

A large photograph of a car show at a golf course. In the foreground, there are several cherry blossom branches with pink flowers. Below them, a large group of people is gathered around a display of various sports cars, including several red and yellow Vipers. In the background, there is a golf course, a clubhouse, and a swimming pool.

Snake Bites

G.M. Heritage Tour

Feather Bowling

J.D. Karting

Spring Tech Day

Spring Brunch

Cruise Nights

Member Spotlights

Winter Party

The Fate of the Furious

Volume 22 Issue 2

Winter 2016

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Spring 2017

President's Corner

Well, summer's finally here, it's great to see your serpents crawl out of hibernation! We had an excellent turn out for the Spring Brunch and the driving season is officially kicked off. You will find a cram packed agenda of events to enjoy your car with fellow MCVO members on our website at MCVO.net.

Among the dozens of scheduled events this year are a couple that are of greater magnitude than the others. At the end of August we are planning a cruise with the Cobra Club to Put in Bay, Ohio for a two day stay to watch the Historic Car Races (book your hotel room early). Then in the second week in September we're hosting a three day Left Coast Tour in western Michigan with the Illinois VOA Region. This event will have lots of fun and food and will be similar to one of our famous Wine Tours. Another completely new event this year will be a Train Color Tour. Stay tuned to announcement e-mails on all the events which will give you more details.

You might notice that we are doing several events in conjunction with the Cobra Club this year. Part of this is that the cars from both clubs share the same founders' DNA. Another part is that the orientations of the clubs and the characteristics of the members are similar. Soon we will both be sharing the experiences of driving cars that aren't produced any more. Besides the good camaraderie between the members, there are times when the combination of the two clubs can leverage events that wouldn't otherwise be available.

Your Board of Directors continues to work hard for you. I hope you enjoy this great newsletter, our constantly improving new website, the great list of events, the giveaways and the other benefits of your membership they bring to you. We always welcome your feedback and participation in club activities.

Bruce Heckman



Special E-Edition online at MCVO.net

Under *Club Information* Tab

Select *Newsletters* Enjoy!



Editors Message

The visceral joy of a Viper can not be explained to someone who "doesn't get it". Being able to feel the V10 pulling, while the car holds you like a baby is just way too much fun. I typically drive a 22 year old Gen 1. No matter the age, all of them are the same, a tough, somewhat outrageous and absurd car which, with proper care lasts forever. How could anyone not fall in love with that? Comparing cost and performance there is no other car which makes you grin ear to ear and drive like a teenager. A short drive can involve a tank of gas and the possibility of getting the autograph of the local law enforcement. All from a street legal production car that holds the record at many tracks. Hold onto your Vipers, they are unique, one of a kind thrill machines.

If you go for a drive take a picture or two send them in with your name and the location.

Too many of you don't get published in the newsletter. Lets make an effort to change that!



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Calendar Of Events



June

10-CEMA show

17-Snake Round Up (CC)

21-Cruise Night

July

6-MCVO Club Meeting

12-JNAP Tour

19-Cruise Night

29-Mopars at the Red Barn

30-St. John's Concours d'Elegance of America

CEMA-Chrysler Employees Motorsports

Association

CC-Joint MCVO and Cobra Club event

August

3-MCVO Club Meeting

15-Pasteiner's Cruise-in (CC)

19-Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday

20-Alpha Romeo Autocross

27&28-Put in Bay Historic Car Races (CC)

September

7-MCVO Club Meeting

8 thru 10-Left Coast Tour

20-Cruise Night

24-Chelsea Autocross



Motor City Viper Owners

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 311, Bloomfield Hills , MI. 48303

Email: viper@mcvo.net

Officers:

President - Bruce Heckman

Vice President - Sam Milana

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Secretary - Gary Rappaport

Directors:

