



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

Brumos Car Museum

June 15, 2024, Saturday, Meet 9:45 a.m. at Brumos Car Museum. 5159 SAN PABLO ROAD S. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224

The Brumos Collection is 35,000 square feet dedicated to the technology, innovation and historical significance behind some of the world’s finest automobiles.

Although serious race fans and gear-heads will appreciate the collection and all the memorabilia, everyone will find the historical significance and sheer volume of memorabilia interesting. The museum was designed to take guests through two unique experiences. The first section of the collection features open cockpit racers and early automotive innovations, with the oldest being an 1894 Peugeot. Besides the cars, there are engines, vintage racing equipment and drivers’ gear. All of the cars have a kiosk that provides the car’s history, vintage photographs and stat sheets detailing car specifications. The second area is full of Porsche race cars from 1953-2017. The cases in this section are filled with legendary race trophies and awards throughout the years.

Come join us for a unique experience! We have a group admission rate of \$16.99 per person. Afterwards we will go for a team lunch. Location under construction.



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Annual Picnic/Officer Elections at the Mayport Community Center 05/20/23

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2024-2025!!! See the front page!









Mazda Miata 'Daisy' wheels reborn thanks to RML

The original 14x5-inch wheels available as a modernized 15x8

You've probably never heard of Retro-Modern Line wheels, or RML for short. But the company's got a cool story and it makes some exceptionally tasty wheels, such as the ones we're here to discuss: NA Mazda Miata "Daisy" wheels. The 14-inch Daisies came on the first Miata, their seven spokes evoking wheels like the eight-spoke 12-inchers on the original Mini, helping to strengthen the Miata's connection to classic, lightweight British runabouts. The Miata's come a long way since then, and so have its wheel choices, but the Daisies were largely left behind until now. RML has designed a modernized 15-inch, cast and flow-formed version of the original.

That's not cheap, but not crazy, the perfect spot for RML. The short backstory is that Brad Beardow co-founded a VW and Audi tuning company in 1996. When his partner left, Beardow decided he wanted to make wheels instead, so he started Fifteen15 wheels. That's the same Fifteen15 spotted all over the tuner world and on Ken Block's car, since Block used Fif-



teen52s for about 10 years and helped design a set of the Turbomac units. Beardow eventually decided he wanted to get into updated versions of noteworthy retro wheels, creating RML for the purpose. The first units were some gorgeous cast and forged versions of the Snowflake wheels that came on the Mk1 VW Golf, and a similar range of the Tear-drop wheels that probably made their biggest impression on the second-gen VW Scirocco. As with the Daisies, all the wheels are sold in limited numbers.

So RML knows what's up. The new Daisies are 15 x 8, making room for stouter rubber than can be had on the old school 14 x 5.5 wheels. Cast is the only option for now, however, RML combines a cast center with a flow-formed barrel for hoops that are lighter and stronger than pure cast wheels while keeping costs down. Offset's still being determined, but the wheels are designed for "maximum brake clearance." And the original 14-inch center caps will fit these 15-inchers.

Pre-orders will open next month, and only 600 wheels will be made at \$269 apiece. Deliveries are scheduled for summer. RML's also been known to hold the occasional buy 3 get 1 free promotion, so keep an eye on the site if you're interested. We figure these are worth it at full retail, so why risk missing out.

FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **June 11 - 6:00 p.m. Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at Culhane's Irish Pub at 9720 Deer Lake Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32246. Find out what's cooking by joining us for a First Coast Miata Club. The restaurant is located off Southside Blvd. right next to the Tinseltown movie theater. Dinner at 6:00pm. Meeting at 7:00pm.

- **June 15 - 9:45 a.m. Brumos Car Museum**

We will meet at the museum at 5159 San Pablo Rd S, Jax FL 32224. The admission is \$16.99 per person. Afterwards we will head out for lunch. See the front page for all the details.

- **July 20 - 7th Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive**

It's that time of year when evening drives are in order to beat the heat. Every year we honor our very own Jim Padgett. More details next month and on our club website and on our Facebook page.

Happy June Birthdays To:

**Bradley Corner, Walt Boehme, David Wolfe, Arved Grass,
Ricky Falkenstein, Gary Donovan, John Watson,
Sally Ross, Paul Kahle and Marquetta Reavis**

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

**Rocco Belmonte, Abdurrazzaq Abdullah, Richard Schenck,
Gerard Fennelly, Gary & Debbi Oberman and
Paul & Catherine Schaefer**

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We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Fan Page: facebook.com/firstcoastmiataclub

North Wilkesboro Speedway finds a potential moonshine cave under its grandstands

In 1920, when the Volstead Act made getting a Friday-night buzz illegal, folks who blurred the line between entrepreneurs and criminals fought back by distilling bootleg liquor. Staying out of jail required keeping a low profile; moonshine reportedly got its name because it was usually made at night. The North Wilkesboro Speedway has found what could be a secret moonshine cave under its grandstands.

The discovery wasn't entirely unexpected: Track officials claim rumors of a moonshine cave located somewhere on the property have been part of the local folklore for years. It's how the cave was discovered that took everyone by surprise. Staff noticed cracks in the concrete of Section N while cleaning and inspecting the grandstands in March 2024. They removed the seats and found a 700-square-foot cave.

"We haven't found a still yet, but we've found a small cave and an interior wall that would have been the perfect location to not only make illegal liquor but to hide from the law as well. We don't know how people would have gotten in and out, but as we uncover more there's no telling what we might find," explained Steve Swift, the senior vice president of operations and development at Speedway Motorsports.

Adding credibility to the track's story is the link between Prohibition and racing. To avoid getting caught by law enforcement, bootleggers learned how to tune an engine to make a car go faster, and they learned how to drive a car at its limits. Both of these skills could also be applied to racing. Junior Johnson, one of the best NASCAR drivers in the 1950s, was also "the best-known bootlegger in Wilkes County, North Carolina." He was inducted in the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2010, and one of the stills he built is on display at the Heritage Speedway.

North Wilkesboro Speedway is in Wilkes County. We're not trying to link Johnson to the track's moonshine cave; we're pointing out this coincidence to highlight that bootleggers were active in the general vicinity of the track and could have credibly hid a still in the grandstands. As they try to figure out precisely what the cave was used for, and whether there's a still hidden somewhere, track officials are also working to quickly repair the concrete and re-install the 600 seats they removed.