

Coastal Carolina Corvette Club

Charleston, South Carolina

Rules and Precautions for Cars in Caravan

SAFETY FIRST

Coastal Carolina Corvette Club endorses safe driving in all our events. We are careful to plan 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 on trips by obeying the driving laws of our state or the region we take our trips in.

Below is a set of guidelines called **Road Rules** that we recommend for our outings and day trips.

CARAVAN ROAD RULES:

1. At the assigned time, all participants should meet at a designated meeting area.
 - Arrive with a full tank of gas.
 - Bring a FRS/GMRS “two-way” radio tuned to channel 13.
 - Be ready to leave on time. Listen carefully at the Drivers Meeting to the description of the route and safety precautions.
 - (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 short Drivers Meeting to explain the route and go over safety precautions.
 - 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 in congested areas and let the **Lead** know when all cars have cleared a controlled intersection, as well as advise the Lead if the pace is too fast or too slow.
 - If there are more than 20 cars on the event, consider breaking up into two or more groups.
 - > A caravan of just 20 cars can stretch over 1-2 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 radios should be interspersed within the group. Interspersed drivers should continually pass information forward to the caravan **Lead** car.
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 queue up first. When cars are parked in opposing rows, those parked on the same row as the lead car should queue up first.

5. Underway Rules:

- It is important to keep your vision up and ahead. It is all too easy to end up just watching the car 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 RIGHT lane on a freeway or highway so as not to obstruct the flow of traffic.
- Drive with your RUNNING LIGHTS on for safety and identification.
- The **Lead** car will set the pace for the caravan but it is each drivers responsibility to keep the car behind him or her in sight.
- 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".
- If a member of the group wants to pass you - let them, however passing within the club group of cars should not be necessary and is not recommended.
- When traveling though congested areas, parts of the group may become separated. The **Lead** car, through radio communication, can elect to slow down to let the group catch up, use the BREADCRUMB technique where the last car in the main group stops and waits for the trailing group to reach that point, or stop and pull off the road to regroup.
- To 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 motor or get out of the car. When the Lead and Tail decide the road is clear, the last 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 is very difficult to keep a caravan together in heavy traffic, congested areas, and on major highways. Plan to regroup when that part of the trip is over.
- If you need to pull over and do not have a radio, do so and turn on your flashers, the **Tail** car will stop behind you.
- 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