



Road Runner



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR
THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF THE FIRST

www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

First Coast Miata Club

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FISH AND SHIPS DRIVE

MEET: Saturday 8:30 am August 17, 2024 at the Ft. Caroline Post Office, 10990 Ft. Caroline Rd, 32225

DEPART: 9:00 am

It's that time of year for our fording of the mighty St Johns River.

We will wind through the wilds of Fort Caroline Rd, Wonderwood Rd and Scenic A1A to the historic Mayport Ferry. We will navigate the rushing torrents of the mighty St. Johns River utilizing the power of the majestic Mayport Ferry.

Upon making landfall on Ft George Island we will make a spirited drive northward on scenic A1A to the quaint village of Fernandina.

Our midday repast (lunch) will be held at the Crab Trap Restaurant. Hope to see all you Miataphiles as we beat the heat and once again conquer the mighty St. Johns River!!!



DON'T FORGET THE TOLL FOR THE FERRY! It is \$8 per car in cash or \$7.20 using the MyJTA app.

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7th Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive - July 20, 2024







It's Finally Happening: The Mazdaspeed Miata Successor Is Coming

The Mazda MX-5 Miata is one of the sharpest tools in the sports car shed, especially with its fresh-for-2024 updates, but there's always room for improvement. And it seems that Mazda is busy honing its topless katana, with an interesting prototype caught testing at the Nürburgring. Spotted by @rollendereporter on Instagram, the soft-top roadster sports a unique two-piece front splitter that lends the fascia a more menacing look.

Moving along the sides of the vehicle, side skirts and sportier six-spoke Rays wheels let passers-by know this isn't a run-of-the-mill Miata. And the changes don't end there, with the rear end benefitting from a subtle spoiler and lower bumper garnish. Knowing the Hiroshima-based brand, these additions aren't merely aesthetic and likely improve aerodynamic performance. If it looks familiar, there's a good reason for this, but we'll get to that shortly. What we can tell you is this is the closest thing we're getting to a Mazdaspeed Miata successor, and that's good news.

It looks wonderful and will undoubtedly appeal to hordes of Miata fans. But there's one question that has been left unanswered: what is it? Well, the

answer lies in the unique livery worn by the car. This is a Mazda Spirit Racing test vehicle, identified by the decals on the front fender. If you're wondering what that is, allow us to explain. Known for its work in the Super Taikyu racing series, Mazda Spirit Racing (MSR) will now pick up where Mazdaspeed left off



Essentially, MSR will be the Mazda equivalent of Toyota's Gazoo Racing, which has developed the delightful GR Yaris and GR Corolla, among other machines. MSR officially started developing high-performance Mazdas earlier this year, previewed by the Spirit Racing RS Concept and Spirit Racing 3 Concept. At this time, there is no performance data for either vehicle, but we expect the MX-5 will receive a minor power and torque boost. There's no word yet on when it will reach production, but the test mule is a good indication that it will debut soon.

Ghostbusters Gone Miata



FCMC Events Calendar

- **August 13 6:00 pm - Monthly Club Meeting - Bob Evans**

Our monthly meeting will be held at Bob Evans, 3163 Hartley Rd, Jacksonville FL 32257 (at I-295 & San Jose Blvd near Whole Foods) near the intersection of J Turner Butler Blvd and Philips Hwy. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

- **August 17 8:30 am - Fish & Ships Drive**

With the sweltering heat of a Florida summer day ahead of you, what better way to enjoy your Miata than to drop your top and take a morning drive enjoying a ferry across the river to end up in Fernandina followed by a delicious lunch!!! See the front page for all the details.

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

Our monthly meeting will be held at a secret location that will definitely have something to eat and drink. Maybe even dessert if you are so inclined. The secret may come out in our August monthly meeting. You will have to be there to learn the secret! Or you can wait and surely be surprised!

Happy August Birthdays To:

**Mike French, Paul Hellings, Lance Moore, Kevin Koehl,
Milt Bauer, Scott Hamilton, Trina Medarev,
Paul James & Sandra Stockwell**

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

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/firstcoastmiataclub

Oscar Mayer Wienermobile flips onto its side in Chicago highway crash

OAK BROOK, Ill. — One of Oscar Mayer's hot dog-shaped Wienermobiles ended up flipped onto its side after crashing on a suburban Chicago highway, police said.

The Wienermobile — technically not the full-size version but the Mini-based Lil Link — hit a car Monday morning along Interstate 294, and its driver lost control and overcorrected, causing it to roll onto its side near the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook, Illinois State Police said.

No injuries were reported after the crash, which prompted the closure of the right lane of northbound I-294 for more than an hour, officials said.

A spokesperson for the Oscar Mayer brand, which has several Wienermobiles, told the Chicago Sun-Times it's "grateful that everybody involved is safe and there were no injuries."

Video from the crash scene shows that the yellow and orange Wienermobile was later hauled away on a flatbed truck with apparent damage visible on part of the vehicle's hot dog shape.

