

February 24,2025

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR ROAD RELICS MINI-TOUR PREPARATION

Overview.

Driving tours and other outside activities are a special part of our club. They offer interesting things to see and do while at the same time providing us with a rolling car show for the general public and an opportunity to socialize with one another and do what all members enjoy doing – talking about our and others cars!

In general, a Mini-Tour should be a one-day outing. But not a fast rule. We have had Mini-Tours with an overnight stop. It just requires another layer of preparation and scheduling. The important feature of a Mini-Tour is that it is short and we do not need the safety net of a recovery trailer following us.

The key to a successful Mini-Tour is advance planning and fresh ideas for the event. The best way to ensure fresh ideas is for everyone to take a turn planning one. Give it a try by signing up to host a Mini-Tour! We welcome the participation of all members - individually, couples, collaboration with another member in the club. Below is a Step-By-Step guide on how to start and proceed with a successful Mini-Tour! Good Luck!

Step One. Volunteer to Lead a Mini-Tour.

So, you volunteered (or have been volun-told) to lead a Mini-Tour. This is a great opportunity to learn and share more about your area of town, parade the old cars around the community, and exercise your car like it was meant to. Keeping you and it on the road and about in the town is the key to the health of the hobby and your vehicles.

Step Two. Start Early and Get it on the Club Calendar.

Sometimes you will have the luxury of choosing the month for your Mini-Tour, while other times you may be asked to plan a Mini-Tour for a specific month. In either case, chose a date for the Mini-Tour. Select a Mini-Tour NAME or THEME, a rendezvous point, and a departure time for the tour. The details can be worked out later. Get this information to the FenderTalk Editor and the President AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to allow our members to reserve the date and participate.

Step Three. Vehicle Maintenance.

Do your vehicle maintenance before the tour. It's much easier to do this work in your garage than on the shoulder of a road. Although there's a lot of experience and some tools available for unplanned repairs, if you know there's a problem, get it done ahead of time. This goes for the participants too! Always look back and make sure they haven't pulled off while the other half jump in to help.

Step Four. Find a Meeting Place.

Is there something you have seen or someplace you have been that you want to share with the rest of the membership but never got around to visiting? It does not matter if your selection is not an automobile related venue as long as it is interesting and fun for our group. In finding a meeting place, consider that members may have to travel long distances just to get to the starting point. Some members may also TRAILER their car and will need a trailer parking space at the starting point. Nearby fuel, coffee, restrooms, and accessibility are appreciated. Make sure your meeting place has the space for many vehicles and a good exit for a chain of cars to stay together.

Step Five. Plan Your Route.

As you plan your route, use Google Maps or a real paper map (AAA still has them if you are a member) to select scenic routes to the places you want to go for the tour. Once you select the route, test it yourself to find, if on a similar day and time, that the actual event will happen so the timing works. Always consider that you may have some older, slower cars on tour with no lights (or good reliable brakes). TIMING is everything so allow slack time. It will get consumed by shopping or by breakdowns along the route. Our club tours are always the best when there is a meal involved, so plan for a lunch stop along the way or at the end point. Make arrangements with the restaurant well in advance with the head count and arrival time. Keep the tour together up to some natural end point. Anticipate any delays in traffic, construction, or road closure and have an escape route. It may lead to confusion when the day of the tour coincides with a bike race on the same streets.

Step Six. Promote the Tour During at Least One Club Meeting.

At the first available club meeting after you find a meeting place and potential destination, ask for time from the President to speak briefly about the planned tour. As a minimum, discuss the general tour location and routing, any special features that will entice participants to go that normally do not attend. If there are anticipated expenses such as lunch or admission fees, share this with the attendees. If there are issues with the expenses look at other alternatives. Get commitments from those attendees who want to go by distributing a sign-up Sheet at the meeting. The sign-up sheet should include the Date, Name and Location of the Event, Attendees Name, email and cell phone.

Step Seven. Provide Directions and Maps.

Prepare a written description of the route with traffic lights, turns, intermediate stops, destinations for events, eating and potty breaks along the way with one or more maps and detailed directions as needed. Include street names, route numbers, and landmarks near intersections. Considering that some older vehicles don't have a trip meter, it helps to have turn-by-turn instructions showing both mileage between points and total mileage along the route at each turn or stop.

Step Eight. Communicate the Tour.

One of the main keys to attendance is communicating with the membership well in advance and often. Send out an electronic "save the date" to get on member's calendar. Publish an invitation in the FenderTalk newsletter giving a brief description of the area to be explored, some key points, any entrance fees, special needs, and the meeting time and place. Continue to announce it at the meetings and send around a sign-up sheet. The week of the Mini-Tour send out one more Announcement with a request for an attendance confirmation reply.

Step Nine. Get an Accurate Headcount.

Make a final headcount of the members attending, types of cars, any mobility restrictions of the attendees and the cars. Collect cell phone numbers of your participants and load into your cell phone so they are handy to get to.

Step Ten. Meet Up.

Once everyone starts showing up, continually check your headcount list and phone any late arrivers to check on them.

Step Eleven. Line Vehicles & People Up.

The slowest cars usually go in the front and they set the speed. Modern cars follow in the rear and provide a valuable service by protecting the group with flashing lights and picking up parts that fall off. The last follow car and its visibility lets the leader know that the group has made it through intersections and lights and is still together.

Step Twelve. Stay Together.

By staying together and following the leader the people filming us pass makes for good video. If a street light cycle is too quick, plan a pull over spot to re-group. Or advise people to approach the light in multiple lanes and then merge back together after the stop. Keep an eye for the last car – a yellow or red one is great to have as the caboose.

Step Thirteen. Set the Pace.

Create a leisurely pace while avoiding stressful situations. Figure that a long line of cars is slower than regular travel. If the leader gets ahead, other cars may have to speed to catch up. Check for visibility and anticipate how all vehicles can make it through a transition. Remember that three right turns make a left turn!

Step Fourteen. Do Not Get Lost.

U-turns are a good way to see everyone on the tour again. Wave at them. That way they'll remember you when it comes to award nominations. Find out of the way and less traveled routes. Ask about dirt roads in advance. Get mentally lost – just not physically lost.

Step Fifteen. Do Not Run Out of Gas.

Think "full gas tank, empty bladder!" Plan for stops as many places to service both needs. Non-ethanol fuel is an appreciated consideration.

Step Sixteen. Take Lots of Photographs and Videos.

Encourage other attendees to capture the event from their perspective. You'll need these for the next step.

Step Seventeen. Write an Article for the FenderTalk.

Write it up! You are the person best suited for interpreting the Mini-Tour's success and promoting it through an article for our FenderTalk newsletter. In preparation, collect photos, videos and commentary from the attendees. The members who were not there want to know what happened and may not be at the next Club meeting when we talk about it. Make sure you make a complete list of attendees and their vehicles during the tour to include those that may have only shown up for a portion of the tour – they need credit for attendance too. Give yourself a deadline to write your article, usually a week or so and submit it before the FenderTalk deadline for that month. If this is your first article, talk to the Editor for advice. And give a copy of the attendance list to the Awards Committee Chair for potential recognition at the end of the year.

Step Eighteen. Sign Up Again.

Now that you have found out how much fun it can be to plan a Mini-Tour and how rewarding the experience can be, SIGN UP AGAIN! Make it an annual event.

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