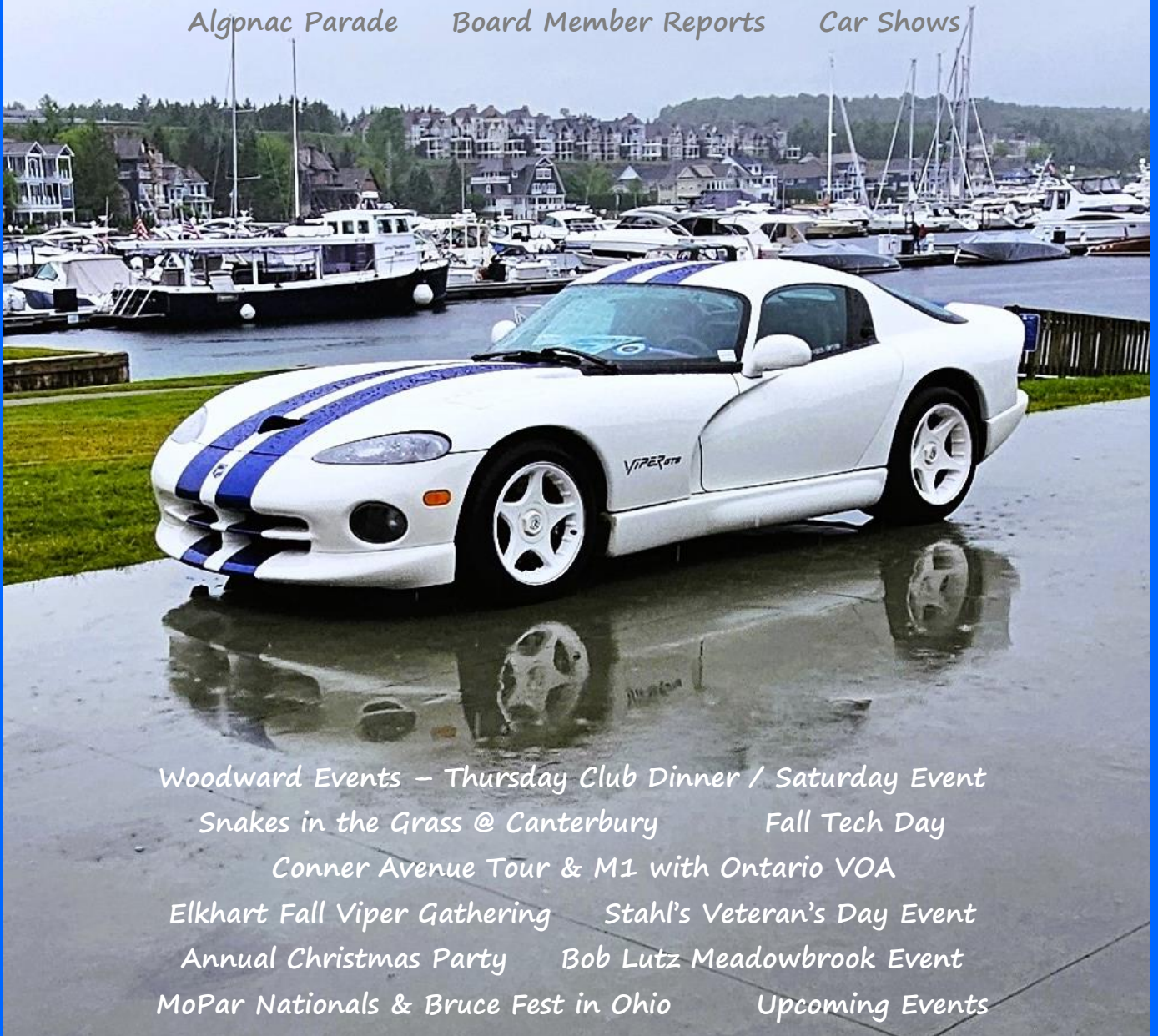


SNAKE BITES

Official Publication of the Motor City Viper Owner's

Spring / Summer / Fall 2024 ~ Volume 29 Issue 1, 2 and 3

*USAF Museum / Solar Eclipse Day Ohio & MCVO Spring Fling Weekend
Snakes on the Mountain Event in PA Cruise Nights
Bay Harbor + Team Viper 35th Anniversary Weekend Events
Algonac Parade Board Member Reports Car Shows*



