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# ROAD RUNNER

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

Volume 31, Issue 6  
December 2020

## Magic of Lights at Daytona Int' Raceway

Our very own Santa Claus, Jim Cripps, will be leading a drive down to Daytona to enjoy the holiday season and experience the spectacle of the "Magic of Lights" at the Daytona International Raceway!

Here are the details direct from Santa (Jim):

We will meet at Avenues Mall, at the south end next to Philips Highway, at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 19.

We will eat dinner in Daytona and then go to see the beautiful lights.

Best to buy a ticket for your car online. Go to:  
[daytonaspeedway@daytonainternationalspeedway.com](mailto:daytonaspeedway@daytonainternationalspeedway.com)

Any questions email Jim Cripps at:  
[zoomzoomz@comcast.net](mailto:zoomzoomz@comcast.net) or call at 904 730-2169.

The Miata Club has done this before. It is so beautiful. You do not want to miss this opportunity.



### First Coast Miata Club

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## 'Mazda Heroes' awards 2020's finest with 100th Anniversary Edition Miatas

Mazda will give away 50 MX-5s to worthy recipients

Given the unique climate of 2020, lavish celebrations really aren't the order of the day. As such, Mazda has decided to commemorate its 100th by giving a 100th Anniversary Edition MX-5 Miata to each of 50 individuals who have demonstrated selflessness in the face of the global health crisis through a new program dubbed "Mazda Heroes: Honoring The Human Spirit."

"From teachers going the extra mile to enhance distance learning, to community activists sourcing PPE for others, there are countless examples of people across the country going above and beyond to support others without expecting anything in return. Mazda wants to honor these important acts of kindness, resilience and empathy," Mazda's announcement said.

"This year marks Mazda's 100th Anniversary. We had hoped this time would be filled with moments of celebration and appreciation for our fans, employees and partners. But given the many tragic events of 2020, we decided to express, in another way, our brand's unique heritage of trying to make things better," MNAO President Jeff Guyton said.

"In April, we launched our Essential Car Care Program to give free oil changes and car cleaning to healthcare workers across the U.S. Throughout this initiative we heard how grateful our dealers and employees were to be in service to those selflessly giving back every day. This inspired us to develop the Mazda Heroes program, which will honor individuals supporting communities and share their stories in a moment when people desire inspiration in their lives," Guyton said.



Candidates can be nominated via the Mazda Heroes web site through Oct. 25. Mazda will choose the 50 most outstanding examples and the honorees will be announced starting Dec. 2.



## **2002 Mazda MX-5 Miata powered by a Jaguar-sourced V6 for sale (from August 25, 2020)** **For when you want to add horsepower, not lightness**

Cars & Bids, a relatively new site that specializes in auctioning modern enthusiast cars, is selling a 2002 Mazda MX-5 Miata. While that's hardly unusual, this example lost its four-cylinder engine and gained a Jaguar-sourced V6.

Pulling a 3.0-liter six out of a 2000 S-Type and dropping it into an unsuspecting Miata is apparently easier than it sounds. England-based Rocketeer offers a kit that makes the swap reasonably straightforward, though the listing notes the factory air conditioning system is not compatible with the new engine. Cold air aside, the installation is done so neatly that it looks like Mazda envisioned the Miata with a bigger engine. Jag's V6 inevitably adds weight to a roadster praised globally for its nimble handling, but it also brings a whole lot of horsepower to the table.

Left stock, a 2002 Miata is powered by a 1.8-liter four-cylinder that makes 142 horsepower and 125 pound-foot of torque. The example listed on Cars & Bids puts 220 horsepower and 221 pound-feet of torque under the driver's right foot, figures that easily offset the weight gain. And, somewhat surprisingly, the six spins the rear wheels through a stock five-speed manual transmission. Flyin' Miata sway bars and Koni shocks improve handling.

Close the hood, and this Jagazda looks like a run-of-the-mill 18-year-old Miata. The seller made no modifications to the body, it's still painted in its original shade of silver, and he kept the stock 15-inch wheels. The dual exhaust tips hint at the V6, but they're subtle enough to surprise more than a few racers at the next autocross event.

The auction is live now, and bidding stands at \$4,250 as of writing with about three days left before the hammer drops. If you miss your chance to bag it, several shops sell kits that let skilled shade-tree mechanics shoehorn Mazda's K-Series V6 (which powered the MX-6 and the Ford Probe, among other cars) into an older Miata.



Callahan's 15th Annual Railroad Day & Car Show - 11/07/20 Pics by Irene Holt







# Ripped From the Internet - Best Miata Pics from November





## **FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR**

- **December 19, 2020 - FCMC Holiday Party - Cancelled**

After much planning and hoping the annual First Coast Miata Club Christmas Party could be held this year, the planning committee is sadly announcing that, it will not be held due to the current state of the Covid19 pandemic.

- **December 19, 2020 - 3:00 PM: Daytona Speedway Holiday Lights**

Our very own Santa Claus, Jim Cripps, will be leading a drive down to Daytona to enjoy the holiday season and experience the spectacle of the “Magic of Lights” at the Daytona International Raceway! See details on page 1.

- **January 12, 2021 - 6:00 PM: Monthly Club Meeting**

Our monthly club meeting will be held at a nice and tasty restaurant (the site to yet be determined). So keep on eye on your club webpage, our Facebook page and in our next newsletter! You won’t want to miss out on what’s cooking for 2021!



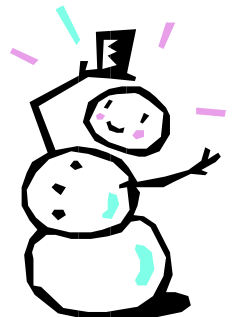
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### Happy December Birthday To:

**Gail Sparks, Anna Grass, Christine Janas,  
Patricia Hearn, Robert Bradley & Earl Dorn**

### Welcome To Our Newest Members:

**Neil & Laura Middleton**



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## Los Angeles-area driver being chased by police stops to get gas

Broadly speaking, drivers running away from the police ditch their getaway car and continue on foot when they run out of gas. Los Angeles-area residents witnessed a rare exception to this rule when a man wanted in a theft pulled into a Chevron station and refueled while police officers were frantically searching for him.

News station NBC Los Angeles dispatched its chopper to follow the chase at about 5 p.m. Tuesday. The station said law enforcement officers were having a difficult time keeping up with the unidentified driver, and this head start gave him the confidence to pull into a gas station in El Monte. He had time to step out of his car, run inside to pay the cashier, and pump gas before speeding off. He even received the cash discount, according to NBC.

"He's got plenty of time; so far, there are no officers approaching. No units there yet. We're hoping that the [California Highway Patrol] is aware of the locator here," the news anchor reported on live television.

With a full tank, the driver continued his getaway by traveling through several cities on the outskirts of Los Angeles, and later merging onto the 10 and 60 freeways. He disappeared after driving into a parking garage at approximately 6:25 p.m. Whether he was ultimately caught is unclear.

What's nearly certain is that this man isn't about to give up gasoline in favor of an electric car, which takes much longer to charge, anytime soon.