

WVCA TOURING RULES

The term: “Tour” in Willamette Valley Corvette Association, refers to Corvettes traveling in convoy to predetermined destinations.

Choosing destinations that can be reached by traveling roads known to be paved and free from excessive hazards is the first step to having a successful tour. Traffic conditions, gas stations, rest room facilities, and restaurants along the route of the tour are variables that a tour leader should consider.

Planning a tour well in advance is best – though, not absolutely necessary. Advance planning gives a tour leader time to check the route, and allows time to publicize an upcoming tour in the Glass Sass newsletter, email or via a phone campaign. Impromptu tours can be a fun adventure.

Publication should indicate a time of departure, location of the meeting place and the name and phone numbers of the tour leader. Destinations, time and distance of the tour and route can be included. Exact location of stops should be indicated - which will allow people who might arrive late to know a place they can join the tour. A map of the proposed route could be printed for each participant.

Drivers should meet before the start of a tour. At this time, the tour leader is responsible for informing each member of the tour about last minute changes that may have been made since publication of the tour. A meeting gives each tour member a chance to ask questions and possibly suggest additional ideas for the tour.

Handouts which give some information about a tour are a good thing for the tour leader to provide. This is a good time to ask if anyone else is known to be coming on the tour who hasn't shown up prior to departure time. Tour rules should be discussed. Some are listed below:

- 1. Tour participants should arrive at the starting place a few minutes before departure time and be prepared for the trip. Cars should be fueled and ready to go. Tours should leave at the pre-determined time, and not later than 15 minutes after the publicized departure time. A current roster of WVCA members should be available to contact those who may have planned to attend but are not at the starting place.**
- 2. Drivers will obey all speed limits and traffic laws. Drivers should drive legally and courteously. A touring speed that is comfortable and safe for all should be established by the tour leader.**

3. Always use turn signals and give plenty advance warning. This applies to the tour leader as well as each driver in order to let participants know as soon as possible when a turn is to be made.
4. Passing other tour group cars is not allowed while in convoy. Passing should only be done for emergencies.
5. **Turn on parking lights while on tour. Lights enables the tour leader to see the cars more easily in the convoy and it also gives a signal to other drivers that a group of cars is traveling together.**
6. Corvettes should be leading a tour. Other cars with the tour should be at the end of the convoy.
7. Racing, driving too close to the car ahead of you, or reckless driving on the tour is prohibited. Do not lag so far behind that you don't see the car in front of you. Try to keep the tour together. When a car lags too far behind, it creates a breakup of the tour and the tour leader cannot see the whole group. Four to six seconds travel time is a safe following distance.
8. All travel should be in the right hand lane except when the group needs to pass a car that is not with the tour. When this is done, change lanes with caution. All cars should not change lanes at once.
9. Leave enough room between cars to allow traffic to move through the tour. Remember, a tour will attract attention. State Patrol Officers have been known to follow a tour to insure compliance with laws. Following too close is illegal. Oregon Driving Manual indicates that you are following too closely if there is less than 2 seconds traveling time between cars. Two seconds air space is a minimum distance of air space on a clear day and dry road. Following distance should be 4 seconds or more when the road is slick or other hazards exist. Leave enough air space to allow safe stopping to avoid a crash.
10. A tour leader should continuously plan in advance. When exiting freeways, the leader should lead the tour into the correct lane well in advance to allow drivers comfortable lane movement instead of making panic lane changes to exit. Be sure to notify the leader if you must leave the tour permanently, so that participants will be expecting it and not treat the departure as an emergency. Oregon Driving Manual states that a driver should use turning signals at least 100 feet before making a turn or lane change.

11. Fuel stops should be planned well in advance by a tour leader. If possible, choose a place which offers a selection of different brands of gas within a close proximity. The tour will then break for about 15-20 minutes and reassemble again at a pre-determined time and meeting place before continuing. A count should be done at stops to insure that no members are left behind.
12. If you should experience car trouble, flash your headlights at the car in front of you and pull off the road in a safe place. One or two drivers in the tour should stop to render assistance. Those drivers should be at the rear of the tour. **AVOID PANIC STOPS!**
13. If a car stalls or can't proceed for any reason, everyone can flash their headlights to alert the driver ahead until the tour leader is notified. If you have electronic communication, that can be used to notify the tour leader. The tour leader can continue leading the convoy until a safe and visible place is reached to organize rescue efforts or wait for the other cars to rejoin the tour. The best way to keep a convoy together is for each driver to look behind frequently; and, **don't drive away and leave the car that is following you. If you lose sight of the car following, slow or stop in a safe place until the driver following catches up.**
14. Personal communicators and cell phones are very useful. Good communication will make the tour more fun, and can assist with vital communication in case of emergencies as well as routine lane changes. A sufficient number of radios will make some of the manual procedures in previous steps unnecessary. WVCA uses channel 6.6 for personal communicators. (Route 66)
15. Please keep the image of WVCA in mind. Drinking alcohol and driving do not mix for many reasons. Courtesy and safety should be the rule at all times.
16. The journey can be as much fun - maybe more - than arriving at a destination if everyone keeps these rules and requests in mind.
17. Should someone drive in an unsafe manner, become a safety hazard or an embarrassment to the group because of their actions, the tour leader - as well as fellow members - should take appropriate and responsible action to keep members safe, limit liability and preserve the reputation of Willamette Valley Corvette Association.

Have a safe and fun tour!

Revision date: 05-20-09