



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 2

## October, 2011.

### RENEW! (please)

*If you have not already renewed your membership for this year, please do so NOW using this handy-dandy checklist:*

- Dig up the membership form that was delivered with the September newsletter (I believe it was "Salmon" colored) or download one from [hampshirebirdclub.org/join](http://hampshirebirdclub.org/join)
- Choose your membership contribution for this year,
- Make a donation for the work of the Education Committee if you wish,
- Complete the Membership Form and the Field Trip Release Form,
- Mail the above (with your check if needed) to the club, or bring them along on October 17.

Note: The newsletter takes up pages 1-6 of this document. Pages 6-9 are the **HBC Field Trip Policy and Guidelines**.

### NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, October 17 at 7:30 PM**

**Sam Fried** looks a little deeper at **Warblers and Vireos**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Sam Fried will be taking us on a journey through warbler land, with a close look at all 38 species of eastern wood warblers. He'll explore life histories, migration routes, wintering grounds and breeding locations throughout the western hemisphere. This will be a fun and fascinating look at these jewels of the North American birding kingdom!

**Sam Fried** is a past president of Hartford Audubon Society. He has had hundreds of photographs and over 50 feature articles published in field guides, books, newspapers and magazines worldwide, including *National Audubon*, *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birding* and *Living Bird Quarterly* magazines. He wrote several chapters of the Insight Guides book *Birding in North America*, and is now a golf and fishing writer as well. Sam founded Flights of Fancy Adventures, LLC, a birding, photography, natural history and golf travel company offering small group, low cost, high quality trips to North, Central and South American destinations.

### COMING PROGRAMS

**November 14, 2011. John Cecil.** IBAs from Top to Bottom.

**December 12, 2011. Members Meeting.**

**January 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron.** Panama and Costa Rica.

### Welcome New Members

**Betsy Atkins**  
**Catherine "Katie" Fox**  
**Eugenie Harvey**

South Hadley  
Sunderland  
Amherst

## ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The club offers an on-line (or “electronic”) version of the newsletter, as an alternative to the “hard copy” delivered via USPS.

### “How does that work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure. You need to give us an email address on the membership form in order to get the on-line version.

### “What’s the point?”

You can archive our publication electronically, without accumulating paper files. You reduce postage costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

### What if I encounter technical difficulties?

Most users last year had no difficulty. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the “Hard Copy” mailing list.

### What are the computer/software requirements?

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader software (version 5.0 or later) on your system. If you do not have it already, this software is available FREE via a link at the club Website

### How do I sign up?

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form.

### I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?

We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year’s membership form.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **New South Beach, Chatham, MA. Saturday, July 30.**

Sally Hills, Helga Beatty, Sue Emerson, Juliana Vanderwielen, and **David Peake-Jones** strolled South Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts for the early shorebird migration. A bevy of Osprey greeted us as we arrived at the dock, and we the enjoyed a brief ride out to the beach. We made our way slowly eastward, gradually acclimating our sullen senses to the nuances of shape and form which are crucial in shorebird ID. We found pleasing numbers of the usual suspects: lots of Short-billed Dowitchers, peeps, Piping Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. When finally we reached the cul-de-sac which exists where once the waters of the Atlantic flowed between South Beach and North Monomoy, we were greeted by a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, and a raft of Common Terns. But the jewels on offer here were no fewer than 26 **Hudsonian Godwits** (in a bewildering array of plumages), and a scattering of **Red Knots**, always reassuring to see.

After pausing for a lunch break, we then began to work our way back up the beach toward the distant pick-up point. Forced up against the beds of grass by the rising tide, we found a number of **Whimbrel**, and got a brief and all-too-unsatisfying glimpse of a **Marbled Godwit** lurking amongst its curvi-rostral brethren. There were plenty of birds, including more Red Knots, to tantalize us with the prospect of a rarity, but none that actually rose to that challenge. Nevertheless we savored these enigmatic citizens of sand and shore for too long, and found ourselves on a death march to the pick-up point at the end of the day, by which time the finer points of pinion and call were forgotten in the need to get off the beach. Sue was so eager to get on the boat that she threw herself headlong into the shallows, in front of a bemused audience of swimmers who had trekked all of 200 measly yards from the beach. Fortunately, our beloved Membership Secretary is made of stern stuff and sustained no injury other than a little crumpled pride. It’s always a great day on the beach, and today was no exception.

