



Wizards Chatter Online: Official Newsletter of the
Border Street Rod & V8 Club



Episode 4: Featured Ride - 48/49 Willy's CJ2A
Featured Member - Lindsay Bridger

The 48/49 Willys CJ2A Jeep came into my life in 1961, where it was expressly used for river and sea fishing excursions where no roads existed along the Transkei Coast.

The Jeep, brightly yellow painted (by brush) belonged to a syndicate of three i.e. my father, uncle and a mechanic from Butterworth, so expenses for outings and repairs were fairly shared.

The weekend jaunts were extremely exciting on sleigh tracks at best and I would pray for it to rain to make the going muddier and tougher. My father moved from Butterworth in 1966 to a trading store near Centane and he paid the other two share holders out and moved the Jeep. He spent many, many happy trips to Silver Bay, Cebe and Gqunqe.

My parents moved to East London in 1972 and the Willys was given to me and railed to Joburg, where it was pulled down, rebuilt with a 283 Chevy Motor and a pair of 4.27 Diffs, replacing the 5.33. The result being a cruising speed of 60 mph versus 45 mph and a consumption of 23 mpg versus 15 mpg.

The numerous trips from Joburg to Gqunqe on a yearly basis were most enjoyable but very tiring - no power steering or disk brakes here! My transfer to East London in 1979 brought the Jeep back to my favourite hunting grounds. However, the V8 power started telling on the Jeep gearbox.

The strip-down started again and for the past two years, a transplant has taken place. The V8 was out and a 2.2 Toyota 3C Turbo motor went in with a modification to the transfer case. Jetta 3 Calipers up front; Jetta 3 master cylinder and booster take care of the brakes; Toyota master and slave sorted out the clutch and a very much modified Isuzu 3-Ton steering box took up the miles of play experienced with the original system.

The body still requires better seats; a re-spray and rebuilt front fenders. A stainless steel fuel tank will be accommodated below the body, in the chassis to lower the centre of gravity and lessen the fire hazard. The original tank was situated directly below the drivers seat !!!



December 2007 is hopefully
"Launch Month".
Regards "Willys"

