

SNAKE BITES

Official Publication of the Motor City Viper Owner's



NVE in Colorado Springs

Indiana Fall Color Event

MCVO Wine Tour

Cruise Nights

Fall Tech Day

Christmas Party

Winter Party

Bench Racing Event

Board Member Reports

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 since 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 credits

Front: Susan Andring @ NVE 5 in Colorado

Back: Susan Andring @ NVE 5 in Colorado

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MCVO club / board of directors

executive committee

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

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, 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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings MCVO members, and welcome to all of our newest members!

We have added quite a variety of new members over the past couple years, and I still don't know all of you on sight. Please remember to introduce yourselves at upcoming events. To those of you who recommended/persuaded Viper owners to join us, Thank You!



I wanted to make note and give a big thanks to the MCVO officers and the board of directors that dedicate so much of their time to make this the greatest car club! You are the best! To the rest of our members - we welcome your ideas and any help to continue making MCVO the best car club.

Our plan has always been to provide the membership with as many opportunities to enjoy each other's company, share experiences and actually put a few miles on our Vipers. With the weather we have had over our so-called winter, I think we are all ready to be getting these Vipers out and driving.

By the end of March, we will update and post our Calendar of Events on the MCVO website. As in the past, there will be changes and updates as other events become available. While on the website, please review the Code of Conduct, Club By-Laws and Operations Manual. They are located under the Club Information Tab and then under Club Documents.

As most of the membership is aware, we have heavily subsidized club events for the past couple years and will be doing the same again this year. We also will be increasing the subsidy amount to our events due to the additional revenue from the VOA. (see the VOA Update). We are always seeking to provide the best events at the lowest costs to the members. I am hoping you will be able to join a few this year. I look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming events.

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.

Regards,

Mike Sutton

president@mcvo.net

586-782-2225



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello fellow MCVO members !

Many THANKS for the great comments and feedback received for the Fall newsletter. I was truly hoping to interject a colorful, new, fresh look into the newsletter and from all the comments – I think it worked great.



So, hoping that you all enjoy this volume which covers our club activities from the end of 2023 and some early 2024 events, plus some basic information on several upcoming events for the year. Since this edition covers mostly winter-time activities – you will see LOTS of people pictures, and not as many Viper pictures. Next edition ...

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 good image is still intact.

Many thanks to Susan Andring for the quantity and quality of photos again !!

Lori Emerling

newsletter@mcvo.net

248-703-8902

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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.

- - MCVO WELCOMES 6 New Members Since Oct 2023 - -

Greg Armstrong
John Donato
Tim Holzhei

Washington Twp, MI
Milford, MI
Lansing, MI

Chad Braun
Colton Drescosky
Ron Morris

Madisonville, LA
Commerce, MI
North Street, MI

We have a great combination of membership levels with MCVO - Standard, Mamba, Affiliate, Associate, Spirit of Viper, and Social memberships. 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 !! We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming club events, so make sure to check the club calendar on the website.

OTHER IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Membership renewals for 2024 began on October 1st, 2023. As of March 15th, MCVO currently stands at 152 paid members for the coming year. Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership ! This is a great number, but well behind our membership population at this same time last year. That being said, we are about 40 members behind from our 2023 roster.

For those of you that haven't renewed, I will be sending out one more reminder email and then place follow-up phone calls. It is very important that the club has an accurate membership number as early as possible in the year. The MCVO Board uses those numbers to project our revenue for the year, and that revenue helps define and subsidize those club events we all enjoy.

If you're not going to renew, please let me know so I can stop bugging you. If you have not renewed by April 1st, you will be dropped from our roster and no longer receive club event emails or future issues of Snake Bites.

One last incentive for folks that haven't renewed yet ... after April 1st, the MCVO membership dues (for Associate, Social, National Affiliate, and Spirit of Viper) will increase to \$90 to match the 2024 VOA rebate our club now receives from all Primary Member VOA National Club Memberships (these are MCVO members that have joined the national club, VOA). For those who don't know this, every year VOA sends part of your national dues back to the club as a rebate for its local expenditures, and this amount increased again in 2024. Club documents were updated in early 2023 for these expected rebate changes. This way every membership 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



CLUB ADVISOR REPORT

Hello club members –

As your club advisor again for the 2024 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



VOA UPDATE

As the MCVO President, I am also a board member of the Viper Owners Association (VOA), our national club affiliation. As your regional representative, I promise to promote and provide the national club with information which will best serve both national and regional club interest. As many of you are aware, the financial issues of the VOA are resolved! There is no outstanding debt and detailed plans for NVE6 are in full swing.



