

# **CORVETTE CARAVAN TIPS & GUIDELINES**

Traveling as a group with our Corvettes is both fun and creates a unique sight for other motorists. When we're in a caravan there several things we need to be aware of for our safety and the safety of other motorists. This is an outline of items we need to be concerned with.

**Communication**-We use portable radios to stay in touch with each other. Midland makes a Walkie-Talkie that works fine and has about a 1 mile range. It is important that the radio is turned on and you can hear it in the car. Communicating on the radio is the job of the navigator (spouse/passenger) – Not the driver!. - Our Club channel is 2:18.

Radios provide a good source of entertainment when traveling (Coop & Leo are always fun to listen to) but there are several specific functions of the radios. Group leaders give directions for upcoming turns or other traffic situations that the group needs to be aware of.

**Driving in the group** - This can be both fun and a little stressful at times. After you have travelled in a caravan a few times, it becomes second nature and fun. However, you are still responsible for your and your passenger's safety. There are a few things that we must remember.

- A. Any member of the group needs to inform the leader if the group gets split up by traffic lights or other situations.
- B. The last car in the group needs to let the leader know when the entire group has cleared a light and is out and rolling.

**Visibility** - You need to always be able to see the car behind you. If you lose sight of the car behind, you may need to drop back a little, but not so far that you lose sight of the car you're following. It's best to let the leader know the group is getting strung out or you have lost sight of the

car(s) behind you. It's normal for the group to be like an accordion on the road. Even if the leader sets their cruise control, cars in the group will be changing speed to keep up. In our club, the leaders run at, or just above the speed limit depending on traffic.

**Group spacing** In a caravan it's not possible to maintain 1 car length per 10 MPH separation of cars. We need to keep the cars fairly tight together to avoid other motorists cutting off the group. Letting the gap between our cars get too big invites other cars to cut in. We can't and shouldn't try to deliberately prevent other cars from merging in/out of our caravan. It's going to happen even in the tightest of spaces.

**Changing lanes** (Multi lane scenario): The leader is always looking ahead for the best lane for the group to be in and at times the leader will need to change lanes. This works best if the leader lets everyone know (via the radio) and then **the last car in the rear moves first.** (lane blocking) This way the group moves over from the back to the front. This is possible because the car behind you has blocked traffic for you and you can then block for the car in front of you. Again everyone is responsible for their own safety. Understand this maneuver is not always practical, but works well at speed with limited traffic.

If you're not comfortable running in a caravan or have any trouble keeping up, please contact the leader.