*Woodward Events – Thursday Club Dinner / Saturday Event
Snakes in the Grass @ Canterbury Fall Tech Day
Conner Avenue Tour & M1 with Ontario VOA
Elkhart Fall Viper Gathering Stahl's Veteran's Day Event
Annual Christmas Party Bob Lutz Meadowbrook Event
MoPar Nationals & Bruce Fest in Ohio 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: Lori Emerling @ Bay Harbor Car Show

Back: Lori Emerling @ Snakes on the Mountain, PA

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Interesting Scoops

Past Event Photo Pages

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MCVO club / board of directors

executive committee 2024 (--> 2025 = New Board)

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

directors

Club Advisor	Rose Klutz --> Mike Sutton
Membership	Marty Heitkamp
Merchandise	Paul LaPlant
Motorsports	Paul McClorey
Newsletter	Lori Emerling
Club Photographer	Susan Andring
Technology	Mike Sutton (temp) --> Mike Sutton
Social Events Team	Elaine Heitkamp, Brandy Adams, Susan Andring, Rose Klutz

Need an easy way to contact an MCVO Board Member ?
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 MCVO 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.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello MCVO members !

Many THANKS for the great comments regarding the spring newsletter. Since that edition covered many indoor activities and featured a lot of people pictures, this one should give you more pictures of the things we love to look at and spend time in ... those Vipers. This edition will cover our club activities from late spring, summer and fall of 2024 – from the solar eclipse event in early April, to a fall color-tour car show in Elkhart, IN and finishing up the year with our annual Christmas Party in December.



For those who didn't know, I was a little (really, a lot) pre-occupied with some major health stuff most of the year, and especially this past fall, when I should have been compiling the next issue. Too tired to participate for several months was the reason y'all did not get a Snake Bites edition in October. Hopefully, this one will make up a little of my tardiness. As you can see by the logo here, please have loved ones get their required check-ups and tests – they do find things early ... and BTW, I'm doing OK.



The club had a busy summer and fall with many activities for members, as well as activities that included Team Viper and some VOA events. We also had several very successful events with our surrounding VOA clubs, such as the Ohio and Pennsylvania regions, plus a recent activity with the Ontario region and an event in Indiana. Hopefully, we will provide you with lots of detail and interesting pictures from those events. I am sure that everyone else has had an equally busy year and times does fly by – as it's nearing mid-January while I am typing here. We have several upcoming events planned, so hope to see many of you soon !!

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 - 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, the image is still intact.

Lori Emerling

newsletter@mcvo.net / 248-703-8902



2025 MCVO OFFICER ELECTION UPDATE

Per the MCVO By-Laws, the nomination for Elected Officers shall be made by the September Club meeting. The Elected Officers of MCVO are the Executive Committee: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. MCVO also has a Board of Directors, also identified as the "Board", consisting of the Executive Committee, the 8 appointed Directors and a Club Advisor.

There were only a few responses to the August 26th and September 3rd email requests for MCVO officer nominations. The results were captured and forwarded to Michael Cipponeri for vetting the nominations on October 3rd. Michael has performed this task for MCVO in the past and has our utmost confidence in providing us with accurate results. He completed this task and confirmed the candidates had been notified and also confirmed as the only candidate for each of the positions. Due to no opposition, no formal election was required. Term of office is (2) calendar years: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.



President: Marty Heitkamp



Vice-President: Lori Emerling



Treasurer: John Huszti, Sr.



Secretary: Paul LaPlant

A huge thank you to each of these volunteers and to Michael Cipponeri for his assistance with the election process! Please give them your support as they continue to make us the best Viper Club ever!

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope all of you had a great summer and fall full of great Viper events and gatherings. Our MCVO membership had risen to nearly 200 members last year & with adding quite a few new members over the past couple years, 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 other Viper owners to join us, we Thank You! 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. Hopefully, with the great weather we had last summer and fall, that y'all were out there making some memories and driving those cars.



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. The board has already met and discussed many of the upcoming events for this new year. If you have *any suggestions*, please contact us at the viper@mcvo.net email, or reach out to one of the board members. Repeat events are always fun, but I am sure you have some ideas that we could incorporate into this year's schedule !

As most of the membership is aware, MCVO heavily subsidizes our club events and will do the same again this year. This has allowed us to provide most events at minimal costs to members. To avoid "sticker shock," the club is planning on continuing this practice. Of course, some events which have higher costs, may require a minimal registration fee, but 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 events this year !

