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ROAD RUNNER

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

Volume 32, Issue 6
December 2021

FIRST COAST MIATA CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 11, 2021; Noon to 4:00 p.m. (RSVP was due by Nov 15)

Pavilion at Lake Bethesda Park,
10790 Key Haven Boulevard,
Jacksonville, FL 32218

\$10 per person for members and a guest. Catering by Monroe's Smokehouse and BBQ

Menu consists of Pulled Pork, Smokehouse Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Texas Toast, Monroe's Signature Sauces, Sweet & Unsweet Tea, and Lemonade. Guests are encouraged to bring a dessert to serve 6-8.

Each person who wishes to participate in the Gift Exchange will bring a wrapped gift valued at \$25 or less. Use your imagination. The gift does not have to be car related.

There will be door prizes and lots of gifts compliments of your local Mazda dealers, First Coast Miata Club, and Moss Miata.

If you have any Miata related items you no longer want, bring them for our "Give and Take" table.

Questions? Call Paula Horning at 904 518-5300.

We will need several volunteers for set up at 11:00 a.m. and to restore the room to its original condition at 4:00 p.m. If you are available for one or both times, please notify Paula.



First Coast Miata Club Board of Directors

President: Jim Sparks

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Events: Jim Sparks

Secretary: Gail Finneran

Treasurer: Lisa Corner

Membership: Paula Horning

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Inside this issue:

Green Cove Xmas Parade	2
Ultra Light Miata	3
Xmas...	4
Wish List...	5
Ideas	6
FCCM Calendar of Events	7
Aussie Man Hood Riding	8



Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade

December 4, 2021 Meet: RaceTrac Gas Station at 3106 US-17 (32043), just north of Green Cove at 3:00 PM

The Club membership is planning on participating at the annual Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade. It is a fun time to decorate your car and show your Miata Christmas Time Spirit.

This "Drive" will be short and at low speed. But it will be fun, because IT'S A PARADE! The club has been invited to participate in the Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade on December 4. It's a night parade, so light up those Miatas! The parade begins at 6PM, but staging begins at 3:30.

We will meet at the RaceTrac Gas Station at 3106 US-17 (32043), just north of Green Cove at 3:00 PM. We will leave there by 3:15 to check in and proceed to the staging area together. You will then be able to decorate your cars and get ready for the parade there. Bring a flashlight- you may need it if you need to remove decorations in the dark after the parade. THE TIMES ABOVE ARE BASED UPON THE 2019 PARADE SCHEDULE AND MAY CHANGE AS THE EVENT NEARS.

The theme for 2021 is the 12 Days of Christmas. Parade organizers have asked all participants to observe this theme in their decorations. I'm sure we'll have plenty of discussion on how to decorate Miatas in such a way!

We will need to let the parade organizers know how many cars will be participating, so please give a response on this event in the comments. NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE, VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, PLEASE DON'T CLICK "GOING" WITHOUT LEAVING A COMMENT. Otherwise, clicking "Going" alone will not be counted as participating. There are some instructions for participants that you will need to know in advance, so please let us know if you are participating via Facebook!

And of course, EVERYONE is welcome to come to the parade and watch!





Mazda Miata adds lightness with 990S Roadster variant in Japan

It weighs almost the same as a first-gen Miata

Mazda has quietly revealed the most lightweight version yet of its fourth-generation Roadster, known in the U.S. as the MX-5 Miata. They've dubbed it the 990S because it weighs just under 990 kg, or approximately 2,180 pounds. For those keeping track, that's about the mass of a first-gen Miata.

The minimalist Miata was unveiled at a gathering of Roadster enthusiasts in Japan. According to Car Watch, Mazda demonstrated its dedication to shaving weight by removing sound deadening material from under the hood and in the cabin. The 990S also substitutes stock wheels with forged units made by Rays, scrubbing 1.76 pounds each. It uses aluminum Brembo brake rotors as well, which measure larger but end up being lighter than the standard steel units, saving 1.54 pounds.