Membership - Bob White

Motorsports - Dick Winkles, Bill Gill

Club Advisor - Mike Cipponeri

Technology - Jason Pontello

Newsletter - Ann Rappaport

Social - Diane Cipponeri

Photography—Lori Emerling

Apparel— Lori Emerling

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GM Heritage Center

Bruce Heckman

Thanks to the generosity of Steve Pasteiner of Pasteiner's Hobby Store and the Great Lakes Cobra Club, MCVO members got a chance for a private tour of the seldom opened, but famous, GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights. Four of our members got up early and had a pre-tour breakfast with the Cobra Club guys at the Pantry Restaurant on Van Dyke. Eventually twelve MCVO members showed up at the Heritage Center, enjoying everything from very early Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs to prototypes for a mid-engine Corvette. Several particularly admired the V-16 engine developed for possible Cadillac introduction in the early 2000's (anybody say Bob Lutz . . . !!). Most of the MCVO members attending made the call for a group photo around the 1971 Pontiac Firebird Pegasus Concept with a Ferrari V12 engine. A good time was had by all at this special museum!



Dick Winkles brought
the lone Viper



Club Photographer Jason Pontello taking our
beautiful group photo

*MCVO extends a warm welcome
to these new members:*

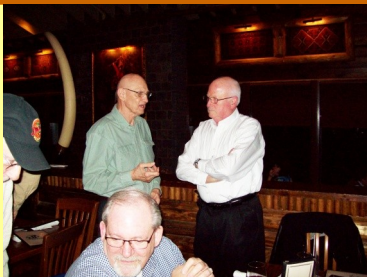


Robert Walker –Merlin, Ontario

David Giancola –Shelby Twp.

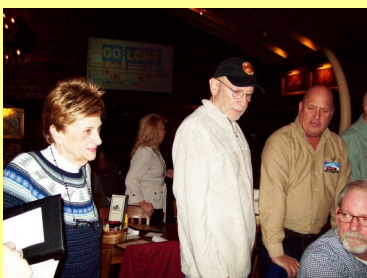
Darrin Ledsinger –Pontiac

Bruce Shotwell - Shelby Township



On January 18th, we held our first cruise night of the year at Camp Ticonderoga in Troy. With unseasonable temperatures in the 40's, I'm sure there was a few of us tempted to uncover the Viper and take it out for the evening. We started the evening off with venison topped potato skin appetizers and finished it off with their famous homemade chocolate chip cookies, warm fresh out of the oven. 22 members showed up for a wonderful evening of socializing with good friends and amazing food.

Sam Milana





MCVO 2017 Winter Party

Diane Cipponeri

This year's MCVO Winter Party was held at The Gazebo in Warren on Saturday, February 25. Forty five MCVO members attended and were treated to a delicious buffet dinner complete with dessert, games, 50/50 raffle and prizes for all. The games were the focus of the evening with the traditional Black Jack tables providing hours of fun and entertainment for all. The HO Viper slot car racing, Viper dragster competition and roll-the-dice Viper racing were new this year. Bob Dixon was the winner of the Viper dragster competition and walked away with a Viper police car model. The HO racing gave our enthusiast members the opportunity to test their driving skills on the HO track.



Thanks to our in-house black jack dealers who kept the black jack games competitive but fun and loose for everyone. There were even reports of extra winnings for most of our members due to the compassionate nature of our dealers. Isn't that nice? The new, for this year, roll-the-dice Viper racing added a Viper theme to the traditional horse race game. Thanks to Bruce Heckman for calculating and compiling the scores of the players throughout the night (thank God, I couldn't understand it). The eventual winner after 6 races was Angelika Milana .

The evening continued with a 50/50 raffle with the happy winner going away with a few bucks. At least enough to cover his bar bill, I think. The evening concluded with the raffling off of all the prizes where everyone goes away a winner. Thank you to Rick Jakacki for being my tag team teammate as we announced the winning tickets and the proud winners of the prizes.

Thanks to all who attended this year's Winter Party and already looking forward to next year's event.



Are you ready for a . . .

