



# Wheels in Motion

*You're Invited to an*

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL



DATE: JUNE 4th

TIME: 1:00pm

PLACE: Lehigh

R.S.V.P: Rayanna

**June 2022**

**COME  
JOIN  
THE  
FUN...**

**ICE CREAM  
FRIENDS  
MIATAS  
AND  
MORE**

**Details on page 13**



# Wheels in Motion

## Miata Club of SW Florida Board of Directors

**President: Feliza Lymburner**

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**Membership Team: Judy Western & Kathy Engler...**

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Both use memmx5swf@yahoo.com

**& Bill Watts**

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**Past Treasurer: Noni Cockrum**

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**Dealer Liaisons:**

**Ed Howard Mazda (sponsor): Dennis Laslo**

941 445-0006 or email at: djlaslo@gmail.com

**Mazda of Ft Myers (not a sponsor): Jerry Davis**

Phone: 701-610-1018 or email at: wjeremy.davis@gmail.com

**Cox Mazda (not a sponsor): Bill Watts**

Phone: 941 779-7647 or email at: wawatts1@gmail.com

**Website:**

<http://www.miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com/home.html>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1221394091665789>

## Upcoming Events

### Ice Cream Social

June 4th (Saturday at 1:00pm)  
Details on page 13

### Track Days at Talladega Speedway

June 18th, August 13th & December 2nd  
Details on page 13

### Miata Reunion at Barber Motorsports Park

July 30th & 31st (Saturday & Sunday)  
Details on page 14  
or contact Ron at [mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com](mailto:mrhandyrsl@hotmail.com)

### Miatas at the Gap

August 4th thru 7th at Fontana, NC  
Details on page 15

### Miata Cruze-In

October 22nd (Saturday)  
Details on page 16

### Key West "Hometown Holiday Parade"

December 3rd (Saturday) 7:00pm  
Details on page 17

### Christmas Dinner & Party

December 15th, (Thursday)  
Olde World Restaurant  
Details when available

## Monthly Meeting

### Thurs, June 9th

Olde World Restaurant  
14415 Tamiami Trail #2728  
North Port, FL 34287

Monthly meetings are  
the 2nd Thursday of the month

Dinner at 5pm and meeting at 6pm.  
Please RSVP to Kathy Engler by May 4th  
at [kathy.engler@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.engler@gmail.com)

### Cover Photo & THE END Back Cover Photo:

Front cover: Just an invite to join us at the Ice Cream Social!

Back cover: Drawings from the internet showing the rear end  
of all four generations of Miatas.

(appropriate for the back cover, right?)

## **JUST FOR FUN**

**Breakfast Socializer June 24th**  
**Metro Dinner, 1720 Tamiami Trail Suite 100,**  
**Port Charlotte, FL 33948.**

**RSVP to Judy at [memmx5swf@yahoo.com](mailto:memmx5swf@yahoo.com) by April 20th**

# From the Editor's Desk

By Ron Lindensmith

Welcome to the June edition of the Miata Club of Southwest Florida newsletter. Not much Miata Club news to talk about. I'm looking forward to the Ice Cream Social on June 4th and the Miata Reunion the end of July which will get me to the Miatas at the Gap a week later. But not much interest in any local events.

I've always wanted to drive the Tail of the Dragon as well as a few other mountain roads in the area. I developed the itch back when I lived in Columbus, Ohio and drove my Toyota MR2 over to the extreme south-east of Ohio as I was dating a lady who lived in Sardis, Ohio. It's on the Ohio River between Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and Marietta, Ohio. That meant I got to drive 20+ miles of very twisty rural roads in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains between I-77 and the Ohio River. That was back in the days just after I quit racing sports cars in the SCCA and before the idea of Track Days started!

Dennis Laslo has change the ED Howard Mazda ad on page11 to include some important new data. Ed Howard Mazda is offering a 10% discount on both parts and labor to all members of the Miats Club of Southwest Florida. You must ask for the discount and show your membership card.

But just because the Miata Club isn't very active, doesn't mean I'm not keeping busy. Elaine and I just got back from 4 days of hiking around



and in the Grand Canyon. I heard that only 5% of all the people who visit the Canyon ever go below the rim. Three of the four days we did hikes that took us below the rim. One day out to an area they call the Palisades which required our guide to get a permit from the National Park. The tiny bump on the left-hand side horizon is a tourist attraction called the Desert Watchtower. It's just under 2 miles away as the crow flies. So while still standing in the same spot I zoomed in to about 1500mm and got this view of tower. And for those of you who know me, yes, I took the obligatory 2000mm telephoto shot! You can almost pick out people using cell phone cameras vs 35mm cameras!



In June we will go to the Florida Keys to do a few days of snorkeling and sight seeing.

All of July and the last 2 weeks of August I'll be doing 5 days a week of radiation treatments.

This October we'll go to Albuquerque, NM for the 2022 Hot Air Balloon Fiesta and I'll get to check off another bucket list item, going for a ride in a hot air balloon. I've been up a couple hundred feet in a teetered balloon back in my early 30's.

We are already making plans for 2023. Three Road Scholar trips are planned. These will be our 7th, 8th and 9th trips with Road Scholars. A photography tour of Yellowstone National Park, a hiking tour of Bryce and Zion National Parks and another photography tour, this time of Yosemite National Park.

