

CORVETTE LEGENDS CLUB
Caravan Safety
Complied by George K. Peters

One of the most enjoyable aspects of belonging to Corvette Legends Club is driving together in a group or caravan. The following is a simple set of Guidelines that can ensure a FUN and SAFE TRIP.

SAFETY FIRST

Corvette Legends Club promotes safe driving in all our events. We are careful to plan driving events and trips that adhere to proper safe driving guidelines and the enjoyment of our trips. We encourage all our members to drive safely. Members are responsible for their own road safety by obeying the traffic laws of our state or the region we take our trips in.

GUIDELINES FOR OUR CLUB CRUISES AND TRIPS.

1. Caravan Staging

- Arrive at the designated meeting place on time
- Arrive with a full tank of gas.
- Bring a FRS/GMRS “two-way” radio which will be tuned to the frequency assigned by the caravan leader.
- All drivers must attend the Drivers meeting.
- Listen carefully at the Drivers Meeting to the description of the route and any specific safety precautions.
- Be ready to leave on time.
- (Advise the Event Coordinator if you are going to meet the group along the route or leave before the end of the tour.)

2. The Event Coordinator most often (but not always) Leads the caravan.

- The Event Coordinator should be prepared to hand out written driving directions, and have a Drivers Meeting to explain the route and go over safety precautions.
- The Event Coordinator should have one or more additional drivers know the route.
- The planned route should allow for rest stops and avoid rest areas or stops which require the caravan to cross oncoming traffic.

3. Prior to departing from the designated meeting area, the Event Coordinator should “stage” the cars for the trip. Considerations should include:

- Assign the “Tail” car, which is responsible to stay in frequent contact with the Lead car via club radios and let the Lead know when all cars have cleared a controlled intersection, advise the Lead if the pace is too fast or too slow and advise of any other circumstances that affect the caravan and its safety.
- If there are more than 8-10 cars on the event, consider breaking up into two or more groups. (A caravan of 15-20 cars can stretch over 1.5 -2 miles of highway.) If the group is too large, divide into 2 or more groups of 10 or less if possible, each with a Lead car and a Tail that have two-way radios.
- All other cars with two-way FRS radios should be interspersed within the group.
- Monitor your two-way FRS radio for information but keep radio chatter to a minimum. Don't let the radio be a distraction to you while driving.
- Assigned interspersed drivers will pass information to the caravan cars as required.

4. Use common courtesy when departing the meeting area.

- Allow the cars which have assigned duties to take their respective positions
- Unassigned cars should depart when their assigned Lead car departs.
- Absent any other instructions, the departing order is those cars parked closest to the Lead car will line up first.
- When cars are parked in opposing rows, those parked on the same row as the lead car should line up first.

5. Underway Guidelines

- It is important to keep your vision up and ahead. It is all too easy to end up just watching the Corvette in front of you instead of looking ahead to see where the road is going and what lies ahead in traffic.
- The group will travel in the middle lane or the left lane on a freeway or highway at an appropriate speed so as not to obstruct the flow of traffic.
- Drive with your RUNNING LIGHTS on for safety and identification. Cars without running lights should drive with headlights on. DO NOT DRIVE WITH HAZARD LIGHTS FLASHING.
- The Lead car will set the pace for the caravan but it is each driver's responsibility to keep the car behind him or her in sight.
- Keep pace with the caravan do not follow too closely or lag too far behind.
- Use the 3-SECOND RULE to maintain adequate separation.. For the 3-SECOND RULE, note a point on the road ahead. When the car in front of you passes it, begin counting "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." If you are maintaining a good interval, you will pass the same point on or after you say "three".
- Passing within the club group of cars should not be necessary and is not recommended. This is a caravan NOT a RACE to see who can drive the fastest.
- When traveling through congested areas, parts of the group will likely become separated. The Lead car, through radio communication, can elect to slow down to let the group catch up or, if it can be safely done, stop and pull off the road to regroup.
- To STOP AND REGROUP, the Lead car will look for a shoulder space with adequate clearance for the entire group to pull over. As you come to a stop, TURN YOUR WHEELS toward the road. DO NOT turn off your engine or get out of the car. When the Lead and Tail decide the road is clear, the Tail car will pull out and BLOCK and the group will pull onto the roadway at the SAME TIME. (This is why you turn your wheels TOWARD the road when you stop.)
- It can be very difficult to safely keep a caravan together in heavy traffic, congested areas, and on major highways. If the group becomes separated Plan to regroup when that part of the trip is over.
- If you have an emergency need to pull over and do not have a radio, do so and turn on your flashers, the Tail car will stop behind you.
- Always drive within your personal limitations. You will be provided with directions, lunch stops and destinations should you have to leave the group.

