February 2000

					J	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 December	13 X-Mas Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	83	<b>S</b> 24	25 X-Mas Day
26	27	Ch	Merry ristmas and Happy	3	31	1 January Happy New Year
2	3		ew Year		7	8
9	10	11	12		14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 Pt River River Cruise	7	8	9	10	11	12 Clayton Raft Race
13 Clayton Raft Race	14 Meeting	15	16	17	18	19



#### DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

#### MURRAY RIVER YABBIE HUNT

To be held over a weekend early in 2000, our fearless leader thought a beer and yabbie trip was on the cards.

Details: Mark Moss 8383 6324

#### JANUARY 2000

#### ROBE-BEACHPORT - Saturday 22nd - Wednesday 26th

This bush camping trip is being held at Lake George shore at Beachport. Must be self sufficient – no facilities. Numbers limited so be quick!

For details and a mud map: Ted Bal 8382 1963

#### FEBRUARY 2000

#### ANNUAL CLAYTON RAFT RACE - 12th - 13th

A fun filled weekend for all club members. Great camping on Lake Alexandrina and a great way to encourage the great club spirit in all of us.

Details: Mark Moss 8383 6324

#### **MARCH 2000**

#### NISSAN FROLMPIC MUSTER - EUDUNDA - 11th - 12th

With the Nissan club hosting this "Mini Olympics" it should be great with 4WD fun/skills track, club display competition, discovery trail and 3 course meal with entertainment Saturday night. Costs involved.

Details: Mark Moss 8383 6324

#### COORONG FISHING WEEKEND - 18th - 19th

Relaxing weekend camping at 42-Mile Crossing with fishing and relaxing the order of the day!

Details: Tim Byrne 8322 1324

#### OCTOBER 2000

#### THE CURDIMURKA OUTBACK BALL - SATURDAY 7th

We are considering incorporating this fun-filled event with a Simpson Desert Trip. If you are interested please register interest on board.

Details: Shaun Lawson 8381 7865

(Continued from page 3)

awaiting the arrival of the day trippers. Pete & Jenny arrived with their daughters early and had breakfast with us, followed by Paul & Cheryl & friend Sondray and last but not least the Tucker families.

Our little group had increased in size and it was after about an hour we managed to lose a few cars temporarily but found them again. The Bretts were unlucky and scored a puncture but were soon mobile again. Pete & Jennys daughters had been driving around all morning quite impressively with the only mishap occurring when Pete was behind the wheel again and he bottomed out on a short steep incline and had to reverse back. The girls were admirable staying with their father unlike Jenny who had bailed out at the start.

We returned to camp for lunch and packed up to head home whilst the day trippers went out for some more driving. It was an enjoyable relaxing weekend and no doubt wiil be repeated again some time next year.

## MORGAN TRIP SEPTEMBER (Version 2) By Jacqui Goding

It was 8pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September that our family arrived at the Morgan Caravan Park. We eventually found a group of tents with the Mount Lofty Rangers banner flying proudly; no one was around so we decided to check out the local pub!!! Sure enough we found the Moss', Brett's, Raphael's and Orbons' just leaving after having enjoyed a nice (and cheap) meal. We all headed back to camp and spent some time around the camp fire.

The next day we had a relaxing morning cooking breakfast followed by a little driving. The quarry, for those who haven't been is like a playground for big kids! Boys and their toys trying to out do each other. There was some challenging driving with steep, rocky slopes and loose gravel. One vehicle, which shall remain anonymous, ended up in a precarious position with a rear wheel 2 feet off the ground. We went back to camp for lunch and were joined by Chris and Steve and later Peter and Jo (new members to the club). After lunch the kids went for a bike ride and re-



SAAFWDC Driver Awareness Unit Unit 2

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Cavan

Contact: Ted Bal - 8382 1963 AH

Mobile:

0409 092 252

#### Fully Accredited Basic 4WD Course - Cost TBA

Date to be confirmed when numbers reach 10 or more.

#### Advanced 4WD Course

Advanced 4WD Course \$25 a manual. Members wishing to participate in the next course please put your name on the sheet or contact Ted and register your name. When numbers reach 10 or more a date and location will be set to run the course .

turned to say that a Toyota was in the river. Of course we all had to go and have a sticky beak (to offer assistance!!!) and all that was left out of the water was the bull bar and part of the bonnet. Not a very happy trip home for that family in the tow truck.

