



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

Where are we going? We are going to Joe's!

When: June 18, 2022

Meet: 9:00 am at the Hardee's restaurant on state road 21 in Middleburg

Depart: 9:30 am

On June 18th we will be miataring to Joe's, that is Gator Joe's, in Oklawaha, Fl. The drive will take us through the Ocala National Forest along twisty roads and even some elevation changes. The scenery is delightful, stoplights are scarce and traffic is minimal. A ride just meant for Miata's.

Gator Joe's is located on Lake Weir on a pier, the food is good, the drinks are cold and a great time will be had by all! So shine em up, fill em up and come enjoy another day of Miata adventure with your fellow miataphiles.

See all you wild and crazy Miata folks on the 18th.



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Annual Picnic/Officer Elections at Memorial Park 05/21/22

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2022-2023!!! See the front page!









Mazda Miata will live on as 'brand icon' in shifting market

The Mazda MX-5 Miata will continue to exist in its purest form, according to an executive at the company. That means despite a company-wide push to electrify, go carbon neutral, and move all of its offerings onto two platforms, the Miata will still hold a unique, almost revered, place in the Hiroshima firm's lineup.

“At the moment, it looks like we will have this car forever, with this size and concept and combustion engine,” Mazda’s European chief of product development and engineering, Joachim Kunz told Autocar. The article clarifies that Mazda will keep the Miata on its own dedicated chassis, an outlier from the company's two dedicated next-generation platforms.

Currently, Mazda has what it calls a small architecture platform, a front-wheel-drive one which underpins the 3, CX-30, and CX-50. A large architecture platform supports the CX-60, just introduced in Europe, and two upcoming SUVs for the U.S. market (The CX-5 and CX-9 are built on older platforms outside of this hierarchy). A rear-drive sedan was planned for this platform as well, but Kunz recently said the company is prioritizing the SUVs in a print edition of Autocar.

However, Kunz also noted that the Miata's electrification was inevitable in the future. "Of course, some day, we will have to electrify it, but we want to keep this pure concept," he said. Kunz also explained that the Mazda's subsidiaries in various countries have less say on the fate of the sports car than other vehicles because the Miata "is the baby of headquarters."



The Miata was introduced in 1989 and has stayed surprisingly true to its original mission of being a fun-to-drive car that almost anyone can access. In its 33 years, there have been only four generations. Kunz told Autocar that “having one generation for 10 years is not a problem for us”, suggesting the next generation may not debut until the 2025 model year.

Even as most companies jettison sedans, never mind sports cars, Mazda seems committed to keeping the Miata around in its quintessential form. "It's our brand icon and it is always treated very specially," Kunz said. Hopefully that means it's not an island in a lineup of SUVs.

FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **JUNE 14 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at Mudville Grill at 3105 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville FL 32216. Come out for the delicious food and stay late to pop a few hoods!

- **JUNE 18 - 9:00 am Going to Joe's Drive**

Want to drive on curvy roads with some elevation changes? Then join us on our drive to Gator Joe's on Lake Weir in Oklawaha FL!!! See the front page for all the details!

- **JULY - Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive**

It's that time of year when evening drives are in order to beat the heat. Here is the first one that we have every year to honor our very own Jim Padgett. More details next month and on our Facebook page.

Happy June Birthdays To:

Vince Bush, Bradley Corner, Pat Boehme, David Wolfe, Arved Grass, Marquette Reavis, Cathy Donovan, Ricky Falkenstein, Gregory Kibble, Tucker McCollough, Hannah McCollough, John Watson, Lindi Roberts and Scott Hamilton

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.



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We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Fan Page: facebook.com/firstcoastmiataclub

Truck crash leaves 15,000 pounds of hot dog filler on road

It's not every day you see hot dog filler spewed across the highway, but that's what happened in Pennsylvania recently.

A local news report explained the situation on Interstate 70. Apparently, a semi-truck carrying about 15,000 pounds of hot dog filler crashed and overturned, which led to its contents being spilled all over the highway. A photo of the incident comes courtesy of the Rostraver Central Fire Department, and it's a sight to see.

You may already be familiar with what hot dog filler looks like, but seeing 15,000 pounds of it spread across a highway and vegetation along the side of the road is another thing entirely. The pink slime appears to have been transported in massive green plastic bags, and the heavy impact let them burst open.

The local news report says that police determined the truck driver was speeding and lost control, causing the big wreck. From the mangled look of the truck, it's fairly easy to tell that this accident happened at a high rate of speed. The driver himself was ticketed for "numerous" citations, and both he and a passenger sustained minor injuries — they were both treated at the scene of the accident.

As for the hot dog filler, we suspect that it's no longer edible. And that's probably for the best.

