

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Club Advisor Message

Gingerman Track Day

Cruise Nights

Winter Party

Spring Brunch

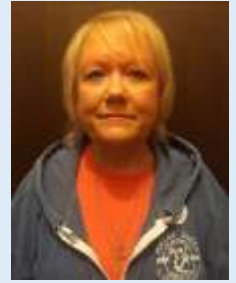
Spring Tech Day

Photo Credit:
Lena Culver

Volume 27 Issue 1

Winter ~ Spring 2022

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello fellow MCVO members. I would like to thank you for electing me President of MCVO by acclamation. I anticipate it will be an enjoyable time for all members.

As COVID numbers are decreasing, our membership is increasing, due to our Membership Director's tireless recruiting efforts working toward our goal of 200 members. Thanks Marty. In addition to watching our finances, Rick produces our participation chart which shows growing attendance at our events. The events agenda is showing increased happenings, some new to us and some returned favorites. Thanks Rick. Thank you Social, Cruise night, and Motorsports Directors, Diane, Mike, and Paul M, for your work providing events. Also, thanks to Bob for all his behind-the-scenes work. Thanks to Gary for keeping the calendar updated and reminding us via blasts of deadlines and upcoming timeframes, along with his other various duties. Paul L, our new Merchandise Director, will provide new ways to obtain apparel without keeping a large inventory. Thanks to Lori for all her hard work keeping us well dressed. Thank you, Susan, for all the photos of our beautiful cars which we all enjoy seeing. And thank you Ann for publishing the photos and accompanying articles to keep us informed. A big thank you to our Advisor, Bruce, who keeps us on the straight and narrow.

As you can see it takes a lot of assistance to run the club and I am glad I have the support. If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, etc., let me know.

Rose Marie Klutz

Please email me at:

j_m_k@att.net

Cover photo: Lena sent me pictures she took while going home one night. Thank you for the wonderful shot and for taking the time to forward it for all of us to enjoy!

Editor's Message

As I write this the weather has changed and Michigan is in full driving season. Please consider the many different events being offered to membership. The club's calendar on the MCVO.net site is a good place to start. For the most up-to-date information, specific event details, sign up and payment links, reference the emails sent to you for every event. Remember to check the emails to see if there are any changes you need to know about.



We are always interested in ideas for events. If you have a suggestion please reach out to a Board member. One of us will be happy to help you make it happen! Most of the events, we all enjoy now, were just an idea someone had, one that became an event on the calendar and a lot of fun for all of us.

Ann Rappaport

Please sent photos and articles to me at this address. Also identify who took each photo.

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Club Calendar

August

- 4 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 13 - Waterford Hills Track Day
- 13 - Road Kill M1
- 18 - WDC Thursday Night Dinner
- 19 - Dream Cruise Show M1
- 20 - WDC Saturday Club Parking
- 27 - A Visit with Bob Lutz

September

- 1 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 3 - Snakes in the Grass
- 9-11 Hocking Hills Ohio
- 21 - Cruise Night
- 23-25 Grand Rapids Tour
- 30 - AM Speed Fest M1

October

- 5 - Viper Showdown
- 6 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 7 - Viper Racing League
- 15 - Elkhart Indiana Tour
- 19 - Cruise Night
- 22 - FrankenCider Tour

November

- 3 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 5 - Fall Tech Day
- 6 - Veteran's Day Parade
- 16 - Cruise Night
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day Parade

December

- 3 - Holiday Party

Events in blue are Events of Interest (EOI)

Motor City Viper Owners

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Officers:

President - Rose Klutz

Vice President - Gary Rappaport

Treasurer - Rick Reuter

Secretary -

Directors:

Merchandise - Paul LaPlant

Club Advisor - Bruce Heckman

Newsletter - Ann Rappaport

Membership - Marty Heitkamp

Motorsports - Paul McClorey

Photography - Susan Andring

Social - Diane Cipponeri

Technology - Gary Rappaport

Advisor & Coordinator

Caravan Cruise Advisor - Bob Swartz

Cruise Night Coordinator - Mike Cipponeri

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During the driving season often there are more events as well as changes to listed events. For the latest information please reference our club's calendar at **www.MCVO.net** thank you! Please note: details for club events are emailed to members.