I hope we get more local Miata Club events on the schedule... PLEASE!

# Everyone Needs a Little Sunshine

By Sandy Cole

Hi to ALL you special Miata Fans:

For those of you who happen to be heading to your homes up North, or traveling to celebrate Graduations, Weddings or any variety of other occasions, we wish you fun times and, safe travels. For others, I trust you will continue to enjoy the benefits of living in Paradise. We should quickly get used to daily rains mixed with lots of sunshine and warm and humid temperatures. So stay refreshed, be sure you plan to attend the ice cream social hosted by Rayanna and Rick Edwards on June 4<sup>th</sup>. You may also want to be check that your air conditioning is working even though you may prefer to also have the top down.

Overall, the club members have stayed healthy. We did send a card to Pat Roth who had a fall and ended up in the hospital. Fortunately she was only there a couple days and is reportedly recovering nicely. Tim Knight was not so fortunate. Although he had all the shots and boosters, he was diagnosed with Covid in December, 2021 and has had multiple issues and complications since. Despite the on-going struggle, his attitude is great and he is determined to participate in club activities in the near future. PLEASE keep these members in your prayers. This pandemic has certainly interfered with our health and lives long enough.

Enough of this. Lets think good thoughts and wish the following club members a VERY HEALTHY and HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Alvarez, Jean Cheasty, John Cheasty, Nancy Chobrda, Lance Curran, Allan Engler, Robert Jurs, Larry Larson, Robert Mauti, Guy Mendez, Al Rocco, Paula Schutz, Neal Titer, Guy Waggy and, Dottie Yost. We trust they will enjoy their special day.

And to each of you, please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings, Sunshine Sandy



# Ed Howard Mazda Status

**Some of you asked me about what's going on at Ed Howard Mazda?**

**Well, they're getting a new building.**

**Completion is estimated this summer.**

**If you want service, they are temporarily doing business in the Lincoln dealership next door.**

**Mazda Parts is in the existing Mazda building on the left side**

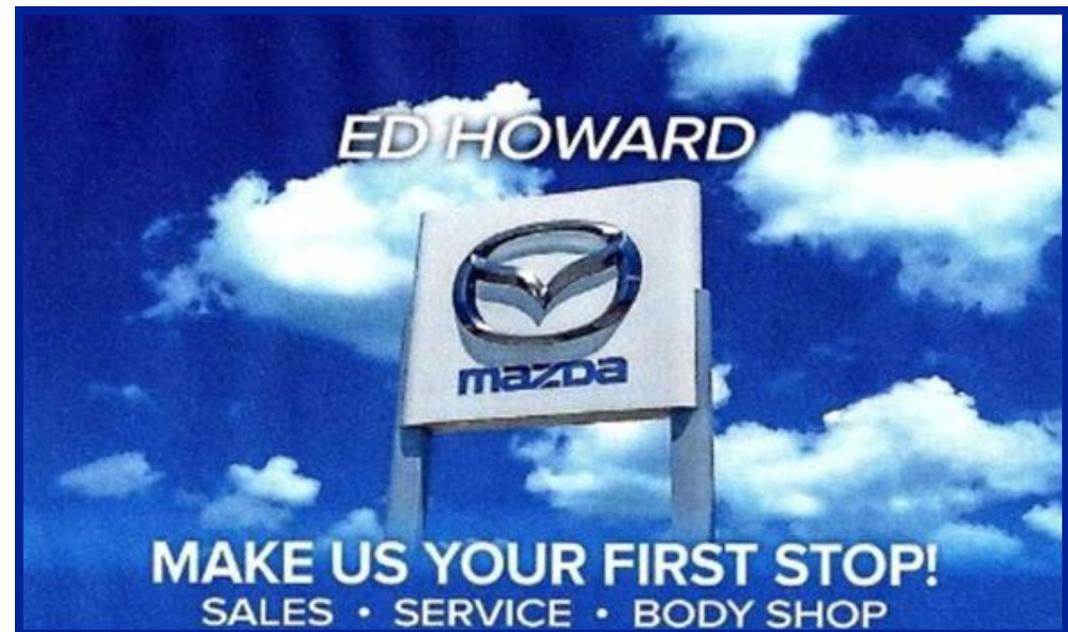
**Sales is also in the Lincoln Dealership**

**and clearly marked to the right of the service drive through.**

**And an added benefit of your Miata Club of Southwest Florida membership is you get 10% discounts on service and parts at Ed Howard.**

**Just show your card.**

**Dennis Laslo (Ed Howard Liaison)**



# Is My Miata a Good Car?

I was surfing the web looking at the various car rating places and here's what I found. First, Consumer Reports for the category "Sports Cars" puts the Miata on top with a whopping 85 out of 100 (right).

In fact, the man in charge of testing all the cars at Consumer Reports said the question he gets asked most often is "Of all the cars you've tested, what is your favorite?" His quick answer is "That's easy. The Miata."

But, alas, JD Power gives the 2022 honors to the redesigned Mini Cooper. It also finished a close second to the Mustang on USA Today.

I can't find the quote now, but the tester at USA today also answers "Miata" for his favorite car.

Car and Driver (left) gives the Miata the Editor's Choice for "Affordable Sports Car." And Edmunds give it an 8/10 (below).



