

# Road Runner



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

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

## First Coast Miata Club

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## FLOATING THE BOAT TO THE PLANTATION

**MEET:** Saturday 8:00 A.M., August 20, 2022 at the Ft. Caroline Post Office 10990 Ft. Caroline Rd 32225

**DEPART:** 8:30 A.M.

Time for a little education, so on August 20th we will saddle up and take a trip down memory lane.

We will wind through the wilds of Fort Caroline Rd., Wonderwood Rd. and Scenic A1A to the historic Mayport Ferry. We will navigate the rushing torrents of the mighty St. Johns River utilizing the power of the majestic Mayport Ferry.

Upon making landfall on Ft George Island we will trek on A1A to the historic Kingsley Plantation. Our first stop will be the museum located in the famous Ribault Club. Once we are saturated in ancient history we will continue our journey to the Plantation House.

After touring the Plantation we will depart for the Palms Fish Camp Restaurant for an early, scrumptious lunch.

More driving will be available by request, so gas 'em, shine 'em and drive 'em to our August adventure.

**SEE ALL YOU LOONEY, LOVABLE MIATAPHILES ON THE 20<sup>th</sup>!!!**

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# 5th Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive - July 16, 2022







## Hot Wheels Legends Is Bringing Some Wild Rides Like This Mazda MX-5 To Arkansas

On June 4th, the Hot Wheels Legends Tour made a stop in Bentonville, Arkansas to highlight the “best of Arkansan custom car culture.” The winner will go on to be a part of the Global Grand Finale later this year in November.

A gentleman by the name of Chris Wollard has created a car called the Chrome Spaceship and if you think it looks like a Mazda Miata, you’re correct. We get the feeling that despite being totally out of this world that it wouldn’t really perform very well on the track, the road, or in space.

The whole custom car shindig kicked off at 8:00 a.m. at none other than a Walmart Supercenter. Y’all better know that if we’re gonna have a party down here in Arkansas it had better be at the Walmart. In all seriousness, almost every in-person Hot Wheel Legends event takes place at a Walmart since they’re partnered with Mattel.

“Walmart has been an instrumental partner of the Hot Wheels Legends Tour since 2018,” said Ted Wu, Vice President, Global Head of Design for Vehicles, Mattel.

“Together, we look forward to seeing which Arkansan fan-built custom car will be the next finalist, and one-step closer to having their passion project immortalized as an official Hot Wheels 1:64 die-cast vehicle,” he continued.

Judges for the weekend event include Cliff Starbird, Former Monster Truck driver, Shawna Moore, Organizer of Arkansas Car Shows N Swap Meets, and Stephanie Prewett, Owner of Chrome Fins Restoration. Two lead designers from Hot Wheels, Tyler Charest, and Eric Han will also judge.



## Best Mazda MX-5 Miatas: Our picks for top years, models, speed and performance

Yes, there is a best Miata, but you can hardly make a wrong choice

The Mazda MX-5 Miata has been around since 1989 (1990 model year in the U.S.) and has gone through four generations. So that inevitably leaves the question at the top of this post, "What's the best Miata?" Well, we do have an answer, but it can be a bit more complicated depending on what you're looking for. So take a look below to find your perfect roadster companion.

### The Best and Fastest Miata: 2019+ Mazda MX-5

If you've read our past coverage, you may have seen this coming. The fourth-generation Miata does every Miata thing better than any prior. We'll specifically call out the more powerful refreshed version (sometimes referred to as ND2). With 181 horsepower and 151 pound-feet of torque, it makes more power than any Miata prior thanks to extra revs (among other upgrades). It weighs less than its predecessor and barely more than the second-generation, despite having modern safety features and technology. Speaking of which, it has the best technology of any Miata with things like CarPlay (though, that's not a huge achievement if we're honest). It's even the most efficient, and there's the Miata RF retractable roof model for people who want a coupe shape or a little more isolation from the elements. But if you do decide to get a Mazda MX-5 Miata RF, our suggestion is to opt for the manual transmission instead of the optional automatic.

But it's not just the numbers. It's the combination of those numbers with the fact that the ND still has all the characteristics the Miata has become known for. It's light and tossable. The shifter clicks from slot to slot effortlessly. It doesn't have too much tire, so you can partake in rear-drive shenanigans at safe and legal velocities. And it manages to be sporty without being punishing to drive daily.

A close runner-up to the 2019 MX-5 is the pre-refresh model from 2016 to 2018. What knocks it down a peg is that it doesn't have as rev-happy of an engine, and peak power is down at 155 ponies. But the good news is that most everything else is just as good. And even the engine is basically as powerful as the updated one until it hits its lower redline. As such, you're not missing out on much. But if you can, the 2019 and later ND does bring a little more to the table.

### The Most Practical Miata: 2006-2015 Mazda MX-5

Yes, practicality seems like a silly thing to discuss with a little roadster, but sometimes you want your toy to still do things like commute and go grocery shopping, or you want to take it on a lengthy road trip. When it comes to a Miata that you can really live with, it's hard to beat the third generation (NC).

One of the highlights of the NC is simply the space. It's the biggest (and heaviest) Miata, and that means it has far and away the most interior space. If you're a large or tall person, the best odds of fitting in a Miata is with the NC. It also has the most cargo space at 5.3 cubic feet.

And while it is the heaviest, it's not really heavy. None of them weighed more than about 2,600 pounds. And until the 2019 Miata, the NC was the most powerful naturally aspirated model with around 160 horsepower, depending on year and transmission. That engine is still happy to rev, and the transmission is superb, arguably even better than the one in the ND.