David Peake-Jones

### **Knightville Dam. Saturday, September 10.**

**Betsy Higgins** led Leslie Hoffman, David Peake-Jones, Elissa & Bernie Rubenstein, Helga Beatty, Jacob Drucker, Marcia Merithew, Mary Alice Wilson, and Andrew Magee on a very pleasant day out to Knightville Dam and the east meadows of Northampton. Most noteworthy to me and I suspect others were the absolutely raging mosquitos thanks to Irene, Lee, and Katia (the fiercest, most numerous mosquito hordes of my year), a very swollen brown river coming out from below the dam ("torrent ducks"?, asked Jacob), and a look for everyone at Betsy's pulled-out-of-the-freezer Wilson's Petrel she found, after Hurricane Irene, right in her Florence (Northampton) neighborhood. IMAGINE this thing, weighing about as much as an oak leaf, born at the sea-edge in the Falklands, or South Georgia, or the Antarctic continent itself, hurtled to its demise WAY up inland into a leafy, sort of John Updike, north-west Atlantic, New England suburb. What a magnificent and ultimately untoward journey, poor thing! Noteworthy as well were a couple of more normal but also very far-flung travelers: 2 apparently juvenal **Golden Plovers** winging over the Meadows looking for a safe landing.

Also pleasing were a surprisingly few, distant, mostly probably migrating raptors, including a majority-but-not-exclusively-decided Red-Shoulder, and a Sharpie-(approximately 1400 LESS raptors than were seen at Mt. Watatic on the same day); and a nice, normal, Confusing, Hiding in-and-zipping-through-the-leaves fall-warbler-run, including B-and-W, Red -(and Yellow-)starts, Pine, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Canada, B-t Green, and a whole lotta Northern Parula. And Red-eyed Vireos. I had to add that, because I was kind of a pooped-out red-eyed Virgo, myself. Good vibes, nice day, not too exciting. Thanks, Betsy!  
And Betsy reminds me not to forget the beaver we saw swimming in Knightville Dam.

Andrew Magee

### **East Meadows. Saturday, September 17**

Bob Bieda led eight folks to survey the East Meadows of Northampton. Most of Irene's flood waters had receded leaving a silt line on vegetation that indicated the water level had been well over our heads in some areas. The lowest part of the meadows was still flooded and this area contained a surprising number of ducks, including about twenty **Blue-winged Teal**, ten **Green-winged Teal**, a few Wood Ducks, Black Ducks and dozens of Mallards. Blue-winged Teal in any numbers is an uncommon bird in our area. Other highlights included a pair of **American Kestrels**, often sitting side by side, allowing a nice size comparison between male and female. There were also several **Indigo Buntings**. We saw about 35 species.

The recent flooding has apparently created conditions good for producing an amazing number of mosquitoes.

Bob Bieda

### **Hardwick and Environs. Sunday, September 25.**

About a dozen birders, a mixture of the Hampshire and East Quabbin Bird Clubs, met **Chris Beulow** at Hardwick Town Common on September 25. The birding started before we even got into the field, as some potted Scarlet Sage next to our meeting place attracted a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Chris led us from there to Pine Island, a private tract where he had been birding for many years:

[http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/pineislandhardwick\\_8.html](http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/pineislandhardwick_8.html)

This area was amazingly birdy, to the point that we often did not know which way to look! We noted at least seven species of warbler, two vireo species, and seven sparrows. Nashville and Palm Warblers, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Blue-headed Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow were some of the highlights; a Brown Creeper was heard but not seen, and a Dark-eyed Junco was a first of the year for the one birder who spotted it. As we were leaving, a horde of Cedar Waxwings, Savannah Sparrows, and American Goldfinches escorted us back to our cars.

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## Hardwick and Environs. September 25 (continued)

Next we headed to Winimusset Wildlife Management Area:

[http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/winimussetbraintree\\_11.html](http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/winimussetbraintree_11.html)

Our visit there started slowly, but as we trekked through an agricultural field we flushed five **Wilson's Snipe** at close range, and when we got closer to the water a Belted Kingfisher perched up and a Double-Crested Cormorant circled high overhead. We also had a good time looking at insects and wildflowers, highlighted by a Black Saddlebags (dragonfly).