## Mazda MX-5 Miata

### REVIEW, PRICING, AND SPECS

**HIGHS:** Affordable open-top freedom, joyful handling characteristics, expertly tuned controls.

**LOWS:** Snug passenger accommodations, road noise can get fatiguing on long drives, firm ride.

**VERDICT:** Despite some compromises, the Miata's eager handling will delight driving enthusiasts.

## Mazda MX-5 Miata ✓

85

OVERALL SCORE

The fourth-generation Miata remains true to Mazda's original formula of a lightweight rear-wheel-drive roadster.

The Miata accelerates quickly when revved yet manages 34 mpg overall. Shifting the delightfully accurate six-speed manual transmission is a joy. Even though the optional automatic works well, it dilutes the driving experience compared with the manual transmission. Quick and precise steering delivers sublime back-road handling, even though some body roll is noticeable. High levels of noise, thin and unsupportive seats, and a stiff ride all grow fatiguing during highway travel. Cabin space is snug, and the optional dial-controlled infotainment system takes time to master. Flipping the convertible top open or closed is a breeze. FCW, AEB, and BSW are standard.



\$26,830-\$35,050

RELIABILITY ⬆️

SATISFACTION ⬆️

ROAD-TEST SCORE 80

MPG 34

## Edmunds' Expert Rating ⓘ

Rated for you by America's best [test team](#)

Our verdict **8.0/10**

Mazda has made the MX-5 Miata virtually unassailable in the realm of fun-to-drive sports cars. In a world of ever more complex performance cars, the refreshingly pure and elemental Miata shows everyone how it's done.

But, what about Mazda. Is the Miata parent a good brand?

Consumer reports lists their ratings for brand quality as shown (just the top brands here)

Tied with BMW and second to Subaru.

Not bad!!!

But US News give the top nod to Mazda.

Cars / Car Buying Tips, News, and F... / U.S. News' Best Car Brands of...

## U.S. News' Best Car Brands of 2021

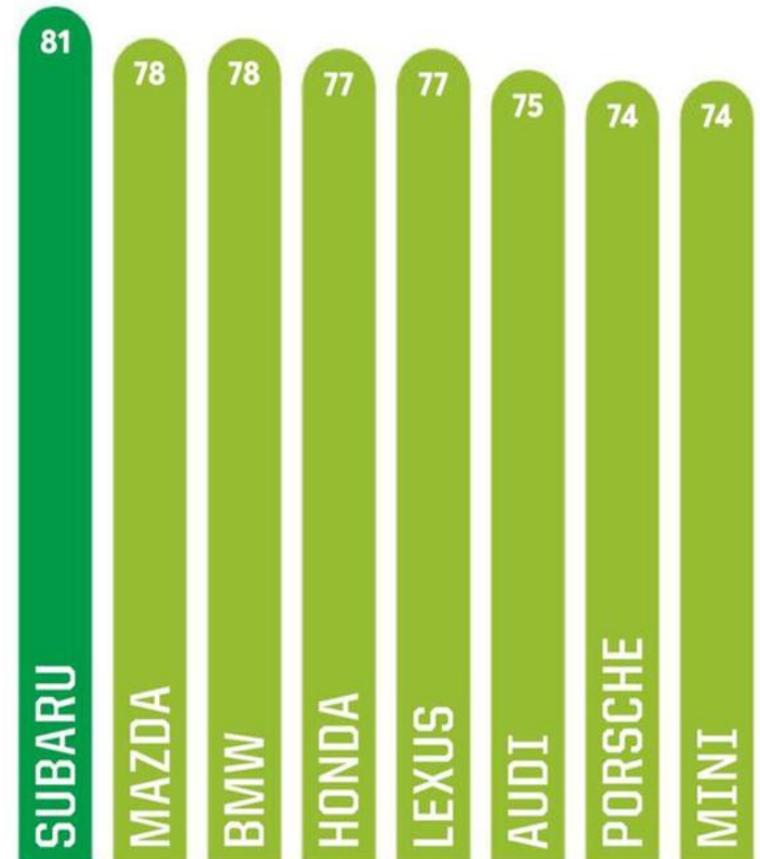
By [Cherise Threewitt](#) | Nov. 18, 2020



### 1) Mazda

With a small but fierce car lineup, Mazda is the winner of our Best Car Brand award for 2020. The [MX-5 Miata](#) roadster tops our sports car ranking thanks to its incredible agility and great value. The [Mazda3](#) sedan and hatchback lineup leads our compact car ranking with style and grace. The [Mazda6](#) midsize sedan puts up a strong fight against competitors in that class, making a case for a fun commute in a segment that's otherwise generally pretty dull. Mazda cars are well-built, well-equipped, and fun to drive. In every segment where Mazda competes, you'll be hard pressed to find rivals that offer the same combination of practicality and performance.

OVERALL SCORE



|                       | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2022 RANK             | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| RANK CHANGE FROM 2021 | ◀ 2 | ▶ 1 | ▶ 1 | ◀ 1 | ◀ 1 | ◀ 5 | ▶ 3 | ◀ 9 |
| ROAD-TEST SCORE       | 89  | 75  | 87  | 79  | 75  | 88  | 88  | 81  |
| PREDICTED RELIABILITY | ⬆   | ⬆   | ⬇   | ⬆   | ⬆   | ⬇   | ⬇   | ⬆   |
| OWNER SATISFACTION    | ⬇   | ⬇   | ⬆   | ⬇   | ⬇   | ⬇   | ⬆   | ⬇   |
| MODELS TESTED         | 6   | 5   | 10  | 9   | 7   | 8   | 4   | 2   |
| MODELS RECOMMENDED    | 5   | 5   | 8   | 8   | 6   | 6   | 3   | 1   |
| GREEN CHOICES 🌱       | 2   | 0   | 0   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   |

Consumer Reports thinks the Miata is also a great pick for previously owned.