On a personal note:

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be the President of this amazing club for the past few years. There were many challenges, and I truly believe we have always made the best choices for the club. I am confident that our new MCVO Officers and Directors will continue to grow our club and make great decisions on the direction and future of MCVO. We are all blessed to have this great team! Thank you for making my job easy and helping me at every turn. I am available for any questions, and plan to stay very active in our club, as the new IT Director, Club Advisor and National VOA Board Member.

Best Regards,

Mike Sutton mcvo_viper_mike@yahoo.com 586-782-2225



INCOMING PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025 !! With snow on the ground and frigid temperatures gripping Michigan, it's hard to imagine driving season will soon be here. I for one can't wait to make up for last year where my car was in the shop for a great portion of summer. I am excited to be the new MCVO president and I will do my best to have a fun, efficient and fiscally responsible club. I have some big shoes to fill, as I believe Mike Sutton did a fantastic job. The MCVO Annual Meeting will be a spring lunch at the Gazebo in Warren on May 18th. Make sure to save the date.



As MCVO President, I am automatically a member of the VOA board and have already participated in several zoom meetings with their operating team. The current VOA management team is working to ensure our national club will be operating with a balanced budget and no deficit spending. We all recall VOA borrowing a large sum of money to remain solvent several years ago – that is in the past - the loan was paid, and VOA is on sound financial grounds. During that crisis, I know many of you dropped out of VOA and only joined MCVO directly. For those that dropped, I'd like you to reconsider joining and supporting the national club.

The MCVO board is currently planning club events for 2025. We're also finalizing our budget which is why it's important to get the 2025 renewals done, asap. A definitive income gives us a basis for funding and subsidizing our 2025 events. We're planning some different things for this year, including road trip events and track days. One event discussed is a trip to the west side of Michigan and are looking to some far west-siders to help plan and run an event (with our help of course).

So, I'm throwing out this request for help - please contact me with your ideas. I have found out that MCVO is a very active region compared with others around the country. I'd like to see us do more, but it always seems to be the same 6 to 8 core volunteers doing the work which limits what we can do. Please step up with event ideas and get more involved in running your club. Enough of that.

If you have any concerns, issues, event ideas, etc. please send me an email at president@mcvo.net.

Thanks ! " Think Spring "

Marty Heathamp president@mcvo.net



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 15 New Members Since Spring 2024 - -

Bob & Luisa Allen	Oxford, MI	Terry & Gerry Bosserman	Findlay, OH
Nick Harnish	Dorr, MI	Jake & Emily James	Milan, MI
James Pettit	Woodhaven, MI	Shawn Romig	Collegeville, PA
Mark Strek	Macomb, MI	Tom Susalla	Dryden, MI
Matt Swartz	Sterling Heights, MI	Steve & Larisa Walters	Emmett, MI
Graham & Jenna Wloch	Lake Orion, MI	Aamir Ahmed	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Douglas Gilbert	Tecumseh, ON, Canada	Ed Fitzpatrick	Tecumseh, MI
Jason & Katina Vandall	South Bend, IN		

Membership in MCVO is on a calendar year basis, which means all 2024 memberships expired at the end of December. We currently have 155 primary members in MCVO that have renewed for 2025. To all that have renewed already, the board thanks you. There are still 25 members that have not yet renewed ... if you're going to renew, please do it as soon as possible.

You can expect that I will be reaching out to encourage you to renew your membership for 2025 as early as possible. The MCVO Board uses our membership numbers to project our revenue for the year, and that revenue helps define and subsidize those club events we all enjoy. Getting our memberships as soon as possible will help with our 2025 club planning.

Just to let you know, MCVO is the largest regional Viper club anywhere. Although most memberships are in Michigan, we have a handful in Ohio and Canada and as far away as Florida, Kansas, and New Hampshire.

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:

2025 is a National Viper Event (NVE) year ... with NVE 6 being held in June 2025 and close by in Pittsburg, PA. If you have not been to an invitational event, this is a great opportunity to go since it is practically in our backyard. However, to attend you must be a member of the national Viper Owners Association (VOA). If you are currently only an MCVO member and want to go, you will have to join the VOA, which I can certainly help you do. If you do join the VOA, we will refund the dues you've already paid to MCVO.

