

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



After a cold wet start, we finally got a summer of fun. Despite the weather challenges, I hope you got a chance to enjoy your Viper during this summer's shorter driving season.

What a year it has been! Our membership is up to record levels, growing every month. Our event schedule is the envy of all the other VOA Regions. And while other car clubs have withered when their car went out of production, our club surged through our 25th anniversary stronger than ever.

But what always amazes me is that, although we have experienced record rates of participation, still approximately 40% of our membership fail to attend more than one club event each year. I know that many of you are busy and some of you have distance problems, but we want to ensure that you get a chance to directly join in the camaraderie generated by fellow Viper owners. If there is a different event that would attract your attention, please offer a suggestion to the Board. It has been particularly gratifying that we were able to experience several interesting new events this summer that came from ideas brought by our membership.

And I want to commend those of you who have shared the bond of Viper ownership to other members of our Club. On a couple of recent events we have had members who have had difficulties with their car. In every instance multiple other members have stepped in with assistance and insight gained from Viper ownership. This generous help is the ultimate expression of the spirit of our Club and is greatly appreciated. We're here for each other.

Bruce Heckman

Editor's Message





Gary and I have missed several events due to having a new garage built. Parking the Vipers and the Crossfire together wasn't possible in the old one. As I write this it's nothing more than freshly cured cement outside. But as you read this, our expectation is there will be a proper, fully built garage with our cars tucked inside. Fingers crossed!

Membership has continued to grow, new faces and more names for me to mispronounce! Owning a Viper is the first step, joining MCVO is the second step and enjoying the privileges of membership completes the picture. Granted buying the car is not inexpensive but once you do and join MCVO you get to travel with a pack of Vipers all over, attend local activities and social events all for the price of your membership. What a deal!

Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

October

- 3 MCVO Club Meeting
- 5 Snakes Invade Shelby Township
- 6 Lapeer Dragway- Drag Racing
- 18 Ohio Viper Fall into Christmas EOI
- 16 Cruise Night
- 20 Fall Color Tour

November

- 2 Fall Tech Day
- 6 Cruise Night
- 7 MCVO Club Meeting
- 17 Bocce Ball

December

7 - Holiday Party

January 2020

TBA



MCVO 25th Anniversary Celebration
Woodward Dream Cruise

Photo: Timothy Joyce

Motor City Viper Owners

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Officers:

President - Bruce Heckman

Vice President - Gary Rappaport

Treasurer - Rick Reuter

Secretary - Rose Klutz

Directors:

Apparel - Lori Emerling

Club Advisor - Mike Cipponeri

Newsletter - Ann Rappaport

Membership - Marty Heitkamp

Motorsports - Mike Sutton

Photography -Susan Andring

Social - Diane Cipponeri

Technology - Gary Rappaport



Please note: details for club events are emailed to members.

Club Board Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month. Please check the website for time and locations. Everyone is welcome.

Advertising is available in Snake Bites, please send a request for further information.

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MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:



Tim Schmitt - Madison Heights

Joe Ventimiglia - Brighton

Herb Helbig - Oakland Twp.

Timothy Henley - Madison Heights

George Benko - Birmingham

Scott Wortinger - Canton

Tom Beekman - Howell

Mike Dolievic - Shelby Township

Ed Curnow - Shelby Township

Steven Gawadzyn - Lasalle, Ontario

Shafton & Margrette Crosson - Southfield

George Basil - Warren



VOA Discount on Tires!

Deal alert for current VOA members! Get 10% off any tires at TireBuyer!

<u>This discount is good on any car</u> and not just your Viper! Your order will be delivered to the tire shop of your choice for installation. Shipping is Free and Fast!

VOA members- follow the link on the club's home page to get the discount coupon.

NOTE: Viper tires are out of stock but we'll notify you when TireBuyer has them available





It was a beautiful day for a Viper cruise. So, we did, while combining it with a picnic and barbeque! MCVO members, Paul & Alison McClorey, were gracious enough to invite members to their gorgeous home and wide-open grounds for a nice Saturday afternoon get together. Their homestead is located in Cohoctah Township near Howell, Michigan. If you didn't attend, you do not know what you missed! The day and the company could not have been better for a Viper cruise and a BBQ dinner.









