



# CENTRAL VIRGINIA MIATA CLUB

CARAVANNING 101



# INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

New Members

Review

Have Fun

Be Safe





# AGENDA

Safety first

Staging

Departing

Cruising

Regrouping

Parking

Questions

# SAFETY FIRST

Central Virginia Miata Club promotes safe driving in all our events.

Members are responsible for their own road safety by driving safely and obeying the traffic laws of our State or the region we take our trips in.

Most accidents which occur in caravans are rear-end collisions caused by following too closely combined with "rubber-banding" by loss of control when accelerating abruptly in a medium horsepower car.

This presentation provides a set of guidelines for CVMC rides and trips that can be helpful toward a fun and safe event .

Members are responsible for monitoring their own health and determining whether they are fit to participate in a drive. If you are feeling unwell or have a medical condition that could affect your ability to drive safely, please refrain from attending.

# STAGING

- Arrive on time
- Arrive with a full tank of gas.
- Bring a FRS/GMRS “two-way” radio. If you don’t have one, the Club has some you can borrow.
- All drivers must attend the Drivers meeting.
- Listen carefully at the Drivers Meeting
- Be ready to leave on time.

The Group Leader most often (but not always) leads the caravan and will:

- Provide written driving directions.

Use cumulative mileage starting at 0.0 miles at the beginning of the drive. Mileage should increase as the route progresses, with each turn noted at its cumulative total.

Example:

2.1 mi- Right turn on Elm Street

4.5 mi – Left turn on Maple Street

- Have a Drivers Meeting to explain the route and share safety precautions.
- Determine if the group needs to be split.



# Group Leader

## Assign Group Leaders

- Each group must have a designated **Lead** and **Tail** car.
- The **Lead** is responsible for navigation and pace; the **Tail** ensures no one is left behind.
- It is important that the **second and third Lead Drivers** have **pre-run the route** and are comfortable leading.
- The leader should consider on how the groups will stage if two groups run.
- When the route includes a left turn onto a busy main road, ensure a safe, designated pull-off is planned and ready for use by all drivers.





SPEED  
LIMIT  
25







## Departing

- Of course, the lead will be in front of the group
- If over 10 Miata's in the group a mid should be established to relay any communications from lead to tail and vice versa
- If 15 miatas in a group the span can be 1.5 miles from lead to tail
  - The tail will pull into the rear of the group.
  - This should be discussed at the driver meeting.







## CRUISING

- Keep your vision up and ahead.
- Don't watch only the Miata in front of you.
- Look ahead to see where the road is going and what lies ahead in traffic.
- 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.



- Do not follow too closely or lag too far behind.
- Keep pace with the caravan to avoid the “rubber banding” effect which can have drivers slamming on the brakes when the cars in front slow rapidly
  - The LEAD car and TAIL car will have the club two-way radios.
  - The TAIL car will inform the LEAD car when all cars have cleared a controlled intersection and advise the LEAD if the pace is too fast or too slow.
  - Other cars with radios will be interspersed within the group.

- Assigned interspersed drivers will pass information via radio to the caravan cars as required.
- Monitor your radio for information, but keep radio chatter to a minimum. Do not let the radio be a distraction to you while driving.
  - Obey traffic laws.
  - Do not hold up a line of traffic.
- If you have an emergency and need to pull over, do so and turn on your flashers. The TAIL car will stop behind you and radio the situation to the LEAD car.
- In the event of an emergency, notify the President or Vice President of the club. This ensures the situation can be reviewed and analyzed, and any necessary precautions or improvements can be put in place for future drives.



- 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 portion of the trip is over.

- Always drive within your personal limitations. You will be provided with directions, stops, and destinations should you need to leave the group.

- Passing within the Club group of cars is not recommended. A CVMC Ride is NOT A RACE to see who can drive the fastest.

- Passing on two lane country roads is generally not safe for a caravan, so we will simply slow down and enjoy the ride.





## REGROUPING

When traveling through congested areas, parts of the group will likely become separated from the caravan.

The LEAD car may either:

- 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 select a shoulder space with clearance for the entire group to pull over.

## REGROUPING

- As you come to a stop, TURN YOUR WHEELS toward the road. Remember to stay to the right of the lead car, this allows the lead to use their side mirror to look for the tail.
- DO NOT turn off your engine or get out of your car.
  - Turn on your flashers
- When the TAIL cars approaches (flashers on) and the road is clear, the TAIL car will 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.)

# PARKING

Upon reaching the destination, the objective is to get all cars off the road as quickly as possible:

- When parking in business parking lots, be observant for dangerous situations caused by backups, pedestrians, and a lot of traffic.
- Preference is to back into the parking spaces for convenience of reforming the caravan.
- However, if there is a concern about getting the caravan safely off the roadway, pull to the FARTHEST open spot and park HEAD IN



# TAIL

The job doesn't seem to be much, but it plays a very important role in keeping the group together, as a safety monitor, and as a communication link.

As the tail approaches a stop/turn, they should radio ahead and notify the leader that the group is together and good to make the turn.

Once the turn has been made, the tail should radio ahead and notify the leader everyone has made the turn.

## TAIL

Will alert members, if the group is falling behind and encourage to close the gap.

Will radio if any problems occur, speed is too slow or too fast, or the group is getting separated.

Always ensure you receive confirmation from the Lead car that your message was received. If no confirmation is received, assume the distance is greater than the radio range .In this case, other members of the ride should relay the message forward until the Lead car acknowledges it.









# MEMBERS

You have an important role as well.

Maintain safe spacing between cars. Follow the 3-second rule—keep at least a 3-second gap from the car ahead—while still avoiding excessive gaps.

Maintain pace with the group to prevent separation of the group.

Sign up early, allows drive leader to plan for leads and tails

Radio if you have problems.

Directions are provided at the start of the ride. If you are uncomfortable with the pace of the group, please pull off and move to the rear of the group. We will see you at the destination.









QUESTIONS