Club Board Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcomed. Please email viper@mcvo.net to get further details.



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



Jeff Curran	Birmingham, MI	Tina Lupi	Pinckney, MI
Jeff Golota	Walled Lake MI	Zack McKellips	Fennville, MI
Ryan Hershey	Pinckney, MI	Ren Stone	Royal Oak, MI
Eric Herz	Rochester, MI	Bob Varsanik	Rochester, MI
Bruce Johnson	Newark, OH		

We come for the car, but stay for the people!

Meet Paul LaPlant

MCVO Merchandise Director

Sitting next to my lunch money on the kitchen counter was a copy of the UAW Union Journal, turned over on the back page was a picture and a small paragraph about this "spaceship" that Chrysler was supposedly going to produce. "No way" I had said to my pre-teen self and headed off to school with little to no more thought about it, until a few years later during the unveiling.



The lines and curves of this car induced emotion that I'm not sure I still understand to this day, I find myself staring at my car and others' even after all these years.

It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of the people that have made the Motor City Viper Owners the best Viper Region there is. I hope to preserve this legacy and continue providing the leadership that we have been known for. Some of you may not know that we live in Ohio. While it is a bit of a drive to get to most of the club events, it's a great reason to get the car out and MCVO has been well worth it!

Seven years and almost 35k miles later, Brandy and I have enjoyed Viper events across the country. The relationships and memories could never be duplicated.

Gingerman Track Day

Paul McClorey

Saturday May 7 was a BEAUTIFUL weather day and GREAT day to be at the track. The early morning was a bit wet but by the time we arrived, all was well.

We had 10 Vipers (and one Lotus) join the Trackilicious group for five 20 minute sessions around the 2.14 mile road course just east of South Haven. We had a midday break for lunch and the track food was actually pretty good.

The track has a little of everything to enjoy: blind corners, fast sweepers, high speed straightaways, and nice elevation changes. It's a well maintained and very safe track to practice, learn, and race on. Some had been there before and for others it was their first time. For some, it was even the first time on a road course.

The discussions and overall camaraderie made for a memorable day. I believe everyone truly had nice day and learned a lot, which was evident in shorter elapsed times by the end of the day. Hope to see you at the next one.



Winter Party 2022 Diane Cipponeri

Your MCVO Social Director, “me” is trying my best to get back to the normal event schedule of our 2022 social/driving events. So we held our Winter Party as scheduled for the year at the IACS in Clinton Township, Michigan. We had close to 54 people attend.



I try to change up the venue of the events every year so that it always will be fun and exciting! Some of the original games like The Viper Car Racing and Black Jack are always played.

This year I changed it up a little by adding a few Roulette wheels and a Spinning Wheel. Thank goodness that many of our members helped out in running the games, or we would have had games, but no dealers! Thank you again for all your help.



The food was great as always! The members had a lot of fun. The gifts were plentiful and all members had a great evening of fun!

I am writing this article a couple of months after the event was held. If I wrote anything incorrectly, please text me and correct me! On that note, it brings another subject up! We have so many new younger members in our club now. MCVO would love to have you join us and arrange for an event to happen. We want you involved and to give us new ideas on events that can be held. The Winter Party, “as they say” is now in the books and put away until next year!



Spring Tech Day
McLaren Engineering
Paul McClorey

On Saturday April 23, we had a great turnout of 51 people who had privilege to tour the McLaren Engineering facility in Livonia. The day's weather started out pretty sketchy, being brisk and wet but that didn't stop our group from showing up in force with many driving their Vipers. Our host, Lee Carducci, met all expectations with his knowledge and wit. His team members that were there also did a great job. Thanks to all of them for coming in on a Saturday morning to entertain and enlighten us. Rich Maccani was nice enough to pick up the coffee and donuts which were plentiful. I think Mike Cipponeri even got some.