The National Viper Event 6 (NVE6) will be held June 2025 in beautiful Pittsburgh, PA. There is a video link on our homepage, www.mcvo.net Check it out!

I am also on the NVE6 planning committee. While no one is allowed to release any of the details yet, I can all but guarantee you are in for a great event! NVE6 registration is not open yet, so keep an eye on your email for updates.

Remember that VOA membership is required to register and attend the NVE6 event, along with many other benefits offered by VOA. If you are currently a MCVO Associate Member and wish to "upgrade" to a VOA Membership, contact Marty Heitkamp for assistance. We will refund your current dues upon receipt of your membership status with VOA.



<https://youtu.be/fqTvgvxwni8>

The VOA has been working on updating club documents, By-Laws, Operation Manual and Code of Conduct, These are all in the final stages and will be voted on within the next couple months. There are many VOA club's involved in these actions, and we are all working diligently to ensure the financial issues of the past will not be repeated by future administrations.

Due to the number of members joining the VOA since October, the return of monies to the regions as rebates, has increased to \$90 per member. This is an increase of \$15 and will directly increase the subsidies that we can spend on our MCVO events.

Thanks go out to the VOA officers and board members for all their hard work to secure a bright future for the VOA! Not to mention the "trickle down" effect it will have on all regions. If you have any questions, please call me directly.

Mike Sutton

president@mcvo.net
586-782-2225



WEARABLES UPDATE

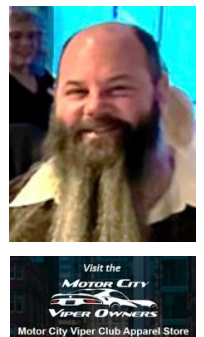
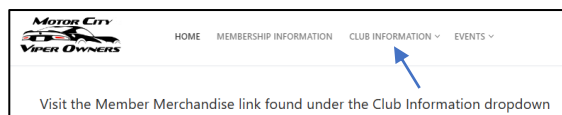
The MCVO personalized apparel website is still up and running. If you haven't already checked it out, please visit this link for MCVO/Viper branded apparel items. <https://motorcityviper.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Your order will be shipped directly to you. Sizing charts are posted under each item. We are currently awaiting a change to the site that will allow you to choose the stitch color for your item (ie. maybe to match the color of your car ?).

Please let me know if you have any questions or other items you'd like to see on the website.

Paul LaPlant, MCVO Merchandise Director

merchandise@mcvo.net



NEW BOARD MEMBER – TREASURER

Hello MCVO members,

My name is John Huszti, and I would like to introduce myself as your new MCVO Treasurer beginning in 2024. I have been an active member of Motor City Viper Owners since early 2018 and many of you already know me.



I would like to share with you a little bit of my MCVO experience.

Shortly after purchasing my Gen 5 Viper in August 2017, I met club member and then-treasurer, Tim Sutherland at a non-MCVO related event. Tim encouraged me to join the club and informed me of the many great events such as tech days, autocross, private car collection tours, wine tours, monthly cruise nights and of course, access to the vast wealth of Viper history and knowledge from the club's members and especially those who were at one time were part of "Team Viper." Since it was nearing the end of Viper season, I waited until spring to join MCVO. Unfortunately, from me not joining when it was suggested to me, I missed out on the annual Autocross event at the Chelsea Proving Grounds that September. As I found out later, I missed an amazing and fun event. If the club ever gets to schedule another Autocross Day in the future, make sure you plan to attend.

I also remember meeting Mike Sutton for the first time at another non-MCVO car event in the spring of 2018 and, coincidentally, I sat with him and Susan Andring at my first official MCVO event, the 2018 Spring Brunch. For some reason I had the feeling I knew Mike before I actually met him, but I couldn't make the connection. It wasn't until a few months later while at the JNAP plant tour (hosted and organized by long time MCVO member Sam Milana); that it dawned on me where I knew Mike from he is a technical expert for a company that we buy products from, and he must have walked by my desk dozens of times. Interesting how we meet people and become good friends ... I'm so glad to have met both Mike and Susan. They put so much effort into every MCVO event and a 'thank you' is not enough. *Okay, back to the brunch.* I had a wonderful time and met a great group of Viper enthusiasts that day. I also ordered a personalized MCVO jacket from Lori Emerling to commemorate the attendance of my first MCVO spring brunch. She had an awesome display set up, with a good selection of shirts, jackets and other apparel for both men and women, ready for members to buy or order personalized with the MCVO logo in your choice of colored embroidery to match your Viper. Some things you never forget.

