

SNAKE BITES

Official Publication of the Motor City Viper Owner's
Summer 2023 Edition ~ Volume 28 Issue 2

Frank Reinhardt Sr's Viper @ the Rainy
Thursday Night Woodward Event



Spring Brunch Car Shows / Cars & Coffee Events
Summer Cruise Nights Board Reports
5th Annual Viper Smokeout Bob Lutz Event
Woodward Dream Cruise Events Viper Racing Events
NVE in Colorado Springs Upcoming Events



Snake Bites is published three times per year for members of the Motor City Region of the Viper Owners of America (VOA). Membership in VOA includes membership in the region known as the Motor City VIPER Owners (MCVO).

subscriptions

A subscription to Snake Bites is included in your VOA/MCVO club membership.

VOA membership

To join the Viper Owners of America, go to www.driveviper.com/join for a membership application, or call VOA headquarters at 888-778-1545. Viper ownership is required for both the Standard and Mamba membership levels. Dues are per calendar year and based on the chosen membership level. A new feature for 2023 is the Legacy membership. This new membership level was created for former Viper owners (those who no longer own their Viper) but still want to participate in club and regional activities.



MCVO membership

Membership in the Motor City Region is included with membership to VOA. Three optional membership levels within MCVO are Associate, National Affiliate, and Spirit of Viper. See the MCVO website for more information.

club mailing address

Motor City VIPER Owners
51622 Promenade Lane
New Baltimore, MI 48047

facebook page

Motor City Viper Owners

website

www.mcvo.net

general inquiries

viper@mcvo.net

club board meetings

Planning meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month, currently via Zoom. Everyone is welcomed to attend. Please email: viper@mcvo.net to get further details.

cover photos – front and back. credits – Susan Andring

Front: Woodward Dream Cruise Thursday Night Event

Back: October Cruise Night at Black Rock

in this issue ...

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MCVO club / board of directors

executive committee

President	Mike Sutton
Vice-President	Marty Heitkamp
Secretary	Paul LaPlant
Treasurer	Mike Sutton

directors

Club Advisor	Rose Klutz
Membership	Marty Heitkamp
Merchandise	Paul LaPlant
Motorsports	Paul McClorey
Newsletter	Lori Emerling
Club Photographer	Susan Andring
Technology	TBD
Social Events Team	Brandy Adams, Susan Andring, Rose Klutz, Diane Cipponeri, Elaine Heitkamp

Need an easy way to contact any of the Board of Directors? Use their [board title]@mcvo.com. Example: Have an idea for a Social Event? Send an email to socialteam@mcvo.net. All board member email links are on the club information page of the website.

During the driving season, there are often more events or possible changes to listed events. For the latest information, refer to the club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net. You can also visit our Facebook page to keep up with member postings and great photos.

Please note: Activities may be posted on the Facebook page, but specific details for events will always be e-mailed directly to the membership.

Snake Bites is a publication of the Motor City Viper Owners organization. Snake Bites is available to the membership as a printed copy, as well as an electronic version on the club website. Editorial contributions are encouraged by the membership and/or other entities. Submission of articles, materials and/or photographs implies the right to edit and publish, all or in part. We are not responsible for return of unsolicited materials. The opinions and experience of the author of said articles, does not necessarily reflect club or former Viper corporate (Stellantis) opinion, recommendation or approval. Reproduction of the Snake Bites newsletter, either in part or whole from the printed copy or electronic version is prohibited without the expressed written consent of the MCVO Newsletter Editor and the MCVO Board of Directors. Advertising is available in Snake Bites – please send a request to newsletter@mcvo.net for more information.

Greetings MCVO Members !

What a beautiful summer we have had - we were blessed with many near perfect driving days ! Even though summer is officially over, our fall line-up of events is very exciting and adventurous. Keep an eye on the Calendar of Events on the MCVO website and watch your e-mail for upcoming registrations for events.



As for upcoming events, you will receive timely notices regarding the events and reminders to sign-up prior to cut-off dates. Remember, that during the driving season, there are often events added or possible changes to listed events, so keep an eye on the calendar on the website, as there will be updates as new events become available.

Our club has been growing all summer and we welcome to all new members! Please introduce yourselves at upcoming events. And to those members who have recommended or persuaded Viper owners to join our organization, here is a big "thank you."

If you have a favorite picture of your Viper, please email it to me. Those who have already submitted their favorite picture will find them scrolling on the homepage. I still need to cycle through all the pictures received, so don't worry if you have not seen your car there yet, none of them have been deleted - I'm just trying to keep them "fresh".

As I have said many times before - we welcome ideas and any help to continue making MCVO the best car club ever. Our plan is to always provide the membership with as many opportunities to enjoy each other's company, share experiences and put a few miles on their Vipers. As most of the membership is aware, we have heavily subsidized club events for the past couple years and have done the same again this year. We are always seeking to provide the best events at the lowest costs to the members. I am hoping you have been able to join a few this year.

Remember, if you have *any* suggestions, please contact us at the viper@mcvo.net email, or reach out to one of the board members. We are here to serve you. I look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming events.

Regards,

Mike Sutton

president@mcvo.net
586-782-2225



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello fellow MCVO members !

Many THANKS to all of the great comments and feedback that I received for the Spring newsletter. I was truly hoping to interject a new, fresh look into the newsletter and from all the comments – I think it worked great. This Summer volume has five months worth of events – from May through September - as I had a family issue which delayed the newsletter completion last month. This way you get the most recent information on the most recent events !!