LEFT COAST TRIP??!

Grand Rapids is waiting for MCVO !

The Friday after Labor Day

we'll take off for a fun and friendship filled weekend

(September 8th, 9th, & 10th)

Included:

Shopping - Strolling - Excellent Food – Cruising – Viper Tech Display

We've made reservations at awesome hotels and gastronomical restaurants!

We'll tour some great places:

AutoForm, Meijer Gardens & Founders Brewery to name a few

In the Craft Brewery Capitol of America we might just find some great samples
of libations on our walking tour of downtown Grand Rapids!

Be sure to check MCVO.net for updates.

Registration will be emailed this summer.

Need some inside clues?

Call Bob Swartz at 248-666-3703

**Bruce & Joan's
grandson getting an
SRT haircut**



**Gary getting newsletters
ready to be mailed.**



July 15, 2013

What Does Mopar Mean to You?

Jim Burr

What is Mopar®?

On paper, Mopar is one of seven brands within the Chrysler Group LLC portfolio and represents the parts and service arm for all of the brands.

Optimally, it is the brand of parts you get when you have service done at the dealer, the brand you ask for and expect as “factory official.” It started out as the combination of Motor and Parts to help sell new AC system components in the 1920s and continues to this day as the parts division for the company.

But this “definition” is woefully short of explaining what Mopar means to those of us who own the cars and eat, sleep, breathe and cherish our “Mopar” family.



The complete article is
available in this issue's E-
Edition available at
MCVO.net

Jim Burr and his Mopar '13 Dart, #35 of 500 made, which just arrived last week, and his 2002 Viper GTS Final Edition, #98 of 360 made.



MCVO Feather Bowling

Mike Cipponeri

The MCVO met at the Bath City Bistro in downtown Mt. Clemens on the afternoon of Sunday, January 22 for a very intense feather bowling tournament. In all, 34 members attended out of which four teams competed for bottles of wine and the highly coveted individual solid gold (plastic) MCVO trophies.

The four teams, **The Roadsters**, **The Coupes**, **The V-10s** and **Gen 1's**, vied all afternoon in very heated and competitive games to be the ultimate champion. However, The Coupes would not be denied as they rolled undefeated to be the MCVO Feather Bowling Champions for 2017. Well done Coupes !! They truly know how to toss their discs to get closest to the feather. We all could learn a lot from them.

It was a nice afternoon as many of us socialized and cheered our teams on to victory. Ah, but victory was a fleeting desire for the Gen 1's who failed to even win one game. 'Wait til next year' was their battle cry as they went down in defeat !! During the individual competitions the

rest of us continued to socialize, dined on appetizers, pizza, antipasto salad and cookies. Hmm, hmm good.



At the end of the day, the Coupes proudly accepted their bottles of wine and trophies in triumph as the rest of us looked on with envy. A good time was had by all !!





JD Karting and Lingenfelter Collection

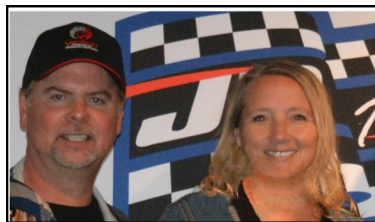
Gary Rappaport

April 29th was a cold, dreary spring day, but for metro Detroit car people and MCVO members, it was a very busy one, starting out at Lingenfelter Charity Spring Open House. The Lingenfelter Collection was open to the public for touring, with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

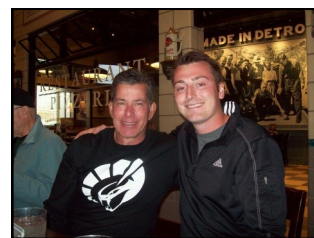
We looked at over 150 unique and rare vehicles. I ran into Ken Lingenfelter, who is a super-nice guy and teased him about the lack of Vipers on display. There was also a Detail Clinic put on by Adam Pitale, founder of Adam Polishes.