Any questions regarding membership, please contact me at the membership email link. Questions on any of the club operating documents/procedures, please contact Lori Emerling at the vice-president@mcvo.net link on the website. 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.

Marty Heitkamp membership@mcvo.net



CLUB ADVISOR REPORT

Hello club members –

As the past president of MCVO, I am now honored to take my position as your club advisor for the 2025-2026 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. I am looking forward to hearing from you !!

Mike Sutton clubadvisor@mcvo.net



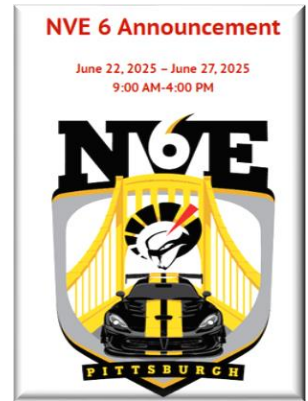
VOA UPDATE

As the former 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 interests. 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!

Dates are Sunday, June 22nd through Friday, June 27th.



I am also on the NVE6 planning committee. Many details are on the VOA website, and I can all but guarantee you are in for a great event! NVE6 registration is open, with the website showing < 250 tickets remaining, so we are hoping you will be joining the MCVO club members at the event. As we get closer to the date, we will collect details on travel caravans for everyone attending.

As Marty noted, please 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 an 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/fqTvgvwni8>

The VOA has been working on updating the 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 clubs 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 current 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 of the regions.

Any questions, please call me directly.

Mike Sutton

clubadvisor@mcvo.net
586-782-2225



MERCHANDISE UPDATE

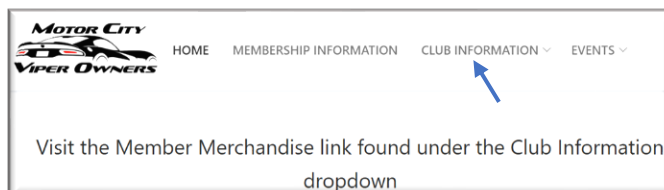
The MCVO personalized apparel website is still up and running. If you haven't already checked it out, please visit this link for MCVO/Viper branded apparel items: <https://motorcityviper.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

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, Merchandise Director
merchandise@mcvo.net



TECHNOLOGY REPORT

One of my new positions for the 2025 year, I will now “officially” be the club’s new IT director. We had several board members helping me take care of the site last year and I greatly appreciated all of your help.



The club website MCVO.net was updated in early 2023, and the feedback on the new look to the website was overwhelming – it has a modernized feel and look, plus updating site security. I have recently spent time on further updates to make browsing and finding information you need more fluid. Photos of your club leadership are included on the board member’s page, making it easier for new club members to recognize us at the events.



We’ve updated the [Home Page](#) with information to introduce ourselves to new potential members, and we also updated the [Membership Information](#) page to make picking a VOA or MCVO membership much easier.

There are also 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 it@MCVO.net Photos 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. Otherwise, just type a member’s name into the search box.

Full Name	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City	State	ZIP
James R. Allen	James	Allen			4111 Chesham Dr	Tracy	CA	95376
Carl Anderson	Carl	Anderson			4815 Chesham Dr	Tracy	CA	95376
James R. Allen	James	Allen			4111 Chesham Dr	Tracy	CA	95376
James R. Allen	James	Allen			4111 Chesham Dr	Tracy	CA	95376

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 is normally 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 cut-off for 2025 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 it@MCVO.net.

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

Full Name	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City
Bill Anderson	Bill	Anderson			33054 E. Columbia	Clackamas

Mike Sutton, IT Director

it@MCVO.net



APRIL 8th ~ MCVO & the Solar Eclipse, USAF Museum in Ohio

By Bob Swartz

THE SUN ... now you see it, now you don't ...