On Sunday we were joined by another four vehicles. Off we went for another play. Most of the morning was spent trying to get up a 2 metre ledge. Unfortunately there were quite a few bent side steps afterwards and Peter Jones provided us with a good photo opportunity when he got stuck on the top. After lunch most of us who had camped for the past two nights decided to head home. The day-trippers headed out for another drive in the quarry. A fun and relaxing weekend was had by all, thanks Mark.

Greg and Jacqui Goding (and boys).



### MT LOFTY RANGERS

#### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

#### **Lets Promote Our Club!!!**

Piorato I in South Australia	Cloth Badges	\$6.00
and In South	Car Stickers	\$2.50
Name Badges		200
Initial 2 on joini	ing	\$2.50
Additional		\$6.00
Replacement		\$6.00
Sand Flags		\$2.50
Tyre Plugs		\$7.50

Please see Hubert Orbons for the above purchases 8278 8142.

Windcheaters (fleecy lined)	\$29.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on)	
Rugby Tops	\$52.00
(includes name and logo embroidered on)	
Polo Shirts (short sleeve)	\$25.00

(includes name and logo embroidered on)

New: Caps (including logo embroidered on) \$15.00

If you require clothing please speak to Max Almond 8278 3848.

#### **ITEMS FOR LOAN**

Books Recovery Kit
Club Banner Tirfer Winch

Club Flag Puncture Repair Kit \*

GPS Promotional Videos First Aid Kit \*

Maps \* Please replace used items

Please see Michael Brett for any items you wish to loan 8387 1163.

# Happy Birthday

Dave Cann	16th December	Joyce Gray	12th January
Susan Paton	21st December	Fred Rogge	24th January (45)
Sheryl Penno	27th December (30)	Marcin Bal	31st January (20)
Linda Moss	3rd January	Andrew Brett	8th February

Mark Moss 18th December (40!)

## VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY TRIP

It was Sunday October 31st and we were on the road at 5.45 am, and on our way to Tailem Bend to meet up with some of our companions to start our trip to the high country. Here we met up with Ian & June Mangelsdorf, Bob & Marg Rusby, Denny & Zoe Couprie, and said our good mornings. Without delay we hit the road as we had 850 kms to go before we reached Mansfield to set up camp, and meet up with the rest of the group. Five o'clock and we were all at the Mansfield Caravan Park, said hello to, Bill & Maureen Mackey, Darrell Burr and Lynette Lavington. We set up our tents, booked ourselves into the local steakhouse for tea, then started our traditional happy hour of pre-dinner drinks and discussed what was to be expected during the following week. At around 6 o'clock the last of our group arrived, George Vlahos & his son Nick. So it was off to tea and getting to know each other a bit better. We all hit the sack at a respectable hour for a much needed rest after a long days driving.

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Mansfield is surrounded by mountains so on Monday morning most were awake early, eager to get started on their driving adventure. After breakfast some of us topped up with necessary food and sundry items that we had forgotten to bring. We headed off to Jamieson, onto the Licola Road and by lunchtime these Roads became tracks. We were now in the thick of it and within an hour two vehicles were hung up on a wash-out mound. These mounds are formed by a bulldozer to divert heavy rainfall and prevent erosion of the tracks. With some mounds nearly as high as our vehicles they made the driving very interesting, especially while ascending or descending the steep mountain tracks. We finished our final descent, drove along a few flat tracks, crossed a couple of creeks, and already it was 4 o'clock. We still had 25km to go before camp, (4 o'clock is my ideal time to set up camp but as we all found out over the next couple of days this was never to be). We all agreed the driving was exhilarating and we all wanted our long drive to the top of Mount Howitt, so a quick bite and off we went. This track was called Butcher Country Track and must be very popular because as we were climbing for two hours we passed dozens of cars and motor bikes com-

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ing the other way. We arrived at camp about 6-30pm, the tents were erected in a flash, the campfire going, and the tea being cooked. We all knew at this altitude we were in for a very cold night.

