



Open Road



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Hard core. In Webster's, it's defined as: (hard'kor') Stubbornly resistant central part of a group, held to constitute a social problem. Now, I take exception to the "social problem" thing, but I've always considered myself a hard core car enthusiast. I was born with Mobile 1 in my veins and my first words were "ho w fast does it go?" (as my Mom says, it's the truth!). Whether on the street or race track, I just dig fast cars. Sounds hard core, right? Wrong.

I have come to realize that though I may be a staunch enthusiast, I am not hard core. I have been forced into a serious paradigm shift, and have to admit that there is a person that is more hard core than me. It's my wife, Teresa. AKA Teresa Turbo.

Now don't get me wrong, I love Miata's and driving and the whole top-down auto experience, but Teresa Turbo is militant about it!

Check these facts:

1. Topless Issues: Teresa will never drive the Miata with the top up. NEVER EVER. We've owned the roadster for 5 years and she has yet to twist the ignition key with a roof over her head. I drive the car with the top up... sometimes quite often. She complains about even riding in the car with the top up. I have seen her in the winter time with hat, gloves, scarf looking like some World War I flying ace as she pulls down the street. When I bought the hard top this winter I thought she was going to disown me. Yes, I am a roadster heretic, and she is the purist.

2. Sideways Driving: While I may hang the tail out on the race track, Teresa Turbo has a knack for getting into the boost and sliding on the street! Hey, no tickets, no bent sheet metal, no injuries, so more power to her. She likes the turbo boost, hence the nickname Teresa Turbo (be sure to call her that next time you see her).

3. Other Drivers: True story - when confronted by a poser in a certain German sedan, Teresa Turbo liberally dipped into the boost and taught him a lesson. There were unsubstantiated reports that this was at triple digit speeds at the top of 4th gear. When this girl has an automotive point to drive home, you'd better just get out of her way!

4. Wheel Time: If Teresa doesn't get in her required amount of roadster time, she ain't happy. And you know the old saying, "If Momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!". Can you blame her?

All of this reminds me of a quiz my Father once gave me. It was the "Hard core Sports Car Enthusiast Test" or something of the sort. It was multiple choice, and harkened back to the days of MG's and Triumphs - the good ones from the 50's and early 60's. The test went something like:

1. What kind of oil do you use:
 - A. Multi-weight detergent oil
 - B. Non-detergent single-weight
 - C. Castor Bean Oil
2. If you break down on the road you:
 - A. Call for a tow to the local repair shop
 - B. Call for a tow to your home workshop
 - C. Fix it on the side of the road with your completely equipped tool box.
3. When you are out driving and it starts to rain you:
 - A. Quickly raise the top
 - B. Pull the top from the trunk and quickly put it on
 - C. Top? What top!?!?!?

