

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



March 2025

Volume 35, Issue 9



### LET'S GO BANANAS!!!

March 15 at the Publix in Fruit Cove- 450 State Road 13 N, St Johns Fl 32259

Meet at 8:30 am, Depart at 9:00 am

This drive is going to be bananas! Designed and led by Ashley Horn. We'll begin at the Publix in Fruit Cove, and head south on SR13. We'll journey alongside the St John's river through farmlands, tree-covered lanes, pine bluffs, even a few hills and valleys, until we reach Crescent City. Here we will dine at Three Bananas Restaurant. There will be turns and twists and beautiful scenery all along the way. Hope you can go bananas with us- it's gonna be a VERY a-peel-ing drive!

#### First Coast Miata Club

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Drive to Gator Joe's - 02/15/25















## First to the Finish: Prime Video's new series shines a spotlight on rising female stars in racing

Motorsports fans are in for a treat as First to the Finish, a brand-new docuseries chronicling the 2024 Mazda MX-5 Cup season, is set to premiere on Prime Video on March 25. The show offers unprecedented access to one of the most competitive one-make racing series in North America, following the journeys of two young female drivers and a female team owner as they push boundaries in the traditionally male-dominated world of racing.

First to the Finish aims to capture the high stakes and relentless determination required to succeed in professional racing. The series follows three central figures:

**Shea Holbrook** – A former racing champion turned team owner, Holbrook is leading BSI Racing through its first full season in the Mazda MX-5 Cup. After stepping away from professional racing to focus on family, she returns to the paddock in a new role, proving that leadership in motorsports isn't just about speed on the track.

**Heather Hadley (#54)** – A rising star in her sophomore MX-5 Cup season, Hadley is balancing her pursuit of racing glory while completing her senior year at UNC-Charlotte.

**Sally Mott (#15)** – A rookie with an unshakable belief in her own abilities, Mott enters the 2024 season after earning a coveted spot through Mazda's MX-5 Cup Shootout. Her sole focus is on proving she belongs at the top level.

Beyond the thrilling wheel-to-wheel battles on track, First to the Finish offers an intimate look into the personal lives of these competitors, showcasing the sacrifices and triumphs that define their journeys.

Mazda has long positioned itself as a brand that embraces the underdog spirit, and First to the Finish is an extension of that philosophy. The MX-5 Cup has been a proving ground for countless drivers who have gone on to successful professional careers, and this series highlights how it continues to serve as a launchpad for fresh talent.

If you got hooked on Drive to Survive for the behind-the-scenes drama or felt the emotional pull of Welcome to Wrexham, you'll want to check out First to the Finish, as takes you inside the world of up-and-coming racers fighting for their big break, and while the racing action is intense, that's just part of the story.

At its core, First to the Finish is about ambition, perseverance, and the sacrifices people make to chase their dreams. Even if you don't know a thing about motorsports, the personal stories will pull you in. It's raw, emotional, and genuinely compelling.

## FCMC Events Calendar

- **March 11 - 6:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at Players Locker Club at 4456 Hendrick's Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Find out what we are cooking up by joining us then. 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.

- **March 15 - 8:30 am. Let's Go Bananas!**

Meet at the Publix in Fruit Cove- 450 State Road 13 N, St Johns Fl 32259. The destination is going to be the Three Bananas Restaurant in Crescent City. See the front page for more info.

- **April 5 - 8:30 am to 11:30 am. 10th Annual San Jose Car & Truck Show**

At Dupont Station shopping center, 6271 St Augustine Rd. Because First Coast Miata Club members have had an active role in participating and helping with operating the show, the organizers are planning to add a Miata Class to the show. There will a "best of" Miata and two runner ups as well. There is a \$25 entry fee at the event, all proceeds are donated to the Bishop John J Snyder Community Center at the nearby San Jose Apartments- A HUD subsidized property for low-income seniors of all faiths. The Snyder Center itself relies on donations and is NOT HUD funded. Time to shine 'em up and show 'em off, all for a good cause!

- **April 12 - 5:00 pm to 8 p.m. 17th Annual Classic Mazda Racing Exhibition**

At Classic Mazda Orlando: Featuring historic and modern racing Mazdas, Giant Mazda car show, Hot Wheel races on the 100 foot racetrack (bring yours if you got one!) and just a giant celebration of Racing and car culture. Ask anyone who went last year how HUGE this event is! We can have a group drive down to Classic Mazda that afternoon, but we need someone to lead it. Unfortunately, Hank McLeod is unable to go and lead the drive this year, but he would be happy to provide the route to someone willing to lead the event. It's an enjoyable drive that uses some toll roads, but NO driving on I-4!

### Welcome Our Newest Members:

Sharon & Jeremy Matthews, Ryan Ertel, Charlie & Lynda Lewis, Margo Martin and Laurence Lane

**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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**We're on the Web! Check us out!**

**Web Page:** [www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)

**Group Page:** [facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub](https://facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub)

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## **20 Y.O. Crashes Through BMW Showroom After M4 CS Credit Check Failed**

The legend of Florida man continues to grow as a 20-year old went to a BMW dealership in Gainesville to buy a new M4 CS, a 543-horsepower coupe that costs north of \$125,000. However, he reportedly freaked out after failing to pass a credit check and was denied the opportunity for a test drive.

While nobody likes being told they're not worthy, Kevin Leiman didn't brush it off. Instead, he attempted to grab the car keys as he was leaving. Dealership employees were able to prevent this, so Leiman went back to his car empty handed.

He reportedly sat in his vehicle for a little bit, before circling the building twice. Leiman then reportedly floored it and crashed into the showroom. After exiting his vehicle, he allegedly continued looking for the keys to the M4 CS.

Leiman couldn't find them, so he left on foot and was eventually stopped by police. Authorities arrested him for grand theft auto and criminal mischief, and believe he caused around \$60,000 in damage to the dealership. On the bright side, no one was injured and the building didn't suffer any structural damage.

A Bimmerpost user uploaded a picture of the aftermath and it shows stunned employees standing around the showroom, which is covered in broken glass. They added he almost hit the M4 CS and said the car "probably [suffered] some damage to the paint from the glass shards."

While that's relatively minor considering the overall destruction, the user shared the VIN number of the car and it's listed by the dealership for \$129,175. That's not cheap, but it now has quite an interesting story.

