



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF THE FIRST COAST MIATA CLUB

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## Mill Creek Retirement Home For Horses

Date & Time: Saturday, May 18 departing at 9 AM

Starting at: Baldwin Park 'N Ride, US-90 at US-301

Be there at 8:30 for pre-ride socialization, 8:45 for driver's meeting. We will depart PROMPTLY at 9:00. Pit Stop will be in Lake City at Hardy's restaurant, 2399 SE Baya Dr, Lake City, FL 32025 at about 10:00 if you miss us in Baldwin. This is the Intersection of SR-100 and CR-10A. After about a 1/2 hour planned pit stop, we'll drive onto the horse farm at 20307 N.W, CR- 235A, Alachua, FL 32615 with a planned arrival of 11:30 (they open at 11:00). Bring your bags of cut apples or carrots.

Mill Creek is a not for profit equine sanctuary. They provide lifelong care for elderly horses that have been neglected, abused or abandoned and seized by law enforcement agencies, SPCAs and other front-line rescue organizations. They also accept police and military horses. They do not accept horses from private owners.

We plan to stay until 1:00, at which time we'll head to Conestogas Restaurant, 14920 N Main St, Alachua, FL 32615. Parking in front is limited, but there's plenty of parking around back, so don't fret.



### First Coast Miata Club

#### Board of Directors

President: Linda French  
 Vice-President: Gary Kight  
 Events: Arved Grass  
 Secretary: Open  
 Treasurer: Mike French  
 Membership: Mike French  
 Web: Steve Janas  
 Facebook: Hank McLeod

#### Newsletter Editor:

Colin Busch  
 At [cbusch64@aol.com](mailto:cbusch64@aol.com)

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**“Golden Triangle Route” Train Ride - Saturday, April 20**











## Mazda considering a 'hyper' Mazda3 with the 250-hp 2.5-liter turbo four

Mazda boss Akira Marumoto said last year there'd be no Mazdaspeed version of the new Mazda3 because the hot hatch segment wasn't a priority for the carmaker. Then Mazda engineer Dave Coleman told Road & Track that without "an engine on the shelf that would fit properly," an MPS variant made no sense. The first reader comment on our Coleman post read, "Engine — you have it; cue up the 2.5T." Mazda might have been listening. Program manager Kota Beppu told Autocar he'd like a "hyper" Mazda3, the outlet figuring the 2.5-liter four-cylinder turbo would make the most sense for power.

Autocar wrote "the project had not been officially signed off, [but] insiders suggest that is a formality." When Car and Driver queried Mazda and its sources about the report, the magazine realized "the company is seriously considering a high-performance hot hatch." What's more, "Drew Cary, senior manager for brand communications, said, 'We encourage people to ask for it, though. Our planners and executives are watching and listening to fans.'"

The turbocharged 2.5-liter SkyActiv-G four-cylinder — which doesn't sell in Europe — makes 250 hp on premium gasoline and 310 pound-feet of torque in the Mazda6, CX-5 and CX-9. A next-generation SkyActiv-G is predicted on the way next year, bringing more boost and power. Even as is, we're talking a chunky lump of power to send to the front wheels, and Beppu mentioned torque steer. The new Mazda3's all-wheel drive would alleviate that bugbear.

Unlike the raw, fast-twitch reflexes of the last Mazdaspeed3 from 2013, Beppu says a new model "needs to be responsible and friendly ... more friendly than a Golf GTI." And, "It should be fast." The polished looks and interior address the necessary perceptions. CD's done the math on the current 2.5-liter and predicts a five-second sprint to 60 miles per hour, which is Volkswagen Golf R and Honda Civic Type R territory, so GTI comparisons could be a case of aiming low. Imagine a 300-hp engine with a touch more torque and a six-speed manual .

If Mazda follows through with such a product, it could take two years to get the green light. However, we're told that Mazda's Los Angeles research and development center has already built a proof-of-concept to encourage and anticipate that green light.





## Call for Volunteers!

I know everyone has a lot on their plates, but consider carving out a small portion of your time to be an officer of the First Coast Miata Club. The club works like our Miata engines. Yes, you come to events, and monthly meetings when you can, and that is a large part of the engine. But without club organizers to start, oil, and fuel the engine, it stalls and fails. The time commitment is what you make it, but the payoff is a working and enjoyable club. Take a look at the lists below.