I met Marty Heitkamp at Stahl's Museum that same year - Marty and his wife Elaine had recently returned from a Route 66 road trip in his beloved 2015 SPS B5 Blue Challenger – I have the same car (but in a different color). Both our Scat Packs had manual 6-speeds. Marty replaced his stock shifter with a Hurst, I replaced mine with a Barton. I had also learned that we once lived in approximately the same neighborhood. When I met Marty, he had a silver Gen 3 Viper and now he has a Y'Orange Gen 5. I have an Y'Orange Gen 5 Viper. It's strange how I remember things like this. It's not strange how we liked similar things. I guess that it just part of the bond of friendship we now have - one that started with meeting at an MCVO event. I'd also like to say thanks to Marty and Elaine – they go above and beyond of what can normally be expected to make sure the MCVO events happen seamlessly and without incident.



I have attended many MCVO events in the past 6 years, have met a great variety of people from all ages and backgrounds, and have enjoyed many dinners and interesting conversations with countless members. The list of my stories can go on and on. I encourage all members to attend as many events as possible and hopefully I will have the pleasure of meeting you at one of them. I can go on for hours telling you about the great times I had with the MCVO and the people I have met in these past 6 years. I can't thank everyone enough, especially those who have committed their time and energy to make the MCVO what it is today.

In closing, I want to say that I intend to do my best to provide the dedication and effort to our club and board of directors, equal to that of the current and past board members. Although the club leadership has changed through the years, and members come and go, their cumulative efforts and dedication has made MCVO the great club that it is today. I am very proud to be part of an organization comprised of such awesome members directly associated with the most iconic automobile ever produced in the USA.

"It's not every day that you see a Viper," *unless you own one.*

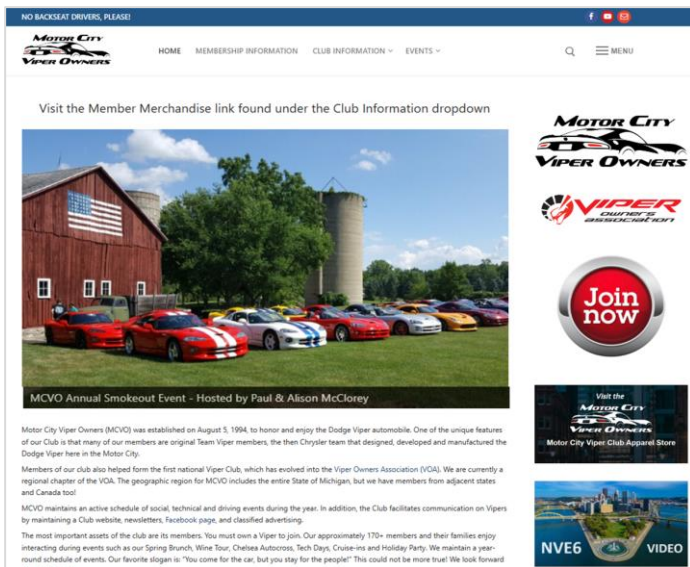
John Huszti, Treasurer, MCVO

treasurer@mcvo.net

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

We have several board members taking care of the website and getting the informational emails out to you on a timely basis, until we find a member who is willing to be the new Technology Director. Anyone interested? Please let us know!

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



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. Otherwise, just type a member's name into the search box.

This form also allows our Membership Director to update all records online and in real-time, displaying the necessary changes immediately. The [Membership Directory](#) is found under the [Club Information](#) tab. Remember, several pages under the Club Information tab are password protected to keep our club member information secure.

An e-mail will be sent in early April, asking all members to check out the Membership Directory and verify your information is correct and up to date. The printed membership directory will be updated via this information and distributed or mailed around the time of the Spring Brunch in May. Please check your information & update if needed.

Address: https://www.mcvo.net/membership_directory.

Instructions for making updates to the directory are on 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Once the cut-off for 2024 renewals is reached (early-April), there will be a **NEW PASSWORD** for MCVO members on mcvo.net. The new password will be 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

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.

There are now links to the Club Apparel store, plus that promo-video of the next NVE event in Philadelphia in 2025.

The [Who's Attending](#) link under the [Events Tab](#) will help make finding who is attending an 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.

Membership Directory

Please scroll right for more member info

Show 50 entries

Search: Troy

Full Name	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City	State	ZIP
Carl D. ...	Carl	D.			...	Troy	MI	48061
Gentry & ...	Gentry	...		...	...	Troy	MI	48064
...	...	...	...	...	...	Troy	MI	48065
...	...	...	...	...	...	Troy	MI	48065
...	...	...	...	...	...	Troy	MI	48065

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries (filtered from 192 total entries)

Previous 1 Next

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 50 entries

Search: Type a name or city here

Full Name	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City
...	...	...	...	...	...	...