As always, articles and photos of club events are welcomed for the newsletter. Anyone who attends a club-sponsored event, an event of interest, or your own gathering of Vipers attending an event is welcome to submit an article to share with the club. We will also welcome articles of interest to club members, and they can be added where publishing space allows.

Please remember - when submitting photos, to send high resolution images so we get a better quality of photos in print. We are always looking for good "cover shots" for the newsletter, and they need to be a vertical image. Also, please try to take a larger picture (step back from your subject, or even zoom out a little) so if the picture needs to be cropped, a full image is still intact.

Lori Emerling

newsletter@mcvo.net
248-703-8902

Many thanks to Susan Andring for the quantity and quality of photos that I have had to choose from for the newsletter articles – they are always bright and clear and I have so many to choose from !!

VOA UPDATE

The Viper Owners Association (VOA) is our National club affiliation. As some of you are aware, the VOA required a loan two years ago to pay off some previous national club debts.

There was a lot of speculation and accusations as to what happened. The handling of the finances was not regulated within the By-Laws and without pointing fingers, spending was out of control.



As we have noted before, the VOA Executive Committee recently created three individual committees (Finance, Operations and Membership) to assist with getting the ship "turned around". The Regional Presidents and many other regional members are working diligently with the VOA to find ways to ensure a strong future. These committees have worked hard to review and cut expenses, plus have created changes to the National By-Laws which will regulate future spending. As of this writing, it appears the VOA loan will be paid off within 2 years! This is very exciting news!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of September 30th, MCVO currently stands at 192 members. Last year, at this time we were at 197 members. This drop could be due to several members retiring / moving out of our area; a few who have taken new jobs and moved out of state; or several members taking advantage of the robust Viper market prices and selling their cars.

Nevertheless, 192 members is still the second highest membership we have had since being affiliated with VOA. We have a good combination of Standard, Mamba, Affiliate and Associate membership levels within MCVO. But with that being said – it does not matter what level of membership someone has within MCVO – we are all here to have a great time with friends and their Vipers !!



MCVO New Members WELCOME !

Terry Bukowski	Oxford, MI	Michael Dupont	Manchester, NH
Adam Essa	Richfield, OH	Graham Henckel	Rochester Hills, MI
Chad Horner	Monroe, MI	Chris & Danielle Hughes	Macomb Twp, MI
Mike & Judy Jones	Almont, MI	Harry Lewis	Attica, MI
Graham Morrison	Harper Woods, MI	Dan & Rae Pearlman	Sturgis, MI
Tushar Vakhariya	Bloomfield, MI	Jack Van Wingerden	Muskegon, MI
Andrew Marcinek	Rossford, OH		

Many thanks to everyone who has promoted MCVO to their friends and neighbors with Vipers – it is how we grow our membership. Let me know if you have a possible new member – I can reach out and provide information to them.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming club events. Make sure to check the club calendar on the website.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Membership renewals for 2024 begin on October 1st. If you know you're going to renew with MCVO or the VOA for 2024, why not get it done early so I won't have to pester you? LOL

Some good news for members that have joined MCVO separately, outside of being a member of VOA. Your annual dues will be going down \$10, to only \$75 for the year. That's right, your dues are going down!

Now, for those outside VOA region members that are also MCVO members, I have some bad news. Your annual dues are going up by \$17, to \$75 for the year. You may ask why the change to \$75? Because that is the amount that VOA sends to MCVO, for members that are registered through VOA. The MCVO Board decided it didn't make sense to have different dues amounts from one member to another. This way everyone is contributing the same amount to the MCVO funds. Please renew early !

Any questions regarding membership or club operating documents/procedures, please let me know via either the membership or vice-president links shown below.

Marty Heithamp

membership@mcvo.net or vicepresident@mcvo.net

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Our previous Technology Director, Tom Beekman has resigned, and we have several board members who are taking care of the website and getting informational emails out to you on a timely basis. Anyone looking for a great job? We could use your help.

The club website mcvo.net was updated in early 2023. The feedback on the new look to the website has been overwhelming – it has a modernized feel and look, plus updated site security. We've also updated many pages to make browsing and finding the club information you need more fluid.

We've updated the Home Page with information to introduce ourselves to new potential members. We also updated the Membership Information page to make picking a VOA or MCVO membership much easier. The Who's Attending link in the Events area has also been updated to make finding your event even easier. Additionally, we have added some new tools to assist our board and event coordinators in collecting and distributing information easier.

Got a great picture of your car that you would like to see on the website? You can submit your favorite photo of your car to be displayed on our homepage by emailing it to president@mcvo.net! Photos will randomly change and be updated often.

The online Membership Directory has changed from a PDF file to a database secured within the website itself. This new table format will allow you to search and sort all members easily and quickly. Want to see which members live in your town? Just type your city name in the search area, and it'll show you exact matches. It also allows our Membership Director to update all records online and in real-time, displaying changes immediately.

An e-mail was sent in early April, asking all members to check out the new Membership Directory and verify your information is correct and up to date. The 2023 printed membership directory is done, but please check your information & update if needed. Address: https://www.mcvo.net/membership_directory. Instructions for making updates to the directory are near the top of the page – one for VOA changes, and another for MCVO changes – click on the HERE button and a form will open for MCVO members to fill out / submit changes.

Effective April 1, 2023, there was a NEW PASSWORD for MCVO members on mcvo.net. The new password was provided in a members-only email. Please do **not** share this password with any other persons. If someone asks you for the password, or you need the password as a new member – please direct questions/requests via an email to technology@MCVO.net.