If you are interested in any position, please submit your name to Linda French (904) 282-9116.

### FCCM Officer Positions:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Membership  
Treasurer  
Events Coordinator

### Elected Position Duties & Responsibilities:

President - Presides over the monthly meeting and represents the club at functions, coordinates activities and distributes information across the board.

Vice-President - Stands in for the President if they are not available and handles special ad hoc activities as needed.

Secretary - Takes at the monthly meetings of any motions, decisions, or dates of club importance. These are typed up and distributed at the next monthly meeting.

Event Coordinator - Runs the club calendar of events ensuring at least one activity per month for the membership. Events can/should be planned by members, but if none are presented, the Events Coordinator tries to provide one. The Events Coordinator also assists club members to develop their event ideas into club activities.

Membership - Keeps the club membership database (Microsoft Access) up to date, provides club information to all prospective members, handles club name badge orders and delivery to members, distributes club "stuff" (i.e., Club Window Stickers, First Contact Cards, and copies of the club by-laws). Also handles production and sale of club logo magnetic car signs.

Treasurer - Keeps track of all club monies and provides a balance report to the membership at the monthly club meetings.

There are also several non-elected, on-going positions:

Newsletter Editor (Colin Busch) - Produces the "Road Runner" newsletter using Microsoft Publisher.

Facebook Manager (Hank McLeod) - Keeps the club Facebook pages (private and public) up to date.

Web Master (Steve Janas) - Keeps the club web page up to date.

First Coast Car Council (FCCC) Representative (Jim Sparks) - Represents the club at FCCC meetings and events.

## FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **May 14 - 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting & Officer Elections**

We have the room at Lillian's Sports Grill, 5393 Roosevelt Blvd, Jax FL 32210, from 5:30-8:00 pm. Besides normal business, we will be electing the officers for the next year. See the previous page for info and we hope you will want to make this club even better!

- **May 18 - 9:00 AM Mill Creek Retirement Home for Horses**

Remember the movie "SeaBiscuit"? This is nothing like that! Check out the front page for all the details and stay tuned for the starting location

- **June 8—AARP Experienced Drivers Class @ Patterson Academy**

\$15 for AARP members, \$20 non-members. Open to all. Good for reduced insurance rates for most insurances. State Farm honors this cost reduction for 3 years.

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### Happy May birthdays to the following Club members:

**Jim Cripps, Jennifer McLeod, Larry Eger,  
Lisa Corner, Mark Geisler, Dana Dycus, Rachel Schwerdtfeger  
Karen Dougherty & Mandy Carling**

### And Welcome To Our Newest Members:

**Bob & Marlene Walker and Richard & Beth Walker**

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**First Coast Miata Club**  
**c/o Mike French**  
**4027 Pinto Rd.**  
**Middleburg FL 32068**



**We're on the Web! Check us out!**

**Web Page: [www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)**

**Fan Page: [facebook.com/  
firstcoastmiataclub](https://facebook.com/firstcoastmiataclub)**

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## **Ford introduces the self-braking shopping cart**

Shopping carts are my greatest fear in supermarket parking lots. People leave them sitting around everywhere in precarious positions between cars or just in the middle of nowhere. My fear is that one of these shopping carts is going to end up smashing into my car, something I've seen happen to others but not myself yet. Ford of Europe has an idea (probably a very expensive idea) to make sure this kind of thing does not happen.

Let us introduce the Ford "self-braking trolley," or shopping cart, as we'd call it here in America. Ford says it works similarly to its cars equipped with pre-collision assist technology. There's a sensor on the shopping cart that scans the path ahead and will automatically apply the brakes if it senses an impending collision. This means that when a gust of wind starts pushing an abandoned cart toward your car in a parking lot, it would automatically come to a stop before denting your door.

Of course, the self-braking shopping cart has other benefits, as well. If a kid decides to race around with a cart and send it flying all over the store, the brakes could be applied before it ends up careening into shelves of groceries or any other precarious setup. The cart can also detect people, so any cart-to-shopper collisions would be averted.

This tech is part of Ford's "Intervention Series," which also includes neat stuff like the noise-cancelling dog kennel and lane-keeping bed. The shopping cart idea brings us closer to actual vehicle technology, though. It even has the Ford badge emblazoned onto the white and blue cart. Check out the video above to see it in action. We're sure it's prohibitively expensive tech for such a simple device, but it sure would alleviate some fears.