The day began with 30 plus people cruising out to the McClorey's. The cruise ended at their historical home which was built in 1865. Awaiting us was a 100-year-old plus smokehouse that Chef Paul along with Chef Rick Jakacki were feverishly cooking our meal on. The entrees included smoked fish, spare ribs, beef brisket, chicken along with potatoes and salads galore. Accompanying the main meals were fruit and watermelon. And I can't forget the brownies and the delicious cake too. There was so much food that we couldn't possibly eat it all! All of us were stuffed. We dined in one of Paul's 2 man-cave garages. The other was decorated with cars inside and all car-related gas station décor outside. It was just like being in the 50s. It even included an old gas pump.









But it wasn't over yet. Oh no. What would a Viper get together be without a photo-shoot of us and our cars? So, we gathered in front of their 100+ year old red barn and had a Kodak moment. The pictures are post card quality.



What a way to start out one of our first driving events of the year with a cruise and a BBQ. A big thank you to Paul & Alison McClorey for opening up their home to the MCVO and sharing their time and their home with us. We had a great time and loved spending time with our Viper club friends.



Moose Preserve

Ann Rappaport









The June cruise night brought us to the Moose Preserve in Bloomfield Hills and their huge parking lot. Spots were reserved for us, with cones, ahead of our arrival.

Rick Jakacki and Gary Rappaport helped drivers park ensuring the safety of every cone in the lot.

This is a repeat location for the club. All of the cruise nights I've attended there, were always enjoyable, the food and people! This time we were seated along the back wall, but as more members arrived, more tables were connected, until it seemed MCVO had taken up most of the rear of the dining room.





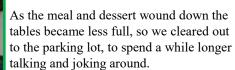




One nice thing happens pretty much on it's own. You end up sitting with different members, often someone you hadn't had a chance to spend time with before. Every single conversation has been enjoyable, I hope it was mutual!

The club treated everyone to a Moose Preserve specialty dessert, freshly baked and served to you warm, yummy chocolate chip cookies. Very hard to resist, how some members eat just one or

none......I'm convinced they must be super human or lack enough taste buds to appreciate just how good they taste.



While it's true our "cruise nights" are more socializing and eating than driving, I think the original member or board member who started the cruise night tradition was very insightful.







Snake Saturday with the Kids Car Show and Pizza Party

Bob Swartz

On June 29th the Motor City Viper Owners and the Great Lakes Cobra Club did what was, for us, a first of its kind event. We provided a private opportunity for 40 boys ages 6 to 18 of the Methodist Children's

Home to learn about Shelby inspired cars in a one-on-one environment. Plus, we hosted a pizza party for the boys and their aids.



The society leaders can describe it better so here it is in their words: "Methodist Children's Home Society provides individualized treatment, care, advocacy, and permanency to children and families impacted by childhood trauma." It's a "first" as we'd never done anything quite like hanging out with a bunch of boys and our cars. We asked members to share with the boys something about their car in a brief Q and A session.



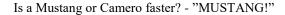
The best recap is from the boys as they interacted with club members:

When asked: "Why would anybody want a car like this?"

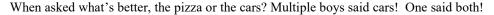
About 6 boys instantly piped up: "they're cool! fast! sweet!"

The curly haired boy said in rapid fire order: "I love it, beautiful, racy and so much fun!"

The questions continued:



Can a Lambo beat a Viper? "NO!"

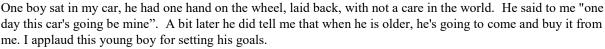


What do we all have in common? "We like fast, cool cars"

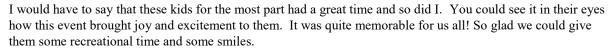


After a little boy wearing a Lions Jersey noticed the different snake logos, we taught him the nicknames. He happily shared his knowledge with all the other boys. Another boy said

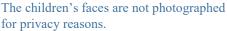
"Please close the hood, I want to 'see the road'."



