

## OFF-ROAD CODE OF ETHICS

We have put together a list of things we feel are necessary for a safe and enjoyable expedition. This by no means is a list of all the things you must do, but it is a good starting point. If anyone wants to contribute to the list please drop us a line. **THIS CODE IS VALUABLE ONLY IF YOU OBSERVE IT!**

- Safety FIRST! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VEHICLE BEHIND YOU! Always keep the vehicle behind you in your mirrors in case something happens.
- At all intersections make sure the vehicle behind you knows which way to go. If there is any doubt, wait until you see them make the turn. If the vehicle behind you stops for any reason, wait until they get going again.
- Get lost together. Unless it is previously agreed upon to split up the group, don't. Work out any differences of opinion before acting
- BE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE! We support the "Tread Lightly!" program that teaches land awareness policy which stresses environmental conservation in order to ensure the long-term preservation of our natural heritage.
- Recognize that Land Rovers and Land Rover Owners are differentially able. Try to be patient. The diversity of the trip attendees is generally a positive thing. But everyone must be willing to compromise. Try and describe expected trip conditions/attitudes up front so people can make a decision on whether to attend and with what vehicle. Ask before you commit to something you won't be comfortable with.
- Be on time at the expedition starting point.
- Always keep moving.
- We will stop more than enough times to discuss directions, take pictures, eat lunch, fix Land Rovers, etc. Minimize unnecessary stopping.
- If you do stop let everyone know why and for approximately how long. Nothing is more frustrating than being at the back of a convoy and not knowing what is going on.
- If you see something you feel is interesting and want to stop and investigate please call it to the group's attention.. It is likely others are thinking the same thing or just happened to miss seeing it. I think to often we drive by interesting places, side trails, etc., just because no one wants to be the one to stop the convoy. (Use judgment if it is getting late in the day.)
- Pack appropriately. Pack supplies, tools and extra gear, just in case. Be sure the gear is secured inside the vehicle so it doesn't bounce around while you're off-road.
- Verify that your vehicle is in sound mechanical condition before you leave.
- In remote areas travel with another vehicle.
- Drive "as slow as possible, as fast as necessary." Remember to use the gears to efficiently manage engine power, braking and torque.
- Call all in oncoming traffic or obstacles. Much of the time dust obscures the trailing vehicle's vision. (See 4)
- Know the underside of your vehicle. Look under your vehicle and learn where the lowest-hanging parts are located so you can avoid damaging them.
- Learn your angles. Study and know your approach and departure angles as well as your turnover angle to avoid damaging your vehicle.
- Don't tailgate. Leave plenty of space. The person in front of you won't let you get lost. (See 1) Keep any mishaps isolated to one vehicle
- Scout tricky terrain on foot. Don't hesitate to get out of the vehicle to examine, up close, the terrain and soil conditions. And be sure to scout out what's on the other side of a hill ahead of time so there are no surprises.
- Don't wrap your thumbs around the steering wheel. Sudden steering wheel movements can result in injury.
- Drive with both feet. Having both feet on the pedals speeds up your response time for needed power and braking input.
- Create a mental picture. Look ahead and visualize the paths you want your tires to travel. Follow those paths.
- Drive straight up and down hills. Avoid diagonal lines that put the vehicle in a situation where it might roll.
- Wear your seat belt and be safe.
- Keep the environment clean. Carry your own-and maybe other people's trash home.
- Obtain permission before driving on private land. Leave livestock alone and gates as found.
- Respect our wildlife. Stop and look, but never disturb or chase animals.
- Respect all other's rights to peace and solitude outdoors.

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