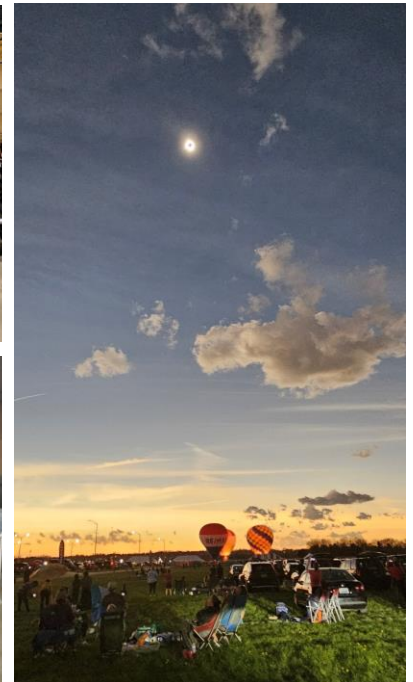
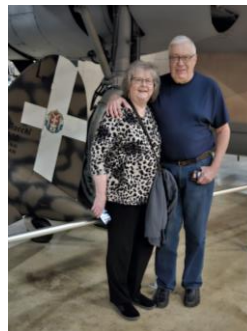
Well, the eclipse of April 8th wasn't quite that fast, ... but the fun was surely there, as were our Vipers (at least in our wishes). Due to a sketchy weather forecast, it was a 'drive what you want' event of wonderful interest. We had 14 intrepid MCVO club members make the trip to the National Museum of the US Air Force to be right smack in the "line of centrality." And to our very happy surprise the weather turned out bright and sunny – who would have expected high 70's the first part of April. Many of us were scrambling to find sunscreen and we were just cooking in the sun, in long pants and tops. And so, ... what about that moon thing -



This had to be one of the most amazing sites ever – we had the perfect parking area, where we opened our lawn chairs and sat in a semi-circle watching and waiting for the show. And it was an awesome sight with the whole of the wide-open spaces of the museum grounds for unobstructed viewing. Hot air balloons, model rockets, good friends and the eclipse! TV and movies and such can't do justice to the amazing spectacle of the moon crossing directly in front of the sun. It was like you could reach out and touch it.

When it was at its peak, the darkness was a little weird and way more than we could have expected. Colors were very strange. It instantly cooled off and jackets came in handy.

Our bonus to the event was the ability to visit the Museum itself. If you're an Air Force, airplane, history or mechanical junkie - there's enough to see and read to keep one busy for a several days. So, some of us came early and some stayed late to get all the excitement we could. It was well worth the trip and to be part of such a friendly group was like aviation fuel in our tanks. So thanks a lot to MCVO and such a great group !



PAST EVENT – MCVO & Ohio Region 2024 SPRING FLING WEEKEND

April 12 - 13th ~ MCVO & Ohio Region Spring Weekend : Stahl's Museum, Jeff Dunham Show, Lunch at Vinsetta Garage

By Diane Cipponeri

The Jeff Dunham Comedy Event was a joint Viper event shared by the Ohio Viper Club and the Motor City Viper club on April 12 at the beautiful Fox Theatre in downtown Detroit. As they say, "it's another one for the books." This was a Viper event like no other.

The day, or should I say the weekend, started out with a private showing for us Viper owners at the Stahl's Automotive Collection in New Baltimore. This is a favorite museum in the Detroit area for not only car enthusiasts, but for all who love the magic of mechanical machines developed in the 19th and early 20th centuries. There are so many gorgeous classic old-time cars that screamed the history of the automotive industry.

Stahl's also has many other antiques such as functioning organs and other music machines, gas pumps, gas station signs, neon signs, and more mechanical machines that you can imagine. It was like taking a step back in time.

A truly
unique
Museum
for sure!!



The day continued with a relaxing lunch at
Knapp's City Garage on Main Street in New Baltimore.



MCVO & Ohio Region 2024 SPRING FLING WEEKEND ~ Continued

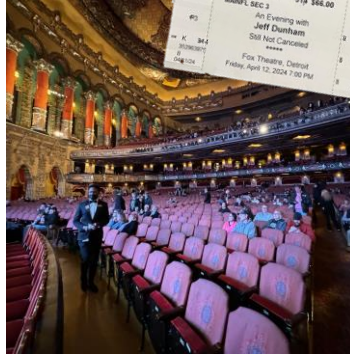
Then it was off to the beautiful Motor City Casino and Hotel in downtown Detroit, where many of us checked in to stay the night. After checking in and relaxing for a while, we were shuttled from the Motor City Casino to another Detroit gem, the Fox Theatre on Woodward Avenue.

There we enjoyed up-front seats to be entertained by famous ventriloquist, Jeff Dunham of Comedy Central fame.

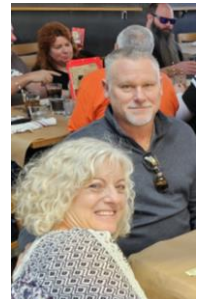
The "Not Yet Canceled" show was so funny! Jeff brought along his cast of puppets – Peanut, Walter, Achmed the Dead Terrorist, Bubba J and Jose Jalapeno. While all are favorites to many of Jeff's fans, a favorite of our group had to be *Achmed the Dead Terrorist*.