TBD

IT Director

technology@MCVO.net

Membership Directory

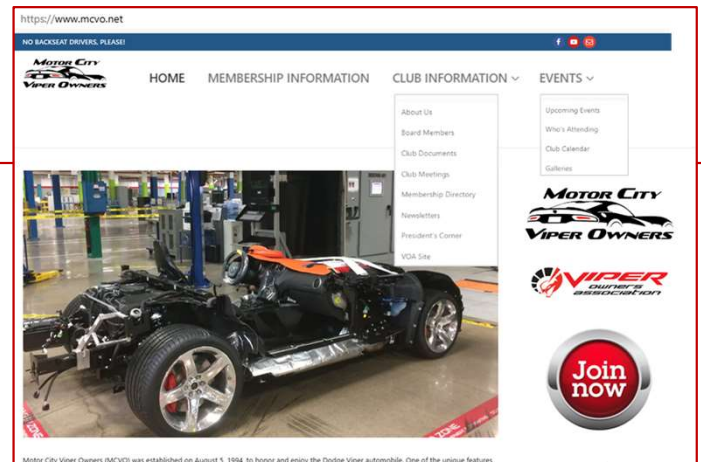
Updating your contact information:
It is VERY IMPORTANT that we have your correct address and email address so you can receive all club news and emailings about upcoming events.
VOA Members: To update your contact information on the "Members" section of the VOA's nation site or call them at 888-778-1545. They will forward the changes to MCVO.
MCVO Associate Members: Click HERE to submit a request to update your info.

Please scroll right for more member info

Show entries

Search:

Full Name	First Name	Last Name *	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City
BILL Adams	BILL	Adams			33066 E. Camino	Chico



CLUB ADVISOR REPORT

Hello club members –

As your club advisor for the 2023 season, I am here if you have any questions or need information related to club operations – past, present or future, please send me a note. Looking forward to hearing from you !!

Rose Klutz

clubadvisor@mcvo.net



2023 Annual Spring BLunch @ The Gazebo – May 21st

By Susan Andring

88
Attendees

Our annual MCVO Spring event was held on Sunday, May 21st at the Gazebo in Sterling Heights. This event was traditionally a brunch, but this time it was later in the day, so it was like lunch – so how about the Spring BLunch ?

We had 97 of our members signed-up for the annual kick-off to the new season and had 88 in attendance, with 30+ Vipers outside. The Gazebo is a great gathering place, and the food was delicious, as usual. Great venue, glorious weather, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, including our newest and youngest member, handsome little two-week-old Hudson. By the way, did I say the food was delicious!



Club president, Mike Sutton, covered the yearly updates and operations for the club before and after dinner, and shared the many events that are being planned for this season ... all while holding on to Hudson. Many congratulations to Rose Klutz for being the 2022 Joyce Allen Award recipient. She joins a long list of dedicated Viper members who have received this award over the last 24 years. Traditionally, the award has been presented during our spring event to a previous year's member who has volunteered their time to make sure we have great club events, but also one who enthusiastically goes 'over and above' to exemplify the best virtues of our Club. Congratulations, Rose !!

Beautiful spring floral baskets adorned each table and the normal, fun table-raffle determined who got to take one home. The baskets were so big and full of flowers – they barely fit in the back of the Viper.

We had some fun raffle baskets & silent auction prizes. Elaine Heitkamp put together the amazing raffle baskets. I helped hold the cellophane together while she did all the work. That yellow kid's car just keeps popping up every few years. Its combined re-sales are just about the cost of an adult sized Viper. Thanks to all who donated to the silent auction and to everyone else that graciously helped put this event together.



Diane Cipponeri used to organize this event practically by herself. This year it took a whole team of us to pull it off in her place. We hope everyone had a terrific time! It was a great kickoff to a Viper summer!



Spring BLunch Outdoor Images ... What a great turnout of Vipers !!



VIPER RACING LEAGUE, Road America in Wisconsin – June 9, 10, 11

By Paul McClorey, Motorsports Director

June 9, 10, & 11 took me to Road America in Plymouth, Wisconsin with the Viper Racing League. This was a much much shorter trip than our last outing, and it was much appreciated. The weekend event was unfortunately held on the same days as the Viper Rendezvous in Nebraska, so I think both events had a slightly lower turnout than was preferred.

The track had just completed a complete resurfacing and, WOW! what a difference. Gone were the bumps and dips that tended to upset the car, and now we had a completely smooth and VERY fast track to test our cars on. Speeds were up and times were down, but then we had a change in the weather.

Since the asphalt is so new, it was still “bleeding” oil and that it made it quite treacherous once it got even a little bit wet. The majority of the puddles and “rivers” were gone due to the new surface, but the slipperiness had a few cars find the wall. Everyone was fine but our last day was cut short as personal safety and damage control came to the forefront. All in all though, it was a truly great weekend at one of the world’s most beautiful and historic tracks.

We had a great steak dinner in the paddock on Saturday night and we all had a great time seeing each other again and racing for that low time.

Next up for the VRL is Watkins Glen on October 13, 14, & 15.



PAST EVENT of INTEREST

EOI = Event of Interest

CEMA Charity Car Show, Auburn Hills, MI – June 10th

By Lori Emerling

16
Attendees

The 32nd Annual CEMA Charity Car Show was held on the grounds of the former W.P. Chrysler Museum, now known as the Alfa Romeo / Maserati headquarters. This annual show donates its profits every year to the Leader Dogs for the Blind. MCVO has been attending this show for at least the last 20 years and this show is always a highlight of the spring car show events. Many members were in attendance this year, helping to support the event, plus it was a beautiful day for showing off our Vipers !