7. Upon Reaching the destination:

- When parking in business parking lots, be observant for dangerous situations caused by backups. Most members will prefer to back into their parking spaces because of the risk of damaging the spoiler when pulling in head first and because of the convenience of reforming the caravan. However, if there is a concern about getting the caravan safely off the highway, pull to the FARTHEST open spot and park HEAD IN

Additional tips and considerations (courtesy of the National Corvette Museum National Caravan suggestions):

- **Drive courteously. Drive defensively.**
- **Don't follow the Corvette ahead of you too closely and be aware of that car's speed. Caravans have a tendency to "rubber band" rapidly and unexpectedly.**
- **The Rubber Band Effect is what you need to watch for. Fast starting and fast stopping. Always pay CLOSE attention of the vehicles in front of you. The closer you are to the front of the group the slower you will drive and the further back you are the faster you will need to drive to keep up.**
- **Caravanning in a manner that impedes the flow of traffic is illegal. Allow other cars to move through or across the caravan. Expect this near highway entrances, exits and intersections.**
- **On four-lane highways, i.e. Interstate Highways, stay in the same lane as the Caravan and use the other to pass only and to let other traffic go by. Remember that truckers are out there on the highway to earn a living - so make sure to leave one lane open at all times. In general the rule is drive right and pass left.**
- **If you are on a an Interstate with two, three or four lanes of traffic, try to change lanes only when it's clear for the group. Leave the passing lane open, and don't block the truckers. In a three lane highway, I try to stay in the middle lane, leaves the left lane for passing and the right lane for exits.**
- **The Corvette Caravan is not a race. We recommend you obey the law. If you drive irresponsibly, you accept the consequences.**
- **Most of the time on the highway, the Caravan Leader will hold his speed to near the posted limit.**
- **There may be those who like to putt along below the speed limit and watch the scenery. If that's you and you feel the Caravan speed is too fast, just slow to the speed you like and drop back from the main group. We're all going to the same place. If you get there a little later, it won't matter much.**
- **Let faster traffic go by. If you are in the left lane and another car pulls up behind you wanting to overtake, momentarily move right allowing it to pass.**
- **Please remember, caravanning in a manner that has cars following each other close enough such that non-caravan vehicles to cannot pass through or across the caravan, besides being arrogant and unfriendly, is illegal. In most areas such driving will attract law enforcement. There's another aspect to this. There are a lot of idiots and fools on the road. There's nothing that angers a type-A personality more than a bunch of "rich people" in their Corvettes, slowing down and/or blocking traffic. Real, aggressive jerks will likely be provoked into doing something dumb like cutting one of our people off or running them off the road. Please, try and avoid situations where the closeness of Caravan vehicles sets-up situations like this. Don't worry about becoming separated from your group; that is why you have your route information.**
- **That said, if you still want to caravan like Dale Jr. and Tony Stewart in the draft at Daytona to keep others from invading your space...the cops are out**

- there, waiting for you. Caravaners must allow other vehicles to pass through or even join the caravan if they wish. You must allow other cars to pass across the caravan as they merge into or out of other lanes. Please be most vigilant of this on the Interstate, near interchanges, entrances and exits.
- Let's keep a soft spot in our hearts for the trucking industry. Truckers are out there enhancing our nation's economy through interstate commerce. The vehicles with which they do that weigh 80,000 pounds and are not capable of Corvette-like passing and braking maneuvers. Let's cut the truckers some slack. If you decide to cut them off, instead; be careful...you might find yourself looking up at the front axle of a Peterbilt and the oil pan of a C-15 Cat.

Caravan Accident - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNjrVrpPhgQ>