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Not Just Muckin' About



I remember bidding at our AITM show last year on an “off road experience” given by the folks from the Biltmore House Land-Rover driving school. I wasn’t lucky on that occasion but finally got a chance to go last Saturday with our own Tony Kipling who is one of the instructors. My grandson, Alan, and I met Tony there, next to the winery, at 9 am and off we went in a brand new “3rd generation” Range Rover with the Jaguar 4.2-litre V8 400 HP

engine. After a brief talk about approach/departure angles and how to generally avoid wrecking an \$80,000 vehicle, (see http://tudorhouse.home.att.net/landrover_0001.wmv) we drove to the “training loop” up near the Biltmore Inn. Tony demonstrated the incredibly sophisticated controls and capabilities of the machine (which apparently has more than 30 computers) and then I “had a go”.



That’s Alan in the back holding onto the door to stay upright!

It is immensely impressive : I had never been in a vehicle on such unforgiving terrain (not even an agricultural tractor on a farm back in England) but this vehicle easily handles it all. In fact Tony mentioned that

when customers bring small children who sit in the back they often get lulled to sleep on the trip because the air suspension is so smooth. A short promo film showing a vehicle going around the Biltmore grounds is

<http://apps.us.landrover.com/drivingschool/promo/index.html>

It was a memorable experience and I recommend everyone to allocate a couple of hours and get Tony or one of his colleagues to let you see how amazing these vehicles have become or, better still, to buy one!

Later on, Alan and I were in for 2 more treats thanks to Tony. First we went and picked up one of the 2 electrically powered ¼ sized Land Rovers for Alan to drive



and then we were privileged to be shown Cornelia Vanderbilt's very own 6 cylinder 1909 Stevens Duryea motor car. This car has never been shown to the public and is languishing in a barn with ne'r even a dust cover.

