

Radio communication and drive out information

Radio's must be fully charged before every drive out. When the radio is low on charge it will only send static. Have a back up when using the radio frequently. This is especially true when you are leading a group or acting as the backdoor. If using the radio frequently the battery will last about 1.5 hours. An 'in car' charger should come with your radios when you purchased them.

The lead car and tail car (often called the back door) are the drive out communicators for everyone. With 10 cars or more on the drive out a relay car in the middle may help communications between the lead and backdoor. The person organizing the drive out will determine the need. A relay car is only used if the back door cannot hear the call outs from the lead car and this might change several times during the drive out and often depends on the road we are taking. The relay car will know when the back door has heard the call out because the back door will say, ten four or repeat what the lead car has said.

Hand Held Radio Information

We will not tell you what handheld radio to buy but we will suggest the **Midland GXT1000** or newer model of this series. You can buy a set with charger and everything else you might need for about \$60 from Walmart, Amazon and other places. Other brands are available but the radio needs to have at least 50 channels and the ability to use group and privacy settings (FRS and GMRS). Ear and Microphone are also an option but we have had limited success using them. Generally, an in-car charger is included when buying the set.

We will use channel 7 and will also use a privacy channel to improve our communications. Here are a few ways to get more distance from your handheld radio.

- A) Keep your radio fully charged.
- B) Make sure your radio is on High power.

Every car needs a hand held 2-way radio. If you do not have one, borrow one from another member. Use your radio for road communication only. Non drivers, use your cell phone for to chat with friends. On drive outs every car is responsible to keep up with the car in front of them. But you must use common sense and drive safely.

HEAD LIGHTS - It is a good idea for you to have your headlights or running lights on during drive outs. This will help others outside our group notice us especially as a large caravan of cars.

LOW CLEARANCE - be sure to carefully / safely go around objects on the road. It does not take much of a rock on the road to cause damage to the underside of our cars. As the lead car it is very important to let others know when things are on the road especially if directly in our lane of travel.

WAITING FOR THOSE BEHIND YOU - If you are making a turn and you do not see the car behind you, it is important to slow down or even pull over (if possible) before the next turn to wait for the car behind you. If those behind you get caught at a stop light be sure to wait for them by slowing down or pulling over. If all of us follow this guideline no one will get lost.

While driving on back roads some gaps can develop between our cars. When this happens other vehicles (tin car) can pull into the middle of our group which further creates gaps and can cause us to lose sight of each other. By keeping distance between cars reasonable you can help prevent others from pulling into our group. This does not mean you tail gate. You should NEVER be closer than 6 car lengths at 60 mph. If weather is not ideal increase this distance. Our tires generally do not like rain or cool weather.

Do not tell other cars it is OKAY to pass a tin car. This creates liability for you and possibly our group. Do not pass EVER when in a no passing zone and always use turn signals when passing. Always be sure you have enough room in front of the car you are passing so you can safely pull back into the line of cars.

Spirited driving is set by the lead car and that person must know the route and where there is open road and limited side road access. Everyone should watch the side roads as you come up to them. Anyone can and should report on their radio if a vehicle is approaching the road, we are traveling from a side road.

If you are a back door, you should respond back to the lead car or relay car. You should repeat the instructions given by lead or relay car or say, ten four. Example: if lead car says, right turn at stop sign the back door would repeat, ten four right turn at stop sign or just say ten four. If there is a car approaching from a side road that was identified by anyone in our group then back door repeats that too.

If the lead car meets a cop (LEO) coming at us then the lead car will warn by radio even if there is no dog barking. This might be helpful to those who are trying to close the gap to catch up within the group. The back door or relay car should be sure to respond back to lead car that a LEO car is approaching.

You have been provided by the club a list of all club members, cell phone numbers and info on their car. It is important to keep that list in your car. The document is called "In Car info".

Road kill left / right / center	Dead animals on the road.
Dogs are barking	Police radar enforce.
Gravel or sand on the corner	Loose rock or sand on a turn which could cause your car to slide out of control.
Bicycle left / right	A bicycle is on the road. Includes when they are stopped at an intersection too.
Debris on road	All kinds of stuff on road, like corn silage or MUD, branches, lose rocks.
Farm machinery	Whenever farm equipment is on the road, does not matter if they are on our side of the road or coming towards us, be sure to be aware of what they might do. Keep an eye on the equipment.
Open road	Clear highway and opportunity to accelerate if you want.
Pedestrians	People walking along the road, slow down.
Tin cars	These are all vehicles other than a corvette.
Emergency slow down	If you hear this slow down as soon as you hear it.
Emergency stop	Stop as quickly as you can but be sure to keep car under control.
LEO	Law enforcement officer.