His famous catchphrase staring at the audience is "Silence, ... I kill you." The body of Achmed was actually a skeleton that had nothing left on him except his bones. A "flesh wound" as Achmed describes it!

As we watched the show, one had to keep reminding yourself that these were puppets and not real people talking. Funny stuff!! What a night of fun and laughter with our friends from the Ohio and our MCVO Viper Clubs.



The next morning all of us Viper people re-grouped at the Vinsetta Garage Restaurant in Berkley to enjoy a nice lunch and socialize with all of our Ohio and Michigan Viper friends. Ending with good-byes and lots of hugs, all of us went our separate ways ending 2 days of packed fun.



PAST EVENTS - Spring 2024 CRUISE NIGHTS



Cruise Nights

3rd Wednesday every month, watch for the email announcement and always confirm on the calendar !

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



April 17th ~ Cruise Night @ Ford's Garage in Novi

By Susan Andring

25
Attendees

On April 17, some Dodge's invaded Ford ...
Ford's Garage Restaurant as a matter of fact.

We had 25 members representing MCVO on our April Cruise night. The night was a bit too rainy for all but one Viper to venture out, but Joe Ventimiglia braved the wet roads. It was great to catch up with all of our friends at a west-side location.

It was a very cool place full of Ford memorabilia of course, including a Model T hanging from the ceiling. Even the hamburger buns had the Ford logo branded into them. We also sang Happy Birthday to Elaine Heitkamp!

Two new members also joined us for a first time cruise, Tim Holzhei and his lovely wife Cari. Another fun evening to kick off the driving season, even if it was with our "regular" cars.

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



May 15th ~ Cruise Night @ Joe Cool's in Troy

By Lori Emerling

23
Attendees

Our May cruise night brought out just over 20 club members to Joe Cool's Restaurant in Troy.

The weather was great but we did not have huge turn-out of Vipers. We had a great evening of food, conversation and laughter with members.

A great time for all who attended !!



PAST EVENT – 2024 SPRING BRUNCH

May 19th ~ Annual Spring Brunch, Burton Manor in Livonia

By Susan Andring

77
Attendees

The Spring Brunch is always a great kickoff to the Summer driving season. This year's event was a perfect day for the Vipers. It was sunny and bright as members started rolling in. Our social team tried a new venue, the Burton Manor in Livonia.

We had over 75 members in attendance. It was wonderful seeing and talking with our Viper family. MCVO was the only party booked at the banquet hall that day, so we had it all to ourselves, including the parking lot. Everyone had a great time catching up with old and new friends.

Club President, Mike Sutton, covered the yearly updates and operations for the club before and after dinner, and shared the many events that are planned for the upcoming season. Many congratulations to Tom Beekman for being the 2023 Joyce Allen Award recipient. Tom joins a long list of dedicated Viper members who have received this award over the last 25 years.

Traditionally, the award has been presented during our Spring Brunch to a previous year's member who has volunteered their time to make our club an outstanding place to be.

As IT director, Tom totally updated the club website in early 2023 – it now has a modernized feel and look, plus updating site security. He also updated many areas to make browsing and finding information you need more fluid. Congratulations, Tom !!



Elaine Heitkamp created some amazing baskets for our raffle prizes, and Dick Winkles generously donated a lot of really cool items for the silent auction. There really was something for everyone !



I think everyone made it home before the late afternoon thunderstorms that blew into the area.



2024 SPRING BRUNCH ~ Continued



PAST EVENT – MCVO Invited to PA for VIPER Car Show

June 14 – 16th ~ Snakes on the Mountain, Pennsylvania

By Lori Emerling

During the weekend of June 14th to 16th, MCVO was invited to travel to Lehighton, Pennsylvania, to attend a local, prestigious car show at the Blocker Farm on Saturday the 15th. Eight members of MCVO traveled to eastern PA on Thursday the 13th, for a whirlwind weekend – meeting some fabulous new Viper members from the area, visiting numerous car collections and a monstrous Viper memorabilia collection, attending great dinners, and as well as meeting many of our VOA leaders from PA and around the country.