The tour began with a history of McLaren beginning with Bruce McLaren who passed way too soon. But obviously, the story didn't end there. While the roots of company are racing related, the breadth of what they do now was surprising. Anchored in the world of gears, they are involved in many different drivelines and are on the front lines in the applications to electric vehicles and forklifts as well.



Racing is still a big part of the overall operation and the original dynos are still there, along with new ones that they had running that day. The Flex Assembly Line was especially intriguing in that they can run small numbers of small assemblies and then switch to a different assembly very quickly all the while simplifying the procedures for those performing the work. The 3D printing, metal-lurgy, and wide variety testing all done in house was impressive.

Afterwards, Bob Swartz led a small group to lunch at The Commerce Public House. All in all a great event.

Spring Brunch

Diane Cipponeri



A new venue and place to hold our Annual Spring Brunch was chosen this year!

We held our event at The Italian American Banquet & Conference Center in Livonia, Michigan. The building had been recently renovated and now looks like a Villa with an essence Old World Italy! We try to have our events in different locations to serve both our East side and West side members. Our MCVO members, Rich and Barb Maccani were our hosts. They are members of the club and did all the arranging and setting up for us to hold our event there. A big thank you goes out to them for their generosity and all their help.

I unfortunately, at the last minute, was not able to attend the Brunch. I believe that nobody truly knows how much I look forward to attending the Brunch and seeing our Viper Family. However, the MCVO Board came to the rescue and handled it without a flaw! Thank you all so very much for covering for me and making the event run smoothly as usual!

The members always look forward to bringing gifts that they have won home with them. Sometimes they are disappointed because their ticket number wasn't drawn first to get the "best" gift! However, there were plenty of opportunities to win a nice gift!



Mike & Joann Morss, donated a Viper table for our silent auction. The lucky winner was Susan Andring. Enjoy, Susan! It is gorgeous. Thank you to both of them! Many other members donated their extra Viper treasures and now we have many new happy Viper collectors! Never forget your MCVO club if you have treasures that you might not want anymore. We have plenty of new members that would love to have the opportunity of owning them. We always look forward to presenting the Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award every year at the Spring Brunch. This year the prestigious award was deservedly presented to the President of our club, Michael Sutton. Many hours of work go into earning this award that nobody realizes. Mike was always there in making this club function and run well. Congrats Mike for a job well done!



And last but not least, we were able to have Haig Jewelers of Rochester join us. Paul does a beautiful job of creating unique Viper jewelry for our club. This year he presented us with two Viper charms and two sets of Viper diamond stud earrings for raffle prizes. All of our women members had a chance to win one of the gifts. Hope you were one of the lucky ones to have won those!

Hopefully all who attended were able to socialize with your Viper Family and have a good time! I have heard many compliments from the event and also have received many well wishes for my continued health improvement. I thank you all for your kind words and hopefully I will be able to continue as the Social Director again soon. Until next time.....!



I'd like to say thank you to Tim and Donna Sutherland for donating 9 Viper lawn chairs!

The bid sheets started out slowly, but within minutes each had multiple bids and became a "hot item".

Ann Rappaport



It Takes a Village Club

As Club Advisor I need to call attention to special opportunities that will be coming available to members this Fall. With the advent of our regularly scheduled upcoming elections we will be having a slightly larger than normal turnover in our Club Officers and Directors. This turnover is not driven by any single event but rather a convergence of the lengths of tenure by several on our Board of Directors.

While things have run smoothly under past leaderships, the Club needs new blood on our Board to introduce fresh ideas, ensure diverse perspectives are represented, and to maintain the Board's energy. To ensure continuity, existing Board members will be available to lend mentorship assistance to their replacements as much as desired.

