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First Coast Miata Club

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

Scavenger Hunt

Join your fellow and gal Miata enthusiasts for a Scavenger Hunt in downtown Green Cove Springs on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

We will gather in the parking lot of ACE Hardware, 1305 N. Orange Ave, Green Cove Springs, at 9:00 am for the pre-hunt briefing.

It is on Rt. 17 just north of Governor's Creek on the north side of downtown. We will be near the road on the south end of the parking lot near Hardee's.

This is the same location we have used in the past after the Christmas parade to un-decorate our cars.

You'll be given the list of questions to answer about places and things in Green Cove Springs.

Afterwards, we will meet for lunch (location announced at the briefing) to see who the best "hunters" are in the group. We have several gasoline gift cards as prizes. See you there!



2024 Annual Meeting & Elections - Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:00 pm -5:00 pm

The First Coast Miata Club will be celebrating 33 years of being Northeast Florida's community for Mazda Miata MX-5 enthusiasts at this year's Annual Meeting & Elections! Join us Saturday, May 11 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the **William 'Bill' Gulliford, Jr. Community Center** at 4875 Ocean Street in Mayport. The Gulliford Community Center is the same place where we met for last year's annual meeting as well as the Holiday Party. The community center is all the way at the end of Ocean St/Mayport Road, PAST the ferry slip, across the street from the city boat ramps. **The Gulliford Community Center is a City of Jacksonville facility, so please, no pets and no alcohol.**

We will have an amazing lunch provided by Safe Harbor Seafood in Mayport. We will have fish, shrimp and chicken, and for sides, hushpuppies, cole slaw, cheese grits, collard greens & green beans. *We would appreciate your bringing some desserts.*

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, 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!

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 year and prepares to begin the next, with the election of new club officers. **WE NEED OFFICERS!** Are you willing to serve your club this year?

Tickets are \$10 per person, for up to 2 people. Registration opens on April 1. **At this time, this event is open for current dues paid members ONLY.** Also, as a reminder, **membership renewals are also due for the 2024-2025 year, so why not go ahead and renew while registering for the event?** *If there are still available spaces, we will open registration for non-members (@\$20 per person) AFTER April 27.* Not a member? Why wait? Go ahead and join, and then register at the \$10 member rate. You can join or renew and reserve your place (s) for the annual meeting at firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club. **Your payment is your reservation.** A final count is needed for the caterer in advance, so the deadline to register and pay is midnight on Saturday, May 4. **Spaces are limited. Due to the terms of our rental contract with the City regarding the community center, we are limited to the number of people we can serve.** Once we reach capacity, we will not be able to accept any more reservations. *If you don't reserve your place, we cannot guarantee you a plate.* **We will not be able to add any additional reservations after May 4.**

TOMORROW'S SPORTS CAR, TODAY

“We are presenting a new-generation, new-genre sports car for the coming age,” explains Moro. The concept, he says, will “remind people that cars are pure joy and an indispensable part of their life.”

While the world continues to move towards carbon-neutrality targets, Mazda remains passionate about delivering the joy of driving through every vehicle leaving the factory floor, electric or otherwise. It's with this mindset that, exclusively at the JMS, Mazda has displayed its very latest next-gen sports car concept: the head-turning Mazda Iconic SP.

Not just a pretty sight, the Mazda Iconic SP has a battery that could be recharged by recyclable energy sources and uses a carbon-neutral fuel for the two-rotor rotary EV system. Unveiled as the world premiere, this two-seater concept reinforces Mazda's human-centric design philosophy and is an exciting insight into the future of mobility. Similarly, the Mazda Iconic SP also embodies Mazda's vision that, while the world pivots to driving sustainability efforts, the high-performance, two-seater sports vehicle will still have its place in years to come.



Caffeine & Octane Plus Post Drive - 03/09/24





Renegades On The River - 03/30/24



FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **April 9 — 6:00 pm 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 Tinsletown movie theater. Dinner & Social at 6:00pm. Our meeting will be at 7:00pm.

- **April 20 — 9:00 am Scavenger Hunt**

Just when you thought you couldn't tax your brain and drive at the same time! Well have we got a surprise for you! Check out the front page for all the sandy details!

- **May 11 — 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections**

It is that time of year when we need people to step up and help lead our wonderful club. Please consider volunteering in a leadership role. We need you!!! See page 2 for all the details!

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

**Jose Cordero, John Camblee, Carl Cerreto,
Ricky Falkenstein & Gail Finneran**

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

Sometimes, it takes a front loader to stop a front loader

How does one stop a stolen oversized front loader that's plowing down a Georgia highway to escape a police pursuit? With another front loader.

This rather unusual incident, captured on body cam video earlier this week, came about when a 38-year-old former worker at a waste management site in Gwinnett County climbed into the vehicle and began driving it erratically on the site.

Police arrived shortly after and tried to corral the machine, which can apparently accelerate at up to 30 miles per hour. The suspect ignored police commands to stop and drove off the site and into traffic. Police said "movements were unpredictable as he navigated heavy traffic."

Let's just note at this point that the front loader weighs about 75,000 pounds.

While one police officer continued the low-speed chase, another returned to the waste site and was able to deputize a second front loader and another driver. Both large machines then engaged in a kind of lumbering dance on the road, bumping into each other, until the pursuing front-loader managed to pick up a corner of the fleeing vehicle and flip it onto its side. The cops rushed in and nabbed the suspect and pinned him face down on the ground. They took him to a hospital, but it sounds like no one was actually hurt.

According to CarScoops, the driver was taken to a hospital for evaluation and then to jail, charged with counts including criminal trespass, theft, reckless driving and eluding police. The charges include property damage, so presumably the loader didn't come out of being flipped unharmed.