Fish Fly Parade, New Baltimore, MI – June 25th

By Susan Andring



For the 3rd year in a row, MCVO was invited to participate in the New Baltimore Fish Fly Festival Parade on Sunday, June 25th. We had 10 cars sign up, with some repeat attendees and some new.

Everyone was a bit nervous as the weather was forecasting late day storms. The rain prayers worked, and we stayed dry. The Vipers have always been a bit hit in the parade and this year we took second in our category to some old fire trucks. The last two years, we had taken first place !

It's a great little hometown, all-America parade. The temps were perfect! Sam Milana drove our Gen II while Angelika drove their Gen V, as Mike Sutton was off racing "our" newly acquired Gen V. We had the traditional after-party at our home with hot dogs, hamburgers and goodies, and Angelika made the most incredible pasta salad! We hope to continue this event. How many can say they've driven in a parade? Look for the 2024 announcement and sign up early. It promises to be a great time.



PAST EVENTS of INTEREST

EOI = Event of Interest St. Ignace Car Show – June 24

By Tom Beekman

3
Attendees

A couple Viper club members attended the annual St. Ignace Car Show on the weekend of June 24th. This was a well-attended show in the MCVO history pages, and it was great to have MCVO in attendance once again. There were three Vipers at the event – two Gen 1's and a Gen 3.



EOI = Event of Interest Bay Harbor Car & Boat Festival, Petoskey, MI – June 24

By Lori Emerling

BAY HARBOR
CAR & BOAT
FESTIVAL



Photo Credit: From the Bay Harbor
Classic Car & Boat Festival's FB Site

Several club members attended the Bay Harbor Car & Boat Festival the last weekend in June. As I was going through photos on the event site, I found that Rose & Joe Klutz were front and center in about 25-30 photos !

Great choice of seats, guys. Note: All 3 photos from the Bay Harbor Classic Car & Boat Festival Facebook page.



Our Annual Group Photo at the
5th Annual MCVO Smoke-Out
July 8th, 2023



5th Annual Viper Smoke-Out @ McClorey's in Cohoctah – July 8th

By Paul McClorey & Susan Andring

Saturday July 8th was this year's MCVO Smoke-Out at the McClorey house. The weather could have been better, but adjustments were made, and everything worked out well.



Paul and Alison were prepping all week and Paul and Brandi LaPlant came in on Friday evening to help with last minute preparations and assistance on Saturday. As usual, our host, Paul was up bright and early (5:30 am) on Saturday to get the brisket started and the rest followed as the day progressed.

We had a great turnout even with the sketchy weather and many folks stopped at Colasanti's Market in Milford as part of the caravan over to the McClorey's. There were over 60 people and many Vipers. Everyone enjoyed smoked sausage and pork tenderloin appetizers, and followed that with ribs, brisket, chicken, pork, and salmon, as well as tasty sides and desserts.

There was enough room under cover for all to enjoy their meal and the camaraderie of our awesome MCVO car club. Another fantastic MCVO event !!

Per Susan: Today we had another great MCVO Smokeout hosted by Paul and Allison McClory! Paul sure knows how to smoke some meat! Some of the best ribs ! We had some tiny sprinkles and threats of afternoon rain so 1/2 of the cars were daily drivers but a few of us braved it! Still, the food was exceptional and the company just as good! Always a fun time! We look forward to this event every year.

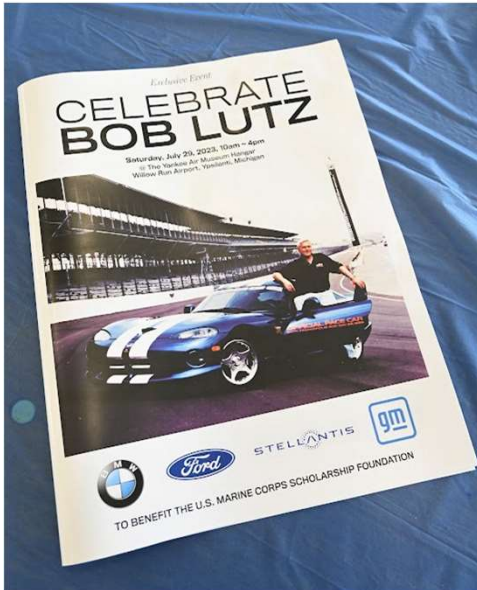


The "Celebrate Bob Lutz" Event @ Yankee Air Museum – July 29th

Photos from Several FB Postings

With Photo Credits to:

Sam Milana, Doris Gilles, Nate Rose,
John Keep and Greg Parker



Doris Tseng Gilles is with Tom Paranzino and 5 others at Yankee Air Museum.

August 1 · Belleville ·

What an honor to be part of the Celebrate Bob Lutz Event this past Saturday! Thank you to all the friends that volunteered, donated, brought out their cars, and traveled from as far as AZ and FL to attend! The stories by Bob and auto execs were priceless. We were able to donate over \$22,000 to the U.S. Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation! Special thanks to Jon Block and Mike Sutton for all their work on this!



Photos from the "Celebrate Bob Lutz" Event – July 29th



PAST EVENTS

MOPARS at the RED BARN @ the Gilmore Museum – July 22nd

By Marty Heitkamp

Several members from the east side of the state joined up with our west side members to attend the 2023 Mopar's at the Red Barns Car Show at the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners near Kalamazoo. This year was the largest turnout of Mopar products at the annual event, with over 400 cars and trucks of all years and colors on display.

