

# CRUISERS GUIDE TO CARAVANNING

KEEPING A GROUP OF CARAVANNING CORVETTES TOGETHER CAN SOMETIMES BE A DAUNTING TASK. A LINE OF TEN TO TWELVE IS USUALLY NOT TOO HARD TO HANDLE, BUT WITH A CONVOY OF FIFTEEN OR MORE, THERE IS A LIKELYHOOD THAT WE WILL GET SEPARATED AT SOME POINT. HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO KEEP US ALL TRAVELING AS A GROUP.

WE SHOULD PLACE MEMBERS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH OUR DESTINATION FURTHER BACK IN THE LINE SO IF WE DO BECOME SEPARATED FROM THE LEADER WE HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE THE LEAD OF THE STRAGGLERS AND SHOW THE WAY. IT IS A GOOD IDEA IF ANYONE NOT FAMILIAR WITH WHERE WE WILL BE GOING TO LOOK IT UP ON THE INTERNET TO GET AN IDEA OF WHERE IT IS AND HAVE THE ADDRESS WITH THEM.

ON THE OPEN ROAD IN RURAL AREAS OR ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS THOSE AT THE REAR OF THE TRAIN CAN USUALLY HAVE SIGHT OF THOSE NEAR THE FRONT. LET'S KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE ARE OTHER VEHICLES USING THE INTERSTATE AND WE SHOULD ALLOW ROOM FOR THEM TO MERGE INTO OUR LINE. THEY MAY WANT TO PULL OVER TO ALLOW FASTER VEHICLES BY OR TO MERGE IN SO THEY CAN EXIT THE HIGHWAY. FLORIDA DRIVERS HANDBOOK RECOMMENDS ONE CAR LENGTH FOR EVERY TEN MILES AN HOUR YOU ARE TRAVELING. WE ALSO NEED TO BE AWARE THAT VEHICLES WILL NEED TO MERGE INTO OUR LINE WHEN GETTING ONTO THE INTERSTATE. SO PLEASE BE AWARE AND BE COURTEOUS.

PLEASE TRY TO KEEP A CONSTANT DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE VEHICLE IN FRONT OF YOU. THERE IS A TERM CALLED "YOYO-ING", THIS IS WHERE A CAR WILL SPEED UP TO CATCH UP TO THE CAR IN FRONT OF THEM AND THEN HAVE TO SLOW DOWN OR BRAKE TO KEEP FROM HITTING THEM. YOYO-ING CAN WORK ITS WAY BACK THROUGH A LINE OF CARS CAUSING MULTIPLE YOYO-ING. IF YOU FIND YOURSELF FALLING BEHIND OR NOTICING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE VEHICLE IN FRONT OF YOU IS GETTING FURTHER AWAY, INCREASE YOUR SPEED SLOWLY TO CATCH UP. THIS WAY AS YOU APPROACH THE CAR IN FRONT YOU ONLY NEED TO LIFT YOUR FOOT OFF THE ACCELERATOR AND LET YOUR CAR SLOW DOWN GRADUALLY.

IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE THE CELLPHONE NUMBER OF THE LEADER. SHOULD YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM AND NEED TO STOP OR HAVE TO LEAVE THE CARAVAN, YOU CAN LET THEM KNOW. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE PERSON LAST IN LINE (TAIL GUNNER) HAVE THE LEADER'S CELL NUMBER SHOULD A PROBLEM OCCUR THAT IS OUT OF SIGHT OF THE LEADER.

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND HEAVY TRAFFIC.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHERE WE WILL BE MAKING LEFT TURNS, COULD CAUSE A SEPARATION OF THE GROUP. IF WE ARE IN A SINGLE LEFT TURN LANE WE SHOULD MOVE THROUGH THE INTERSECTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT LOLLYGAG, PAY ATTENTION, AND MOVE WITH THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU. I BY NO MEANS SUGGEST THAT YOU RUN A RED LIGHT BUT I'VE BEEN TOLD BY A POLICE CHIEF THAT TECHNICALLY IF YOU HAVE CROSSED THE STOP BAR (THE PAINTED LINE AT THE FRONT OF THE LANE) AND THE LIGHT HAS NOT TURNED RED, YOU HAVE NOT RUN THE RED LIGHT. REMEMBER, WHEN YOUR LIGHT TURNED RED THE CROSS TRAFFIC HAS THE GREEN, SO PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK.

WHEN THERE ARE TWO LEFT TURN LANES, TRY TO DOUBLE UP SO SOME CARS TAKE THE OUTSIDE LANE AND SOME TAKE THE INSIDE LANE. THIS WILL ALLOW MORE CARS TO GET THROUGH THE INTERSECTION QUICKLY. THEN REMEMBER TO ALLOW THE CARS TO MERGE BACK TOGETHER INTO ONE TRAVEL LANE, IF POSSIBLE.

WHEN TRAVELING ALONG ROADWAYS WITH MULTIPLE INTERSECTIONS WITH TRAFFIC LIGHTS, IT MAY BE NECESSARY ON MULTI-LANE HIGHWAYS TO HAVE OUR VEHICLES MOVE INTO MULTIPLE LANES AND RUN SIDE BY SIDE. THIS WILL TIGHTEN UP THE GROUP AND LESSEN THE CHANCE OF SOMEONE AT THE BACK OF THE PACK BEING CAUGHT BY A RED LIGHT AND LOSE THE GROUP. WHEN A TURN IS COMING UP, LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS SHOULD SIGNAL EARLY. THIS WILL ALLOW THOSE TRAVELING IN A WRONG LANE TO MOVE OVER INTO THE CORRECT LANE. THOSE IN THE CORRECT LANE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE IT EASY FOR OTHERS TO MERGE INTO THE CORRECT LANE.

WHEN THE LEADER OF THE CARAVAN NOTICES OR IS NOTIFIED THAT A GROUP HAS SEPARATED FROM THE PACK, THERE IS A DECISION TO MAKE. SHOULD THEY PULL OVER AND WAIT FOR THE GROUP TO CATCH UP OR TO KEEP MOVING AT A REDUCED SPEED. IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO PULL OVER AND WAIT, THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN AN AREA WHERE IT IS SAFE AND THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM TO GET EVERYONE SAFELY OFF THE HIGHWAY. IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO SLOW DOWN, CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN NOT TO IMPEDE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE APPROACHING STRAGGLERS SHOULD SLOW DOWN TO ALLOW THE PARKED CARS TO MOVE BACK ONTO THE HIGHWAY. IF THE LEAD GROUP HAS SLOWED DOWN TO ALLOW THE TRAILING GROUP TO CATCH UP, THEN THE LEAD GROUP SHOULD SPEED UP TO A NORMAL SPEED.

LET'S ARRIVE SAFELY TOGETHER, HAVE LOTS OF FUN, AND HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME.