

HARVEY SHORT COURSE

Harvey Short Course was a multi club event held Saturday 8 July 5 kms north of town. The event started at 6pm and the last race was about 10.30pm. We had a little rain but only for half an hour.

Glenn and I travelled down on Saturday morning in MOW-053, the Lawn Doctor-sponsored transporter, used to move the Rangie.

We did not have the normal opportunity to do a test run at pace to determine the track conditions for the Prologue (seeding for pole positions) - however we managed to complete it in reasonable time. Capturing all on film with our JVC in-car camera we both were pleased with the time on a cold run.

New Old Man Emu shocks and recent tuning of the rear suspension travel has made a huge improvement to the handling and bump control - the four jumps at Harvey were no problem at any speed.

Race 1

We poled along side a Mazda 626 coupe V6 running all those good expensive bits. Being up against a Class 4 I was doubtful of a win. Glenn had other thoughts - convinced I would nail him off the line. Green light and I dropped the right foot in hard to pull away fast over a jump then moving into a comfortable gap for the next three laps. IPF Spotties ablaze we had a clear run to a first place finish. Into the pits, we cleaned the mud off, adjusted the spots on the roof bar and refitted a spark plug lead that had fallen off at the start line!

Race 2

Now I was worried. We were up against Neal Leatherbarrow's F100 - 351 V8. With lots of dollars in this truck why wouldn't you be worried. Again Glenn was positive we could do it. Green light and lots of revs from both race cars - it was a tussle for the lead into the first jump with the Lawn Doctor machine pulling away through the first turn, over two big jumps in front of the F100. I really had to drive Mow-747 hard to stay out front. Three laps down and another win for the trusty Rangie!

Race 3

The organisers threw another high horse power truck at us - a newly build GQ Patrol with a quad cam Nissan V8. Close competition with now two 4WDs with lots of traction and grunt - the Nissan with its big engine and excellent brakes pulled out in front of us at the start line. We kept the pressure on with all the lights blaring in his mirrors and managed to finish a close 2nd!

Race 4

This race was a repeat of round 3 and against the same Nissan. I remember their comment to us at the track gate - "oh not you guys again". It was close and competitive all night and we had a great night's racing.

I only wish we had more short course events so close to Perth. We love it. After clean up Sunday morning the only damage to report was a broken exhaust hanger rubber. I think I've got two bucks to fix that!

I would like to thank all our friends support crew and sponsors for all their help with our truck and special thanks to Dave and Liz Parker (Lawn Doctor) for their continued and invaluable support. Commiserations to Mark Barron who spent the past 4 weeks working most nights on the car with me caught the flu and was not be able to attend the meeting.

Steve Armour
Car 747