If you've never been there, I highly recommend that you consider going. For east siders it is worth the trip. Vipers were well represented at the show and to top it off I was honored to take home an award ! My Viper was a Top 20 organizer pick. I was very humbled and also very proud to have been selected, considering how many amazing vehicles were there.

Looking forward to going again in 2024 !

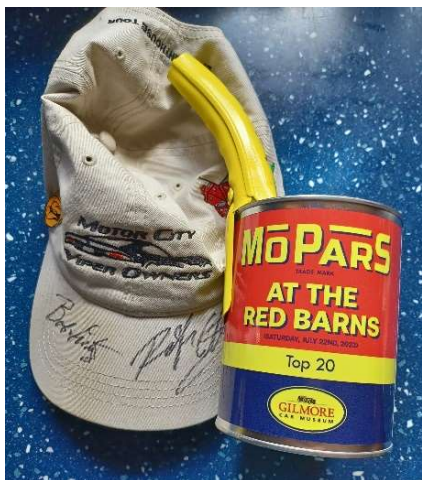


Photo Credit: Jeff Johnson from FB MCVO page

8
Attendees

PAST EVENTS

Private Collector's Car Tour – July 30th

Article & Photo taken from the MCVO Invitation to Event

20+
Attendees

On Sunday, July 31st, Greg Ornazian graciously invited the club members to tour his car collection.

Back in 2021, Jon Block was instrumental in bringing Greg together with MCVO. Since then, Greg has officially been “bitten” and joined MCVO, along with adding another Sssnake to his eclectic car collection. There were classic cars, muscle cars, sports cars, super cars, street rods, not to mention a stellar motorcycle collection and even a copy of the Thunderbird that started Greg's car obsession ... all on private display. This was a very impressive collection to see, and Greg had a fantastic story to go along with most every car.

Many club members joined this afternoon event at Greg's shop. A lunch was graciously provided, and everyone said they were amazed by the collection and very appreciative for Greg sharing his magnificent collection with our club members. Viper attendance was encouraged, which happened – plus several other's brought their own specialty vehicle.

Thanks Greg !! The members truly enjoyed this event.



Photo from MCVO Event Invitation

Woodward Thursday - Dinner Event - August 17th

By Susan Andring



As tradition has it – MCVO has always hosted a great cruise-in-dinner the Thursday evening before Saturday’s Woodward Dream Cruise. It always helps us anticipate and get ready for the big day, Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday. Normally, it is one of those gorgeous summer evenings ... but that afternoon, on August 17th, Elaine Heitkamp and I drove in the pouring rain to the parking lot that we rent, to meet the caterer and table/chair rental company to set-up the event.

The weather folks were forecasting some heavy rain for the rest of the evening, and we thought maybe - just maybe - we’d be LUCKY if 40 to 50 of the 111 members that signed up would come out in the rain. For several hours, we sat in the rain, doubtful and wondering what we would do with all of the food.

Well, much to our amazement, around 6:15pm, Vipers and daily drivers started pulling into the lot. We ended up with 100 members that were hungry for BBQ. It was a good mix of vehicles – about half Vipers and half daily-drivers. After several attempts to dry off tables and chairs, we just gave up, as every time we got them dry, a pop-up shower washed them again. I am sure glad we decided to bring our big pop-up tent. There were quite a few people huddled under it to stay dry!

I did not hear a single complaint, and everyone had a great time. You can’t control Mother Nature, right? It did stop raining “for a bit.” Because the food was so delicious last year, we used the same caterer this year, Chef Ramone. We brought take home containers, so we didn’t throw any food away and most people did take home a carry out. No food was wasted.

For dessert, we had a special treat. We hired an ice cream truck from Treat Dreams, in Ferndale. Tiffany Sutton and her little helper, Mason Sutton, served up unlimited amounts of specially created Viper flavors like MCVO Monster, Viper Vanilla, Cherry Marshmallow Final Edition and a few others. They were a huge hit. Some of us had 2nds (and even 3rds) as it was difficult to choose a flavor.

Thank you to all the members that braved the rain and saved the event.



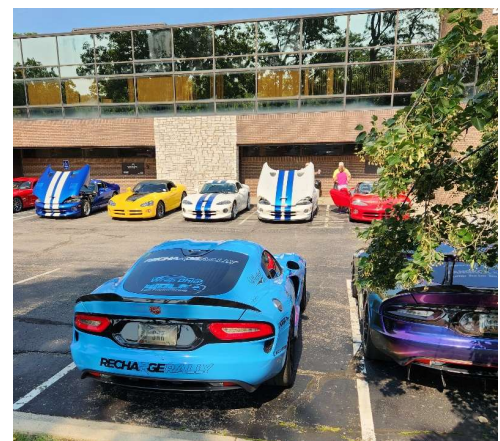
Woodward Saturday Event – August 19th

By Marty Heitkamp

135
Attendees

Well, another Woodward Dream Cruise has come and gone. This year's Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday greeted us with perfect weather. A total of 135 members and guests - in their 80 or so Vipers - enjoyed a full day of Woodward Avenue sights and sounds. Food from the food truck was fantastic ... well, at least what I ordered was.

I'm pretty sure everyone that attended enjoyed themselves. I really appreciated the help at check in from all of you that helped me out. A special shoutout to John Huszti for taking over when I gave some new members a quick ride in my car. We are already planning for next year, be there or be square.





