



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

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[www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)

## Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections

**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 2PM to 5PM 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.*

### 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](mailto:cbusch64@aol.com)

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## Annual Club Picnic/Officer Elections (cont.)

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?

Member tickets are \$10 per person, for up to 2 people. 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 27th. 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](https://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 4th.*

**The TLDR:**

- FCMC's Annual Meeting and Elections takes place May 11 from 2 PM to 5 PM.
- The Meeting is at the Gulliford Community Center in Mayport.
- The address is 4870 Ocean Street 32233 (AKA Mayport Road).
- Lunch is catered by Safe Harbor Seafood in Mayport.
- There is a **\$10 charge per person for members** (up to 2 people).
- If there is space, Non-member visitors will be charged \$20 (up to 2 people) or have the option of joining the club.
- Spaces are limited, so **you will need to reserve your place**. Reserve here: [firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club](https://firstcoastmiataclub.org/join-our-club)
- If there is space, non-members can register after April 27.
- The portal will close when we reach maximum, or on May 4.
- Don't forget to renew your membership!
- There will be raffles for prizes!
- The "Give & Take" table will be available!
- We will conduct Elections of Club Officers For the 2024-2025 Club year.

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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>

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

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

- HOME

JOIN OUR CLUB

MORE ▾

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!!!





## Call for Volunteers!

I 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. But without club organizers to start, oil, and fuel the engine, it stalls and fails. The time commitment is what you make it, but the payoff is a working and enjoyable club. Take a look at the lists below.

If you are interested in any position, please submit your name to any club officer (see the front page).

### FCCM Officer Positions:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Membership  
Treasurer  
Events Coordinator

### Elected Position Duties & Responsibilities:

President - Presides over the monthly meeting 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 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 ensuring at least one activity per month for the membership. Events can/should be planned by members, but if none are presented, the Events Coordinator tries to provide one. The Events Coordinator also assists club members to develop their event ideas into club activities.

Membership - Keeps the club membership database (Microsoft Excel) up to date, provides club information to all prospective members, handles club name badge orders and delivery to members, distributes club "stuff" (i.e., Club Window Stickers, First Contact Cards, and copies of the club by-laws). Also handles production and sale of club logo magnetic car signs.

Treasurer - Keeps track of all club monies and provides a balance report to the membership at the monthly club meetings.

There are also several non-elected, on-going positions (that anyone can volunteer for):

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

Social Media Manager (Hank McLeod) - Keeps the club Facebook pages (private and public) up to date.

Web Master (Steve Janas) - Keeps the club web page up to date.

First Coast Car Council (FCCC) Representative - Represents the club at FCCC meetings and events.

## **FCMC EVENTS CALENDAR - WHAT COULD BE...**

- **May 11 2:00 PM - Monthly Club Meeting & Officer Elections**

We are having our annual Club Picnic and Officer Elections at the William 'Bill' Gulliford, Jr. Community Center in Mayport. See the front page for all the time-sensitive details!

- **June 11 - 6:00 PM - Monthly Club Meeting**

TBA

- **June Event - TBA**

TBA

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**Happy May birthdays to the following Club members:**

**Jennifer McLeod, Lisa Corner,  
Jim Cripps & Peter Pluymers**

**And Welcome To Our Newest Members:**

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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



**We're on the Web! Check us out!**

**Web Page: [www.firstcoastmiataclub.org](http://www.firstcoastmiataclub.org)**

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

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Car backfire startles a circus elephant; she breaks down a fence and runs into traffic

The sound of a vehicle backfiring spooked a circus elephant while she was getting a pre-show bath in Butte, Montana, leading the pachyderm to break through a fence and take a brief walk, stopping noontime traffic on the city's busiest street before being loaded back into a trailer.

Viola, an Asian elephant with the Jordan World Circus, still participated in two performances Tuesday after her time on the lam in the southwestern Montana city of about 35,000 people that in the late 1800s was the world's largest copper-producing area.

Viola was getting a bath behind the Butte Civic Center just after noon on Tuesday when she was startled, Civic Center manager Bill Melvin said. She went through a "kind of rickety" fence and went onto Harrison Avenue, a four-lane street, stopping traffic and causing folks to pull out their cellphones to take photos and video.

Viola walked about half a block in the road before turning into the parking lot of a convenience store and casino, Melvin said.

Town Pump surveillance cameras caught images from several angles of the elephant walking down the street in front of the building and plodding through the parking lot with a trainer beside her. She then moved to a residential lawn where she started eating some grass.

People with the circus drove a trailer over with another elephant inside, Melvin said. They "put the ramp down and she walked right back in and that was it."

"The other elephant was very happy to see her," Melvin said.

About 10 minutes passed from when she was startled to when she was back in the trailer, he said.

"She come back and she performed last night and everything was good," Melvin said. "I mean the show went on, as they say."