Another memorable moment was when two little boys were in the car, one pretending to be driving and the passenger shouting instructions "hurry, drive faster, they are chasing us! Faster, faster, they are shooting at us!" Such an imagination! It reminds me of my youth. It was great. The kids were great.















High Octane Café and Bakery

Gary Rappaport

High Octane Café and Bakery in Bloomfield Hills invited MCVO to have their Vipers be the featured car for their 2nd annual Cars and Coffee – Viper Day.

It was predicted there may be rain and some of us experienced some light showers coming and going. We still didn't disappoint with 20 Vipers in attendance. Complimentary coffee and doughnuts were available to early arrivals. The bakery, located on the west side of Telegraph and just north of Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, has an automotive themed interior. In addition to bakery specialties there are breakfast and lunch menus.











Recently, on our Facebook page, members had a discussion about sharing their event photos with each other. Since then many club event pictures are being posted!

After you've shared on Facebook please make a point of sending your photos to our IT director at garyrppprt@gmail.com. Pick out the ones you think are most relevant or send all you have. The only request is please don't send a "burst" (several photos taken seconds apart) there isn't a need for them. MCVO has evolved into a large active organization and the time needed to sort through hundreds of pictures isn't available.

When photos are sent to IT they're saved on the clubs external hard drive. It's this hard drive which provides the pictures used in your newsletters. They're also used to update our web site, in Facebook announcements and in emails. Because of file size limitations use wetransfer.com It's free, no registration is needed and allows it you to send up to 2GB of data.



JNAP Tour Sam Milana





The fifth annual Jefferson North Assembly Plant (JNAP) tour was held on July 12th. I've been employed at JNAP for 28 years and it's always an honor to invite fellow club members into the only assembly plant in the city of Detroit.

The weather was perfect with sunny and dry conditions for the 27 guest and 14 Vipers. For 23 people it was they're first time visiting JNAP. It was nice to see so many new faces, especially David and Laura Camire, MCVO members from Lakewood Ranch Florida, who flew up to attend their first MCVO event and see an automotive assembly plant.







We all met outside the main entrance and had a security escort into the plant. The cars were parked in the body shop atrium and we were greeted by the plant manager, his staff, and UAW Local 7 officials.







After a brief introduction and PowerPoint presentation, the whole group went out on a plant tour. Lunch was served when everybody returned, then we all signed a MCVO hanner and took a group photography.

returned, then we all signed a MCVO banner and took a group photo. I extended our thanks to the plant manager and the UAW officials for allowing MCVO to tour, providing us with lunch and letting us share our cars with the employees.



MCVO is starting to have quite a line up of signed banners on display. Seeing them always brings a smile to my face!























Duggans Irish Pub

GaryAnn Rappaport

Our July cruise was a success, which given the size of Duggan's lot, is an accomplishment! There was some concern as the weather forecast was predicting rain, but our prayers were answered and it was a beautiful summer day with temps in the high 80's and sunny.

We had a great turnout with 44 in attendance and 25 Vipers.

After dinner, we went back to our cars and watched the cruisers on Woodward. We even had a few fans stop by to admire our cars.

Our thanks to Rick Jakacki for another great Cruise Night





























MCVO Mopars at the Red Barn

Mike Cipponeri

The MCVO ventured to the Gilmore Car Museum at the annual 'Mopars at the Red Barn' event on July 27. The Red Barn is located on a sprawling rural campus located in the metropolis of Hickory Corners located in western Michigan. Eight Vipers and 14 MCVO members joined hundreds of other Mopar fans in this all day nostalgic car show. Many of us caravanned from the Detroit area led by Mike Sutton who took us on a spirited ride through some winding country roads to meet up with the rest of our

group at the Red Barn.