We left Lingenfelter and headed to Buddy's Pizza for lunch. Their pizza is fantastic and their location is within walking distance of JD Karting. Karting started at 1pm, and our group was raring to go.

Greg and Brenda



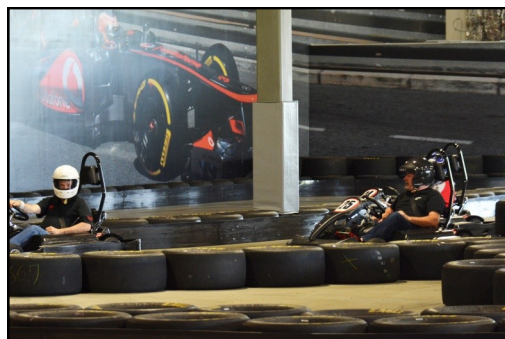
Newer Members!!



Gregg with his son Tyler



Eric at JD Karting briefed the drivers on the track and racing details. The karts are electric, with almost instan-



aneous torque and can reach speeds up to 40 mph. They use a state of the art, timing and scoring system, and the track has a combination of fast sweep sections mixed with 8 tight technical corners. The drivers were instructed on the various "signal flags" and had to choose their Racer Name.

Our group ran the "Mini Grand Prix" race which consisted of 10 lap Qualifier and a 14 lap Final race. The qualifier is based off your fastest lap and then the drivers are ranked accordingly. After each race the drivers were given a printout showing their statistics, and relationship to the other drivers. There was a lot of discussion between races, as we compared our scores and performance.

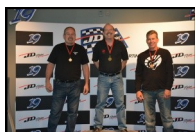
At the completion of the Final race, there were awards given to the top 3 finishers and live interviews from each, at the podium. There was also a "Flat Tire" award given to the driver who "brought up the rear". The awards were as follows, along with their Racer Names:

1st – Gary Rappaport (Gas Guzzler Gary)

2nd – Mike Sutton (Mike)

3rd – Gregg Wright (Slingshot)

Flat Tire – Susan Andring (Valor)



I'd like to thank everyone who came and a shout-out to a couple of new members, who joined us. Attending their first event was Greg Farrelly and his fiancé Brenda. Also Gregg Wright came with his son, Tyler, this is Gregg's second event. Everyone had a great time and is looking forward to a full season with MCVO.

There was also an unofficial award given to Ann Rappaport, a.k.a. Aggressive Ann, who was called out by track personnel for causing or being in 2 pile-ups.



Snakes Bites the Newsletter

After I read our President's message it got me thinking about this "great newsletter" and how we create it. I thought members would like to peek into the process that gave you the actual issue your holding in your hands right now!

In addition to the official positions the Board of Directors hold, we do many other tasks. When you're at an event, you'll notice one of us taking pictures. Those pic's are collected via thumb drives and email; which Gary Rappaport puts onto the club's external hard drive. Every event has an article written about it by one of us and we are always looking for additional content; a member spotlight or Viper news. I keep a list of what's needed for the next issue, decide on the layout, pictures and articles in order to create a draft.

Putting all of the content together takes a fair amount of time. Pictures almost always need tweaking, either cropping, sizing or being too dark. When it's finally done I send the Board a draft copy for their review. It is amazing how they see different things which need changing; spelling, names, dates or to make something read better. When there's too much content I will create an E-Edition to mirror the paper issue. Too much content how cool is that?

I also need a proof from the printer. By the way our printer, Artech, is excellent! They will print every page or just the parts I'm verifying, no matter how many times. Because commercial printing equipment gives a different output from our home printers, I have to see the actual printed pages.

Next, I tinker with the results, working to improve or fix something. Any further changes will need another proof print to be picked up for me to see. Thankfully, since Gary retired he's done most all of this running back and forth. Once ready, I give the approval to print and also supply the current member address file which is created each month by Bob White. Maureen Hackney gets our yearly directory printed and delivered so it can be included for you. Thank you Maureen!

