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

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April Fool's Edition: Coronavirus vs. Miata

Getting caught with coronavirus floating around in a convertible with the top down is no fun at all. We've always wondered if it was possible to drive fast enough to stay healthy. We have it all figured out.

There are two types of airflow – laminar and turbulent. Laminar air is slow, low-pressure air, while turbulent air is fast, high-pressure air.

The layer of air that comes in contact with the body lines of a car is called the boundary layer. The top of the windshield frame, where the bodywork stops abruptly, is called the separation point. At this point, the air becomes very turbulent, and, as you go faster, the area of turbulent air above the passenger compartment increases.

The speed at which you must drive to stay virus free depends on the car's shape. Specifically, the angle of the windshield.

Cars like the Mazda Miata that have a steeper windshield can generate enough turbulence to deflect the virus at lower speeds, around 45 miles per hour or so. On the other hand, sleeker cars with windshields that are laid down nearly flat, like the Ferrari Portofino, have to go faster to achieve the same result.

Some Mercedes-Benz convertibles actually employ wind deflectors at the top of the windshield frame that resemble miniature air brakes. They work to maximize laminar air flow while keeping turbulent air flow out of the cabin. This also helps to keep the coronavirus out of the cabin.

Of course, all of this is more or less a moot point when you get to a stoplight. If you're on the highway and the virus is exceptionally plentiful, understanding air flow can help to buy you some time before you can get into a hazmat suit and put the top back up.



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Trains, Cowboys and Fun! - March 14, 2020









BEST MIATA PICS STOLEN FROM THE INTERNET



FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR

- **April 14 — Monthly Club Meeting CANCELLED (the following is not real)**

Our monthly club meeting will be virtually held at your own home. Open for seating, dining and social distancing @ 5:30. Stay for the virtual meeting of the minds and then log onto your computer and get caught up on what's coming up for the club on our Facebook page or the FCMC website at www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

- **April 18 — Drive to Okefenokee Swamp CANCELLED**

Just when you thought you've seen it all. Well, you haven't.

- **May 23 - Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections**

The plan was to meet at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville to catch a game and elect new officers. Right now it is on hold. Keep an eye on our Facebook and webpage for updates.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

**Jose Cordero, Gary Trbovich, Richard Wagner
Adriana Soto, Anna Curiel & Bob Walker**

AND WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

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We're on the Web! Check us out!
Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org
Group Page: facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Need a good-news story? Here it is: 99-cent gas

Spur Oil BP gas station in London KY decided to cut the price of its unleaded gas to 99 cents as a way to help the community in tough times. The surprise sale spurred customers to pack the station's parking lot and spill into the road as they waited to fill up. Once word spread, the gas quickly sold out.

Without context, it would seem the insanely low price could be the result of the recent economic downturn amid the COVID-19 outbreak, and that's part of it, but the cheap gas is a bit deeper than that. According to the GasBuddy app, other gas stations near this specific Spur Oil are listing unleaded for \$1.39 at Liberty gas, \$1.79 at Circle K, \$1.85 at a different BP, \$1.85 at Sunoco, and so on.

Spur Oil is doing this as a way to help others and create a positive moment in a time when they are few and far between.

Autoblog tried to call Spur Oil BP, but the lady who answered simply said, "Everybody's real busy right now," and hung up. We're sure she's right.

According to GasBuddy data, several states across the United States have averages below \$2, but none of them are anywhere near \$1. The cheapest state is Oklahoma with an average price of \$1.77, while Kentucky has an average price of \$1.92. Only California and Hawaii remain more expensive than \$3, with average prices of \$3.26 and \$3.43 respectively.