Watch for Club notifications about the upcoming vacancies, application requirements and filing deadlines.

MCVO has a bright future ahead, membership is at an all-time high, we are financially sound and have a long history of great events.

I encourage you to consider how you can help continue this success, *you are necessary* in maintaining the smooth operation of our special Club.

Bruce Heckman

MCVO Cruise Nights

February - Villa Restaurant

Susan Andring

Our February Cruise night brought out a small group of 17 at the Villa Restaurant in Eastpointe.



The Villa is one of our favorite places to eat. We had a wonderful surprise visit from Tony Smith as he was in town from Texas. Because it was February and the parking lot is not Viper friendly, this was a perfect mid-winter dinner location while our cars are still nestled in for the season. The Villa has area in the back for larger parties so we had it all to ourselves.

We ordered up the baked meatball appetizers on the club and caught up with our Viper family over dinner and drinks. The service is always great and so is the food and no one left hungry.

March - Mission BBQ

Gary Rappaport

Mike Sutton found a nice spot on the west side, in Northville, called Mission BBQ, where the interior is covered wall-to-wall with photos and tributes to first responders and our great military veterans. The Cipponeri's were on hand to lend their support with checking everyone in and handing out badges.

There was a wide variety of smoked meats and poultry, along with tasty side dishes. One of our favorites for the evening was the cheesy potatoes. It was a beautiful evening with temps in the low 60's. We had a great turnout with 31 in attendance and we actually had 4 Vipers. For those of us that still have our snakes in hibernation, it was nice to see and hear those Vipers.



April - 5th Tavern

Gary Rappaport

It was the third week of April and two days before our Cruise night, we had 2 inches of snow. On the day of the event, the snow was gone, but we barely hit 50 degrees accompanied by a light rain.

Our Cruise Night host, Mike Cipponeri, brought us back to the always enjoyable, 5th Tavern. They never disappoint, with great food and service. The menu has a wide variety of choices and everything we've ordered has always been very tasty.

Considering it was a cold, gray evening, we had 30 members come out for a fun evening to see old friends. Many of our members travel to warmer weather during the winter and this is the first time we've seen some of our friends in months.

We even had 2 courageous members (Mike Sutton and Dave Buchesky) who brought their Vipers. Our thanks to Mike and wife, Diane, for putting on an enjoyable evening and making us all feel so welcome.



May - Griffin Claw Brewing

Gary Rappaport

May has been a strange month weather-wise for Michigan. It's been unseasonably cold and only in the last couple days did we turn a corner. To further complicate things we went from cold to 80-degree weather overnight, almost skipping spring. But our luck didn't hold for the Cruise Night, we went back to cold (50's) and rain. Even so we had a nice turnout of 23 in attendance, but unfortunately there were no Vipers.

Mike Cipponeri, found a new venue in Rochester Hills, called Griffin Claw Brewing. He arranged for us to dine alfresco in a private area off the main dining room, but instead they had the "walls" up and the heaters on full blast. We still had a nice evening catching up with friends, drinking good beer and eating from their diverse menu. MCVO supplied a nice variety of appetizers for those attending.



Photo Credits:

