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ROAD RUNNER

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

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TWO HOLIDAY EVENTS IN DECEMBER!!!

Hello, First Coast Miata Club members! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I just wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about TWO big deals that take place just one week away on December 2 for the First Coast Miata Club!

First, First Coast Miata Club will be participating in the Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade, December 2, Saturday night. We have our ten participants, and even a wait list! So, THANK YOU to everyone who has said they are willing to participate. We're going to have a fun time. We hope everyone else will come down to Green Cove and cheer us on! It's a lot of fun, and it's a BIG parade. Come on out!

Second, Midnight on Saturday Dec 2 is the DEADLINE for reservations for the FCMC Holiday Party at the Gulliford Community Center in Mayport. The Holiday Party is the following Saturday, December 9 at 12:30-3:30. Reserving your place for just \$10 Per person will get you an amazing lunch catered by Safe Harbor Seafood in Mayport. We will have fish, shrimp and chicken, and for sides; hushpuppies, cole slaw, cheese grits, collard greens & green beans (We would appreciate it if you could bring a dessert). There will be some giveaways, and the fun and mayhem of the white elephant gift exchange. We will have a great time with our First Coast Miata Club family! BUT- you've gotta reserve your place. Why wait? Go ahead and reserve your place today.

Reserve your place(s) for the party ONLINE on our website at <https://firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club/ols/products/fcmc-christmas-party-payment>. Your payment is your reservation. We're going to have a great time, I hope to see you all there!

Hank McLeod
FCMC President



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Summer Crush Cruise-In 11/04/23











At the November meeting, FCMC voted to sponsor 20 wreaths to this beautiful ceremony in memory of Jim Padgett who is now at Jacksonville National Cemetery. All the details can be found in the link to Wreaths Across America.

Please take some time to participate in this heartwarming event to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we may be free to celebrate with our families and friends.

Parking and busses to transport you to the Cemetery are free. The Moment of Silence is coordinated with other National Cemeteries across the US and leads off a beautiful ceremony. Following that, laying of the wreaths takes place by the public. Golf carts are provided for those who need assistance. You may leave at any time as busses are running continuously.

I have participated in this for the past two years and cannot describe how wonderful it makes me feel. I urge everyone to take the time for such an important event.

The first year, I could not explain why I was led to a specific headstone in the very back of one section. When I stopped, I realized the veteran was a Marine and had the same birthday as my father. It was such an honor for me to recognize his sacrifice and remember him on that day. I laid the wreath, touched the headstone, said his name out loud, and thought for a few minutes of his service. Then, I was reminded that he missed a lot of holidays to be with his family.

My father, a World War II combat veteran, died a few months ago at 103 and will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on December 12. Since I can't lay a wreath there, I will honor him by attending Jacksonville National Cemetery this year. Being part of this is more important to me now than ever.

On another note, Jim Sparks hooked me up with the Mustang Club for the Veteran's Day Parade downtown last weekend. They are a terrific group of people who welcomed me, helped me decorate my car, and had me tag along behind their Mustangs in the parade. It was my honor to have Bill Crawford ride with me. He is a 90+ y.o. Navy Veteran who was in Okinawa when World War II began. The people along the parade route called out and saluted to thank him which made him smile. He and I will continue to be friends and I hope to drive him again next year. (He loved my car, by the way.) I was thrilled to see a great turnout of patriotic people for the parade on a beautiful day.



Paula Horning



FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **December 2, 2023 - Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade**

The First Coast Miata Club will be participating in the Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade. See page 1 for all the details!

- **December 9, 2023 - 12:30—3:30 PM: FCMC Christmas Party**

Please join us at the William “Bill Gulliford Jr Community Center 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!

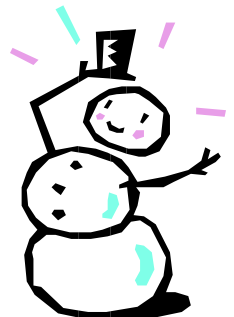
- **January 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM: Monthly Club Meeting**

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 2024! See you there!



Happy December Birthday To:

**Gail Sparks, Christine Janas,
Patricia Hearn, Arthur Houde, Jeneer Weseman &
James Weseman**



Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Tina & Dyan Nelson, Kyla Spaulding & Charles Donges

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We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Authorities believe this Renault Clio Campus was struck by a meteorite

The incident took place on November 20, 2023, according to French newspaper Le Figaro, and the impact left a roughly 20-inch hole in the Clio's roof. What happened wasn't initially clear: Firefighters were dispatched to the scene to investigate "a smoking car." They quickly ruled out a fire and vandalism and after a great deal of head scratching decided the hole was probably caused by an "astronomical body."

It's not just the roof panel that was damaged. Whatever caused the hole was traveling fast enough to also go through the hatchback's floor and fuel tank. Radioactivity tests came back negative, luckily, but part of what's stumping investigators is that the object wasn't in the car.

"Either it's so small that we can't find it, or the impact was so strong that the object disintegrated and turned to dust," Matthieu Colobert, the captain of the firefighting team dispatched to the scene, told Le Figaro. There may be one promising lead: A representative for the local police department told the publication that his team found a "chestnut-sized rock that's light and that looks like burnt wood" near the car.

The rock was sent to a lab in Paris, where researchers will try to determine whether it punctured the Clio and, crucially, whether it came from space. While this might initially sound far-fetched, the officer pointed out that "even a marble traveling very quickly can cause damage."



Meteorite strikes thankfully aren't common but they're not unheard of. One of the most famous incidents happened in 1992, when a 27-pound, football-shaped rock hit a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu at about 164 mph in New York. The owner bought the car for \$400 and sold it for \$25,000 shortly after the impact, and she later sold the meteorite for \$50,000. The sedan has been displayed in several museums since.