

# Road Runner

Volume 32, Issue 4  
October 2021



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

[www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)

## Mill Creek Horse Farm Drive

### First Coast Miata Club

#### Board of Directors

President: Jim Sparks

Vice-President: Jeff Carling

Events: Jim Sparks

Secretary: Gail Finneran

Treasurer: Lisa Corner

Membership: Paula Horning

Newsletter Editor: Colin Busch

at [cbusch64@aol.com](mailto:cbusch64@aol.com)

Web: Steve Janas

Facebook: Hank McLeod

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021

Starting Point: Hardee's, 2730 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg FL 32068

Driver's meeting at 8:45am

Departure at 9am

This will be a nice drive along Florida's backroads.

Destination is the Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm in Alachua FL. This is a beautiful place with over 100 horses in retirement. Admission is 2 carrots (a 5lb bag is even better) and/or apples. Charitable donations are also appreciated.

We will meet up with the Lake-to-Lake Miata Club at Mill Creek Farm, and after visiting and feeding the horses there, we will join them at Conestoga's Restaurant in Alachua for Family Style Cookin!

### Inside this issue:

NPD Classic Car Show	2
& Appleton Museum	3
...Drive	4
Hydrogen Rotary?	5
Stolen from the Internet	6
FCCM Events Calendar	7
Ned Flanders Crossing	8





NPD Classic Car Show & Appleton Museum - 09/25/21













## Mazda is reportedly developing a hydrogen-burning rotary engine

### Could it power the RX-8's long-awaited successor?

Mazda's pledge to release more electric vehicles might not signal the end of its celebrated rotary engine. The firm is reportedly developing a hydrogen-burning Wankel that could be used to power a successor to the RX-8.

Without citing sources, Japanese magazine Best Car wrote that Mazda has never fully stopped developing the rotary engine. It significantly scaled back the program after production of the RX-8 ended in 2012, but reports circulated and even patents for rotary tech appeared in the intervening years. It expanded it again in the late 2010s to design a range extender for the MX-30 electric crossover. The development team's focus has now shifted to making a Wankel that's capable of burning hydrogen, according to the same report.

Details such as horsepower, torque, and the number of rotors haven't been released yet, likely because the engine is still at the embryonic stage of development, but it's a solution that presents several technical advantages. One of hydrogen's weak points is that it tends to ignite at heat spots inside the cylinders. Best Car noted that there are no heat spots in a Wankel engine, because it uses rotors rather than pistons, so it's well suited to burning hydrogen.

Igniting hydrogen is uncommon; most of the carmakers who dabble in the technology use the fuel to generate electricity, which then zaps one or more electric motors into motion. It's not unprecedented, however. Mazda tested and even leased experimental RX-8s whose engines could run on either gasoline or hydrogen in the 2000s, though the system took up the entire trunk and weighed nearly 200 pounds. The engine was even used in some test Mazda5 minivans. More recently, Toyota (which is working with Mazda on several projects) built a Corolla endurance race car powered by a turbocharged three-cylinder that burned hydrogen.



There's no word yet on what the new rotary would power. One possibility is the RX-Vision concept-like coupe that appeared in trademark filings in August 2021. It could arrive as a hybrid with a pair of in-wheel electric motors. If it looks anything like the 2015 concept (pictured), fans would undoubtedly welcome it as the RX-8's heir.

"If we decide to do it, the prototype will be completed within three years. The most likely system is one that combines an electric turbo," an anonymous Mazda official told Best Car. Making a prototype is relatively easy; making a business case that holds water is much more difficult. Ultimately, whether the project receives the green light for production depends on how much development will cost and whether enough people will buy the car.

Mazda hasn't commented on the report, and its future plans for the rotary engine are murky at best. There were some reports that said the range extender might have been frozen, but reports since have said that they're continuing unabated.

# Stolen From The Internet





## FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **October 12 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting**

The meeting will be held at Whitey's Fish Camp at 2032 County Road 220, Fleming Island, FL 32003. Come early and hang out with fellow club to get the most out of your evening. Then stay late to pop the hood on a Miata or two and check out everyone's ride!

- **October 23 — 8:45 am: Drive to Mill Creek Horse Farm**

We are meeting at the Hardee's in Middleburg. This is a great drive and a neat event so don't miss it! See the front page for all the details of this exciting and worthwhile drive!

- **November 6 — Double Feature Movie Drive**

Our November Drive will be a double feature and double the fun. More details will follow!

- **December 11 — FCMC Holiday Party**

More details as this gets closer, but expect the usual fun and games!

---

### HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

Cindy Busch, Chuck Belinski, Linda French, Jeff Eakle,  
Dave Talbert, Ken Tureski & Kristina Olarte

### Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Genevieve Hall, Peter & Cassie Pluymers,  
Gregory Kibble & Eric Singer

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.



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



THAT'S KIND OF HORRIFYING YET COOL

We're on the Web! Check us out!

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub](https://facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub)

## Portland unveils new Ned Flanders Crossing bridge. Yes, that Ned Flanders.

It's for pedestrians and cyclists. Left-handed people are cool to use it, too.

There are lots of bridges in Portland, Ore., and the latest one has easily the most memorable name of them all. Say hi-diddly-ho neighborino to Ned Flanders Crossing!

Yes, that Ned Flanders, as in Homer Simpson's comically pious neighbor from the forever-running TV show. You see, "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening grew up in Portland, resulting in a multitude of Oregon-related names being used throughout the years. Most notably, Groening has admitted that Springfield was indeed based on Springfield, Ore., but the characters of Mayor Quimby, Reverend Lovejoy, "Sideshow" Bob Terwilliger, Milhouse Van Houten, and yes, Ned Flanders, all share their names with streets in Portland.

As such, it seems only fitting that the city returns the favor and names something after a character from the show. And at this point, doesn't it just seem like sound public policy to name things after fictional characters?

The bridge itself is a 200-foot crossing of I-405, connecting the Pearl District with Northwest Portland for pedestrians and cyclists only. Sure, it connects previously separated parts of NW Flanders St ... and was already being referred to as Flanders Crossing, so this isn't quite as random as it initially seems. Still, we can't imagine them going with the Mayor Quimby Crossing.