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



MAY Cruise Night @ Knapp's City Garage, New Baltimore – May 17th

BY Susan Andring

18
Attendees

Our May Cruise Night was on the east, ... EAST side. Knapp's City Garage is a new restaurant in downtown New Baltimore. The owner is Sam Knapp, a retired Chrysler guy and a friend of our club member, Sam Milana. Knapp's location used to be a mechanic's garage and it had been an eyesore for the city for some time ... until Sam Knapp bought it and turned it into an automotive-themed eatery. Marty Heitkamp donated his old Viper license plate to the restaurant, and it was on display under a Sneaky Pete logo. Sam made special arrangements with the city for the Vipers so we could park up on the sidewalk, as the parking in downtown New Baltimore is slim pickings.

We had 18 members in attendance. The long-distance award goes to Tom Beekman, who drove almost 2 hours in rush-hour traffic from Howell. There was also a birthday girl, Robin Ornazian! Her sweet husband, Greg, brought a cake to celebrate. And who doesn't love cake? It was a great kickoff to summer!





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



JUNE Cruise Night @ Sparkies, Highland – June 21st

By Susan Andring

23
Attendees

June's Cruise Night was at the suggestion of Tom Beekman, so we headed off for Sparkies in Highland Twp. We had 23 in attendance, including new members, Chuck Lawrence & Stephanie Soth, and their son. This was their first cruise night and I'm pretty sure they had a great time. We also saw Darrin and Dorothy Ledsinger, who we haven't seen for a while, as well as Tom Dusseau & his grandson, Jim. The food was great and the weather perfect for a few convertibles that made the drive.

We are always open to suggestions for restaurants, so please reach out to president@mcvo.net if you have a favorite place, you would like us all to try. We like to switch up to locations to make it easy for members that live close by to attend.





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



JULY Cruise Night @ Buddy's Pizza, Warren – July 19th

BY Marty Heitkamp

21
Attendees

What could be more Detroit than two icons, our Dodge Vipers and Buddy's Pizza? The July cruise night took us to Buddy's Pizza in Warren where, despite all the road construction, 21 members enjoyed an evening with good food and better friends. Although the turnout wasn't huge, I am sure everyone had a great time.





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



AUGUST Cruise Night @ The Rusty Bucket, Bloomfield Hills – August 9th

BY Susan Andring

20
Attendees

In the past, we have not had an August Cruise Night due to all of the Woodward Dream Cruise activities during the week of WDC, but we decided at the last minute that we would have a cruise night the week before. People still like to eat right?

Armen Arnazian suggested the Rusty Bucket in Bloomfield Hills. The food was delicious and the service excellent. Great suggestion Armen! Cars were already cruising Woodward. I think any given summer night you will see cruisers. Some members that we have not seen at a cruise night in quite a while included Bob & Barb Rollin, Floyd & Denise Allen and Scott Randolph.





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



SEPTEMBER Cruise Night @ Black Rock. Utica – September 27th

BY Susan Andring

20
Attendees

The September Cruise Night appeared to be the Red Car Club night, because of the rain. Only 3 pretty Vipers, but we had 19 members in attendance. New members Chris Hughes and Graham Morrison & his fiancé braved the rain and attended their first cruise night ! Welcome to everyone !

The Black Rock is a unique and fun experience. You grill your own steak and seafood on 700-degree stones. Finally, I had a steak that was cooked right! It is sad that our Viper driving-season is winding down but remember - we will still eat out on Wednesdays! Always a great time with our Viper family!



NVE 5 – Colorado Springs – September 6th thru 10th

By Marty Heitkamp

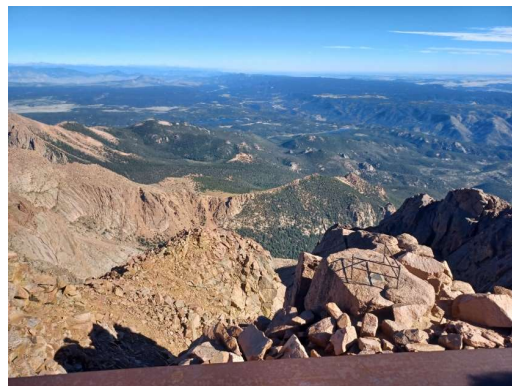
30 +
Attendees

NVE, the National Viper Event ... the 5th NVE ... in Colorado ...
NVE5 came and went and all I can say about it is WOW, what an event!

The Colorado region packed so much into such a short time, and everyone I talked to enjoyed every minute of it. Even Rhonda Wright when she got stuck in the middle of the Royal Gorge zipline suspended 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River and had to be rescued.

Some of the events included western entertainment at the Flying W Ranch, driving through Garden of the Gods, driving to the top of Pikes Peak summit (two days later it was coated in 4 inches of fresh snow), driving to Cripple Creek, an evening at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum, the privilege of driving across the Royal Gorge suspension bridge which is normally open for pedestrian traffic only, and a track day at Pikes Peak International Raceway. It was a fully packed agenda.

MCVO was well represented in Colorado Springs with more than 30 members and guests attending. At the closing dinner banquet, it was unveiled that NVE6 will be held in the Pittsburgh, PA area sometime in 2025. Much closer to home than Colorado, so I'm certain we'll have a lot more members there.



Check out the video on the MCVO FB page posted by Kenneth Charles (Sept 13th, 10:53pm) A Rocky Mountain High in Colorado.

Here is another one:
NVE5 Video Played at Final Dinner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXFBYe63H0I>



Photo Credits at NVE: Susan Andring, Marty Heitkamp, Will Dlesk – see the FB pages for more great photos !

