



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

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 11 MAY 2025

www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections

First Coast Miata Club 2025 Annual Meeting & Elections Saturday, May 31, from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

The First Coast Miata Club will be celebrating 34 years of being Northeast Florida's community for Mazda Miata MX-5 enthusiasts at this year's Annual Meeting & Elections! Join us Saturday, May 31 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Englewood Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 5675 Kennerly Rd, 32216. The church Fellowship Hall is located on the Southside of town, just off University Blvd between I-95 and Beach Blvd.

We will have a great barbecue lunch, with all the fixins, provided by Monroe's Smokehouse. We would appreciate your bringing some desserts. More details to come!

We know everyone has a lot on their plates but consider carving out a small portion of your time to be an officer of the First Coast Miata Club. The club works like our Miata engines. Yes, you come to events, and monthly meetings when you can, and that is a large part of the engine. Without club organizers to start, oil, and fuel the engine, it will stall and fail. The time commitment is what you make it, but the payoff is a working and enjoyable club. Please consider taking an active role in leading YOUR club!

Pages 2, 3 and 6 have all the details. We need your passion to help the club thrive, drive and survive. A Miata is a terrible thing to waste!

First Coast Miata Club

Board of Directors

President: Hank McLeod

Vice-Pres: Jennifer Weseman

Events: Jim Sparks

Secretary: Bob Deloatch

Treasurer: Lisa Corner

Membership: Jennifer McLeod

Web: Steve Janas

Facebook: Hank McLeod

Newsletter Editor:

Colin Busch

At cbusch64@aol.com

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Each person attending will receive one raffle ticket for door prizes including ones donated by our local dealerships and other businesses! We can always use door prizes, so if you know of a shop, restaurant or other activity that can donate a gift card/certificate, or an actual gift item, we would appreciate it!

We will also have the "Give & Take" table where you can bring Miata related items you no longer need to pass on to someone else. Parts, accessories, memorabilia, shirts & whatever else you can think of. If you see something on the table you like, take it home! That brand new part you never installed on the Miata you traded in 4 years ago that's still sitting in your garage, or maybe the OEM take-off part you're never going to put back on? BRING IT! The T-shirt from a Miata event a few years ago that no longer fits? BRING IT (make sure it's clean though)! Miata magazines, books, models, other memorabilia, gathering dust on a shelf? BRING THEM! Your "old" items could be treasure to another Miata owner. If no one takes them, please be prepared to take them home, or we may have to discard them. Please contact me if you have large items you would like to bring early, we might be able to place them ahead of time.

After lunch, we will have a brief business meeting where we will conduct our annual elections. This meeting marks the end of the club's fiscal 2024-25 year and prepares to begin the 2025-26 year with the election of new club officers. THERE WILL BE VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF CLUB PRESIDENT AS WELL AS MANY OTHER POSITIONS, SO WE WILL NEED OFFICERS! Are you willing to serve your club in 2025-26? There will be more information on Club Officers in another part of this newsletter.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR CURRENT MEMBERS, UP TO TWO PEOPLE. An email was sent to all currently registered Club Members, PLEASE RSVP to THAT EMAIL if you are coming. At this time, this event is open for current dues paid members ONLY. Since membership renewals are due for the 2025-2026 year, why not go ahead and renew? You can renew your membership at firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club. If there are still available spaces after MAY 17, we will notify everyone, and will then allow open registration for non-members (@\$20 per person at the door). A final count is needed for the caterer in advance, so the deadline to RSVP is midnight on Sunday, May 25. If you don't RSVP, we can't reserve your place and cannot guarantee you a plate. We will not be able to add any additional reservations after May 25.

YOU CAN NOW RENEW AND PAY FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN FCMC AND PAY YOUR DUES AT OUR CLUB WEBSITE AT:

<https://firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club>

**Welcome to the First Coast Miata Club
Jacksonville, Florida USA**

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[JOIN OUR CLUB](#)

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Why waste a check when you can take of this online with no fuss and no muss?

And while you are there, check out the Event Calendar to see what is coming up in the next few months.

Also, take a look at the pictures taken on our many previous and fun events!

Plus, we have all the newsletters saved online as well as "FCMC Favorites".

And don't forget the FCMC store to get all of your branded club items!!!

He Crashed His Dad's Ford GT While Chasing A Miata

Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, isn't just a town with a quirky name and a penchant for trolls. It's also surrounded by some genuinely excellent driving roads. That's part of what drew a small group of car enthusiasts out recently for a casual drive. Most of them came home happy. One driver, however, had a bit of a harder time, specifically the one behind the wheel of a Ford GT who ended the day off the road and in the woods.



The reason? He was allegedly trying to chase down a Mazda MX-5. The punchline: the Ford GT wasn't even his. It was his dad's.

Somewhat hilariously posted to Reddit with the title “Saw one out in the wild, literally”, this Ford GT has clearly seen better days. In the photo, it sits on a forest slope. Leaf litter is everywhere, aside from right in front of the tires. That suggests that it slid into this position backwards. Luckily, a couple of people who claimed to witness the whole thing were kind enough to share more of the story.

According to those on the scene, the GT driver was trying to catch up to someone in a Mazda MX-5 when things went sideways – literally. While the driver did indeed lose control of his dad's car, he didn't have to worry about telling said paterfamilias. His poppa was evidently right behind him at the time in a Corvette ZR-1.

Despite the off-road detour, the damage was surprisingly minor. The car will need a new side skirt and a new magnesium wheel. The latter was damaged during the recovery process. In fact, the American supercar was in good enough condition that it didn't need a tow to get home. One of the witnesses believes it'll need an alignment. Talk about lucking out in just about every way possible.



