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# 3

**A COUPLE FRIENDS OF MINE RECENTLY BOUGHT A TANK—A BRITISH TANK CALLED A CHIEFTAIN THAT WAS USED AS RECENTLY AS OPERATION DESERT STORM IN THE EARLY '90S.**

Right about now, you may be asking yourself, "What in the world would I ever need a tank for?"

If so, then you, sir, are not a tank owner.

A tank isn't something bought out of necessity (at least, hopefully not); a tank is a luxury—like an Aston Martin. Think of this tank as a British exotic vehicle that just needs to be registered with the local authorities. Oh, and that can't be driven on city streets unless there's one heck of a

parade going on.

I think the real question you may need to ask yourself is, "What wouldn't I do with a tank?"

If I owned one, I think most of my plans in life would be "...whatever I'm doing, plus the tank." And then I'd have to reason with myself why incorporating the tank into whatever plan might not be a good idea.

But just think of what you could do with a tank! Not only would you be set if Armageddon comes, but it would take your off-roading to a whole new level. Plus, think of how

useful a tank could be: super industrial-sized can opener, car crusher at the local junkyard, tree-stump puller, ultimate recovery vehicle, home remodeling.... (Oh, and if your plans call for world domination, then forget it; all cannons are cut and rewelded to make it impossible to fire before a tank is decommissioned and sold to the public.)

If nothing else, there is no other entry piece that makes a statement like a tank. And it has to be way more effective than any "Private Property, Keep Out" sign. **OR**

BY JERROD JONES







## FROM THE DESERT ASSASSINS' CREW

*2011 was a rough year for the Desert Assassins (DA). I, for one, am glad to see it slip into history. What we expected to be "The Year of the DA" turned into a year of tragedy for us. The loss of Jeff "Ox" Kargola on The Rip to the Tip in Baja Mexico (April 2011) impacted all of us in ways that we are still struggling to come to terms with. The effort to move forward after his death with anything Baja is a daily battle.*

*Cameron Steele, who is the ring leader of the DA, was crushed by the loss of Ox. He'd just ordered a brand new Geiser Brothers Trophy Truck. The Desert Assassins were to become a two Trophy Truck team with the 2011 SCORE Baja 500 (June 2011) being the debut race for the second Trophy Truck. The debut didn't happen until November 2011.*

*I can tell you that being anywhere near Baja was the last place I wanted to be for a while. I know the rest of the DA pretty much felt the same. Yet we had to fight forward. Finding the strength wasn't easy for any of us. With heavy hearts and low spirits we fought on. The Baja 1000 was our final test. We fought hard and we pushed ourselves well beyond our breaking points. We didn't win the Trophy Truck class, but we did bring both trucks to the finish line. The day wasn't without a victory though; Cameron's wife, Heidi, won the Class 6 championship.*

*We finished out the 2011 SCORE racing season as a team, a family, and as brothers in arms. I think in 2011 the DA was forced to grow up. I know I was. My hope is that 2011 will be remembered as a turning point for us.*

KEN NEAL



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