

## The Rust Bucket & Spade Rally

Over the past month, I have been meticulously planning the installation of my CB radio. Due to my continuing desire to keep the truck as standard and genuine as possible, and my obvious fear of cutting holes in it or doing any form of work on her, the process was at a snail's pace!! (This was much to the appreciation of those helping me; Mark Letley and "Darland Dave"). CB radios went out of fashion long before my time (although my dad does assure me they were all the rage, and not just in Landies), and were easily replaced with better communication such as mobile phones. However, I still wanted the enjoyment of shouting over the engine noise when in convoy.

Which to go for though; a handheld with terrible range, or a 'proper one'? If the latter, where could I mount it as if it wasn't there? And how to get the cable –unseen – to the aerial without cutting holes or damaging seals? For certain I felt a long aerial (making the truck look like it belonged with a team of bumper cars) would ruin her looks...

It turns out, my skinny CB fits perfectly in the dashboard tray, and both it and the external speaker are cable tied to the flaps' grill. The cable then disappears through the headlining to the back sliding windows, where it briefly shows itself to go up the roof rack. It then trails along the middle of the roof rack to the front of the truck again, barely noticeable from outside ground level. Even the aerial finishes off the truck's looks, and the roof rack makes a fantastic earthing point!! [As it happens, my roof rack has two aerial mounts on the front of the roof rack, which would suggest it once had two aerials, which in turn suggests maybe at least the roof rack was used on a convoy vehicle in the past, running two channels].

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So, the morning of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, and another early start for a club event. At least this time it was a relatively local meeting point for me at Brogdale Farm. Nonetheless, I was still pleased I had mounted my bright orange buckets the evening before. Little did it occur to me, orange buckets on the front and back of my roof rack made it look like the orange flashing lights of a working vehicle. (Also, lucky it didn't rain over night and fill my buckets up).

I was the first to arrive at the entrance of the farm, and enjoyed watching numerous classics pouring through the gates. Once a few of our club's trucks arrived we set off for Government Acre, Ramsgate. This was a good hour before the other classics as we needed to meet the rest of our club doing the "display".

Only 4 trucks did the actual prescribed route along the coast road. This was my first Bucket and Spade run, and only my second proper convoy. Of course, this was the reason for my CB installation deadline, however we were soon to discover this side of things wasn't to go as planned. Before setting off we discovered Michael Turpin's CB crackled continuously until transmitting, and when travelling, the CB in J.C. (the Smurfs' car) was really too quiet to be heard. (We have since discovered my CB can pick up signal, but cannot transmit! So I can hear your plans and abuse, but cannot fight back!!).