When printed, our club's "official envelope stuffer" (see page 6) gets them ready to mail and after, drives them to Tim Sutherland, who runs them through a postage machine saving us from standing in line at the Post Office. Lastly, we email the files to Jason Pontello who uploads them to MCVO.net. Having the entire Board help is why Snake Bites happens.

Pictured is my fine tuned process!

Ann Rappaport



DRIVING DISTRACTIONS

This 1974 Z28 helped its original owner find his true calling

By Terry McGean

Photography by Barry Kluczyk



Parents want what's best for their kids. Sometimes that motivates efforts to steer the children away from bad influences and other distractions. Distractions like fast cars, for instance. That may have been what Richard Winkles' father was thinking when he suggested to his then teenage son that he think about buying a brand-new car. See, young Richard had acquired his first car just a year or so earlier a used '69 Camaro and it seemed to have inspired him to begin exploring the world of hot rodding. "It was a 327 with a three speed manual on the floor. It was the car that got me hooked on Camaros," he explains, adding that he hadn't really been all that interested in cars before that. Which was surprising, given that he had grown up during the 1960s in the area around Flint, Michigan. His father worked for General Motors, as had his grandfather. But none of that had sparked anything in Richard, until he got his hands on that '69.

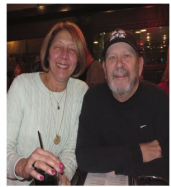
Johnny Blacks Public House

Mike Cipponeri



For the March 15th Cruise-In, the MCVO travelled to the east side to Johnny Blacks Public House on Moravian Drive. This venue offered a unique and extensive menu featuring sweet potato tater tots with an outstanding dip sauce, chili, a plethora of salad options all set in a rustic setting. The food was outstanding. The dimmed lighting coupled with a talk friendly environment allowed the 25 or so MCVO members to dine and freely socialize while sipping on their favorite beverage. Our MCVO Cruise-Ins are well on their way to another successful season as the weather promises to get more Viper friendly. Plan to join us at future MCVO Cruise-Ins at different locations in the Metro Detroit area.





Black Rock Bar and Grill

The MCVO traveled to the west side for the February 15th Cruise-In. We met at the Black Rock Bar and Grill in Novi. Twenty-six MCVO members attended and experienced a unique eating experience. A hot, flat, black rock that has been baked in an oven is placed in front of you. Your raw steak is served on another plate and when you are ready to start cooking you place the raw steak on the hot rock and voila it cooks to your satisfaction. No need to send it back for being over or under done. You are in command. Come on out and join us for future Cruise-Ins. Spend some time with your MCVO friends, have a good meal with your favorite beverage, enjoy some laughs and make great memories.



Mike Cipponeri

The Fate of the Furious

Bruce Heckman

On the morning of April 22nd the MCVO “fast and furious” crew met up with a slightly smaller group from the Great Lakes Cobra Club at the MJR Theater at Partridge Creek Mall. There we enjoyed our own private theater screening of the “Fate of the Furious”, the latest episode of the Fast and Furious series. After seeing the best way to pep up your girls’ soccer team by Dwayne Johnson AKA-The Rock, centralized control of all autonomous cars on the road, and a submarine racing cars on ice, most of us retired to Blackfin’s American Pub for lunch and stories about getting our rides ready for the summer. Thanks to Bob Swartz for coordinating the event, a good time was had by all.



Dodge Viper One of One Program Experience

Ron and Cris Stene

Wow, the world started spinning when we decided to get a new 2017 Viper. This is our one of one Viper experience. One that will be cherished by our family forever. Thank you Dodge!