Destination charges are far lower than most of the competition at \$1015.

# USED CAR PICKS UNDER \$20,000

USED CAR PRICES are at record highs, so it's important to choose a dependable vehicle that won't end up costing you even more money in repairs later on. These models, listed alphabetically within each vehicle category, have above-average reliability, according to CR's Annual Auto Surveys.



## SPORTS CARS

▲ MAZDA MX-5 MIATA '12-13



## SMALL CARS

FORD C-MAX '14-17  
 ▲ MAZDA 3 '12-17  
 NISSAN LEAF '13, '15-18  
 TOYOTA COROLLA '12-17  
 TOYOTA PRIUS '12-17  
 TOYOTA PRIUS C '12-16  
 TOYOTA PRIUS V '12-17



## MIDSIZE & LARGE CARS

HONDA ACCORD '12-16  
 MAZDA 6 '12, '14-17  
 ▲ SUBARU LEGACY '12-13, '15-16  
 TOYOTA AVALON '12-15  
 TOYOTA CAMRY '12-16



## LUXURY CARS

BUICK LACROSSE '12-16  
 INFINITI Q50 '14  
 ▲ LEXUS ES '12-14  
 LEXUS IS '12



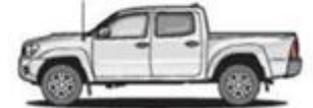
## SMALL SUVs

▲ HONDA CR-V '12-15  
 MAZDA CX-5 '13-16  
 TOYOTA RAV4 '12-15



## MIDSIZE SUVs

LEXUS RX '12-13  
 NISSAN MURANO '12, '14, '16  
 ▲ TOYOTA HIGHLANDER '12-14



## PICKUP TRUCKS

▲ TOYOTA TACOMA '12-15  
 TOYOTA TUNDRA '12-13



## MINIVANS & WAGONS

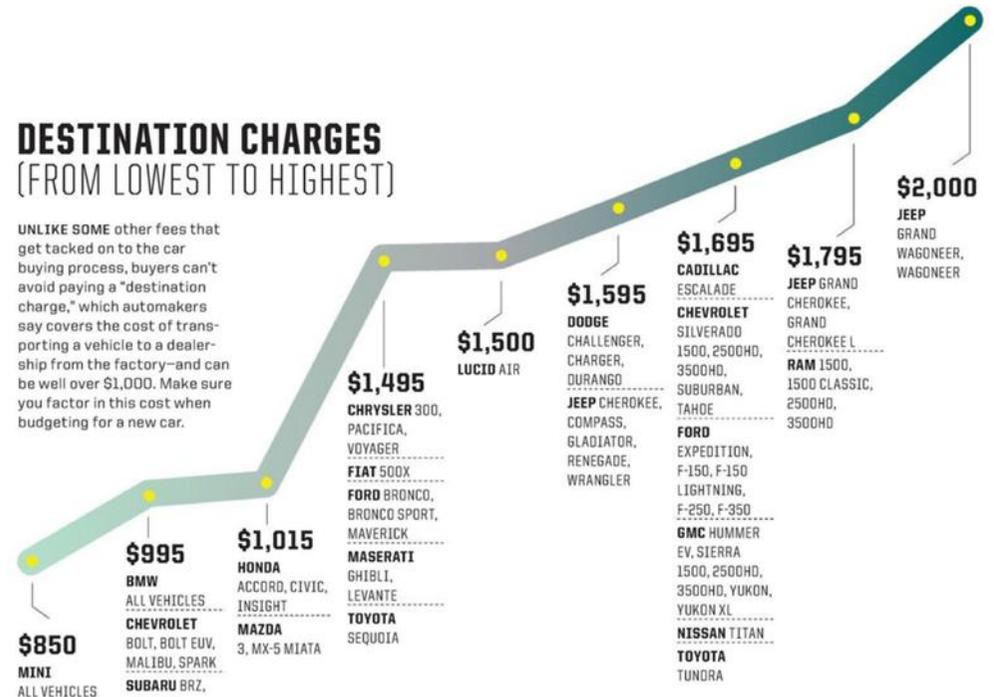
▲ TOYOTA SIENNA '12-15  
 TOYOTA VENZA '12-15



So, yep. Lookin' good!

## DESTINATION CHARGES (FROM LOWEST TO HIGHEST)

UNLIKE SOME other fees that get tacked on to the car buying process, buyers can't avoid paying a "destination charge," which automakers say covers the cost of transporting a vehicle to a dealership from the factory—and can be well over \$1,000. Make sure you factor in this cost when budgeting for a new car.



# An Introduction to Our New Club Treasurer

By Sandy Butler

Hello fellow cruisers.

You might be asking yourselves “How did this happen?” Well, long story short, at the Christmas Party last December (2021) I sat at the table with Noni and Feliza. Noni talked about all her years as Treasurer and that she was resigning, and Feliza mentioned the need for a new Treasurer. Being in the Christmas spirit, I volunteered to take on the role – and here I am!