From another vantage point in Winimusset (one of the favorite hang-out spots of the late, great Chris Ellison) we had a Great Blue Heron, then two Blue-winged Teal. Wood Ducks (and Painted Turtles) were scattered all across the wetland. As the sun peeked out and warmed things up, raptors started appearing in the sky, including an American Kestrel and a distant Peregrine Falcon. One carload of people left a bit early; they must have functioned as the sacrificial birders, because a Pied-billed Grebe appeared just after they left!

Our final stop was Mandell Hill, a preserve owned and managed by the East Quabbin Land Trust:

[http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/mandell\\_hill\\_hardwick\\_6.html](http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/mandell_hill_hardwick_6.html)

Chris filled us in on the history of the site, including the former 30-acre tangle of Multiflora Rose and Asiatic Bittersweet that has been transformed by grazing Devon cattle into a pasture populated by Meadowlarks and Bobolinks, with some previously undetectable stone walls across it. We also saw the newly installed footings for the Chris Ellison memorial birding platform that is being built on the Hill, in a spot noted for good nighthawk flights. Just to confirm that the tower is being well placed, we saw two Cooper's Hawks soar overhead within our first few minutes there, followed by a Red-tailed Hawk being repeatedly dive-bombed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a mob of Chipping Sparrows and Eastern Bluebirds working their way across the meadow. I'm sure that Chris would approve... and that the rest of us will return!

Josh Rose

## COMING TRIPS

(see also the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**)

**\*Saturday, October 8. Middleboro.** All Day. Explore the Cumberland Farms Fields in Middleboro with Scott Sumner, looking for shorebirds, sparrows, and late warbler migrants. Meet at Sumner Heating at 60 Shumway Street in Amherst at 5:30. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for details. (E)

**\*Saturday, October 15. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron leads his annual trip to the southeast to see what's flying along the coast. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

**\*Saturday, October 29. Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen and Sue Emerson will join Strickland Wheelock and his crew at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA for an evening of netting and banding Saw-whet Owls. Visitors help check the nets for owls every 45 minutes, then observe as crew members weigh, measure, and band the owls. Visitors often participate in releasing the owls. Bring a camera to record a great evening in the outdoors and, with luck, an owl or two. More information will be available at the September meeting. This trip is limited to 12 participants and costs \$20. (If participants want to jointly rent a van with a driver, there will be an additional \$15 charge.) For information and to register call Sue Emerson (413-584-6736) and to reserve a place send a non-refundable check for \$20 payable to "HBC" to Janice Jorgensen (HBC; 150 River Drive; Hadley, MA 01035). (E)

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## Coming Trips (continued)

**\*Saturday, November 5. Champlain Valley, VT.** All day. Geoff LeBaron heads north to the shores of Lake Champlain looking for Snow Geese and perhaps a Ross' Goose or two (around Dead Creek WMA), as well as other winter specialties for the area (Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Rough-legged Hawks, etc.). As the date approaches, call Geoff (413-268-9281) for details and meeting information. (E)

**Sunday, November 6. Berkshire Lakes.** All day. Join Tom Gagnon for his annual trip seeking out migrating water fowl and donuts. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:15 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for further details. (M)

## LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library, located at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, and

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

*The collection is catalogued on-line at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org).*

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. Henry Lappen, the librarian, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at **(413) 549 3722**.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Mole Salamanders of the Connecticut River Valley:** *Noah Charney*

Thursday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Fee.

**Photographing Fall Colors At The Quabbin:** *John Green,*

Sunday, October 16, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Fee.

**Studying Mountain Lions With Mark Elbroch:** *Mark Elbroch,*

Wednesday, October 26, 7-9 p.m. Fee. Location to be determined.

**Introduction To The Geology Of The Connecticut River Valley:** *Richard Little*

Evening Presentation: Friday, October 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Field Trip: Saturday, October 29, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

(Rain Date for Field Trip: Sunday, October 30). Fee.

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual :Larch Hill English-Style X-Country Classic**

Saturday, October 29, at Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst, adjacent to the Hitchcock Center.

**Deep-Energy-Retrofitting Your Home:** *Bick Corsa*

Sunday, November 6, 2-4 p.m. Free.

*For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at [www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

Save the Date: Northampton Christmas Count  
Sunday, December 18. Potluck to follow.