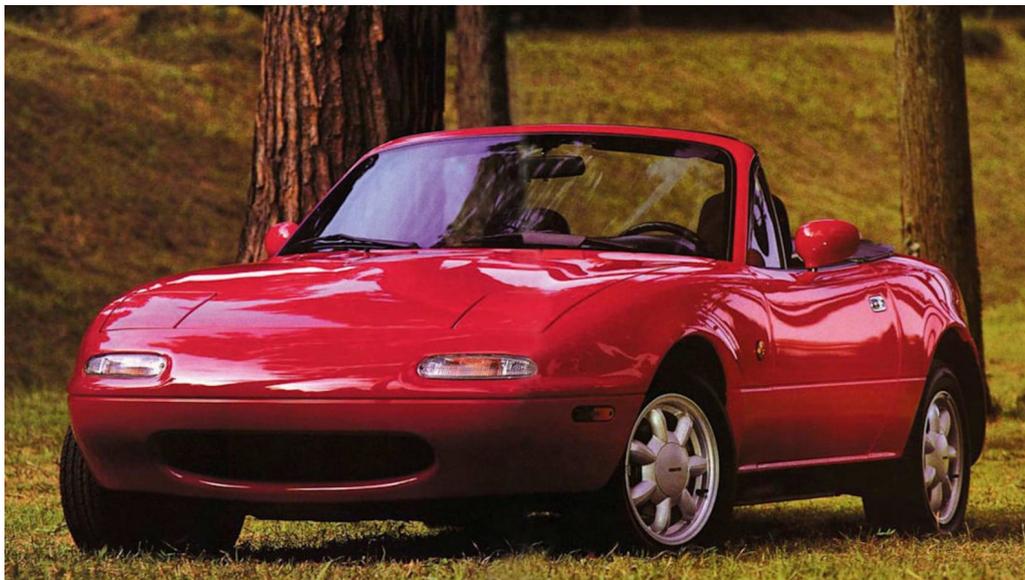
The NC also featured the first power retractable hardtop Miata variant. So you can pair the most comfortable and roomy Miata with the refinement of a solid roof. And unlike the ND, the NC hardtop actually fully lowers its entire roof. It doesn't even intrude on the trunk space. So you get full practicality, refinement and top-down fun.

The Actual Best Miata: The one you have

The reality of the situation is that there are basically no bad Miatas. They're all really fun. The best one is whichever one you can get in reasonable condition for a reasonable price. Probably the most affordable Miatas right now are second-generation NB cars and early NC models. The NB is a highly appealing car since it's very closely related to the original model, but features a little more power, a little more cargo and passenger space, and a stiffer chassis. And while it doesn't have lovable pop-up headlights, it does get more space under the hood and no cranky headlight mechanisms. The NB was also available with the one-and-only factory turbocharged Miata variant, the Mazdaspeed Miata. If you can find a good one of those, absolutely buy one.

The NA of course is a favorite of many Miata buyers because of those aforementioned lights. It's also the lightest model, and well, you never forget the first. Ideally, you'll want one of the 1994-1997 models, which got the more powerful and more easily modified 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine. But the 1.6 will still be fun, and it can be easily replaced with the later 1.8.

Also, the Miata is a great starting point if you're looking to modify a car. There's a massive aftermarket for sprucing up the appearance, sound and performance of the little roadster. There are turbo and supercharger kits for every generation, so you can get more power in exactly the way you want. The engines take kindly to the extra power, as do the drivetrains, so you're unlikely to seriously break anything unless you're doing some really custom stuff. And if you do break anything, parts are cheap and easily available. Your author can truly speak to this, since he has a supercharged NB parked away in his garage. So the best Miata is the one that you can put in your garage and make your own.



More Funny Bumper Stickers



## **FCMC Events Calendar**

- **August 9 6:00 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting - Cross Creek BBQ & Steak House**

The meeting will be held at Cross Creek BBQ at 850 S Lane Ave, Jacksonville FL 32205. The meeting starts at 7 pm but come as early as you can to get the most out of your evening. Enjoy dinner at your leisure and share with your Miata friends. There is lots to talk about. What an evening!

- **August 20 8:00 A.M. - Mayport Ferry to Kingsley Plantation**

With the sweltering heat of a Florida summer day ahead of you, what better way to enjoy your Miata than to drop your top and take a morning drive enjoying a ferry across the river to end up at Kingsley Plantation followed by a delicious lunch!!! See the front page for all the details.

- **September 14 6:00 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting**

The meeting will be held at a place that has food (maybe Sonic again; who knows!) somewhere in our area. Come to the August meeting to find out or keep an eye on our website or Facebook page! The meeting always starts at 7 pm but come as early as you can to get the most out of your evening.

### **Happy August Birthdays To:**

**Mike French, Gary Donovan, Gloria Talbert, Lance Moore, Tara Galaydick, Cassie Pluymers, Kathy Smith, Jacob Anderson, Milt Bauer, Kevin Koehl, Lisa Luptak, Trina Medaev, Jose Montilla-Creso & Paul Hellings**

### **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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## **Off-Roading Corvaire Wagon Tows Broken Hummer H1 Through Rocky Desert**

These days, attention is focused on the GMC Hummer EV and its crazy-fast acceleration. Step back a few decades, however, and you have the Hummer H1. It was a military machine long before making its way into the civilian world, and it's still revered as a hardcore off-roader of epic proportions. That is, unless it breaks down.

That's exactly what happened to the H1 featured in Matt's Off Road Recovery. The Utah based 4x4 rescue specialists got a call about a HumVee stranded in a ravine while crawling through some rocky terrain. It didn't get stuck, nor did the driver attempt some kind of ridiculous jump. The H1 is used by a local company for off-road tours, and while creeping down a rock ledge, the driver heard a snap. Once at the bottom, the engine was running but the wheels weren't turning. Not good.