September 29th - MCVO Wine Tour in Traverse City

By Paul LaPlant

On the weekend of September 29th, a group of Vipers invaded Traverse City and the surrounding area for a wine cruise. 13 club members met Friday at Hop Lot Brewery and Beer Garden and had a pleasant outdoor lunch before cruising along M22. We visited the shops of Fishtown while enjoying the scenery of the bay. We then made a quick stop in Suttons Bay, at the suggestion of one of our members, before heading to the first winery of the weekend.

13
Attendees



We enjoyed some live music, wine and snacks at Shady Lane Cellars before meeting for dinner at the Apache Trout Grill on the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay. Many of us opted for the bay side view at the Sugar Beach Resort, in which we were very fortunate to have warm end-of-the-season weather with minimal crowds.



On Saturday morning, we were picked up in the parking lot of the resort by Traverse City Wine and Beer Tours. "The Funky Bus." We had a carefree shuttled tour ... without the worry of driving our cars ... and while enjoying adult beverages – like Peach Bourbon Lemonade ! Susan said, "thanks, Paul."

We visited two wineries, with the second winery having some nice lunch options. We picked up various fruits and treats at a local orchard before heading to downtown Traverse City.



Our last stop of the tour was Mammoth Distilling and Workshop Brewing Company. Back at the resort, many of us soaked up some sun and had our feet in the sand before heading across the street to dinner at Smoke and Porter Public House.

Before heading home on Sunday, a member local to the Traverse City area had a scenic drive planned for us but the weather had other plans. So, we opted for breakfast at The Omelet Shoppe where the cinnamon rolls made up for the inclement weather before heading home.

October 14th – VIPER RACING LEAGUE, Watkins Glen in New York

By Paul McClorey, Motorsports Director

October 13-15th was the wrap-up weekend for the Viper Racing League last year, held at Watkins Glen. The track is located in the idyllic Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, about 9 hours from us here in Michigan. The area is mountainous, forested, and punctuated by many inland lakes. Regardless if you're there for the track or a vacation, it is a great place to visit and spend time.

It was a fair turnout with about 15 of us there with our Vipers. As usual, I had the baby snake, my 2001 RT/10. The weather was decent on the first two days and the track was fast. It is a challenge to learn and drive the track, let alone be good at it. Plenty of straightaways to allow the Viper to stretch out and 11 challenging turns plus the "bus stop" to keep the driver busy and test their mettle.

I was able to take 3rd on Saturday but Sunday wasn't so good. Sunday was a wet track with on and off rain. I did have a minor off track incident and since the rain just wouldn't let up, most of us just called it a day and left early. We had great time with our extended viper family once again are very much looking forward to track time in 2024.



PAST EVENTS

October 28th – Ray Sweers Fall Color Tour in Elkhart, Indiana

By Marty Heitkamp

Several MCVO east-side members met up with several west-side members and attended the annual Elkhart, Indiana color tour event hosted by Ray Sweers. About 70 Vipers from Michigan, Illinois and Indiana showed up on a beautiful fall October Saturday morning. Ray always puts on a great event with a marvelous lunch and gifts for all attendees; all at no charge. He also opens up his garage where we could all ogle his impressive Viper race car collection. Every year the event gets bigger with more attendees, with his goal to have 100 Vipers show up. This was my fourth time at his event, and I will surely be going again.



November 5th – Veteran's Day Parade in Detroit

By Mike Sutton

Sunday, November 5, 2023 was the 18th Annual Veteran's Day Parade, which is hosted by the Metro Detroit Veterans Coalition (MDVC) www.mdvcmi.org.

The weather was a little brisk when we arrived but warmed up considerably. Beautiful sunny skies! High was 66° later in the afternoon, but the low was 21° earlier in the morning. For most of the day it was in the 30's to low 50's... but the Vipers loved the cool air!

There were only five Vipers that participated this year. Attendees were Mike Sutton & Susan Andring, Marty & Elaine Heitkamp, Jon & Donna Block, Rich Maccani, and Eric Lewandowski and his son Ethan.

We had lunch afterwards at Slow's BBQ with great food, great company. Jay Tanti and his wife joined us from Canada for lunch. This event may not bring in a large number of members, but I personally feel obligated to show my support for the many Veterans who attend or watch this event.

9
Attendees



November 11th – Fall Tech Day @ Snakebite Speed & Sound, Grass Lake

By Paul McClorey

40+
Attendees



Fall Tech Day was held at Snakebite Speed and Sound in Grass Lake. This is club member, Wil Thorne's shop.