Charity Cruise / Car Show

St. Clair Shores / Harper Charity Cruise – August 30th

By Mike Pohlman

25
Attendees

The 2023 St. Clair Shores Harper Charity Cruise was held on a perfect evening. It was great to see some of the fantastic cars that people are hiding in their garages ... all over St. Clair Shores and the surrounding cities. MCVO had a wonderful turnout of members and Vipers for a first-time location. We had 14 Vipers and about 25 people in attendance, between members and friends.

Our perfect location was at the corner of 10 Mile and Harper (basically, the center of the cruise). The VCA Animal Hospital in St. Clair Shores was gracious enough to lend us their parking lot to park our Vipers and allow us to see an outstanding cruise.

Along with having the perfect evening of weather, cars and friends, Mike Pohlman organized a fly-over with his Army unit (B. Co 3/238th). We were honored to have a CH.47 Chinook fly over to show support! And the crowd absolutely loved it !



In Memoriam – Tonino Zaccagnini. June 16, 2023

MCVO has lost a dear club member, friend and the brother of club member, Marco Zaccagnini. Tonino Zaccagnini passed away on June 16th.

Tonino was a great friend to everyone in MCVO, and it was always great times when he and Marco came to many of the club events. He was a talented actor, an automotive engineer, a business owner and just fun to be around. RIP, dear friend !



Some beautiful tribute words from Marco's friends on FB:

Justin Anthony Mooter

Tonino was a Charismatic, Creative, personable, intelligent, funny and vivacious spirit, blessed with a kind and endearing soul that he shared with so many- you will be truly missed my friend.

Russell Lunsford

Tonino lived life with such "vigore" and touched so many lives with his positive energy! When you two walked into a room together you lit it up with such warm genuine vibes! Ciao Tonino Heaven is a better place today. Arrivederci amico mio



In Memoriam – Francois Castaing. July 27, 2023

Francois Castaing, one of the four founding fathers of the Dodge Viper passed away on July 27th. Many of the original Team Viper members were honored to have worked with him on the creation of the Viper and it has been noted (by Mark Vaughn in Autoweek) that Francois Castaing's involvement with Jeep was a major reason for the rise of the SUV market in American markets. His automotive career spanned over 30 years with Renault, American Motors, and Chrysler. Thanks for the VIPER !



Maurice Liang
July 27 · 🌐

Saddened to learn that Francois Castaing passed away today at the age of 78. He, along with Bob Lutz (Chrysler President), Tom Gale (VP of Design), and Carroll Shelby (Performance Consultant to Chrysler) are considered to be the "four-fathers" of the Viper. Francois was VP of engineering at the time and did a lot behind the scenes to bring the car to life.

Francois is standing in the center of this photo I shot at the Viper's launch in 1992, looking like a proud father, behind Bob Lutz (seated), and next to Tom and Carroll.

I met him a number of times, but my fondest memory was a casual conversation I had with him when I happened to sit next to him on a bus going to dinner at one of the Viper Owners Invitational. There, he was just another "car guy" (rather than "corporate executive") and we just chatted.

I'm honored that he gave us exclusive rights to publish his story about the engineering of the Viper in Viper Quarterly last year. I think we all knew the end was coming, so we wanted to get his story in print while he could still edit/approve/see it.

RIP Francois. Thanks for all you did for Viper!



This is a very interesting speech that Francois gave during his acceptance into the Automotive Hall of Fame.
<https://youtu.be/7YZLwZ5Gmzw>

In Memoriam – Tony Spampinato. August 27, 2023

Our dear friend and long-time MCVO member, Tony Spampinato passed away on August 27th. He will be truly missed by the Viper community and especially all of us in the Motor City Viper group – he was a good friend to all.

Tony's artistic talents will live on in the 500+ interior upgrades he has created over the past twenty years. Many of our club members have one of those special, one-of-a-kind designed interiors in their Viper.

Tony's contagious smile and wonderful personality will be missed by everyone. RIP, Mr. Venzano ... as many of us fondly called you over the years.



Comments from MCVO Facebook pages

Frank Berle Top contributor

We had just seen Tony at M1 during Dream Cruise. He seemed in such good spirits. We sat and reminisced about the great times we had with him at past VOIs and NVEs. We have known Tony since we bought our first Viper in 2001. We have two of his bags that we use during any Viper outings. He was such a talented artist. He will be greatly missed. RIP Tony.
Frank and Kim

Bruce Heckman

We lost a true friend with a vision. Tony saw things we didn't and he brought them to life. You'll be missed buddy, but your creative talents will be appreciated for years . . . !!

Ken Sue Krupansky

So sorry to hear! We remember the Viper Scavenger Hunt some years back where we all ended up at his business garage for a cook out. . He showed us all the upholstery he used. He was so talented. RIP Tony.



Photo Credits to
David Lay and Maurice Liang FB Postings,
and the Venzano Interiors Website

Greeting members !

NVE 5 in September in Colorado Springs: I believe all that attended enjoyed themselves; I know we did. (see related article)

September CPG Autocross: Due to issues beyond our control, the autocross at CPG did not happen.

September 30: Porsche Club (with club member Charlie Brown) held a driver's education event at Gingerman. This was the same timing as the wine tour weekend, but if you can attend one of these in the future – they are great fun & worth the time !