I worked in Accounting/Finance most of my life – most recently in Budgeting & Forecasting for a major insurance company in Pittsburgh. My husband, Michael, and I became permanent residents of Venice in June 2021 and joined the Miata Club shortly thereafter. We were members of the West Penn Miata Club when we lived in Pittsburgh.

We are both semi-retired now. I work part time as a bookkeeper at Classic Creations in Diamonds and Gold and Michael does some uber-ing or driving for residents in our community. We are both active in our community and sometimes have a lot on our plates, but we wouldn't trade Salt Life living for anything.

Special thanks to Noni for all her time and effort that she put into the Club. I look forward to becoming part of the Board and many top-down adventures.



## Smiling Is Infectious by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!

# How to Modify the ND Mazda MX-5:

## Tips From Good-Win Racing

By David S. Wallens for Grassroots Motorsports



The ND-chassis Mazda MX-5 still has that new-car smell, but owners and tuners are already tearing into them. Good-Win Racing's Brian Goodwin has already started the development process, so we posed a simple question: What are the three most important modifications to make? He gave us two separate lists, one for street and autocross, and another for track.

### Street and Autocross

**Anti-Roll Bars:** "Stock ND body lean is extreme, and sways are the easy way to tame it and thereby keep the tires more flat to the surface and gripping the road," Goodwin says. "Street class autocrossers are reporting great results with our front Progress sway upgrade allowed for that class, while everybody else is adding front and rear bars for best balance."

**Adjustable Shock Absorbers or Coil-Overs:** "The stock ND is amazing, but once you try to autocross or canyon drive it on the weekends, you find the time wasted flopping from bumpstops on one side to bumpstops on the other side limits the driver to extra-slow, gentle inputs that cost time in tight sections," he reports.

Solution? "Tame that bumpstop flop and the real potential of the platform shines. Stock-class autocrossers are waiting on Koni shocks in testing, while STR customers and everybody else are looking to coil-overs from Öhlins, Xida, RSR, Cusco, Tein and more."

**Exhaust:** Need a little more excitement while shedding nearly 10 pounds? "The number-one replacement so far is our RoadsterSport Super Street for street customers and RoadsterSport Race for the more serious Street-class autocrossers."

### Track

**Oil Cooler:** "We likely still have one of the very few NDs with added oil temp data collection, and so far that data says serious ND track use requires oil cooling."

**Coil-Overs:** "All the same reasons named in the previous list are even more true once track days are added to the calendar, along with wider wheels and tires."

**Wider Wheels and Tires:** "I expect either our 17x9-inch 6UL or Advanti Storm wheels to be the top choices in light, flow-formed wheels made for ND track days and STR autocross. A 235/40R17 tire fits in stock ND fenders without rolling on both these choices; 245/40 usually needs a bit of lip roll in our experience."





ED HOWARD  
MAZDA

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mazda

ED HOWARD



2022 MX-5

Show your  
SW FL Miata Club Membership Card  
for  
10% Discounts on Service and Parts

# Miata Club Trip Ideas

## SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE DAY OR OVERNIGHT TRIPS

(\* = Trips we have done before but would do again)

- FAKAHATCHEE STRAND STATE PRESERVE NATURE WALK
- ELEPHANT FARM – POSSIBLE OPTIONS –
  - TWO TAILS RANCH IN WILLISTON, FL. (NEAR GAINESVILLE)
  - ELEPHANT WALK FARMS, CHULUOTA, FL (NORTH OF ORLANDO)
- RINGLING BROS MUSEUM SARASOTA \*
- RODEO IN ARCADIA (Scheduled on March 13, 2022)
- HORSE FARM, OCALA
- STATE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE
- NAPLES ZOO
- TRAIN MUSEUM, PARISH FL \*
- TARPON SPRINGS OVERNIGHT
- LEE COUNTY RECYCLE / WASTE MANAGEMENT TOUR \*
- MONKEY JUNGLE, MIAMI FL
- SWIM WITH THE MANATEES (OVERNIGHT?) CRYSTAL RIVER
- RIVER RANCH OFF ROUTE 60, LAKE WALES, FL
- ROAD TRIP ON CURVY ROADS, NO HIGHWAYS.
- OVERNIGHT TRIP TO MOUNT DORA
- TOUR OF RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM (TAMPA) –  
POSSIBLE OVERNIGHT TRIP, INCLUDE VISITS TO OTHER  
ATTRACTIONS.
- OVERNIGHT TRIP TO KENNEDY SPACE CENTER AND/OR  
DAYTONA SPEEDWAY