### Big Sit

This year's edition of the **Big Sit** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 9**. For anyone not familiar with the event, it is a hybrid of a birding contest and a tailgate party. The rules are, each team declares a location, and during the day of the Sit, can only count birds from within a 17-foot diameter circle at that location. Number of participants is limited only to how many can fit in the circle; people often come and go through the day, and coolers or delivery of food and drink are customary. Counters can leave the circle but not count birds unless they see them from within the circle. Participation is free; the only prize for the team with the most species is bragging rights, though there is a Golden Bird Award, decided more or less by random drawing, which could be won by any team regardless of how many species they saw, with the winner getting to donate \$500 to the environmental nonprofit group of their choice.

For complete details, see <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php>

I have been participating in the Big Sit for several years, mostly from south Texas on behalf of the World Birding Center. Two years ago, I moved to Massachusetts, and teamed with Chris Ellison to do the Big Sit from Windsor Dam on the Quabbin Reservoir. We were the only team in the state to enter and recorded 42 species. Last year, I teamed with Chris Ciccone and Jason Forbes for a Big Sit on Plum Island; two other teams entered from Massachusetts, but we finished first in the state and 25<sup>th</sup> in the country with 68 species. This year, I will be part of the **Chris Ellison All-Stars** (currently numbering three). We will be sitting for the day at **Stage Island Pool in the Parker River NWR (Plum Island)**. Anyone else interested in teaming up with me, send me an e-mail or find me on FaceBook. Anyone wanting to declare their own Big Sit circle and enter the competition, bring it on! See the website above to register.

Josh Rose, [opihi@mindspring.com](mailto:opihi@mindspring.com), <http://www.facebook.com/opihi>

### The Big Year

"The Big Year" hits theaters on October 14. This movie is based on the wonderful 2004 book by Mark Obmasik. The book follows the history of Big Years, all the way back to Roger Tory Peterson, but the movie is focused (like the majority of the book) on the competition that arose in 1998 when Sandy Komito, Greg Miller, and Al Levantin all tried to break the US Big Year record simultaneously. Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin are playing the three birders, with Angelica Huston, Brian Dennehy, and an astounding list of other recognizable actors lined up in support. Hollywood is not usually kind to our pastime, but the book was excellent, so hopes are high for the movie to be as well. See you there!

Josh Rose

***Backyard Birds*** (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia. They also offer a 10% discount to Hampshire Bird Club Members. Remember, when you shop locally, your money stays here!

That's all for this month  
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
529 9541  
[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. FIELD TRIP POLICY 2010-2011

1. Field trips are an essential activity of the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC). They are an important way to increase members' interest in and knowledge of birds, birding, and bird habitat. Field trips are announced in the HBC newsletter, on the website and at monthly meetings.
2. Each year, all HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form. Minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. Please request a form from HBC if you want to authorize another adult to accompany your child.
- 3 The HBC conducts two different types of field trips: Day Trips and Overnight Trips.

**Day Trips** are planned by the Field Trip Committee, who prepare the schedule and select leaders. Day Trips generally do not require extensive planning by the trip leader. No costs other than travel (see #4 below), meals, and incidental fees will be involved. If requested to do so in the newsletter, participants must call the trip leader in advance to express interest in the trip. This allows the leader more flexibility and the opportunity to change the trip itinerary should that seem desirable. Day trips are open to both HBC members and non-members unless restricted to members by the host site.

**Overnight Trips** (2 or more days, reasonable driving distance) are planned by the Field Trip Committee and approved by the HBC Board at least 3 months in advance (see #5 below). Such trips generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, arranging for lodging and travel. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs (including liability insurance) plus a prorated amount to cover reimbursement of the leader's expenses (see #5 below). All fees, including the trip deposit, shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. In the event of a cancellation, if the vacancy can be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, less a 10% processing charge. If the vacancy cannot be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, with the following exceptions:

- a) the portion of the trip fee that covers a share of the leaders costs,
- b) the portion of the fee that covers the insurance charge, and
- c) any portion of the fee which has already been paid to another party and cannot be recovered by the club.

Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met will be refunded, unless they are less than ten dollars per person, in which case they will revert to the HBC treasury. Overnight trips are open only to HBC members who have signed a release form and who have completed a medical information form.

