**Club Run Procedures**

These procedures endure over time. Please read and review often.

➤ In general, all Club runs are meant to be fun. All run leaders will plan to obey the speed limit. Those who choose to drive in a more “spirited” manner should place themselves toward the front of the run. The Miata was designed to be driven with curves in mind; all runs should try to make the most of this strength.

➤ Please arrive on time with a full tank of gas and an empty bladder.

➤ Please back into your parking space so everyone can pull out together quickly when it's time to go.

➤ Please remember your name tags. Wearing your name tag will help new members have as easy a time as possible getting to know us (and vise-versa). If you don't have a club name tag, let an Executive Member know and they will advise how to get one.

➤ The run leader will conduct a driver briefing prior to the run. Written instructions should include starting point, the entire route, any regrouping points and the final gathering point.

➤ The run leader will appoint a ‘tail gunner' for each group of cars and ensure they each have radios and GPS if possible. The leader and tail gunner should acknowledge transmissions to/from each other. There should also be a “middle car” appointed to relay messages from the leader to the tail gunner if need be.

➤ As a guideline, if the group reaches 10+ cars, a second group should be formed that will travel about ½ block behind the lead group so that other drivers are able to move on and off a highway as a group. Smaller groups help avoid road rage from other drivers.

➤ We use FRS "walkie-talkie" type radios to communicate. We normally use Channel 7.0. If you don’t have a radio, let the leader know and choose a place in the middle of the line of cars.

➤ Learn the "LeMans" start to get a line of cars out into traffic together: (1) the run leader and tail gunner confirm that all cars are ready to go (via radio), (2) the tail gunner pulls out to hold a place on the road, and (3) the rest of the cars pull out together. The tail gunner should commence the run by pulling out ONLY when it is safe for ALL CARS to pull out together, in one group.

➤ Listen to the leader’s instructions during the drive. They will identify turns, oncoming traffic, road hazards, pedestrians or cyclists. Please keep the chatter to a minimum as the purpose is to make sure we don't lose anyone.

➤ When speaking into the radios, don't hold the radio too close to your mouth, and speak at a normal volume level (there's a natural tendency to raise your voice). Otherwise the transmissions are muffled and difficult to understand.

➤ When traveling in a convoy please follow as closely as safety allows so we don't get strung out into too long a line. This makes it less likely for other traffic to pull in between us and makes it easier for all to get through traffic lights together so we don’t lose each other. Remember, if you are not maintaining the run speed and spacing, the cars behind you will need to exceed the speed limit to catch up and re-establish group integrity. Leaders should plan regrouping points that are not on the side of the road. Pull offs, rest areas, etc. are ideal for this purpose.

➤ Learn how to bread crumb: Each driver makes sure the car behind them sees the turns, hanging back if necessary until they see you make the turn.

➤ Accelerate slowly on wet, dirty, or gravel roads so you don’t spray the car behind you.

➤ As much as we want to keep the group together, please be courteous and allow others to take their turn at stop signs and intersections. If someone is willing to wait until the whole line of Miata’s passes, be sure to wave a “thank you” for their understanding.

➤ Unless it’s an emergency, always stay in line between the leader and tail gunner. If you leave the group, you have officially left the run and you are on your own to go to the final destination. While in the run if you have a problem, contact the tail gunner, who will stop (if it can be done safely) and notify the drive leader. If you don’t have an FRS Radio and you need to stop, signal other drivers by flashing your lights, and use your turn signal for some distance before you turn in. If you see a car pull over, pass the information on to the leader or tail gunner.

➤ If you plan to leave the run early, please tell the run leader in advance, so they won’t think you got lost.

➤ If you are joining a run in a vehicle other than a Miata, please do not run within the group. Stay at the back of the group. It’s important that all Miata’s stay together and are able to see each other.

➤ Always remember that we represent Club Miata Vancouver Island when we're out on the road together. Let's leave everyone with a positive impression.