- DAKIN FARM TOUR, MYAKKA CITY (THIS WAS A WRITE-IN)
- MARIE SELBY GARDENS \*
- AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM \*
- NAPLES CRUISES (DOUBLE SUNSHINE OR NAPLES PRINCESS) \*
- WICKED DOLPHIN DISTILLERY TOUR \*
- OCTAGON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY \*
- SIESTA KEY RUM DISTILLERY, DER DUTCHMAN, CAR MUSEUM \*
- ECHO GLOBAL FARM TOUR \*
- BIG CAT HABITAT, SARASOTA \*
- GREAT APES CENTER, WACHULA \*
- SOLOMON'S CASTLE, ONA \*
- CLEWISTON TOUR, SUGAR FIELDS, ETC. \*
- GUIDE DOG TRAINING CENTER \*
- LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS REFUGE, ARCADIA \*
- SARASOTA BREWING CO. \*
- RACE DAY AT SEBRING RACE TRACK
- CRUISE UP THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER, CAPT. J.P., TRIPLE  
DECK PADDLE WHEELER \*
- RANDALL RESEARCH CENTER/TASTE OF PINE ISLAND \*
- CHILI COOKOFF \*
- SOUP COOKOFF \*
- MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENTS \*
- SCAVENGER HUNTS
- MYSTERY DRIVES
- OVERNIGHT EVENTS – SUNRISE/SUNSET, TARPON SPRINGS,  
ST. PETERSBURG \*

Don't be shy

and please don't wait for somebody else to step up and do this.

We need you to give this a try and get involved!

Contact Donna Noyes or Ron Lindensmith and they will offer any help  
you may want.

# TRACK DAYS AT TALLADEGA SPEEDWAY

by Donna Noyes

Late in 2020, I received emails from a few organizers that were trying to set up a Miata Day at the Talladega Speedway in Lincoln, AL. Plans were made, Miata Clubs signed up, things were looking good until . . . COVID! Plans were rearranged, organizers set up different dates and events and . . . plans had to be cancelled again due to a lack of staff to man the events.

Now, it is back on the schedule in 2022! Well, almost. It's early in the planning process and four possible dates have been identified. I hope to get more information in a week or two. Here is what I know so far -

Possible dates are:

June 18th  
August 13th  
December 2nd

The event organizer says that Track days will include:

- Two laps around Talladega Superspeedway
- Opening up the garage area to have a large show 'n shine event, open to any makes and models
- We will have food and drink available to purchase
- Photo in victory lane
- Photo of each car before they roll out and do their laps (still working on the details of this)
- Initial plan is to create a folder that we can send to all attendees so they can go in and find their car and other photos that they want to keep
- Dash plaque
- This event is meant to be an all-day event

Also included is a race ticket to either the GEICO 500 on April 24th, 2022 or the YellaWood 500 on October 2nd, 2022. All attendees will sit together for the race, Sections have already been blocked off to keep everyone as close as possible.

Cost is \$35 per person + \$25 per car for the track days. The \$25 will support local charities in East Alabama.

Once we get final details and the actual date, we can find out if we have any interested members that would like to attend. We can caravan to the area - probably this will be a 3- or 4-night trip - and we might find other places to visit on the way or in the area. So, keep this in mind - it could be pretty incredible, I think. Imagine driving your beloved Miata on the Talladega Super Speedway, with a photo to prove it! In the meantime, if you are a fan of Will Ferrell, maybe check out the movie "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby".

Stay tuned for more details.

## Ice Cream Social

***Mark your calendar for this event,  
hosted by Rayanna and Rick Edwards:***

**It's time for the Ice Cream Social!**

Join us on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

We will meet at Cracker Barrel, located at 4260 Boatways Rd, Fort Myers (Exit 141 off I-75) at 1:00 (eat lunch before the drive). We will do a drive through the backroads of Lehigh Acres/Alva. We will end at Rick and Rayanna Edwards' house in Lehigh. We will have ice cream with lots of toppings.

Please RSVP by May 28<sup>th</sup> so Rayanna knows how much Ice Cream and toppings to buy.

**RSVP to Rayanna Edwards – [rayanna1@msn.com](mailto:rayanna1@msn.com)**

**Or call phone number 425-922-6059.**

## Miata Club of SW Florida:

*Editors note: As far as I know only 3 of our members are planning to go to this event. I plan to leave for Birmingham, AL. on the morning of Thursday, July 28th and drive 2/3rds to 3/4ths of the way there. I already have reservations for Fri, Sat & Sun nights at the Hampton Inn listed at the end of this ad. There are less expensive motels in the area.*

*I'm already scheduled to do the Track Day on Sunday and I know one other member has signed up for the Car Control Clinic on Saturday. I believe I will be leaving Birmingham on Monday and driving to North Carolina, somewhere near Fontana, which is where they will be doing Miatas at the Gap on August 4th thru the 7th (see page 36). It's my intention to drive the Tail of the Dragon and maybe 1 or 2 other mountain roads on Tuesday and Wednesday, hopefully before too many other Miatas show up. I'll visit Fontana on Thursday and/or Friday to visit the vendor displays, see some sites, buy a T-shirt or two and then leave for SW Florida Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. That's a 750 mile, 11.5 hour trip and probably over 2 days... but it could be a 1 day marathon. Or I might even stop just 90 minutes down the road to visit my younger brother for a day or two in Cashiers, NC.*

**The Miata Reunion website is officially live!**

[www.miatareunion.com](http://www.miatareunion.com)



**Flyin' Miata G-Force Challenge** all day Saturday to test both your driving skills AND your Miata's grip on the Barber Skid Pad.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Car Control Clinic by Jzilla Track Days** all day Saturday, offering professional instruction to improve those driving skills.

**No roll bars are required.**

**Moss Miata Car Show** on Saturday afternoon. Winners receive trophies and prizes, including seats at the Saturday Banquet, courtesy of Moss. Will display winning cars at the entrance of the Museum for the evening Banquet.