Lena Culver

Gary Rappaport

Brandy Adams

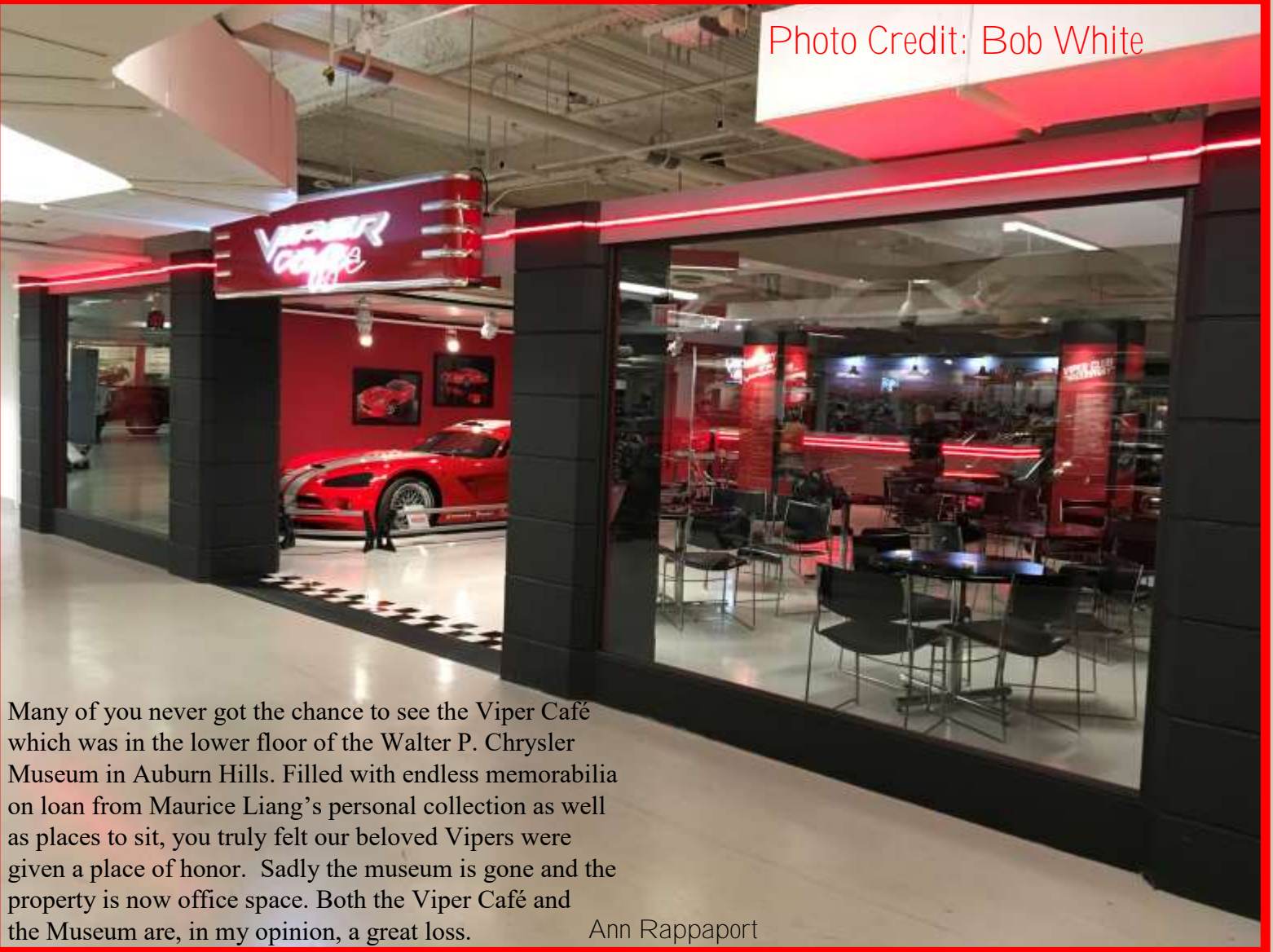
Ann Rappaport

Mike Sutton

Susan Andring

Paul McClorey

Photo Credit: Bob White



Many of you never got the chance to see the Viper Café which was in the lower floor of the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills. Filled with endless memorabilia on loan from Maurice Liang's personal collection as well as places to sit, you truly felt our beloved Vipers were given a place of honor. Sadly the museum is gone and the property is now office space. Both the Viper Café and the Museum are, in my opinion, a great loss.

Ann Rappaport

Portrait orientation photographs are needed for both covers.

Please remember this when out with your car.

I'm happy to showcase your photo on a cover!