



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

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 11 MAY 2023

www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections

The First Coast Miata Club will be celebrating 32 years of being Northeast Florida's community for Mazda Miata MX-5 enthusiasts at this year's Annual Meeting & Elections! This year's event will take place on May 20, 2023, at the William 'Bill' Gulliford, Jr. Community Center in Mayport from 11AM to 2PM. The Gulliford Community Center is brand new, opened in January

of this year. The community center is at 4870 Ocean Street (AKA Mayport Road), 32233. It's just past the ferry slip and around



the Marina. Ocean St/Mayport Road ends with the large city boat ramp facility on the left, and the Community Center on the right. This is a City of Jacksonville facility, so please, no pets and no alcohol.

Lunch will be catered by Safe Harbor Seafood in Mayport. We will have Fish, Shrimp and Chicken, with hushpuppies, cole slaw, cheese grits, collard greens & green beans. There is no cost to members, for up to 2 people. Non-member visitors will be charged \$20, for up to 2 people at the door, OR, they can join the club at the meeting and not pay to eat! Members will be charged \$10 for each additional guest above 2.

(Cont. Page 2)

First Coast Miata Club

Board of Directors

President: Hank McLeod

Vice-President: Jim Sparks

Events: Jim Sparks

Secretary: Bob Deloatch

Treasurer: Lisa Corner

Membership: Paula Horning

Web: Steve Janas

Facebook: Hank McLeod

Newsletter Editor:

Colin Busch

At cbusch64@aol.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MORE PICNIC INFO 2

ONLINE MEMBER-SHIP RENEWAL 3

COUNTRY ROAD... 4

...RAMBLE TAKE 2 5

ANNUAL ELECTIONS 6

FCMC CALENDAR 7

FLORIDA MAN 8

Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections (Cont.)

SPACES ARE LIMITED. We ARE NOT currently accepting registrations for additional guests. We are limited to the number of people we can serve due to the limits of our contract with the community center. *If you don't reserve your place, we may not be able to guarantee you a plate.*

We have created a reservation portal at: eventcreate.com/e/firstcoastmiataclub-annual. This registration portal will be made available to CLUB MEMBERS ONLY through **May 5**. For now, we will only accept reservations for up to 2 people per membership. If there are available spaces left after May 5th, they will be made public to additional membership guests and non-member visitors through the website and social media. **The registration portal will CLOSE at NOON on May 13, earlier if the maximum number of lunches has been reserved.**

DON'T FORGET! MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE! Members are not being charged to eat, so please plan on renewing your membership at the meeting. Paula will have a renewal table set up at the door, so you can do it first thing and be set for the next year. You can pay by cash, check or credit card. We have also developed an ONLINE membership and renewal system that can renew and make dues payments. See page 3 for details.

Each person attending will receive a free **raffle ticket** for door prizes. For the **"Give & Take Table"**, bring Miata related items you no longer need to pass on to someone else. Parts (yes, like the new starter for the 1992 Miata you traded in 12 years ago), accessories, memorabilia, shirts & whatever else you can think of. See something on the table you like, take it home!

After lunch, we will have a brief business meeting where we will conduct our annual elections. This meeting marks the end of the club's fiscal year and prepares to begin the next, with the election of new club officers. **WE NEED OFFICERS!** Consider serving your Club in a leadership role this year!

Following our meeting will be more fun and the opportunity to talk and get to know your fellow Miataphiles! Don't miss out- see you there!

(Cont. Page 3)

Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections (Cont.)

