



LVMOC – Planning a Club Drive

- **The Starting Point, Ending Point and Route**

- What kind of drive do you have in mind? Just a nice drive on some favorite, fun, interesting or scenic back roads? A drive to a destination (a museum, car show, scenic park, festival, etc.; the destination can be mid-route or at the end of the drive)? A breakfast drive? An overnight drive? *Note that this outline applies to “official” Club drives... any member can organize an impromptu, casual drive or event (to a local restaurant, local car show, etc.) by posting the related information in either the “Other Events” or the “Miata-Chat” forum on the LVMOC website.*
- Choose a starting point. When you have decided on a region in which to stage the drive, pick a convenient, easy-to-locate starting point. Preferably, it should be a place with ample parking and minimal traffic and, if possible, be near a facility that has restrooms. Try to minimize traffic lights and left-hand turns across traffic closely following departure. If you anticipate that the group will become separated while leaving the staging area, try to plan a place not too far along the road in which to regroup, once all cars are out of the staging area.
- Choose an ending point. If your drive will not end at a destination such as a museum, car show or scenic park, it’s always nice to end at a restaurant, where the group can gather for a meal. Consider how busy the facility will likely be on the date and time when the group arrives. Depending on the facility, arrangements should be made with its management, well in advance of the event, to advise them of the arrival time and number of people expected. If the destination is a venue, such as a museum, make sure that it will be open on the date and at the time of your drive!
- The route.
 - Again, a drive can be a route to a museum, car show, scenic park, festival, etc.; the destination can be mid-route or at the end of the drive. Or the drive can just be a tour of fun roads.
 - Use your knowledge of rural roads or plan a route using Google Maps or other route-planning software. I like to use a combination of Google Maps and on-line topographic maps (MyTopo.com, etc.)

- Whenever possible, avoid built-up areas, i.e., areas with a lot of traffic (particularly on weekends) and intersections with traffic lights or stop signs. Frequent waits for regrouping take the fun out of a drive.
- Avoid, if possible, dangerous intersections {poor visibility from any direction, acute turns, etc.}
- Obviously, include fun roads with plenty of curves. Nice scenery is always a bonus item. Try to avoid roads that are in poor condition unless they are critical to the route.
- The total distance for the drive should consider the time that will be needed to cover the route by a group of around 20 cars. This is particularly important when arranging a restaurant reservation at the ending point. Do not base the time solely on what you can do on a solo pre-run or a pre-run with only a few cars.
- Plan a “comfort break” location along the route, especially on drives of more than about 2 hours. County and state parks usually have restrooms available. Convenience stores can be OK, too, but parking might be problematic there.
- Look for points of interest along the route and plan short photo-op stops.
- After laying out a proposed route, head out and drive it, first in segments, if that works best for you. You will probably find that some modifications are necessary to your original route.
- If you would like to discuss your drive plans with other LVMOC members, or possibly seek some suggestions for the drive, start a “New Topic” about it in the “Future Drive and Event Development” forum, on the Club’s website. Present your idea, ask for feedback, etc. The Club’s Webmaster can help you with this.
- Prepare the turn-by-turn directions for the route. A good format is an easy-to-read (larger fonts are appreciated) listing prepared in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file. This type of file is simple to modify with any needed revisions, and the cumulative and individual leg mileages can be checked with formulas entered into the spreadsheet.
 - Examples of route directions: LEFT onto **Main Street**; RIGHT to stay on **PA 143**; STRAIGHT across **PA 100**; STRAIGHT, becomes **Fox Run Rd**; BEAR LEFT onto **Wood Ln**. Keep these clear and concise.
 - Include notations of road hazards, points of interest, etc.
 - The Club has direction sheet formats available.
 - Include mobile phone numbers of the drive’s leader and, if applicable, co-leader, at the top of the route direction sheet.

- **Limiting the Number of Cars (if desired)**
 - You might wish to restrict the number of cars on your drive. You may want to do this to keep the group size manageable and within your comfort level, or there could be a restriction on the number of people visiting your destination.
 - If you choose to limit the number of cars (or participants), state this clearly when you post the drive on the LVMOC website.
 - Also, if you choose to limit the number of cars (or participants), priority must be given to paid members of the LVMOC. If the drive is not ultimately filled by paid members, you can then include guest cars.
- **Choose a Date for the Drive**
 - Avoid any date that will conflict with another Club event.
 - Ensure that an LVMOC officer will be available to participate in the drive on the chosen date, so that it can be classified as an “official” Club event.
 - Avoid a date on which there may be another organization’s event that would cause traffic issues along your route (running or cycling events, car or motorcycle cruises, etc.)
- **Club Sanctioning of the Drive**
 - For the drive to be an official Club event, it must have the approval of the Club’s officers. Submit your drive plan to the officers via website Private Message for their review and approval. Again, an officer of the Club must attend the event for it to be considered an “official” Club event.
- **Posting the drive on the LVMOC website**
 - Create a “Add Topic” for the drive in the “Upcoming LVMOC Events” forum, on the Club’s website. This post should include all the details for the event: **Name** of the drive; **When** - Date and time of the drive, including when to meet, time of the drivers’ meeting and time of departure; **Where** the drive will begin, with a link to the Google Map illustration of the location; **Description** of the drive; **List** of attendees. You can find examples by looking at website posts for previous drives in the “Previous LVMOC Events” forum. Again, the Club’s Webmaster can help you with this.
- **The Pre-Run of the Route**
 - When the drive has been completely planned and approved, arrange a pre-run of the route, preferably with some other Club members or officers. These pre-runs can be a lot of fun, since the inevitable route snafus will be shaken out, often with considerable amusement of the small, pre-run group. A pre-run should always be done within a week prior to the date of the actual Club drive, to scout for issues such as oil-and-chips, bridge outages, etc. These situations could require some modifications to the route, and you’ll need to give yourself time to do this.

- **The Sign-in Sheet and Release Form**
 - The drive leader or a Club officer **must** provide sign-in sheets that include the accepted release form on the reverse side of each sheet. Bring enough blank forms to accommodate all the anticipated participants; each form has space for 15. These documents are available from the Club.
- **HAVE FUN!!**