



Open Road



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What's Inside

Page 2

Officer Listing.
Windy City Safety
School.

Page 3

Go-Kart Event!
Non-Rally Review

Page 4

Rally Master Info.
Museum Tour.
Tour to French
Lick.

Page 5

Miata Owners
Club Report.

Page 6

Memories of
Michigan.

Page 7

Music From
Outer Space.
Classifieds.



Bill Gates hates me. I find it hard to believe that someone that has never met me would have this much dislike for me, but I assure you that it has happened. Bill Gates hates me and wants to ruin my life, and he's doing it with my computer.

I have had to format my computer hard drive and reload my Windows operating system three times in the last ten days. For those of you that have not experienced this, formatting the hard drive means losing all of your programs, files, data, everything. Doing it three times in ten days is similar to the pain felt by jamming bamboo under all of your fingernails... and then doing it two more times.

It all started innocently enough, when the computer wouldn't start and I couldn't get my e-mail. It also resulted in a total of two and a half hours on the phone to various people at Microsoft.

I started to suspect that Bill Gates hated me after spending 25 minutes on hold. That's not all bad, though, because it gave me plenty of time to think about the situation and I came to some great conclusions. I decided that Bill Gates does not own a Miata. This is how I figure he's not "one of us" – if my Miata crashed as often as Microsoft Windows does, I would not be able to buy auto insurance and would likely be in a wheelchair. Poor Mr. Gates has probably never even let Miata ownership cross his mind. He's busy with Ferrari's and Lamborghini's, and from what I hear, are not as reliable as a Miata. Heck, I bet that if Mr. Gates wants, Ferrari will send him a ride-along mechanic (I claim that's where he got the idea for his Microsoft Tech Support). If only Bill could see the error of his ways and leave the "dark side" for the "light" of Miata ownership! I am certain that the Miata experience would allow him to feel the quality, reliability, and a true freedom he's never experienced. I contend that this would lead to a greater vision of newer, faster, more reliable and entertaining Microsoft products.

After spending 25 minutes in telephone purgatory, I reached "Deborah" in the Microsoft Customer Service center. I asked Deborah if she could connect me to Mr. Gates, as I was having computer trouble. I also explained that Mr. Gates was in worse trouble than I was, as he obviously didn't own a Miata. She explained to me that I would not be transferred to Bill, as she could only send me to Tech Support, and she didn't know what a Miata was or if Mr. Gates had one. I briefly explained the joys of Miata ownership to her, and her reply was "Oh, it sounds like a Mercury Capri I once had". She was obviously not going to be a convert, so I opted for Tech Support. Another 30 minutes on hold. (Your call is important to us.)

When Dwayne in Tech support answered, I started right in on him "Dwayne, do you know if Bill Gates owns a Miata?"

"What's a Mirada?"

"M-I-A-T-A, Dwayne, it's a little sports car."

"Oh, yeah, my brother had a Mirada once... A '78 Dodge Mirada, kinda like a Monte Carlo!"

Dwayne thought he'd had a breakthrough moment, little did he know that he had just proven my theory. The entire Microsoft Corporation is Miata deficient. How can the most powerful corporation in the world be led down the path of destruction so easily, all by the lack of a little car? If only they had a little roadster to follow as an example of quality, reliability and entertainment... they don't know what they are missing!

It is clear that we Miata owners must take action to save the PC world. I plan on starting an e-mail campaign to convince Mr. Gates to buy a Miata...right after I pick up a Macintosh!