The TLDR:

- FCMC's Annual Meeting and Elections takes place May 20 from 11AM to 2PM.
- The Meeting is at the Gulliford Community Center in Mayport.
- The address is 4870 Ocean Street 32233 (AKA Mayport Road).
- Lunch is catered by Safe Harbor Seafood in Mayport.
- There is **no charge for members** (up to 2 people).
- Non-member visitors will be charged \$20 (up to 2 people) or have the option of joining the club.
- Spaces are limited, so **you will need to reserve your place**. Reserve here: eventcreate.com/e/firstcoastmiataclub-annual
- Reservation portal is open to members only until May 5. After that, it will be announced publicly on the website and social media channels for non-member visitors.
- The portal will close when we reach maximum, or at noon on May 13.
- Don't forget to renew your membership!
- There will be raffles for prizes!
- The "Give & Take" table will be available!
- We will conduct Elections of Club Officers For the 2023-2024 Club year.

YOU CAN NOW RENEW AND PAY FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN FCMC AND PAY YOUR DUES AT OUR CLUB WEBSITE AT:

Welcome to the First Coast Miata Club
Jacksonville, Florida USA

– HOME

JOIN OUR CLUB

MORE ▾

<https://firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club>

Why waste a check when you can take of this online with no fuss and no muss?

And while you are there, check out the Event Calendar to see what is coming up in the next few months.

Also, take a look at the pictures taken on our many previous and fun events!

Plus, we have all the newsletters saved online as well as "FCMC Favorites".

And don't forget the FCMC store to get all of your branded club items!!!

Country Road Ramble - Take 2 - April 22, 2023





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 any club officer (see the front page).

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 Excel) 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 (that anyone can volunteer for):

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

Social Media 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 - WHAT COULD BE...

- **May 20 11:00AM - Monthly Club Meeting & Officer Elections**

We are having our annual Club Picnic and Officer Elections at the William 'Bill' Gulliford, Jr. Community Center in Mayport. See the front page for all the time-sensitive details!

- **June 13 - 6:00PM - Monthly Club Meeting**

Sonic Drive-In at 5080 Butler Point Rd., Jacksonville FL 32256

- **June 17 - 9:00AM - Miata Club Poker Run**

Start at Mazda City of Orange Park, 6916 Blanding Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32244. We will be doing a Miata Poker Run!!! This will be a fun event where we will tour the city and travel to all area Mazda Miata Dealerships. Mazda City, Tom Bush Mazda and Hodges Mazda. Details are still in the planning stages. Fantastic prizes and awards are planned!

Happy May birthdays to the following Club members:

Jennifer McLeod, Lisa Corner, Karen Dougherty,
Jim Cripps & Peter Pluymers

And Welcome To Our Newest Members:

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



We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

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

Florida Man's reaction to car crash? Strip down to boxers, flee into swamp

It turns out being near-naked makes you easier to spot in a swamp at night

Florida Man has many skills, including turning an everyday traffic accident into a wild incident involving partial nudity and a police chase through a swamp. Authorities say a 23-year-old man drove his Nissan Sentra across the center line, colliding with a semi truck, but instead of exchanging information and waiting for police, he stripped to his underwear and took off into the swamp.

Police say the crash happened at about 8:30 p.m. on April 10 near Mulberry in Polk County, Florida. After the collision, the truck driver was sore but was able to give police a description of the man, whom they say stripped to his underwear before running into the water.

Dogs found the driver a mile deep in the swamp, wearing only his boxers. Though police can be scary, the man likely found countless other horrors hiding in the swamp at night, and officers said he was ready to come out when they found him. "He didn't resist. He just wanted to get out of the woods and swamp," an officer told the local news. Officials speculated that the man likely stripped to make it harder to find him, but as they pointed out, wearing only your underwear makes you easier to spot.

While this story is undoubtedly hilarious, it ended about as well as it could have. He did not get eaten by an alligator, for one thing.

The driver took off because he was driving on a suspended license and without insurance. Now, adding to those charges he's also got to deal with the matter of leaving the scene of a crash with injuries. The naked runner could have saved himself and everyone a bunch of trouble if he'd faced the music, preferably clothed. In addition to his embarrassment, the man could face hundreds in fines and some jail time, as the suspended license charge alone carries up to 60 days in jail.