Wil and his wife Carrie were nice enough to host us once again for a couple hours that was educational, insightful and definitely interesting. Did I mention that Carrie loves Halloween !

Wil had a Viper on the alignment rack and took half of our group at a time and went through all the important aspects of proper alignment on a Viper and what happens when it's done by some shop that 'only thinks' they know what they're doing. As we all know, the Viper is a serious car, and serious cars need seriously accurate alignments.

Also on site were Eric and Cory from Venomous Carbon out of Denver, CO. While Wil was discussing alignments, the other half of the group was introduced to the carbon fiber parts they are making for the Vipers. Their products are amazingly strong and look incredible. They have huge variety of colors and weaves and are adding new parts all the time. Check them out at <https://venomouscarbon.com/>.

We had 40+ members in attendance and I believe everyone walked away with a little more appreciation for proper Viper alignments and of carbon fiber. If not, at least they got a donut and some coffee. Plus, after the event, about 30 members stopped at the Chelsea Grill for a great lunch and more fun.



RECENT "EVENT of INTEREST"

December 9th – Redford Theater, Christmas Dinner & Movie

By Susan Andring

In December 2023, Mike Sutton and I invited club members out for an informal holiday dinner and a movie. It was more of an event of interest than a club event. Dinner was at Scotty Simpson's Fish in Detroit and the movie, White Christmas, was shown in 35mm format at the famous Redford Theatre in Redford. If you've never been to either, you missed out on some terrific fish dinner and a very casual fun night at the movie to see the old Bing Crosby / Danny Kaye classic, complete with an old-fashioned intermission. Both venues have been around forever and are a step back in time, especially the Redford, which was established in 1928.

The theater hasn't really changed since the 1920's. It was all decorated for Christmas and there was a very cool train layout up by the stage. The old pipe organ that rises from the floor had people singing along with Christmas carols.

We had a group of 15 or so. Before the movie, a local dance group of girls in sparkly red dresses danced and sang to some of the songs from the movie. They were really great! Everyone had a wonderful time singing along in the end of the movie as well. A few in attendance had never seen White Christmas in the theater. We will likely offer this event of interest in 2024 as they play it every year. It's an inexpensive and fun night out to get you in the Christmas spirit!

15+
Attendees



Sam Braille is with Susan Andring and 2 others.
December 10, 2023 - 40
Saw the movie White Christmas on the big screen at the Redford Theater!
Beautiful old movie theater.
I've seen this movie on TV.
Several times, but never at a theater.
The audience participated with laughter, cheering, sing along!
This is the way movies should!
2 thumbs up for this experience
Thank you Susan & Mike



RECENT MCVO EVENTS

January 6th – Emagine Theater, Ferrari Movie & Pizza Party

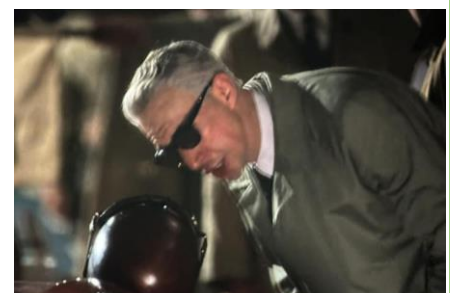
In January, the club headed out to another great theater night. This time it was at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak to catch the viewing of the new movie, "Ferrari." Club member, Tony Smith organized a great evening for the club, even reserving a private theater for the whole club to sit back and relax and enjoy this great movie in comfort. A whopping 48 people signed up for this event, with 36 club members actually attending and enjoying this great venue – what a fantastic turn-out !! As Susan Andring said, the movie started a little slow, but once the racing began, it got exciting. Many thanks to Tony Smith for organizing this event for the club.

After the movie, everyone was invited to the Emerling's for a pizza party extravaganza.

18 club members enjoyed a very relaxed evening with lots of food and beverages – we all agreed that it was so much nicer than going to a crowded restaurant on a Saturday night. Everyone stayed for hours and enjoyed the company. Thanks to Sandy and Lori for hosting the last-minute party at their house.



36
Attendees



December 2nd – Christmas Party @ Italian Cultural Center, Livonia

By Susan Andring

On December 2nd, our MCVO Christmas party has us back at the Italian Cultural Center in Livonia. We had 70 members in attendance, some dressed in their holiday best, others snappy casual. One of our members, Stephanie Soth of Cookie Charm, made us some amazing custom Santa and Snowmen MCVO cookies for the party. They were so yummy and a huge hit.



The secret surprise of the party was the big man himself, St. Nick, making a quick visit before hitching up the sleigh to head back to the North Pole. Santa made his rounds to every table, passing out bags of coal or candy canes, depending on whether you were naughty or nice!