**Miata Reunion Formal Banquet** Saturday evening inside the Museum, with **special guest speakers; Tom Matano and Norman Garrett.** (Space limited to 400 people).

**Vendor Alley** – the only time each year where all the top Miata parts and service folks are at the same event.

**Saturday Parade Laps** on track, including Group Photo and aerial drone video. At our last event, we had 644 Miatas in the Parade Laps.

**Moss Miata Sunday Cruise.** Limited to 50 cars, touring a pre-planned fun route through beautiful (and twisty) Alabama country roads.

**Registration is open**

Miata Reunion 2022

Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2022

Barber Motorsports Parks, Leeds, Alabama

On-site registration: Friday, July 29, 2022, at Hampton Inn & Suites, Leeds (official Event Hotel).



## **What is Miatas at the Gap? <https://www.gapmiatas.com/>**

Simply put, MATG is THE longest running Miata gathering in the country. Located in the midst of some of the greatest driving roads in the country. We are one of the largest gatherings of Miatas and owners in the US.

### **Who?**

Attendees range from Miata newbie to 20+ year veteran and their vehicles from stock to Excocet/track rat and all forms in between. They come from all walks of life and some even come from other countries to attend each year. The cars were meant for these roads and the area doesn't disappoint.

### **Where?**

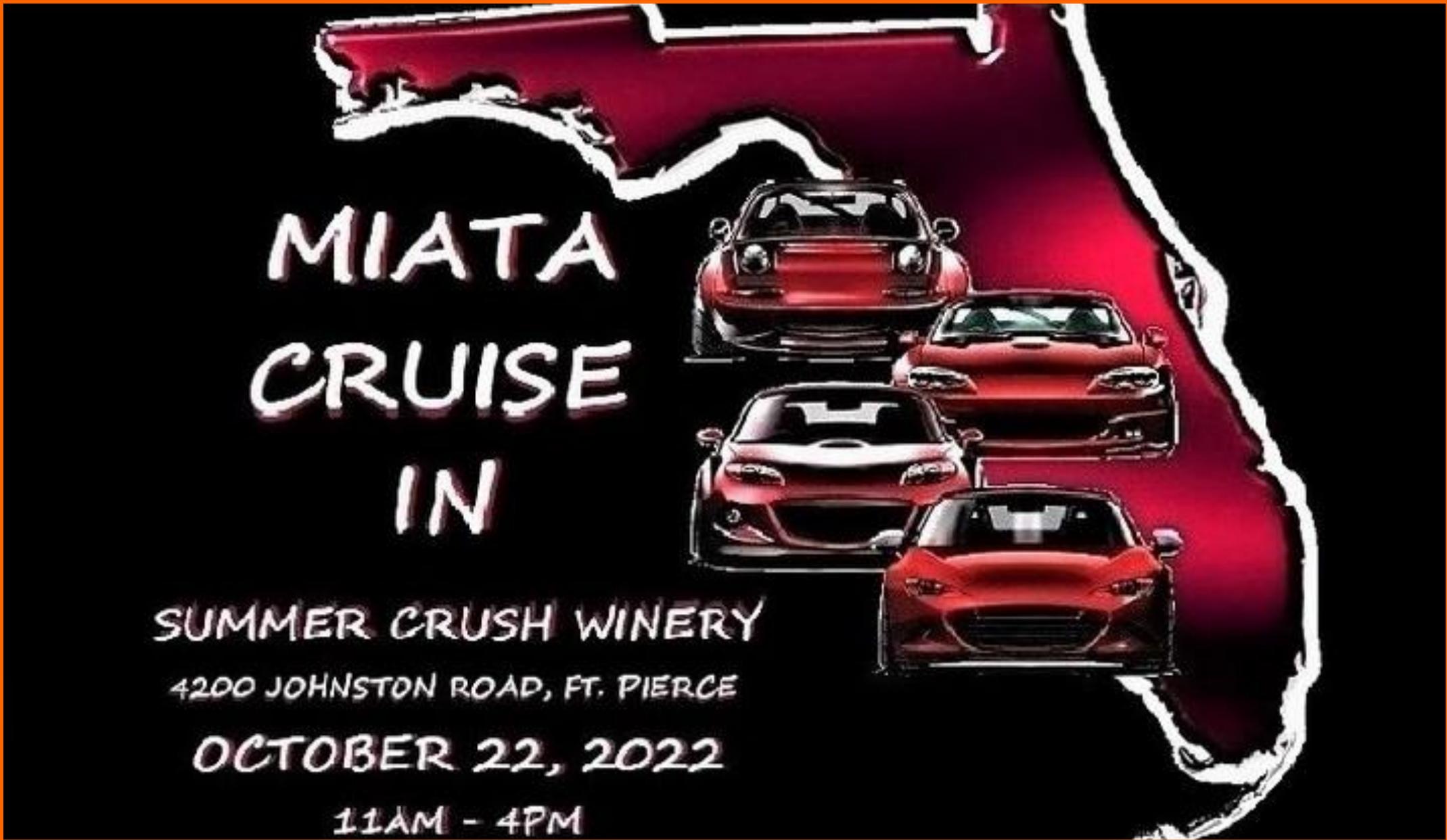
Ground Zero for the event is the Fontana Village Resort (link, map) located in the middle of Miata driving paradise. The main attraction for the Miata enthusiast is the legendary Tail of the Dragon. Being in close proximity to other options like Wayah Road, the Cherohala Skyway, Moonshiner 28, Devil's Triangle TN, Six Gap in Georgia, and Diamondback 226A means endless hours and days of driving bliss.