Tuesday, and we all awoke to a sub-zero morning. Jack Frost was out, water left in bowls was frozen, even the firewood became damp & consequently would not throw out much heat. As the camp was being packed away, I with the assistance of Peter Jones had to clamber under my vehicle to drop the auxiliary fuel tank. A flexible fuel line had developed a hole from rubbing on the chassis which made us a mobile time bomb, plus did not help our consumption, being about 40 litres for the last ten kms. With the problem fixed and everybody keen to move on, we learned Bill & Maureen decided not to continue. Unfortunately Bill had experienced respiratory problems during the night, (we suspect this was due to the altitude) and thought it sensible to take the next main track out of the Park back to civilization. We had assured the Mackeys they were off in the right direction and the rest of us continued on our way. After another full-on day of steep climbs and descents and numerous water crossings we arrived at camp at about 5-30 pm at a place known as pioneer racecourse. Here we took advantage of a magnificent setting on a grassy meadow under tall gums with a fast flowing creek behind us approximately 8 metres wide with crystal clear water that was so clean it tasted sweet. This is a place you could spend a week but as we didn't have a week we agreed it would be our campsite for the next two days. This evening became one of those very layed back nights which became very social and copious amounts of port was consumed along with damper cooked by George.

Wednesday, and we awoke to the sound of birdlife at about 6-00am. The skies were clear and an early morning wash seemed to be a good idea. There is a fine line between brave and stupid and what kind of sane person bathes in water that is so cold, that the only thing that stops it from being ice is that it is flowing. Within 10 seconds we were snap frozen, wide awake and very, very refreshed. With a leisurely day up our sleeves

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we decided to head into Dargo, a small country town consisting of a Pub & a store where we topped up with fuel and other necessary items. The Mangeldorfs experienced brake fade on the long steep descent into Dargo so their priority was to find the local mechanic. For some of us the idea of a country counter lunch was appealing and we had to wait for Ian & June to have their brakes repaired. Anyway, we were all on holidays. Two hours later we finally contacted Ian, he was with the mechanic and he learned the problem was a little more serious than just bleeding the brakes. Parts needed to be sent in from Melbourne so they opted for the flat track which followed the creek back to camp. We continued back into the mountains to get our quota of driving for the day. We chose a much longer route back to camp which consisted of long, steep descents, long steep climbs, and 24 water crossings. Arriving back at camp with another adrenaline drive under our belt we caught up with Ian & June once again. Their car was still not track worthy but spares were on the way and tomorrow all would be repaired. This evening was a little more subdued, it was Marg's turn to cook up a special beer damper which was superb. Thursday the 4th, the birdie alarm went off again and the camp started stirring around 6-30am. All rested, fed and packed up we took off knowing today was going to be a long one. We said our good-byes to Ian & June and headed straight up a steep mountain track. Within 15 minutes the campsite behind us looked like a dot in the distance. Down the other side we descended into Eaglevale for a river crossing. This was nearly bonnet depth last year and as we approached mixed emotions were felt, from relief (Bob) to disappointment (rest of us) because the water did not even reach the headlights. We cruised across, stopped and admired the surrounding scenery and then proceeded to Billy Goat Bluff track & the East Pinnacles. From here Peter Jones took the wheel and off we went, up & up & up. Two thirds up the climb Peter had to make three attempts at one section. After feeling a little embarrassed from some flakking over the radio from other drivers he was able to continue the climb with the aid of the diff-lock. Once we reached the pinnacles the view from the rangers lookout was breath taking. Some said "comparable to the best scenery anywhere in the world". From here we continued across the top

(Continued from page 16)

of the mountains through the high plains bogs, which are deeply rutted tracks which make very interesting driving. After a slow rugged descent of about 15 kms and a couple of long water crossings we found ourselves back in Dargo. From here we originally planned to take tracks to Omeo, these were omitted because we spent an extra day back at the Pioneer Racecourse campsite. The main road was our alternative to gain some time which ended up being nothing more than a glorified track and an average speed of 50kms an hour was all we could maintain. Arriving into Omeo about 6-00pm we immediately booked ourselves into the caravan park for the night. The luxury of a hot shower was enjoyed by everybody and I must say the air smelt much fresher after that. Some of our group had an early night but we stayed up waiting for Ian & June to arrive, and it's not the same sitting around at night without a campfire. Finally at 11-45pm we were graced with the rejoining of the Mangeldorfs, their car fitted with new rear brake linings and a new master cylinder. Country mechanical repairs do not come cheap so even though they were poorer they were able to continue with us on our trek to Mount Kosciuszko.