October 13 - 15: Viper Racing League (VRL) was at Watkins Glen. More info at <https://theviperracingleague.com/>

November 11: MCVO Fall Tech Day. Snakebite Speed and Sound will be hosting another interesting and informational Tech Day. Maintenance, repairs, and upgrades will be discussed. Event will start at 9:30am and run to 11:30am. There is no cost for the event and lunch is up to the individual. I will have my Viper there to show early Gen's, and Mike Sutton will have his there to show the newest version so we can discuss installing aftermarket 6-point harnesses. Also, Eric and Cory from Venomous Carbon will be here from Colorado to show our club what they do and how they can help anyone trick out their Viper with truly awesome carbon fiber products – manufactured in the USA. Check them out here: <https://venomouscarbon.com/>
Plan to be there, meet them and see actual product samples. Watch your emails for timing, topics and all other event details !!

Waterford Track Days schedule:

From Bob S: <https://mailchi.mp/waterfordhills/waterford-hills-2018-open-track-season-schedule-15119985?e=8cfb5d7055>

General Track/Autocross Days:

There are so many out there that it's impossible to cover them all. <https://hpdejunkie.com/> is a great resource for track days and driver education. The same applies to autocross events so here is one link that may be helpful:

<https://parkinglotracing.org/autocross-calendar/mi-2022/>

As with all events – things may change ! Please confirm if you have any questions or information regarding any of these events or want to confirm it is really happening !!
Just send me an email !

Paul McClorey

motorsports@mcvo.net

During the driving season, there are often more events or possible changes to listed events.

For the latest information, refer to the club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net. You can also visit our Facebook page to keep up with member postings and great photos.

UPCOMING MCVO EVENTS

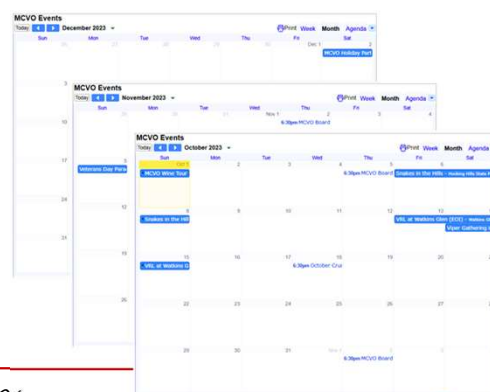
Watch for Club e-mails for Details for All Events !

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Oct 13/14 th | Viper Racing League – Watkins Glen |
| Oct 14 th | Ray Sweers Fall Color Gathering – Elkhart, IN |
| Oct 18 th | Cruise Night – Location TBD |
| Oct 22 nd | Fall Color Tour / Cruise – Details to be Confirmed |
| Nov 5 th | Veteran's Day Parade - Detroit |
| Nov 11 th | MCVO Fall Tech Day – Snakebite Speed & Sound |
| Nov 15 th | Cruise Night – Location TBD |
| Dec 2 nd | MCVO Christmas Party - Livonia |

For the latest information, please refer to the club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net

Questions regarding an event ?
Please send an email to :

viper@mcvo.net or president@mcvo.net



Please note: Activities may be posted on the Facebook page, but specific details for events and/or locations will always be e-mailed directly to the membership !

Wild Wheels at Work – Auburn Hills, June 28th

By Lori Emerling



By now, most of you know that I have finally retired from Chrysler (oh yeah, Stellantis). Things were pretty busy that last week of June, as I prepared for my last day of work after 28 years ... June 30th was my big day. I had always thought that a retirement party would be pretty cool, but with the change of corporate atmosphere and most people still working from home – I wasn't sure it would happen.

Turns out, the annual Wild Wheels at Work was happening on June 28th and I figured this would be a great opportunity to have "my own personal going away party" with friends and co-workers. It turned out to be a fantastic day – the weather was perfect, I saw many friends and current co-workers and their great cars, and my employees threw me an impromptu party – we even had a cake and parting gifts. I could not have been more excited about the whole day.

And to top it all off, near the end of the show, I was approached by the Stellantis Marketing team who wanted to interview me about our white car. They even did a taped interview, which was a lot of fun. Several weeks later, the article below appeared on the Stellantis media pages of Facebook.

I basically started my career 28 years ago as a CIE student at Conner Avenue Assembly Plant, when our car was being built. And I ended my career, being interviewed about how cool it is ! I've got to say – this was a great ending to a great career.



Stellantis North America
August 31 at 3:34 PM · 🌐

Hold your horsepower, this week's #TBT is a rare one!

Recently retired Stellantis employee, Lori Emerling, is the proud owner of this 1996 Dodge Viper GTS, which is one of only three ever produced.

With her husband Sandy working as body design manager for the early models, the vehicle was used by the Viper team to test out the Stone White exterior paint paired with a Metallic Blue stripe.

To add to its unique appearance, the car features white 5-spoke wheels with the Viper logo center caps painted blue and custom fuel filler door with "Team Viper" etched on the surface.

For this couple, the Viper is much more than a car, it's a way of life!

Thanks for sharing, Lori and Sandy. Have a classic Stellantis vehicle of your own? Share a photo in the comments for a chance to be featured next week.



Summer 2023 Snake Bites Photo Credits

Susan Andring

Lori Emerling

Alison McClorey

Mike Pohlman

Wil Dlesk

Marty Heitkamp

Maurice Liang

David Lay

Venzano Interiors

Marco Zaccagnini

Jeff Johnson

Sam Milana

Doris Gilles

Nate Rose

John Keep

Greg Parker

Tom Beekman

Stellantis North America

Bay Harbor Classic Car & Boat Festival



Cruise Night @ Black Rock - September 2023