

Blackjack Corvette Club Caravan Rules

Caravanning is Not a sporting event.

It is a fun experience requiring teamwork, skill and above all, SAFETY FIRST!

Each caravan will have a lead car (front-door or caravan leader) and a last car (back-door). During the drivers meeting the caravan organizer will identify who will be in these positions, so make sure you know who is assigned to the front and back-door. The back-door has numerous tasks: watching for slow cars, mechanical failures, cars trapped at traffic signals, and traffic approaching from the rear of the caravan. The back-door also coordinates all lane changes with the caravan leader. If you are driving a car other than a Corvette, you will likely be asked to be at the rear of the caravan, just in front of the back-door. The caravan leader is responsible for the caravan and its safety. Any questions or other communications regarding the caravan should be directed to the caravan leader.

Caravans should be sized to accommodate safe travel and ease of maneuvering. A reasonable size is about 15 to 20 cars. The caravan leader should determine the break and ask for assistance in reducing the caravan size. Always think Safety First! Two caravans are as good as one. Ideally, each car should have an FM Radio. (Family Radio Service, or FRS type, which usually has an approximate two-mile range) The caravan leader will announce at the driver's meeting as to which channel to monitor. Channel 3 is used by BCC unless otherwise indicated. Radios should only be used to communicate information that is relevant to safe caravanning. *"I need to stop for a break. How far to the next gas station? What time will we arrive? We will be turning right at the third light"* as examples. Radios Are Not to be used to control traffic, tell other caravan drivers when to pass another vehicle, or to make any otherwise potentially dangerous maneuvering request!

Please be on time, have your gas tank full and all repairs completed before departure. At the drivers meeting let the caravan leader know if your car is limited on cruising speed or fuel range. If you have medical or mechanical limitations, please let the caravan leader know. You may be asked to provide your cell phone number to the caravan leader, if you want to be a point of contact in case of an emergency. The caravan should run with headlights on low beam, to inform other motorists that we are traveling in a group (day and night). While caravanning at night, please do not flash your lights at oncoming traffic with their bright lights on. This is the responsibility of the caravan leader. Flashing lights means "BCC Member's car in trouble and must pull off of the road". The next two vehicles will follow any person having to pull out of the caravan, unless that person is pulling out of the caravan for something other than an emergency. The car leaving will signal by waving the cars behind him on ahead or communicate by radio.

Try to maintain a consistent interval between you and the BCC Member's car ahead of you. A safe distance is the three second rule. Use a larger interval at night or in wet conditions. Do not leave too much of a gap, as this tends to frustrate the people behind you, and causes the group to gradually split up, or start braking and accelerating, which produces an accordion affect in the caravan. Stay with the flow of traffic if at all possible. Do Not pass a fellow caravan member. Passing the caravan leader is not allowed. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and other vices while on the road is forbidden.

It is important that the caravan moves at approximately the same speed as other traffic. In the event the caravan passes any other vehicle on a two-lane road with oncoming traffic, a substantial amount of space is required for all to maneuver back into position after passing. The caravan leader, and each passing car in succession, should leave plenty of room for the next car to come around and get back into the right lane. Once the first BCC Member's car passes, all subsequent BCC Member's car in line shall wait until the previous BCC Member's car is back in the right lane, and that the next BCC Member's car has a clear sightline to pass, as well as room to safely make the pass, and get in behind the previous BCC Member's car. No more than one BCC Member's car shall pass another vehicle at a time!

When caravanning, we do not “seize” a lane in order to keep all BCC Member’s cars in formation. On a divided highway such as an Interstate, the Caravan should maintain the right lane, except to pass another vehicle that is not in the caravan. Once around the non-caravan vehicle, move back to the right lane. It is the responsibility of the back-door driver to notify all members of the caravan of faster traffic approaching from the rear, and all members of the caravan should move right to allow the faster traffic to pass safely. Safety is more important than keeping the caravan “All BCC Member’s cars”. If for some reason you must leave the caravan, do not try and take your previous position in the caravan. The back door will let you in just in front of him/her. Use your turn indicators when making any turns, lane changes, passing, entering or exiting a freeway, otherwise required to let all drivers know where the caravan is going. In the event of an accident, only essential aid providers and family members need remain, the balance of the caravan should proceed to the destination to reduce any additional risk.

If performed correctly, a caravan can provide each participant with a unique sensation of teamwork and pride. When a caravan of shiny BCC Member’s cars are traveling along in an uninterrupted procession in fluid-like motion, evenly spaced, it is a sight and sensation to which you can be very proud. Being a part of a caravan, large or small, can be a very enjoyable experience, but only if it is well organized and executed the same way by all who participate. Remember, we are representing The Blackjack Corvette Club while caravanning, and the general public should be left with an impression that we are safe, courteous and professional drivers!

Happy Caravanning!