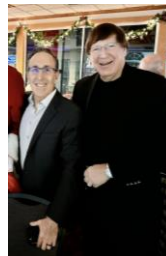
Mike Kelly, one of our social members, came from the west side of Michigan to attend. Events like this are a great reason for social memberships. Mike was able to visit with Viper family he hasn't seen since selling his car.

70
Attendees



We had a great D.J. that got people up on the dance floor boogying the night away. The ladies led the way, and even a few of the fella's got up for some of the music.

The University of Michigan playoff game was being televised that night and the pressure was put on the social team to turn the game on the TVs in the room. Otherwise, the guys would have had their noses buried in their phones all night. Being a Michigan fan, I didn't have to be persuaded very hard. The food was delicious, and everyone had a great time.





February 3rd – Winter Party at Total Sports in Harrison Twp.

By Susan Andring

If you missed the MCVO 2024 Winter Party at Total Sports – it was a blast. Last year we did axe throwing, but this year we switched it to Cornhole and Pins & Skins, which is bowling with a football. It's harder than it looks and some of the gals kind of whooped a few of the guys (some of them former high school football players). Of course, it was all in fun, but the ladies made sure to give the guys some well deserved grief for losing to the "lil girls."

34 members turned out for this annual fun-time winter get together.



Total Sports



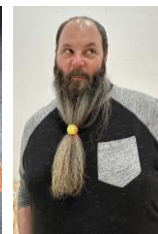
34 Attendees



We also played Viper Bingo with brown bag prizes and the annual Viper Racing is always a hit. Elaine Heitkamp, part of our social team called the Bingo games. She also found us some fun party photo booth favors for group pictures. Which you can see from the pictures, that we all had a blast with those.



The food at Total Sports is surprisingly good for the cost. We highly recommend it for parties, especially for kids (of all ages). It's always good to see everyone, especially in the winter when there are no actual "bring your car out" events. Summer driving is a few short months away and we have some fun things planned.



February 16th – Bench Racing in Commerce Twp.

By Paul McClorey

February 16, 2024 saw a group of over 20 MCVO members and guests visit the GR Auto Gallery in Commerce Twp, Mi.

At the time of our visit and tour, there were about 135 vehicles on display for sale. GR Auto Gallery are primarily sellers of cars on consignment; classics, muscle, sports, exotics and much more. Think everything from Lamborghini to antique fire trucks and even some on two wheels.

So, we all gathered for pizza, salad, breadsticks, and pop and toured the facility and ogled the vehicles. It was a nice break on a Friday after work and it's always nice to spend time with our MCVO friends. Dick Winkles, John Donato, and Charlie Brown III joined us later, and I believe everyone had a nice time. Thanks to Brenden and Chris for staying late and providing our club a great place to host our event.

21
Attendees





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



October 18th - Cruise Night @ Mr. Miguel's Mexican Grille in Livonia

BY Susan Andring

Our October Cruise Night took us to Mr. Miguel's Mexican Grill & Cantina in Livonia at the suggestion of Marty Heitkamp. He and Elaine frequent the Mr. Miguel's in Warren quite often.

We had a smaller group of 11. Disappointing, as we have a lot of members on that side of town - but we always understand that not everyone can make it. As well, that is why I like to switch from the east side to the west side, so members from all areas can come to dinner when it's closer to them.

Mr. Miguel's is nothing fancy, just delicious Mexican food and reasonable prices. Did I mention the margaritas are yummy too? Most of the snakes were tucked in bed for a long winter's nap by this time. Since it was a smaller group, we got to visit with everyone a bit more.

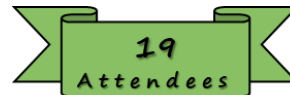
Remember, If you have a favorite place that you like to dine, please send some suggestions my way.



November 15th - Cruise Night @ CJ Mahoney's in Rochester

By Susan Andring

CJ Mahoney's in Rochester was our host for our November cruise night. 19 Members came out in the cold.



The Manager was very happy to have our group but was disappointed that there weren't a parking lot full of Vipers, although 3 or 4 of us brought out the V10's. This time of year, it's dark by 5:00 so I didn't get any pictures for proof. The parking lot at this restaurant does not have a good segregated parking lot which is why it was chosen for a winter dinner, but the food was excellent and service was great. Everyone had a great time as always.





Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



January 17th - Cruise Night @ J. Baldwin's in Clinton Twp.

BY Susan Andring

J. Baldwin's in Clinton Twp brought out 23 members for our January cruise night. It was a frigid evening, with temps in the single digits ... like 3 degrees!