Visually, the 990S is distinguished by a blue convertible top, blue louvers on the cabin air vents and blue Brembo logos on the brake calipers. Mazda says the color blue conveys a feeling of lightness. The 990S isn't just light; it's also pure, eschewing technologies like Mazda Connect and GPS in favor of a focused driving experience.

The 990S also introduces a new handling system that Mazda calls "Vehicle Attitude Stabilization Control." Like G-Vectoring Control, it uses software and sensors to detect motion to subtly enhance dynamics. In this case, if it detects lateral forces greater than 0.3g, it knows the car is cornering and applies a tiny amount of braking to the inside rear wheel. Mazda says this will help reduce its tendency to lift and stay flatter in turns. The system can be deactivated when the traction control is turned off.

Sadly, the 990S will not be available in the U.S. The weight savings is possible because it's based on the 130-horsepower, 1.5-liter Roadster available in some markets. The U.S.-spec Miata employs a 181-horse, 2.0-liter four, and Mazda says the larger motor necessitated bigger brakes, more cooling, and a strengthened drive shaft and power plant frame. All of that would add approximately 50 kg to the car and pushing it beyond the 990 kg weight that is its namesake.

However, chief of development Shigeki Saito believes that even with its smaller output, the 990S is the purest driver's car in the Mazda lineup. "Horsepower and fun are not proportional," he said at the owners' event, "But lightness and fun are."

Christmas Wish List Ideas









FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **December 4, 2021 - Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade**

The First Coast Miata Club will be participating in the Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade. See page 2 for all the details!

- **December 11, 2021 - NOON: FCMC Christmas Party**

Please join us at the Pavilion at Lake Bethesda Park for our annual First Coast Miata Club Christmas Party. There will be good food, good people, good cars and good fun! See the front page for all the details!

- **January 11, 2022 - 6:00 PM: Monthly Club Meeting**

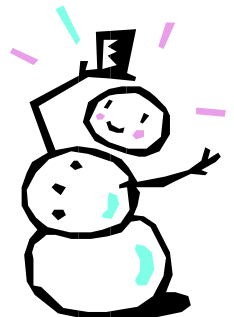
Our monthly club meeting will be held at a nice and tasty restaurant (the site to yet be determined). So keep on eye on your club webpage, our Facebook page and in our next newsletter! You won't want to miss out on what's cooking for 2022! See you there!

Happy December Birthday To:

**Gail Sparks, Anna Grass, Christine Janas,
Patricia Hearn, Tina Nelson, Jennifer Weseman,
James Weseman, Howard Stone,
Aaron Craun & Tom Ray**

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Ed & Sue Spencer and Bob & Laura Macdermid



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We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Speed camera snaps Aussie Man riding on car hood at 74 mph

Is Australia to the British Commonwealth as Florida is to the United States? If there's a Florida Man, is there an Aussie Man? So it would seem, in a report we spotted on the UK's Car Throttle, in which one of those Aussies was captured riding on the hood of a ute — at 74 mph — and seemingly loving it.

West Australian police reported on Tuesday that a speed trap camera had picked up the image above last month, along an oceanfront drive in the town of Gabbadah.

The image above is a close crop, in which you can pretty plainly see that he's hoisting a coldie to his lips. And what's going on with the blurred-out left hand? Did they know the camera was there and he's giving it the bird? (A common sentiment toward speed cameras.)

It looks like a passenger — the kind who ride inside cars — is likewise hoisting a frothy out the window.

In the close-up, you can see the license plate. Should be easy to track these guys down, right? To charge them with speeding. And stupidity, if that's illegal. Well, no.

"The Ford ute was displaying Victorian registration 'ZKG 264' number plates that belong to a different make and model vehicle," police said in a statement. The coppers are asking the public for tips.

What we can assume is high alcohol intake, an invigorating fresh ocean breeze at the speed of a Category 1 hurricane, and a beautiful spring (it's spring down there) evening — that's the formula for a good time, no? Only if your mate stays off the brakes and you're lucky enough to survive the ride. There were no accompanying reports of dead bodies, so maybe he did.