Our story begins with an email on October 5, 2016 to a friend regarding the election for MCVO President (also joking that he should run for the US Presidency – this was one month before the actual election!). In the email, I mentioned that we were thinking about obtaining a new Viper when we returned from our 3-year expat assignment in Brazil in mid 2017. Bruce responded that Viper orders would be frozen in just 2 days and no more orders would be taken after that point. Being in Brazil meant we received little to no knowledge of current events in the US and this came as quite a surprise. Bruce provided a dealer contact if we wished to begin an order process. Before we could respond an email arrived from Roanoke Motors. Enter John Gastman and the beginning of his incredible help with our journey. He endured the many decisions and changes to decisions over the several month period, ultimately leading up to the present. Here follows the story of our one of one Viper Program experience.



The first step was to select the Viper model. This was difficult as since we departed for Brazil in early 2014 the variations of Vipers had expanded significantly. We had only observed SRT and GTS models firsthand. The TA and ACR were completely foreign to us (pun intended). As were the myriad of interior and exterior options. John gave us insights on the various models, links to drivesrt.com to make a custom design and off we went. We also obtained all the available technical specifications and some firsthand experience from our Viper brethren back in Michigan. With inputs in hand we decided on the TA 2.0 (package or group at that point as I am not sure we understood the difference). From our perspective, it was a perfect mix of street car with fantastic on-track potential, in comparison to the highly acclaimed ACR, with even higher on-

track potential. On-street behavior, especially for longer trips and cruises, was a primary factor in the decision. Thoughts of the 600 and 1200 lb per inch springs shaking our bones sealed the deal. With model selected it was on to the next step.

The complete article is available in this issue's E-Edition available at MCVO.net

On Friday May 12th, MCVO members gathered at the new Golling dealership in Chelsea to help celebrate its grand opening. Fellow member Bill Golling had his new Gen 5 on display, bringing the total to 9 snakes out front attracting a lot of attention from passersby. JRT provided an SRT trailer with a dart board for people to win prizes, a temporary tattoo station and tables/chairs for people to have a hot dog and soft drink. As you can see the weather was perfect and the cars were beautiful!



Ann Rappaport

Steelhouse Tavern



On April 19th 24 MCVO members gathered around the fire pit table at the Steelhouse Tavern in Troy. This is a cozy place decorated with plenty of wood and steel. It was good to see Bruce Heckman out and about after his recent surgery. Jess and Maureen Hackney were also pleasantly surprised when their son, daughter in-law, and 4 month old twins stopped in to say hello. You could see the proud smiles on their face as they showed off those beautiful grandbabies.

Sam Milana



Spring Tech Day

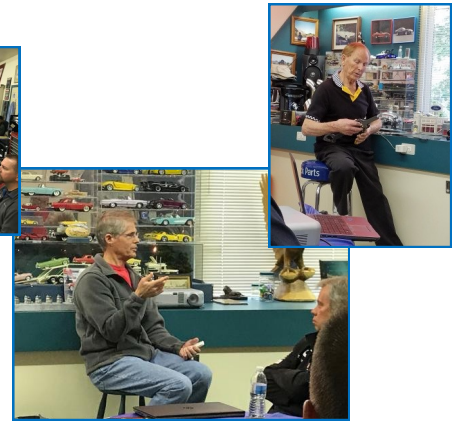
Bruce Heckman

The rain clouds parted for half a day on May 20th to permit a great joint MCVO/Great Lakes Cobra Club Tech Day. Thirty-eight hard core auto fanatics and a few of their spouses gathered at Bill Gill's auto playground to ogle each others' cars, swap technical tips, hear featured speakers and meet and greet friends over coffee and sweet rolls. Bill kicked things off by offering some of his wisdom on tools, tuning tips, and the tasting of automotive fluids (really!). He then handed out some surprise goodies to a few lucky members in the audience.

Bill and Dick Winkles introduced the first speaker of the day, Jeff Reece, from the SRT Team. Jeff has been in charge of developing the aerodynamics for the Viper and he explained with excellent graphic slides the ins and outs of the various aerodynamic features on the car. Jeff also fielded questions from the fully engaged crowd. After a short break, Bill introduced the second speaker, Pete Halsmer, an experienced driver who has driven everything from GT cars for Roush to Indy Cars. Pete offered his

insights on the best ways to get a car around the track, including a few counter-intuitive tricks. Like Jeff, Pete fielded lots of questions from the drivers in the room. Both speakers stayed after the formal close of the event to interact with those who had more questions.