The weather was beautiful that day as the Red Barn opened up the Gilmore Car Museum 'barns' for us to explore and drool over the displays of historical automobiles. As you wander through the displays of vintage automobiles one must ask "When does a vehicle stop being just a car and become a work of art? A rolling sculpture?" A

rhetorical question for sure. But as we all know the Viper is not just a car, and what a car it is, but also a work of art already!

But you know what? The show grounds were full, complete with beautiful car sculptures. The participants had created their own car museum on the grounds. The vehicles on display would rival any car show or any museum anywhere. A nice trip through history as told by beautiful Mopars.

It was a relaxing day with plenty of food and eye candy for all of us visitors. It also was a day where our very own MCVO member Marty Heitkamp took third place honors in his division with his 2016 Viper ACR. Congratulations Marty!

The day ended for most of us in the mid-afternoon as we started peeling off individually to make the ride home. The trip home for all of us fortunately was an uneventful trip as we all made it safely without incident. A nice day for a Viper ride. Let's do it again!

















Stahls Automotive Museum

Bob Swartz



Once again, on July 6th Stahls did not fail to impress and please the MCVO visitors!









9 Vipers and 13 people turned out for what was mostly, a beautiful day to view, cruise and chow-down at Bad Brad's BBQ. I'm ignoring making mention of the few spots of rain/downpour on the way home.







It was a great combination. The cars and musical instruments at Stahls were amazing and Brads Bad BBQ was delicious. Our cars were fast and the people friendly. Everyone seemed to be satisfied in the best ways.

A couple unique things came about that day. Sharp eyed Ann spotted a table of Road and Track magazines. Turns out they were giveaways and she suggested the boys at Methodist Children's Home Society, whom we visited the previous Saturday, would like some. Two bags full to be exact. Thanks Ann!



A newer exhibit was being assembled focusing on the Titanic. The ship replica was incomplete, but the display of a Titanic Bar was impressive.



















Then when I was looking at the new exhibit, 1907 Thomas Flyer, Tony Smith told me he got to be part of the crew that resto-cleaned it for its display at Stahls. Good job Tony!









To top things off at Stahls, one of our Cobra club friends, Duane Sabella, who had been at MCHS the prior Saturday, is a volunteer there and he alerted Stahls staffer Chris and suggested Stahls would be a good destination for the boys. Excellent idea Duane. I passed it on to Erin.

After a nice cruise caravan to Bad Brad's; in which we conquered two close-coupled traffic circles; we treated ourselves to total socializing and fantastic Bar B Q.

A wonderful time was had by all.









Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday

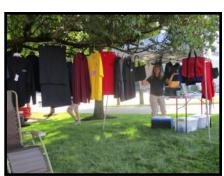
Sam Milana

Years ago I asked the question: Why doesn't MCVO have an event on Dream Cruise Saturday? I was told there's always an event during the week and that nobody would attend an event on Saturday. So five years

ago I planned the first MCVO Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday in many years and since it has grown into being MCVO's most attended event.

This year, we had 93 Vipers registered, with just over 80 showing up throughout the day. Member participation was at 142 and that doesn't include friends and family who showed up to enjoy the cars and warm summer breeze. We had 16 registered guests from out of state including MCVO member David Poelke from Sarasota Florida.

Angelika and I arrived at 8am, as did many others, to start setting up for the guest arriving at 9am. I want to thank all the people who helped throughout the day and those who stayed until 9pm with us to disassemble the tents and clean up the grounds.







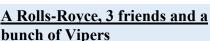






Jake Lingeman, a writer for Autoweek magazine, stopped in to take pictures and talk with us. This quote from his article, Snakebit by Breakfast says it all. "The Dodge Viper is the sweet spot for the Woodward Dream Cruise. It's American. It's insanely fast and loud, and turns more heads than almost anything from Europe."





Ann Rappaport









Back in April MCVO member Janet Priestap had asked me about local car shows being held in August. She has a very dear friend, Mia, who lives in England and was coming to visit during Woodward Dream Cruise. I gave Janet a referral for information, Cruis' News, then we chatted about her friend. Turns out Mia was coming with husband, Steven, and their 1953 Silver Wraith Rolls-Royce.