### **Why?**

Miata, MX-5, Eunos Roadster, whatever you call it, the Mazda Miata is the most popular sports car ever made. With more than 1,000,000 built since 1989 and fans and enthusiasts the world over love to come together to enjoy great driving roads, make lasting friendships, and enjoy being a part of the greatest group of car enthusiasts around.

### **Other Details**

We have vendors for all types of Miata upgrades, a tent with event t-shirts and commemorative dash plaques, a schedule of organized drives, and the infamous beer and wine swap on Saturday night. There is also a General Store nearby to keep you fed and hydrated for your driving adventures while providing a great meeting point.



MIATA  
CRUISE  
IN

SUMMER CRUSH WINERY

4200 JOHNSTON ROAD, FT. PIERCE

OCTOBER 22, 2022

11AM - 4PM

More info to follow as it becomes available.

Thanks to Mark at the Miata Club of South Florida.

# Key West "Hometown Holiday Parade"

By Dana Breda

Hi all,

I'm getting an early start organizing a trip to Key West for the 2022 Christmas parade!

The Miata Club has been participating in the Key West Christmas Parade for 26 years (they cancelled the parade in 2020) and it has always been a fun time! We drive to Key West together on Friday morning, stop several places along our way for sightseeing and lunch, and arrive about 4:00 pm. Saturday is yours to explore the area, and there are many fun ways to spend your day. We usually meet for an early dinner on Saturday before we decorate our Miatas for the 7 pm parade. After the parade, you can do the Duval crawl, or head out for cocktails and conversation. Sunday, most of us head for home.

If you haven't seen them, check out the videos of the parade on the gallery page of our website at [miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com](http://miataclubofsouthwestflorida.com).

I've been leading the parade weekend for the last few years and we've typically had between 8 and 12 Cars. In 2019 several members of the Music City (Nashville) Miata Club joined us and they had 3 cars attending last year. I've sent them an invitation for this year also but don't know if any will attend.

**I need to know if you are interested in going!** I know it's very early, but please let me know if you think you can make it. I also need to know if you would make your own room reservation or if I should try to find a hotel for the group. Room rates went high after Covid and have not come down. Average room rates at the time of this writing are around \$300 per night. Hotels fill up fast for the parade weekend. Those with a military ID card are eligible to stay at the Navy MWR facilities in Key West.

**Call, text or email me if you have any questions!**

Dana Breda

[dbreda@earthlink.net](mailto:dbreda@earthlink.net)

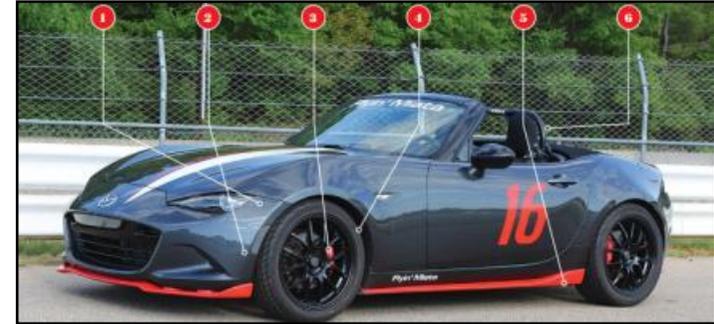
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# Test Drive: Flyin' Miata's MX-5

By David S. Wallens Dec 22, 2016 - From the Oct. 2016 issue |

During the recent Speedfest at the [Classic Motorsports Mitty](#), the Flyin' Miata crew handed us the keys for their latest MX-5 project, one of the all-new ND-chassis cars fitted with their own suspension setup. It drives just as nicely as the stock version, they promised.

After spending an hour soaking up the twisty roads that surround Road Atlanta, we have to declare their claim true. Despite our attempt to hit every imperfection in the pavement, the car retained its composure.



1) Their Fox suspension setup adds performance-tuned dampers from Fox, a name commonly associated with motorcycles. The test car features their Sport setup: 400 lbs./in. front springs paired with 225 lbs./in. rears. The stock springs measure about 155 lbs./in. front and 70 lbs./in. rear. MSRP: \$1925

2) It's no secret that the stock MX-5 likes to roll. Flyin' Miata now offers adjustable, upsized anti-roll bars formed in 4140 chrome-moly. The front bar is hollow. MSRP: \$275

3) The company's Little Big Brake Kit fits lighter four-piston calipers around the stock rotors, shedding more than 18 pounds of unsprung weight. MSRP: \$999

4) The test car wears 17x8-inch 949 Racing wheels wrapped with 235/45R17 Yokohama S.drive tires. No fender mods required. MSRP: \$1815.60 mounted and balanced.

5) Would you like your exhaust loud or quiet? The Hush-O-Matic does both: During sane driving, the exhaust gases are routed through the muffler, but when you really crack open the throttle, the muffler is bypassed. An optional electronic control package allows you to toggle between the two modes. MSRP: \$615

6) That's a prototype Hard Dog roll bar. Look for more details soon.



**THE  
END**

