



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

September 2023

Volume 34

www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Taking Flight

Date: September 16, 2023

Meet at Publix Super Market at Julington Village - 450 State Rd 13 #109, St Johns, FL 32259

Meet at 8:00am, Depart at 8:30am

Come "Take Flight" with us as we go on a journey to the Flagler County Airport.

Our "flight" will take off from the Publix in Julington Village on State Road 13 in Fruit Cove. Once we've departed, we will assume a safe cruising speed along back roads following the St Johns River. Enjoy tree lined roads and wonderful scenery before we bank eastward toward the Flagler County Airport.

Upon arrival at the airport, we will land at High Jacker's Restaurant, which is right at the edge of the tarmac, with seats overlooking the runways. Enjoy your layover for lunch before you take your return flight home. See you on the 16th!



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Life Jackets Not Required Drive - 8/19/23









Junkyard Gem: 1992 Mazda MX-5 Miata

Not every early Miata gets to become a race car.

The Mazda MX-5 Miata has been with us for nearly 35 years now, giving the world what it had lacked for so long: a two-seat convertible that was just as affordable and fun as the MGB or Fiat 124 Sport Spider had been... but without the horrid reliability and leaky tops of those cars. Intact Miatas haven't been easy to find in the car graveyards I frequent, because worn-out ones tend to end up in the hands of racers before they can reach your local Ewe Pullet. I run across plenty of picked-clean and/or crashed-beyond-recognition Miatas during my junkyard travels, but today's '92 in a Denver self-service yard is unusually complete and un-smashed.

The odometer shows nearly 225k miles. I think this car spent a couple of decades as a reliable daily commuter, then got parked in a driveway or yard when something broke.

The MSRP for a 1992 MX-5 was \$14,200, or about \$31,373 in 2023 dollars. 20 years earlier, the inflation-adjusted price for a new MGB roadster had been just \$24,646. However, the price of a new 2023 Miata starts at \$28,050, so it's both faster and cheaper than it was 21 years ago.



FCCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **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.

- **September 16 - 8:00 am Taking Flight (Details on Front Page)**

Come “take flight” with us as we go on a journey to the Flagler County Airport.

- **October 10 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting—location TBD**

The meeting will be held at a nice place that serves food, I bet! Make sure to be at the September meeting to help choose the best location. Make your voice heard! And keep an eye on our website and Facebook page!

- **October 21 - Drive to Wise Guys Pizzeria in Ocala**

Start time and location to be determined.

Happy September Birthdays to:

Paula Horning, Mike Hearn, Irene Holt, Hank McLeod, Bob DeLoatch, Julie Hamilton, Gail Sparks, Alan Singer and Barb Bauer

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.



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The more you look the worse it gets



We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Some Ford F-150 trucks are making 'sonic boom' and 'ear-piercing static' noise

Instead of enjoying the mellifluous tones of Lady Gaga or the bounce music of the Arctic Monkeys, some drivers of newer Ford F-150 pickups are hearing unexplained loud crashing sounds, the noise of shattering glass, or high-pitched static through the cockpit's speakers. This phenomenon has prompted more than a hundred complaints to Ford, some by customers who say the noise was so distracting that they either had to pull over and stop driving, or if parked, didn't feel it was safe to get on the road.

The automaker issued a technical service bulletin recently addressing the noise issue in Expedition SUVs and the F-150 pickups from the 2021-23 model years, and the 2022 F-150 Lightning electric trucks. Ford says its related to the amplifier in the vehicles' sound systems, which seems obvious.

Without detailing the actual cause, the company says that it has developed a software fix that customers can get at dealerships or through a downloadable update. The fix supposedly adjusts the amplifier to filter out the speaker noise.

"We are working swiftly to make sure this is resolved for our customers," a spokesperson said.

In online forums, F-150 owners have been hearing a "sonic boom" or "ear-piercing static." Drivers, in some cases, were able to turn it off right away. Others say it lasted for 15 minutes or more, persisting even after the car was shut off. Several drivers who have complained to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the noise was above 100 decibels, a level similar to that of a loud concert or a car horn, according to the American Academy of Audiology.

A spokesperson from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that the agency is aware of the issue.