Months later I'm coming home and see what might be a Rolls-Royce driving in my little community. The next day I'm walking a dog and there it is again, garage door open, owner detailing the car. After talking with him a bit I was pretty sure and said "you know Janet Priestap". The look on Steven's face said it all, yes he did and how did I know that? After explaining, I invited Steven and Mia to join us for dinner that night. Mia is the editor of their local RR club newsletter. We compared publications, had a wonderful meal and drank beer.

They were planning to drive the RR in the cruise, but it was expected to be a warm day and the car doesn't have an electric fan. Rather it relies on the fan which is driven by the motor, but if the car is not moving it is limited in being able to move the air. Once it gets too hot, you have to park it for a while. I mentioned if they needed a spot to "let her rest and cool down" they were welcome to stop in with the Vipers, that the members would love to see the car.

Sure enough amongst V10 super cars was a bunch of Brits and a Rolls-Royce. What a classy car. Despite it's value Steven and Mia enjoy it every chance they get, they don't leave it covered in the garage to collect dust!

Meant to have a chauffeur and being right hand drive there are many unique things in addition to the bar and day/evening floor coverings. The custom luggage, which fits into a very narrow space, the original mechanics tools wrap and tools which are stored in the engine compartment conveniently so. When I sat in the back you couldn't hear anything being said in the front seat, the privacy divider was amazing.

Sometimes it's quite a small world we live in.





I didn't have much time to get a picture of the two cars. It would have been better to of had the two cars parked nose to nose. Talk about extremes- a car built to drive royalty and a car built to drive very fast!

I have since exchanged emails with Mia, she commented "Really enjoyed your article! I have to say, this is one of our favourite stories to tell about our trip:-)"





LaFontaine VIP Event

Gary Rappaport

Traditionally, the week of Dream Cruise is a very busy time for the members of MCVO. On Tuesday, our club was invited to the be a part of the celebration with the LaFontaine family. This was the second year that LaFontaine Automotive Group invited our club to their beautiful garage at M1.

The weather was a perfect sunny summer evening and everyone in attendance was treated to an endless buffet supplied by Vinsetta Garage along with adult beverages. After dining, guests were able to walk around and enjoy the LaFontaine garage, while spectating the thrill rides on the track, from their beautiful mezzanine.

We had approximately 69 people in attendance and about 40 Vipers. From the looks of the pictures, it appears it was a MCVO event.

Before we departed, Ann and I thanked the LaFontaine family for their hospitality and told them we look forward to next year.









2019 VOA Bucket list - Tail of the Dragon

Mike Sutton

Susan Andring, Jeff Morton, Mike Prudhomme and I set off Tuesday evening towards Tennessee. We trailered our Vipers and experienced light traffic through the evening, stopping in Kentucky for the night. The morning briefly brought slight rain showers and we made great time. We arrived Wednesday ahead of the pre-registration. The host hotel, Greystone Lodge on the River in Gatlinburg, TN was very clean and comfortable. Less than 3 miles away, a very nice parking lot provided a large area to unload the cars and parking for our trucks and trailers.



Other MCVO members in attendance were: Dick Winkles, Ted Gray, Joanne Gray, Frank Berle, Camille Berle, Jess Hackney, Jess Hackney IV. They did not trailer, but chose to drive. They all missed the inclement weather, and arrived safely.

On Friday, our guided cruise to Tellico Plains and through the Cherohala Skyway was beautiful. We also cruised the Foothills Parkway with many beautiful observation points along the way. At the Friday night reception, it was announced that a Gen 5 owner had an issue with the accelerator. Our very own Dick Winkles provided a temporary fix and was having the replacement part shipped overnight to repair the accelerator on Saturday. Thank you, Mr. Winkles, your assistance saved the day!

Saturday our group made two runs through the Tail in each direction. We all left a little rubber as we slayed the Dragon!