J. Baldwin's is one of the best eateries on the East side, but it's another place that is best suited for leaving the cars at home as they are in a strip mall and parking is always tricky. A nice variety on the menu and the ice martini's are their specialty. I might have had 2 of them!

We always get a few people that drive a long distance for our cruise nights, so please don't let distance be a factor for you for the next cruise night.



23
Attendees

J BALDWIN'S
RESTAURANT - LOUNGE - CATERER
EST. 2004



February 21st - Cruise Night @ Luigi's Trattoria Pizza in Livonia

BY Susan Andring



21
Attendees

A few years ago, I was told we had a cruise night at Luigi's Trattoria Pizzeria in Livonia, and that it was a very good venue, so we returned there for our February cruise evening.

21 members came out. I think 1 Viper showed up. New and old faces.

If you like bread with the dippy oil, I highly recommend you try this place. A few of us couldn't stop eating it, which of course, made us too full to finish our dinner. That just means great leftovers for the next day!

We had a great server and the food was so delicious. Only a few more months to driving season !

Luigi's TRATTORIA
PIZZERIA



Cruise Nights

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



March 20th @ Johnny Black's Public House in Sterling Heights

BY Susan Andring

What's that old saying, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb? Well, our March cruise night at Johnny Black's Public House in Sterling Heights was still pretty cold for being the 2nd day of Spring! I think it was 28 degrees and the wind was a blowin'. Maybe that lamb will show up soon.

Still, 20 members came out for dinner. Johnny Black's didn't disappoint. Everyone at our table said the food was great. We had but a single server that took great care of our group of 3 tables. For a Wednesday evening, this restaurant was packed like a Saturday night. It was a bit loud but understandably so as it was so crowded, but we were off to the side of the main dining room, so it was ok.

We had a few far west siders come out and join us. Hopefully, April's cruise night will bring some Viper weather. A little hint ... we'll start the driving season at an automotive themed restaurant with a blue and white oval logo.



20
Attendees





Our dear friend and long-time MCVO member, Scott Kooienga passed away on October 23rd. He will be truly missed by the Viper community and especially all of us in the Motor City Viper group – Scott was a good friend to all.

Scott and Janine had just recently traveled to NVE 5 in Colorado where he was able to enjoy driving one of his several Vipers on the Pikes Peak International Raceway, driving over the Royal Gorge bridge with a caravan of Vipers and many friends, as well as driving up Pike's Peak.

Scott's contagious smile and positive personality will be missed by everyone. Please keep Janine and the Kooienga family in your thoughts.



INTERESTING CLUB MEMBER TRAVELS

A "Road Less Traveled" on the way to NVE 5

By Bob Swartz

Like some of the other MCVO club members, my son David and I took a bit different and earlier route on the way to NVE5 in Colorado Springs last September. Ours was one of potential "discovery," as well as family history. We diverted off the I-80 to hopefully find and visit the site where my grandfather homesteaded in far southwest Nebraska, called the "Sand Hills" country. Yes, my gramps broke the virgin sod of the then-western-frontier of settlements. And for us it was a great side trip, mostly ...

When the family moved out west in 1906 from fertile, green farmland in PA my dad was 5. To claim a homestead, one had to "prove up" the land by farming or ranching it for 5 years. Once that was done, it became your property free and clear. His homestead was a great parcel (a full square mile) with a small pond supplied by a natural spring. David and I did find the land, as well as the current owner, Shane!

He was a great guy and has maintained that homestead as a mix of cropland and pasture. The area is dryer now as 'agri-business' has drawn the water-table down by some reported 160 feet. No more pond, sadly! Though dryer, it's still lovely land with grass as far as the eye can see in every direction. Shane reported that on a clear 4th of July night, from a nearby hilltop he could see the fireworks in Colorado Springs - 160 miles away!

It was a thrill of a lifetime to find the place. Especially with my son, David, who represents the 4th generation to set foot on the family homestead. And though the house is tumbled down into the basement foundation that grandpa built, it was special to us.



A place where there's little hint of industrialized society ... save for one distant power line strung across the prairie.

Then there was the downside ... think about this - all sand roads for some 40 miles of our travels. I will tell you they were definitely NOT Viper roads. But it all washed off and we were none the worse for the trip. And it truly made our day.



Snakes In the Mountains, June 14th - 16th

By Mike Sutton

Watch for details in an upcoming e-mail to club members !!