This generation of the Ford GT is well-loved in the supercar world. Even now that it's not the latest and greatest, it still regularly trades for over \$350,000 on the used market. That's well over double what Ford originally asked for the car when it was brand new.

We're glad everyone walked away from this one. Hopefully, the driver has a little more humility, though. He came needlessly close to ruining a great car and perhaps hurting himself or others in the process. We should all keep this kind of driving on the track, and this kid sounds like he has the resources to do exactly that from now on.

It's Club Officer Election Time!

We know everyone has a lot on their plates but consider carving out a small portion of your time to be an officer of the First Coast Miata Club. The club works like our Miata engines. Yes, you come to events, and monthly meetings when you can, and that is a large part of the engine. Without club organizers to start, oil, and fuel the engine, it will stall and fail. The time commitment is what you make it, but the payoff is a working and enjoyable club. Please look at the positions below and consider taking an active role in leading YOUR club!

First of all, thanks to our current FCMC Officers:

President: Hank McLeod

Vice-President: Jennifer Weseman

Secretary: Bob Deloach

Events Coordinator: OPEN

Membership: Jennifer McLeod

Treasurer: Lisa Corner

Elected Position Duties & Responsibilities:

President: Conducts and presides over monthly meetings and represents the club at functions, coordinates activities and distributes information across the board.

Vice-President: Stands in for the President if they are not available and handles special ad hoc activities as needed.

Secretary: Takes minute at the monthly meetings of any motions, decisions, or dates of club importance. These are typed up and distributed at the next monthly meeting.

Event Coordinator: Runs the club calendar of events with the goal of planning at least one Club activity per month. Assists club members with developing ideas into Club activities.

Membership Coordinator: Keeps the club membership database (Microsoft Excel) up to date, provides club information to all prospective members.

Treasurer: Keeps track of all club monies and provides a balance report to the membership at the monthly club meetings. Writes checks for all approved expenses.

There are several non-elected, standing board positions as well. We thank those who have continued with these responsibilities through the years! If you wish to assist in any of these roles, please contact the person below.

Newsletter Editor (Colin Busch): Produces the "Road Runner" newsletter using Microsoft Publisher.

Web Master (Steve Janas): Keeps the club web page up to date. Maintains the mechanisms that allow for online club enrollment and dues payments and coordinates new member and renewals with Membership Coordinator and Treasurer.

Social Media Manager (Hank McLeod): Keeps the club Facebook and Instagram pages up to date, moderates the Club "Community" Page.

First Coast Car Council (FCCC) Representative (Open): Represents the club at FCCC meetings/events

THERE ARE VACANCIES AT MANY POSITIONS, so we WILL need new officers! We will accept nominations (self-nominated) for all elected positions at the annual Meeting and Elections on May 31. If you are unable to attend but wish to be nominated in absentia, please contact Hank McLeod so you can be added to the ballot!

FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR - WHAT COULD BE...

- **May 31 11:00 am - Monthly Club Meeting & Officer Elections**

We are having our annual Club Meeting and Officer Elections at the Englewood Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. See pages 2-3 for all the time-sensitive details!

- **June 10 - 6:00 pm - Monthly Club Meeting**

TBA

- **June Event - Club Event TBA**

TBA

- **June 7 - 7 pm Caffeine & Gasoline Drive In Movie**

The movie is "Ford vs Ferrari" and all proceeds go to the JAM/Jtech Scholarship Fund. See the FCMC Facebook page for all the details.

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.



First Coast Miata Club
c/o Mike French
4027 Pinto Rd.
Middleburg FL 32068

Me: where did you park?

Wife: next to the car that looks like a suspicious stoned vampire

Me: what?

The car:



We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

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

Navy Officer's Mazda Was Auctioned Off While He Was Deployed Overseas

A California company is on the hook for nearly \$10,000 after it allegedly towed and illegally auctioned a vehicle. Making matters worse, the car was owned by U.S. Navy Lieutenant Jonathan Liongson, who was deployed on the USS Bunker Hill at the time.

According to the Department of Justice, Liongson was preparing to be deployed, so he loaded his 2011 Mazda6 with personal items and parked it at a friend's house. While overseas, Tony's Auto Center towed the car and eventually sold it at auction. This occurred despite the Service Members Civil Relief Act, which required a court order to be obtained before the car was sold. Following the incident, the government sued the towing firm on Liongson's behalf.

The two sides recently came to a settlement, which will see Liongson receive \$7,500 in damages. While little is known about his former vehicle, Kelly Blue Book suggests a 2011 Mazda6 with 140,000 miles on the odometer would be worth between \$4,800 and \$7,400. That suggests a relatively fair payout, although prices can vary by mileage and equipment.

In addition to the \$7,500 compensation to Liongson, Tony's Auto Center will have to pay a \$2,000 civil penalty to the United States. The company will also be required to implement new policies to ensure they don't violate the Service Members Civil Relief Act again in the future.

Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon of the Civil Rights Division said, "members of our armed forces should not have to worry about their cars being auctioned off while they are deployed on missions defending our freedoms, liberties, and rights." She added, "This settlement should send a strong message to other towing companies that they should not take advantage of our service members while they are keeping Americans safe."

The government went on to note they've obtained over \$481 million in monetary relief for over 147,000 service members through its enforcement of the Service Members Civil Relief Act since 2011. Those seeking assistance are advised to contact their nearest Armed Forces Legal Assistance Program Office.