



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

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

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***6th Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive***

When: Saturday, July 15, 2023

Meet at: Baldwin Park & Ride, 801 W Beaver St, Baldwin FL 32234 at 5:30 pm; Depart: 6:00 pm

The annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive will take us from Baldwin, FL to Powell's Dairy Freeze in Starke, FL for a myriad of cool summer treats as well as burgers, fries and whatever.

The drive will meander thru farm and cattle country along scenic byways offering Miata driving roads with minimal traffic and only two traffic lights after we leave the thriving metropolis of Mcclenny, FL.

We will make a pit stop at Hardee's in Lake Butler (not to eat). Powell's has a variety of food and ice cream treats! If you order a banana split, ask for hot fudge instead of chocolate syrup - a tip from a local! See all you Miataphiles on the 15th!!!



## Four-rotor 1992 Mazda RX-792P IMSA race car for sale, never raced

-Uses the same R26B engine as the Le Mans-winning Mazda 787B

When it comes to four-rotor Mazda engines, our thoughts first go to professional tire track makers like Mad Mike Whiddett and Rob Dahm, both of whom have successfully shoved four triangles into FD RX-7s. Well before either of them got in that business, Mazda developed four-rotor engines for racing, like the one in the 787B that triumphed at Le Mans in 1991. The 787B retired the same year due to the FIA changing engine regulations for the World Sportscar Championship, so Mazda brought its four-rotor R26B engine to the U.S. to contest IMSA's GTP class in 1992. The car created around that engine was this, the RX-792P. The manufacturer intended to build three for the campaign, only two were completed, the third didn't get far past the chassis stage. That third car has finally been built and completed to original spec and is now for sale, never raced. But it is, as the listing at Race Cars Direct notes, "ready to race."

Legendary Mazda race car driver Jim Downing oversaw the build in his workshop. He was one of the early converts to RX-series competition cars, using one to win the IMSA GTU series in 1982. And after helping to create the IMSA Camel Lights class in 1985, he won the class championship its first three years in the Argo JM16B with and JM19 cars that were sometimes powered by the Mazda 13B two-rotor Wankel. Among many other accolades, he's also the guy who co-developed the HANS device with his brother. Mazda awarded him the Spirit of Mazda award in 2019.

As for the RX-792P, it had a hard time during its sole year in competition. The excellent reliability that carried the underpowered 787B to victory didn't make the jump across the Atlantic, leaving the underpowered 792-RXP beset by finishes many laps behind the leaders when it managed to finish at all, in addition to the occasional fire. When IMSA decided in late 1992 to eliminate the GTP category, Mazda canceled the RX-792P program.

Downing touches on the build in a video about his collection, and he's put chassis number RX792P003 through shakedown laps himself at Road Atlanta. He's asking \$1.5 million. The four-rotor Wankel scream alone is worth half that much.



## Oregon Ends 72-Year Ban On Self-Service Gas, Leaving NJ As Lone Holdout

Given the inherent freedom that cars provide, the notion of gas stations that aren't self-service seems counterintuitive, but that's been the case in Oregon for the last 72 years. That is, until now, as a new bill was just passed that would end the state's ban on self-service fueling.

Last Wednesday, Oregon lawmakers voted to end a ban on self-service fueling that's been around since 1951. House Bill 2426, as it's called, passed the House back in March with a 47-10 vote, and just passed the Senate with a vote of 16-9.

The state had previously legalized self-service at night in select counties back in 2015, and further expanded that ruling to all rural counties in 2017, but this new bill applies to all gas stations across the board.

In the name of job security, there will still be a handful of pump attendants required at each gas station, it's just that motorists will now have the option to pump their gas themselves. Attendants are required to occupy at least half the pumps at any given gas station, while the others can be used for self-service fueling. It's also worth noting that because of this setup, gas prices won't be affected (for better or worse), even if you decide to pump your own.



# Funny Bumper Stickers



THERE'S NO REASON  
TO TAILGATE ME WHEN  
I'M DOING 50 IN A 35.

AND THOSE FLASHING  
LIGHTS ON TOP OF YOUR  
CAR LOOK RIDICULOUS.

I WAS AN  
**HONOR STUDENT**  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED

**From Jennifer McLeod, Membership:**

"Thanks to all who have renewed your membership in First Coast Miata Club. The new membership year began in June and dues are now due for those who haven't renewed. We have a full schedule of fun events planned and don't want you to miss out. Check our webpage [firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://firstcoastmiataclub.org) for a renewal form. We hope to see you soon."



## FCMC Events Calendar

- **July 11 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Sonic Drive-In, 5080 Butler Point Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256 near the intersection of J Turner Butler Blvd and Philips Hwy. We will be meeting in their dining room.

- **July 15 - 6:00 pm 6th Annual Jim Padgett Drive to Powell's Dairy Freeze**

To beat the summer heat, we will be driving in the evening to our favorite ice cream spot in Starke: Powell's Dairy Freeze. Take the road less travelled, but take it in the evening! See all the details on the front page. Come out and beat the heat with your fellow Miataphiles with some ice cream!

- **August 8 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Sonic Drive-In, 5080 Butler Point Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256 near the intersection of J Turner Butler Blvd and Philips Hwy. We will be meeting in their dining room.

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

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Sonic Drive-In, 5080 Butler Point Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256 near the intersection of J Turner Butler Blvd and Philips Hwy. We will be meeting in their dining room.

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### Happy July Birthdays to:

**Colin Busch, David Henry, Charlie Radford, Ed Spencer,  
Joanne Brunsman, Nancy DeLoatch**

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### Welcome To Our Newest Members:

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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



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We're on the Web! Check us out!

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

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

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## **Colorado driver trades places with dog in an attempt to avoid DUI arrest**

SPRINGFIELD, Colo. — A driver, who was pulled over for speeding and tried to switch places with his dog to avoid arrest, police in Colorado said.

After clocking a car at 52 mph in a 30 zone and pulling it over, an officer watched the driver maneuvering inside the car before he got out on the passenger side on Saturday night in Springfield, a town of about 1,300 people on the state's Eastern Plains.

The man said he was not behind the wheel and clearly showed signs of being drunk, police said. When the officer asked about how much he had had to drink, police said, the man ran and was caught within about 20 yards. After being taken to the hospital to be checked out, the man was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and driving while ability impaired, as well as for previous warrants for his arrest.



As for the dog, police said: "The dog was given to an acquaintance of the driver to take care of while the party was in jail. The dog does not face any charges and was let go with just a warning."