



Road Runner

A Monthly Publication for the Members & Friends of the First Coast Miata Club

Daytona Motor Speedway Tour

We will do an All-Access Tour of the Daytona 500. Please RSVP early (see below) so we can reserve our spot...it is first come first serve.

Date: Saturday, February 24th, 8:00 am departure

We will leave at 8am from Gate Gas Station 12705 DURBIN LAKE DR, Jacksonville, FL 32258. We will have a relaxing drive down A1A arriving at the Speedway around 10:30am. We will target the 11:30am tour.

Tour Info:

On the 90-minute All Access Tour, guests will have a unique opportunity to explore the 2.5-mile Speedway from a variety of vantage points. Take the rare opportunity to come face-to-face with the track as you visit the well-known start/finish line and 31-degree high banks or ride down pit road to get a close-up view of the pit stalls. This tour provides you with unprecedented access like a visit to the media deadline room, a photo in Gatorade Victory Lane and a look inside the world's first motor-sports stadium as you hop onto one of the 40 escalators and are transported into the new front stretch stadium for a stunning view of the tri-oval and infield.

End the day by standing next to the car of this year's DAYTONA 500 champion, left in the same condition as the day it conquered the World Center of Racing.

Following your tour, fans can now access the new Motorsports Hall of Fame of America that is now housed in the DIS Ticket and Tours Building, showcasing spectacular displays honoring all forms of motorsports: Stock Cars, Sports Cars, Open-Wheel, Motorcycles, Drag Racing, Land Speed Records, Powerboating and Aviation.

Pricing:

Adults: \$25.00
Children (6-12): \$19.00
Children (5 and younger): Free

RSVP NLT 2/18/2018 to John Watson via 1 of these:

- 1) Facebook (Click "Going")
- 2) Email (john061468@yahoo.com)
- 3) @monthly meeting



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January Chili Treasure Drive to Jekyll Island by John Watson

A group of 8 Miatas and an Alpha 4C made the ride up to historic Jekyll Island Saturday January 27th. We all met for a nice breakfast at Cracker Barrel before the 90-minute drive. Our first stop was at the welcome center. From here we loaded up on maps and planned out our adventure. Since the weather was overcast and misty we all decided on either the Sea Turtle Museum or a guided tram tour of the entire 240-acre historic district. The Sea Turtle Center, since it opened June 16, 2007, has treated more than 3,000 patients of various species. Housed in the former power plant of the Jekyll Island Club, the center sees more than 100,000 visitors annually and is funded by gift shop and admission sales, grants and the Jekyll Island Authority and foundation. In addition to monitoring 1,256 sea turtle nests since 2007, the center has treated 1,333 diamond back terrapins, and 1,125 turtles.



The history of Jekyll Island is just as fascinating. In 1733, General James Oglethorpe named Jekyll Island in honor of Sir Joseph Jekyll, his friend and financier from England. In the late 1800s, Jekyll Island became an exclusive hunting club for families with names like Rockefeller, Morgan, Vanderbilt, Pulitzer, and Baker. The once private retreat is now part of *The Jekyll Island Club National Historic Landmark District*, one of the largest preservation projects in the southeast. In 1947, the Governor and the Georgia state legislature established Jekyll Island as a State Park. Today, the island is a special sanctuary for each of us – and the Jekyll Island Authority is proud to share the island’s history.



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After our tour we had a nice lunch at Tortugas. Along the way some of us went shopping or discovered driftwood beach and even found a shark swallowing an elf whole!







Daniel McCelvey Named 2017 Solo Driver of the Year

TOPEKA, Kan. (Jan. 21, 2018) -- The SCCA® Solo® Driver of the Year, chosen by the Solo Events Board from nominations submitted by the membership at large, is awarded to the competitor who has demonstrated exceptional skill or has overcome major obstacles to produce an outstanding performance at the Tire Rack SCCA Solo National Championship. This year's winner is Daniel McCelvey, of the Houston Region.

A Solo Championship demands laser-like focus and millimeter precision over two days. However, there are plenty of distractions during Solo Nationals. This year, one immense distraction impacted several competitors: Hurricane Harvey. The storm's two-day rampage along the Gulf Coast displaced families and flooded homes of SCCA members, and almost kept McCelvey from making the trip to Lincoln, Nebraska.

But with Harvey's flood waters receding from their home and a cleanup crew assembling, McCelvey's wife, Laurie, convinced him to pack up and head to Lincoln Airpark. There, a tall task awaited in the C Street class which had been condensed from the previous year, had cars more similar, and more intense competition.

Through Thursday, McCelvey battled cone penalties and course conditions to earn the slimmest, .002-second lead. On Friday, he extended that slim margin by an astonishing 1.295 seconds thanks to laser focus and millimeter precision, thus securing the class victory.

Kudos to McCelvey for his driving achievement and ability to overcome Hurricane Harvey's impact. A very impressive performance indeed.



FCMC Events Calendar

- **February 13 - 6:30 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 6050 Youngerman Circle, Jacksonville FL 32244. Come out for the delicious food and stay late to pop a few hoods!

- **February 24 - 8:00 A.M. Daytona Motor Speedway Tour**

If you like racing in any form, this is a trip you don't want to miss! If racing isn't your "thing" the trip will give you a great day of fun and experiences you've probably never had before. See all the details on the front page and hope you can make it.

- **March 13 - 6:30 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting**

Club meeting site to be determined. It will probably be at an excellent restaurant again! That's my guess. The suspense is killing me... Stay tuned.

Upcoming/Planned Events:

March 24 - Royal Palm Railway Experience

April 7 - Space Coast Warbird Show

Happy February Birthday to:

Kim Pepe-Cordero, Jim Padgett
Bill Ogden,
Kenneth Hall, Rich Iulucci

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

The *Road Runner* is published monthly for the First Coast Miata Club of Northeast Florida. The editor and the First Coast Miata Club assume no liability for information contained herein, or for injury or damages resulting from use of such information and should be used at the reader's own discretion and risk. Neither contributors to the newsletter nor the editors express approval, authentication or encouragement of the contents. Neither the First Coast Miata Club, its officers, nor its members are responsible for injury or damages incurred during the events. All members are required to possess valid individual drivers licenses, insurance policies in accordance with Florida state law, and to follow all laws and regulations.



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We're on the Web! Check us out!
Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org
Fan Page: facebook.com/firstcoastmiataclub
Group Page: facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Chevy Silverado owner goes four-wheeling, sinks brand-new truck in frozen pond

We've all done stupid stuff in cars. For a couple of friends, it ended with a new Chevy Silverado and a rented backhoe sunk and stuck several feet deep in a frozen pond in western Illinois.

The owner was in the passenger seat while the driver took the truck out on what they believed to be a frozen field. The ice on the pond did a decent job of supporting the truck for a bit before eventually giving way. The truck's owner told his friend to head back to the edge. They nearly made it, too.

In an effort to free the truck, the pair then rented a backhoe. That ended up frozen in the surface ice and mud as well.

The property owner was understandably irked, as the owner of the Silverado didn't have permission to be there. Though the property owner wants the truck and the backhoe gone, his biggest concern is the danger illegal four-wheeling poses in the case of an accident or a rollover. The Silverado's owner should be the one really on edge. When the ice melts he'll find his truck 6 to 7 feet deep underwater. And then what will it cost to repair or replace the backhoe? James Bond's Lotus Esprit might be built for that, but we're not sure the Chevy is prepped as a submersible.