After the speakers the day shifted to an informal mingle, with members socializing, helping others out with their cars, and thanking Mr. Gill for his hosting generosity. It was a real car guy (and gal) morning!



Let's do it again!

MOPARS at the Red Barns

Gilmore Car Museum

It was great fun last year!

Mark your calendars:

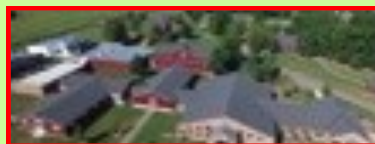
July 29, 2017 - 9am to 3pm

We've found a GREAT meet-up spot:

Sinclair Grill in Webberville, MI

It's a favorite breakfast place for all kinds of cruisers.

We will NEED to LEAVE at 8am SHARP!



2016

3rd place winner

Mike Kelly

Admission is \$20.00 per show car

(includes 2 people)

\$5.00 for each extra person

You will find further information in the event e-mail

Also on the Gilmore Car Museum's web site

Event sponsor:

Bob "Rain Cloud" Swartz

racerbob@comcast.net

248-666-3703

"This time I'll make sure we don't schedule any rain."

Spring Brunch

Diane Cipponeri



On May 7th, we held our annual Spring Brunch at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. This was possible because of longtime MCVO members, Mike & Joann Morss, who are also members at Meadowbrook. A big thank you goes out to them from all of us.

We had 91 members in attendance this year. As usual the food selections were wonderful and plentiful. We were like

kids in a candy shop as this was our official kick off to the driving season, even though our Michigan weather showed only 39 degrees that morning!



This year, the club's Member of the Year award was presented to Bob Swartz. It was well deserved for all the time and work he has put into planning events which allows members to get together, drive Vipers and have a wonderful time. Thank you Bob for all you did this past year to make the events as fun filled as they were!

Bob and Marcia



On display were Sam Milana's beautiful Viper stained glass pieces.



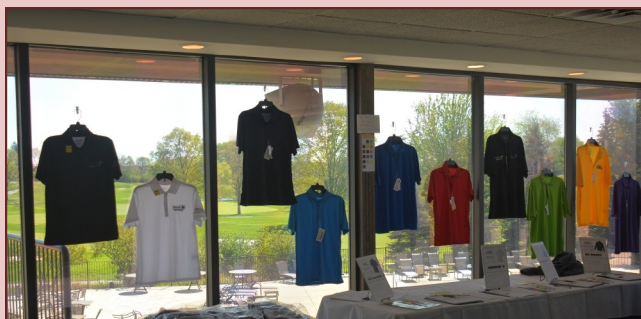
Something new this year ... we auctioned off a yellow Viper. Yes, a Viper! Imagine that. You'll have to attend next year's brunch to see what surprises we have in store!. After a spirited bidding competition, Bob Swartz became the proud owner.



As you know, this is the 25th and final year of production of the Viper. Our centerpieces were designed around that fact. It seemed fitting to have club members as our guest speakers this year. We shared some of our fondest memories of our Viper experiences. Everyone enjoyed hearing the stories and the close bond we share.



New wearables were introduced, thanks to Lori Emerling. The colors she chose are almost an exact match to many of our cars.



And last, but not least, everybody went home with a goodie bag containing a memento of the 25th anniversary of Viper.



*Special thanks to all that attended and especially to
all who helped make this event possible.*

You know who you all are!



Photo Credits:

Susan Andring, Gary Rappaport, Cari Lambert

Bruce Heckman, Ann Rappaport,

Jeff Grice, Lori Emerling, Ted Gray

Covers:

Susan Andring

Editing- Ann Rappaport

Jason Pontello