On Friday we got off to a late start because more work had to be done on my auxiliary tank. By lunch time we were mobile again, but not for long. With the assistance of directions from a local farmer we were crossing through a creek and following a hard to distinguish almost disused rocky track up a hill. At the top we connected with the main track that would lead us to our campsite for the night. For a couple of hours we travelled along bush tracks and heavily wooded forests, here we had to cut and drag a couple of fallen trees to clear our way. We proceeded down steep mountain tracks, through creeks then further back up into the mountains to our campsite at Limestone Hut. As we arrived it started to drizzle and camp had to be set up between light showers of rain. The rain held off for a while so tea was prepared and eaten around the camp fire. After tea the drizzle returned and although it was not heavy, it was steady and we knew this was a recipe for some challenging driving in the morning.

Saturday morning and we awoke to the sound of rain and it was not a

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pleasant morning to pack the vehicles. With a break in the showers a record time was achieved by us to load the car. As soon as we were on the tracks we knew we were in for a good day, and if mud was the order of the day we were served up a triple helping. We were passing on driving techniques over the radio to the less experienced drivers. We only covered 35kms in 7 hours, and it was a day of winching, snatching, pushing, pulling and just trying to keep the vehicles facing forward. This is very important when the mountains have up to a 100 metre drop-off on the side of the track. There was continual "don't touch your brakes" heard over the radios. In these conditions it is easy to come unstuck yet all our vehicles, drivers and passengers made it through unscathed and we were all very pleased with ourselves. We didn't have time to stop for lunch that day because we all knew if it rained heavily the tracks could have become impassable. The River Murray and Tom Groggin Station was reached around 4-00pm. The Murray was flowing too fast to cross and it was unanimous it was not worth the risk. We continued north for about 5 kms and crossed over a bridge into NSW. From here we agreed to head onto Threadbo for a look as it was only 30kms away. Once at Threadbo we found a cafe amongst the jungle of ski lodges and enjoyed a late lunch of coffee and cake. From here we said our farewells in the carpark and some of us decided to return home that night, whist others wanted to do it in stages. Bob and Marg couldn't get enough and took the main road back to Omeo for a few more days.

Everybody made it back safely, and all had a great time fullfilling their expectations. Although the pace was steady and most of the driving was demanding everybody had a ball and said they would like to return again

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someday. I would like to thank everyone who participated, it was an adventurous week and one to remember. In case you are wondering why I lead the trip and am writing the trip report as well, it gives me the prerogative to delete any information I do not want made public. Mark Moss

## TRADING MART

## Sell, Buy or Exchange

<u>Sell</u> - Allen Towbar (2 Tonne towing cap.) suit Toyota Landcruiser HZJ 75. \$100.

Set of Toyota Landcruiser Manuals/Chassis and Body Repair & 2F Engine Repair Manual \$50 the lot.

Contact Ted Bal 8382 1963 AH

<u>Sell</u> - Pack rack. 1200mm long . Heavy Duty steel to suit dual cab 1984 –1988 Hilux or similar with gutters \$120. Contact Peter Graham 8370 6224 AH

<u>Sell</u> –One fuel filter. CAV unit to suit any diesel. Complete unit not just a adapter kit. As new. \$100

Roof rack. ARB full length 2400x1250 suit Nissan GQ LWB \$450 ono. UHF radio, Uniden sundowner plus fittings \$150.00 ono

Finer filters main plus pre-cleaner unit suit Nissan 4.2 diesel \$50.00

6 White Spoke wheels, genuine Nissan Patrol 16 x 6. May also fit Toyota, Jackaroo or Pajero \$200 the lot

Contact George Vlahos 8278 9229 (AH) or 0419040407

**Sell** -Bull Bar as new - Landcruiser '91 80 series will fit 1990 – 98 models. Black iron, new fittings ie blinkers \$400 ono.

Heavy duty pack rack. Fixed dimensions. Gutter to gutter – height 7½" length 84½" width 54". \$200 ono.

Tyre and rim 6 ply steel belted radial 109/10R15LT. \$50.

Contact Max Savige 8276 5883

Please inform the editor of any items sold so that information is always correct.

## Your Committee

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