



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

Drive to Catty Shack

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Ok all you COOL CAT MIATAPHILES it is time to saddle up and go see the BIG CATS ! On June 15th we will be driving a short but fun drive to the CATTY SHACK at 1860 Starratt Rd, Jacksonville FL 32226, the home for 26 rescued Big Cats. The Shack is also home to some other critters.

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We will be meeting at the Jacksonville Zoo parking lot at 5:30 pm and depart at 5:45 pm headed to the SHACK. While at the SHACK we will be able to tour the facility and observe the feeding time for the residents.

There is an admission fee at the CATTY SHACK:

Adults: \$15; Seniors (62 & over): \$13; Children (3-11) \$10

If we have 20 or more in our group the cost is \$13 for all.

After feeding time at the SHACK, arrangements have been made to feed all the hungry Miataphiles at Junior's Seafood at 9349 North Main St. near the zoo.

This is the first drive of our three BEAT THE HEAT drives.

July 20th will be the second Jim Padgett ICE CREAM DRIVE to Powell's Dairy Freeze in Starke.

August 17th will be the take the Mayport Ferry to Fernandina DINNER DRIVE

SEE ALL YOU MIATAPHILES AT THE ZOO



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Newsletter Editor:
 Colin Busch
 at cbusch64@aol.com

Mill Creek Retirement Home for Horses - May 18, 2019









Miata buyers prefer manual gearbox, says Mazda (Article from Autoblog) But it really depends whether we're talking Roadster or RF.

Earlier, we wrote about Toyota's underwhelming 2018 manual transmission sales figures. To recap – as Toyota's representatives told CarBuzz – the automatic Corolla outsold its manual equivalent to a ratio of 100 to 1, and just one in three Toyota 86 buyers picked a manual version of the rear-drive coupe.

What about the other famous rear-wheel-drive offering from Japan, Mazda's MX-5 Miata? A case can be made that an 86 buyer cross-shops the Miata, and vice-versa, but what kind of split do Mazda's sales figures reflect in comparison?

We reached out to Mazda for some sales data, and PR program manager Tim Olson told us 76 percent of Miata soft-top buyers go for the classic stick-shift option, leaving just 24 percent of buyers preferring the automatic. Both transmission options for the Miata are six-speed. The figures are based on year-to-date sales data for the 181-hp 2019 Miata, from July 2018 through April 2019.

Interestingly, the more coupe or targa-like, retractable hardtop RF variant takes a step towards the 86 when it comes to transmission choices. While RF buyers still preferred the manual, the split was far closer to half and half: 52% went for the manual, and 48% chose the automatic.

Perhaps this reflects the RF's more grand tourer-like image, and it might also be indicative of the RF's higher pricing. If you're going to spend nearly \$34,000 for a Miata, another \$600 for an autobox doesn't necessarily mean that much – choosing the auto on the base, Sport trim level soft top roadster is a \$1,350 bump instead. While the \$26,650 base Sport isn't exactly spartan, on a roadster it's fine to have less cushiness. With the higher-specced Club trim level, the auto's price tag shrinks to the aforementioned \$600, as it is on the RF Club. There's no base Sport for the RF, as the cheapest RF is the \$33,865 Club.

But still, the manual shifter's snick-snack feel is one of the Miata's classic traits that has been with it since its inception 30 years ago. Sources say fewer than 5% of the original first generation Miatas were made with an automatic gearbox, but it's obvious trends and tastes are changing – although to be fair, automatics are getting much better as well.



FCCM EVENTS CALENDAR

- **JUNE 11 - 7:00 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

The monthly club meeting will be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 10144 Philips Hwy, Jacksonville FL 32256. Open for seating, dining and socializing at 5:30 pm. Stay for the meeting to get caught up on what's coming up for the club and stay late to check out everyone's ride!

- **JUNE 15 - 5:30 PM Catty Shack Drive**

We will be meeting from the Zoo parking lot and then heading over to the Catty Shack. After touring the facility and watching the evening feeding of the big cats, we will get to feed ourselves at Junior's Seafood. See the front page for all the details.

- **JULY 9 - 7:00 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

Two more upcoming "Beat the Heat" events:

- **JULY 20 - 2nd Annual Jim Padgett Drive to Powell's Dairy Freeze**
- **AUGUST 17 - Mayport Ferry to Fernandina Beach Dinner Drive**

Happy June Birthdays To:

**Terry Lyons, Vince Bush, Bradley Corner, Walt Boehme, Thomas Pacetti,
David Wolfe, Arved Grass & Elayne Suskalo**

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Steve Lindsay

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



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'There was a guy in there': Wanted man found in car trunk at auto auction Nobody ever talks much about the trunk space in a Hellcat, do they ...

MANHEIM, Pa. — Police say a man found in the trunk of a car that arrived for sale at a Pennsylvania auto auction is wanted in New York.

LNP newspaper reported 25-year-old Leon Parks, of New York City, is wanted for parole violations and weapons charges.

Workers processing the vehicle at the Manheim Auto Auction facility found him inside.

The facility is about 90 miles (130 kilometers) west of Philadelphia.

Darren Leeds told LNP he opened the trunk of the Dodge Challenger Hellcat from the New York City area to photograph it, "and there was a guy in there."

Leeds says he ran to get water for the man, who he says wasn't moving much.

Police say they used fingerprints to identify Parks, who was treated at a hospital before being taken to jail to await extradition.