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# Road Runner

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

## First Coast Miata Club

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## Polar Bear Drive

### "Polar Bear" Drive

**Saturday, January 4, 2025**

Meet at 9:00 am, depart 9:30 am

Starts at the RaceTrac gas station at 9980 New Kings Rd, 32219

OK, so the pic below is a little bit of an exaggeration, it probably won't be THAT cold! But it probably WILL be kinda chilly, so dress warmly!

Let's kick off 2025 on January 4 at the RaceTrac gas station located at 9980 New Kings Rd, Jacksonville 32219. We meet at 9:00 am and will depart at 9:30 am sharp. The drive will be a true country drive along Miata kinds of roads in NE Florida and SE Georgia finishing at Mudcat Charlie's in Darien for a superb lunch. This is our POLAR BEAR drive so come prepared for some cold (we hope!) TOPLESS (the car, not you) DRIVING!

See all you adventuresome Miataphiles on the 4th!



### Inside this issue:

Green...	2
...Cove	3
...Springs	4
...Parade	5
Miata EV	6
FCMC Events Calendar	7
Twelve Days of Miata	8

**Green Cove Springs Christmas Parade - Dec 7, 2024**















## Should Miatas be converted to electric power?

The thought of a Mazda MX-5 Miata EV brings up both good and bad images. The positives include a pollution-free propulsion system, even less maintenance than the typically trouble-free ICE Miata requires, and freedom from the tyranny of high gas prices.

The negatives include a massively heavy battery to lug around and the loss of that unique Miata balance and handling feel.

But what if you could have a Miata EV that keeps the car's inherent balance, increases the horsepower, and adds a weight penalty equal to a single large passenger? A company in the UK has revealed a Miata EV conversion kit that can do just that.

Electrogenic, located in Kidlington, UK, recently revealed its "plug and play" electrification kit for the Mazda MX-5 Miata NA. It is the latest in a series of kits that are available to convert cars such as the Porsche 911, Jaguar E-type, classic Mini, Land Rover Defender, and DeLorean DMC-12 to EVs. The company also does custom projects, including its recent conversion of Jason Momoa's 1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom II to electric power.

The company's conversion kit, which is said to be entirely reversible, requires no cutting or drilling of the Miata's structure. All components of the kit, both software and hardware, are developed and integrated in-house by Electrogenic and are brand new. The ICE engine is replaced by a 42 kWh battery pack, with additional batteries replacing the fuel tank. This keeps all the battery weight low in the vehicle and preserves the original trunk space. The fuel filler becomes the charging port.

The compact 160-horsepower electric motor, a significant boost from the original's 116 hp engine, drives the rear wheels through a single-speed, fixed-ratio gearbox. A drive-mode selector lets you choose Eco, Normal, or Sport settings. The regen braking adjusts based on the drive mode selected. The total weight added by the kit is 220 pounds (100 kg).

The Miata EV's zero-to-60 mph time is around six seconds, and the top speed is the same at 115 mph. The range is estimated at 150 miles, which seems suitable for most Miata owners' use cases.

Miata EVs can charge at a CCS rapid charger, which takes about one hour to recharge the car. The conversion can be done on Miatas with both manual and automatic transmissions, but either shift lever is likely to have no functional purpose in the completed Miata EV.

The company has not stated when the Miata EV kit will be available or what the cost is expected to be, but the kits will be available through their worldwide network of installer partners. There are four U.S. installers located in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, and California, as well as one in British Columbia, Canada. A call to one of them produced some tentative answers.

Since the original Miata EV kit was developed for the UK market and its right-hand-steer cars, a few details need to be worked out for the left-hand-steer Miatas found on our shores, as well as in many other lands. The installer commented that the kits might be ready by spring 2025.

As far as cost, expect a ballpark price of \$35,000 to \$40,000, plus the donor car, according to the installer. This is based on the cost of converting other vehicles with the Electrogenic kits, as well as the fact that the components are custom-fitted for this application and are brand new, including the batteries.

## FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **January 4 - 9:00 am Polar Bear Drive**

Let's kick off 2025 on January 4 at the RaceTrac gas station located at 9980 New Kings Rd, Jacksonville 32219. We meet at 9:00 am and will depart at 9:30 am sharp. The drive will be a true country drive along Miata kinds of roads in NE Florida and SE Georgia finishing at Mudcat Charlie's in Darien for a superb lunch. This is our POLAR BEAR drive so come prepared for some cold (we hope!) TOPLESS (the car, not you) DRIVING!

- **January 14 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting at Players Locker Room:**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at Players Locker Club at 4456 Hendricks Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Find out what's cooking by joining us for a First Coast Miata Club. Dinner & Social at 6:00 pm. Our meeting will be at 7:00 pm. Topics of discussion will include upcoming events. Come early and hang out with fellow club members to get the most out of your evening.

You definitely don't want to miss out on all the fun-filled, action-packed drives we have planned for this year with many more to come!

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### Welcome to Our Newest Members:

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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.



**First Coast Miata Club**  
c/o Mike French  
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**The rear defroster should  
take care of this.**



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**We're on the Web! Check us out!**  
**Web Page:** [www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub](https://facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub)

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## The Twelve Days of Miata

On the 12th day of Mazda, my Miata gave to me:

Twelve turns a-twisting  
Eleven pipes exhausting  
Ten Lanes a Leaping  
Nine Ladies Oogling  
Eight Mods a Modding  
Seven Drifts a Skidding  
Six speed transmisson  
FIIIIIIIIIIIIIVE PISTON RINGS...  
Fo-our alloy wheels  
Three Drive Belts  
Two air horns  
And the finger from an S-U-V!