The Saturday evening Viper parade through Gatlinburg was very slow and with Coolant temperatures closing in on 240°, some of us "peeled off" prior to the Cherokee Grill. With over 110 Vipers, it is difficult to keep other vehicles from pulling into the parade and slowing us down to a crawl. It's possible I passed a few slower vehicles, including other Vipers, but my right foot was just being restless. A couple of us may have ignored the speed limit and were given an opportunity to discuss it with the Sheriff deputy who was very kind. He also provided us with nice "keepsakes", an official Warning Ticket.

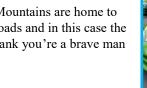
In closing, I wish to thank the Alabama/Tennessee/Carolinas clubs and all the people that shared our memorable experiences.



Editor



Frank Berle sent these photos in. The Smokey Mountains are home to bears, which can be seen wandering around the roads and in this case the parking garage. Seems bears also like Vipers, Frank you're a brave man getting this photo!







MCVO 25th Anniversary Celebration on Woodward

Diane Cipponeri

On Thursday, August 15th, we celebrated MCVO's 25th Anniversary! The Board of Directors invited all members and their guests to the celebration which was entirely underwritten by the club. We held it in conjunction with our Thursday Woodward Dream Cruise event. Over 113 members attended! Hors d'oeuvres such as fruit, carved and made into stop lights and put on skewers were served. Also, Viper shaped cookies made in all different colors to match the attendee's cars. Those cookies were a big hit!

Everyone liked the drinks, iced tea and lemonade, served in Mobil One gas can look-alike containers. We even had oil dip sticks that were actually pretzel sticks dipped in caramel and chocolate. Oh, and cookies on sticks with red, yellow and green M & M's used as the traffic signal lights frosted on them. It was definitely a car themed event for sure.

Everyone was treated to a catered, sit down buffet style dinner, including great food featuring spare ribs, chicken, pasta, salad, vegetables and rolls. The tables were placed in a way that our featured Vipers, which were parked all around us in a semi-circle, well done Sandi Emerling. Surrounded by beautiful cars while enjoying good food, drinks and dessert, what a memorable way to spend an evening with your Viper family. Oh, and of course, the parade of beautiful cars running up and down on Woodward Avenue.

We also were very fortunate to have our very first President of the MCVO, Mike Morss, and his lovely wife Joanne in attendance to celebrate with us. Of course, our current, President Bruce Heckman and his lovely wife Joan were there too. We served a huge decorated cake for dessert. Mike and Bruce actually did the ceremonial cutting of the cake together. Here's to many, many more years

of our great car club continuing in this tradition; enjoying our Vipers and the friendships we've all made over the past 25 years. As I've always said ... "all this because of a little red car!"









Also, for this special event, our apparel director, Lori Emerling, spent many hours designing a new MCVO 25th anniversary logo. Pre-orders for shirts, with this logo, allowed everyone the opportunity to wear their new shirts for this special Woodward event and the upcoming Saturday Woodward event.

Last, but not to be forgotten, as a commemorative gift of remembrance of our 25th Anniversary was given to each MCVO member. It was an acrylic ornament shaped as the great state of Michigan. Inside of the Michigan shape, there was an etching with our 25th Anniversary logo laser etched by our very own MCVO member Mike

Sutton. They turned out beautiful and hopefully our members enjoy them. Thank you, Mike, for spending countless hours etching, solely to allow all of us to have such a wonderful keepsake.

As it has been said before, it takes many people to put on any event for the club. I, for one, appreciate all those who pitched in and helped to make this celebration a success. I encourage all of our members to join in the fun and lead or put on an event. This is your Club too and we want to keep it the BEST!



HADDY 25TH ANNIVERSARY MCVO!



Once again thank you to everyone who came early, unloaded supplies and helped set up tents, tables, chairs and all the extras like drinks and snacks. Also thank you for staying after to help break down everything.











Photo Credits:

Ann Rappaport

Gary Rappaport

Mike Sutton

Sam Milana

David Camire

JNAP photographer

Ron Stene

Jordan Buscemi

Tim Updyke

Alex Good

Susan Andring

Tim Joyce

High Octane

photographer