4. The HBC Board recommends that passengers reimburse owners of vehicles used on HBC trips for costs associated with vehicle operation. The maximum recommended reimbursement is the federal government employee mileage reimbursement rate, rounded down to the nearest 10 cents, plus tolls and parking to be shared equally by all persons in the car including the driver. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making carpool arrangements.

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**Hampshire Bird Club Field Trip Policy (continued) Page 2 of 2**

5. Leaders of Overnight Trips shall:
  - a. Submit a trip plan to the Field Trip Committee, which must be approved by the Board at least 3 months in advance of the trip. The plan should describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible. Include an itinerary, estimated cost, conditions of lodging and lead time needed for reservations, roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, extra costs not covered by the fee, date of deposit and final payment, date after which fee is not refundable, and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip. Repeat trips led by the same leader need only submit necessary changes to the previous plan. The Board can waive the 3-month planning time if there is a special birding opportunity.
  - b. Consult with the membership secretary before the trip to make sure that all participants have signed the HBC Release Form and obtain a signed Medical Information Form from each participant.
  - c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip. The maximum reimbursement for automobile travel shall be one quarter of the costs incurred by a single vehicle under clause 4 of this policy.
  - d. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
6. The Field Trip Chair will send all participants in overnight trips the Field Trip Evaluation Form and a Medical Information Form. The completed evaluation form, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders. Participants should give their signed Medical Information form to the trip leader prior to departure.
7. Leaders of both Day and Overnight Trips are asked to submit a Trip Highlights Report to the newsletter editor for publication in the next HBC newsletter.
8. HBC may ask professional bird touring organization to organize trips further away than the Overnight Trips. All responsibilities for planning the trip and all liability will be assumed by the touring organization. Such trips must be approved by the Board at least 6 months in advance.



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

# Field Trip Guidelines for Field Trip Participants and Drivers: 2011-2012

### All Participants:

All HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form each year. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Membership Secretary or check the "Join" section of the HBC Website.

Please call the trip leader at least a few days before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.

Please do not bring pets and check with the leader before bringing children on a trip. Many of the trips are not appropriate for children. (All minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. See the Field Trip Policy for more information.)

Be on time at the meeting place. If you need to meet the group at the birding location, please offer to be early so the group can start promptly upon arrival. If you plan to leave the trip early, you must inform the leader in advance.

Carpooling is essential to allow the group to park when space is limited, reduce delays, reduce the likelihood of auto accidents and to reduce the chances of the group becoming separated. If possible, carpool from the valley. If the caravan has to pause multiple times en route to the birding location to collect participants, this tends to create delays.

Even if you meet the group at the birding location, PLEASE be willing to carpool while birding is in progress.

The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making all carpool arrangements.

Be prepared with binoculars, appropriate clothing (including protection from ticks), food and water. Assume the weather will be more extreme on the trip than at home and prepare accordingly.

Please share costs with courtesy. We recommend a cost of \$0.50 cents per mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally among the driver and all passengers, but the rate for your vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers. Please agree on a mileage rate or flat contribution BEFORE the trip leaves to avoid misunderstandings. Please bring cash or checks and be prepared to reimburse the driver at the time of the trip.

HBC always encourages new birders to participate in trips. It is the responsibility of all trip members, leader and participants, to help new birders learn both identification techniques and bird observing skills.

While birding, please stay close to the group unless you have some specific reason to separate, and inform the leader if you are doing so. This reduces delays and distractions for the entire group.

All participants are responsible for their own safety. Use common sense if you feel that any part of the trip is too arduous for you. Always check with the trip leader if you have any questions or medical concerns about the trip.

### Drivers:

1. It is the responsibility of the car owner to meet all registration, insurance, and inspection regulations.
2. Please fill up your tank before the trip and set your odometer at the beginning of the trip.
3. If the trip is going to caravan, follow common sense rules to make sure no one is put in danger or lost.
  - Stay in the same order so that you know which car is in front of you and which car is behind you.
  - If the car behind you is stopped by a light, pull safely to the side of the road so that you can wait until that car catches up.
  - If you are driving the car or cars catching up with the group, slow down so that the lead/stopped cars can pull in front of you.
  - It is a good idea for all caravan drivers to have their lights on.
4. Always have a description of the next major stop from the trip leader so that, should the caravan become separated, you can join the group at the next major stop.