

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



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Saturday, March 16th,

It's Rally Time!

## The Great Mural Scavenger Hunt

Come out for a day of fun in Palatka! Yes, ...*Palatka!*

This wonderful hidden, and often overlooked jewel of a town along the St. John's has a lot more than immediately meets the eye!

Paula Horning has created a great rally in and around the city that showcases many of its murals. It's a fun drive with a surprise around nearly every corner. There will be a prize for the most

correct answers, and of course afterwards,  
lunch at 1:30 along the river at Corky Bells.

Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M. Departure at 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Place: The parking lot by the Gate Gas Station  
1490 County Road 220, Fleming Island, 32003

So, get a Navigator, as rallies are always safer, easier and more fun with two people.

**See you on the 16th to  
Hunt Some Murals!**



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# Battle of Olustee - Feb 16, 2019 by Steve Janas







## 2019 Mazda MX-5 Miata 30th Anniversary Edition goes bold

Orange you glad it's ... orange?

For a car with a mischievous grin and penchant for fun, the MX-5 Miata's color palette is on the drab side, but thankfully the 30th Anniversary Edition gets a vivid hue called Racing Orange. Mazda says it "evokes the breaking dawn of an exciting new day," and that it's partly inspired by the bright yellow of the Miata Club Racer concept from 1989. That's all well and good, but it looks to us more like the orange from the 1991 Le Mans-winning Mazda 787B race car. Whatever the reason, we dig the color.

It will be important that the new owners like it, too, because the color is everywhere. It's on the brake calipers, door sills, air vents, stitching and piping. Everything else is a black or charcoal color, including the gorgeous Rays forged aluminum wheels, exclusive to this model, and the Alcantara trim on the dash, doors and seats. All versions of the special Miata come with Recaro seats, Brembo brakes, Bose sound system and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The manual models add a limited-slip differential, Bilstein shocks and a front shock tower brace.

Mazda isn't making many of these special Miatas, with just 3,000 of the soft top and RF combined for the world. The U.S. will get only 500. Customers can order one now at a special configuration website, and they had better bring plenty of cash. The manual soft top starts at \$35,915, and the manual RF starts at \$38,515. Adding an automatic ups the price by \$499 on the soft top and \$400 on the RF.





## Mazda engineer explains why there won't be a Mazdaspeed3

Cost is the main factor, but that might be a good thing for enthusiasts

When Mazda put the new, beautiful Mazda3 on its stand at last year's L.A. Auto Show, it didn't take long before someone asked about a Mazdaspeed3. It took even less time for the Japanese automaker's new global boss, Akira Marumoto, to cite his company's small size and say, "[My] answer would be no." During first drives of the compact hatch last month, Road & Track asked Mazda development vehicle engineer Dave Coleman what Mazda would need in order to resurrect an MPS version. Coleman detailed a few reasons for the Mazdaspeed's continued hiatus, the prohibitive cost foremost. But another hitch is that the Mazdaspeed we'd get now isn't the Mazdaspeed enthusiasts would want.

Coleman told the magazine, "If we had an engine on the shelf that would fit that properly, then we could talk." But the price to develop an engine and supporting hardware to do the car right isn't in the budget for an automaker of Mazda's size.

Perhaps more important, though, present-day Mazda wouldn't — and couldn't — whip up another raw, rapid hatch. The competition, and consumers, have changed. "Even the Mazdaspeed 3, in its last iteration, came out as raw as it did due to the constraints," Coleman said, and today's market won't put up with that kind of buzzy, excitable uncouth anymore. The question is, even if Mazda had the money, do the buyers pining for a zoom-zoomier Mazda3 want the mature, composed hot hatch they'd be offered?



## 30th Anniversary Mazda MX-5 Miata sells out immediately

It took four hours for the 500 U.S. cars to find buyers

Remember back in 2014, when Mazda released the 25th Anniversary Mazda MX-5 Miata and it sold out in 10 minutes? Now, just hours ago at the Chicago Auto Show, Mazda opened the books for the 30th Anniversary model — and you guessed right, it's now sold out as well.

This time around, it took four hours, but there's a difference: in 2014, there only were 100 25th Anniversary cars to pre-order, and for the big 3-0, Mazda allocated 500 U.S. cars. We're expecting the 2,500 rest-of-the-world cars will also sell out rather quickly.

The 25th Anniversary model was Soul Red, but in the lighting seen in the 2014 article it rather reminds us of the "Sunkist" orange of the original NA generation Miata color test car, the orange one out of six one-off special paint cars. This year's model is more clearly orange, a hue Mazda calls "Racing Orange" and says it's inspired by the 1989 Club Racer concept's ... bright yellow. In any case, it's a good match with the ND's swoopy flanks.

There is — we mean, was — a choice of regular Roadster from \$34,995 and the folding top RF version from \$37,995, and a choice of manual or automatic transmission. It took a refundable \$500 deposit to secure one of the 500 cars.



## FCMC Events Calendar

- **March 12 - 7:00 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 10144 Philips Hwy, Jacksonville FL 32256. Open for seating, dining and socializing @ 5:30. Stay for the meeting to get caught up on what's coming up for the club and then stay late to check out everyone's ride in the parking lot and pop a few hoods.

- **March 16 - 9:00 A.M. Fun Scavenger Hunt Rally!**

We're going to take your driving and navigation skills to the next level. Can you figure out the clues and solve the riddles and find everything? I bet you can't but there are prizes for those that do! Come out and join us on an adventure like no other! Check out the front page!

- **April 9 - 7:00 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting (Olive Garden)**

### Happy March Birthdays To:

**Gene Suskalo, Joanne Shap, Marilyn Cram, Gail LaFlamme  
Lisa Lutrario, Stephen Waddill, Darlene Eakle, Tim Friedl  
Doug Dycus, Roy Dickman and Steve Janas**

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firstcoastmiataclub](https://facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub)**

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## Nightmare: Man's car stolen while he's asleep in the backseat

NEWARK, Del. — A man's nap in the back of his car in Delaware turned into a nightmare after the car he was sleeping in was stolen and crashed. Musician Justin Koerner told the News Journal in Wilmington he had spent a night playing music with friends, went to sleep in his vehicle and had a dream.

"I had a weird dream that somebody sat on my head and that somebody jumped into the front seat of my car," Koerner told the newspaper. "It was all very surreal."

A Newark police statement says someone drove off in the car Sunday morning and bailed after seeing the man sleeping in the back. Police say the car crashed.

Koerner says he awoke and saw car treads on a lawn and a destroyed bush, then realized he hadn't been dreaming. Neighbors confronted him, and suspicious police appeared ready to take him away before another officer said a neighbor had security camera footage that showed two men getting out of a white Suburban, jumping into his car, then bailing.

Police hadn't released the footage, but Koerner says it saved him from having to prove his innocence.

"It was a ridiculous situation," he said. "It was like the Shawshank Redemption of GTA."