On Saturday, June 15, 2024 in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, there will be Vipers coming from a thousand miles away to hang out at this event. There's even a friendly competition between car clubs to see who can bring the most cars: Ferrari, Ford (Mustangs, GTs, and AC Cobras), and Vipers. The event runs from 9 am to 1 pm, with a tour of the second-largest Viper collection in the world afterwards. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Bay Harbor Car & Boat Show and Team Viper's 35th Anniversary, June 21st - 23rd

By Mike Sutton & Ken Nowak

Some of this information is for those who have already shown interest in attending Roy Sjoberg's 35th Team Viper Reunion, but also for those of you who plan to show your Viper at the Bay Harbor Car & Boat Festival. This annual festival will be featuring an exclusive showcase of our beautiful Dodge Vipers !! We have been told the 1991 Indy Pace Car will anchor the Team Viper display at the show on Saturday, along with a few other great collections. MCVO is also expecting a large number of club Vipers to be part of this display. This promises to be a great weekend !!



2024 marks the 35th Anniversary of Team Viper. The man who built the team and inspired these competitive and creative engineers to shake a fire breathing Viper out of a 4-cylinder K-Car company as we all know, is Roy Sjoberg. Roy and many of the original Team Viper engineers are looking forward to telling our stories and showing our Vipers to the Bay Harbor Car & Boat Festival. *Thank to Ken Nowak for this write-up on the Bay Harbor website, called the History of the Dodge Viper 1992-2017.*

The Bay Harbor Car Show Registration is now open. Please check out this link to register your vehicle and read Ken's article.

<https://www.bayharborcarandboatfestival.com/> On the website, you will see several other activities that are part of the festival. There is a Friday Lunch Cruise being planned (starts at 8:30 am) for show participants. We expect a number of our club members will participate in the Friday Cruise. Once you are registered for the car show, you will be sent additional information (in April) regarding the Lunch Cruise and sign-up. There will also be a Yacht Club Dinner and Dance at Bay Harbor on Friday night. This will have an additional fee around \$77.

Roy has some plans in the works for an alternate choice on Friday night that will likely involve burgers, brats, and a keg somewhere in Indian River. Details will follow once we have an idea on how many people are interested. Let me know if you have any questions and if you expect to attend Roy's alternate plan on Friday night.

Saturday is the Bay Harbor Car and Boat Festival. Watch for a club email which will provide more details regarding the morning drive over to Bay Harbor and the rest of the day's activities. There will be great cars, antique boats, a car parade, and lots of fun. Saturday after Bay Harbor, Roy has plans to slay the fatted calf and celebrate the Team Viper's 35th Anniversary with a catered dinner in Indian River. Please contact Mike Sutton for further information and to ensure you are on the invitation list.



Motorsports Report / Upcoming Events

MCVO Spring Tech Day – I am still working on this event. The two ideas that I had have just not panned out. Suggestions are welcomed from club members !! Watch your emails for details when we get things set.

Track Day at Gingerman - The Illinois club has scheduled their track day at Gingerman for July 29. I will be reaching out to them for more info. Once I know more information, I will forward on to the club members.



Viper Racing League (VRL) - Motorsports Park Hastings (Nebraska) with the Viper Rendezvous is June 6th thru 9th. Circuit of the Americas (COTA) is planned for Austin, Texas on the third weekend but current schedules are still TBD. If anyone would like information on the VRL, please contact me or go to: <https://theviperracingleague.com/>

6th Annual MCVO Smokeout - At this point, we are looking at early September for this yearly event.

Waterford Track Days schedule - From Bob Swartz - <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/>

I am still working on other racing schedules & hope to have info by the end of this month, with a report at the Spring Brunch in May so you can plan accordingly. Watch your emails for timing, topics and other event details – they'll be coming soon.

As with all events – things may change !
Please confirm with me 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

REMEMBER - 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. For Motorsports questions – send an email.

UPCOMING MCVO EVENTS - Mark your Calendars

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

April 8 th	EOI – Eclipse Viewing at USAF Museum, Ohio
April 12 th	Fox Theater (Jeff Dunham) with Ohio Viper Club
April 17 th	Cruise Night – Location TBD
April TBD	Spring Tech Day
May 15 th	Cruise Night – Location TBD
May 19 th	Spring Brunch – Livonia
June 14-16 th	Snakes in the Mountains – PA
June 19 th	Cruise Night – Location TBD
June 21-23 rd	Bay Harbor Car & Boat Show
Aug 15 and 17	MCVO Woodward Events
Aug 31 st	Snakes in the Grass – Canterbury Village
Sept 6-8 th	Snakes in the Hills – Hocking Hills State Park, Ohio

For the latest information, please refer to the [club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net](http://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 the specific details for events and or locations will always be e-mailed directly to the membership !!

Volume 28 / Edition 3 Photo Credits :

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