Vipers came from hundreds of miles away to hang out at the 28th annual event, called Snakes on the Mountain. This event is a yearly feature for the local Viper clubs and always draws a huge crowd of people and beautiful cars. The featured marque for 2024 was the “Birth of the Viper” and advertised a meet-n-greet with members of the original Team Viper. Over 60 Vipers were in attendance on an amazingly beautiful day, along with another 70+ classical and beautiful vehicles. There was even a friendly competition between car clubs to see who can bring the most cars: Ferrari, Ford (Mustangs, GTs, and AC Cobras), and Vipers.



During a well-attended panel discussion, Dick Winkles, Sandy Emerling and Ken Nowak shared Viper creation stories and answered many questions from an enthusiastic crowd of car lovers.



Michael Kuchavik Jr.
Admin · Top contributor · June 18, 2024 · 🌐
Snakes on the mountain was a great event we had 61 vipers show up! just about our record year. Thanks for all the support and helping support the VOA.
Want to get in next year make sure you are a VOA member! Don't forget NVE will be in Pittsburgh June 2025. That's definitely an event you don't want to miss.



Sandy & Lori in the Gen 5 Viper “borrowed” from Mike Moyer



Snakes on the Mountain – Additional Events

The members of MCVO who traveled to eastern PA were treated to an amazing weekend of activities and car events ! Most of us arrived Thursday night, after a long ride from Michigan. On Friday morning, we met up with over 20 local and other Viper enthusiasts in-town for the weekend.



We left the hotel in grand Viper-caravan style and traveled to Havik Performance in Bath, PA. This is the area's newest Viper tech facility in the northeast, owned by Micheal Kuchavik, Jr. Mike has been servicing Vipers in the area for years. We were provided a great tour of his facility.



Our next stop was lunch with a breath-taking view of the Blue Mountain ski area from the Slopeside Pub & Grill. There was lots of Viper talk and stories for sure.



After lunch, we traveled to the Moyer collection. Mike Moyer and his wife Monica treated us to their amazing collection of over 60 Vipers. It was breathtaking the moment the garage doors were raised, and we could drool over his collection. Mike generously offered several Vipers to the out-of-towners to drive and "show" at the Snakes on the Mountain event on Saturday. He is truly an amazing Viper guy !



After the Moyer visit, we all traveled north to Clarks Summit, PA for another great collection – "a Viper memorabilia collection" - at the home of Kurt and Chana Wadsworth. WOW – was the basic exclamation every time you went into a different room of the house. What a collection !! Even the Team Viper guys were sure they had never seen some of amazing pieces that Kurt has collected over the years. After a great dinner at their home, we all headed back to the hotel to prepare for our Saturday adventures at the Snakes in the Mountain show. Needless to say, we were all tired.



On Sunday, we were treated to another car collection belonging to Rob and Kathy Albiner. They have a collection of American cars from all eras, and Rob can give you every detail of history, on every car in his massive collection. After the tour, we had a great picnic lunch in their front yard with food brought in from Katz's Deli in New York City by Rob. It was so good!



One more stop before we ended our whirlwind weekend - Mike and Suzanne Kuchavik invited those of us who hadn't departed for home, to a fantastic dinner at their home.

All I can say is thank you to everyone who made this an amazing weekend. We all had a blast !

PAST EVENT – MCVO in Northern Michigan, June 20-23 Bay Harbor Festival & Team Viper's 35th Anniversary Weekend

June 20th – 23rd ~ Team Viper's 35th Anniversary Weekend

By Diane Cipponeri

Wow! Is it possible that Team Viper was formed 35 years ago in 1989 leading to the Viper coming to life with the inaugural launch of the 1992 Viper Roadster? Ah, not only possible, but true! And yes, to further that proof ... many of us are now driving around with historical license plates on our beloved 'snakes'. How can that be?

We never manage to miss an opportunity to get together and party, so that's what we did. Party? It was more like a 'festival' held the weekend of June 20th to 23rd in Indian River, Michigan, home of 'Head-Snake', Roy Sjoberg. Many original Team Viper members attended along with many MCVO and VOA members who were invited to celebrate with Team Viper. The Viper weekend event also coincided with the Bay Harbor Boat and Car Show where the 35th Anniversary of Team Viper was also being celebrated.

Our rainy weekend began Thursday evening with a meet and greet at The Thirsty Sturgeon restaurant in Wolverine, MI. Socializing continued through the evening and eventually leading us to retire to our hotels in the Indian River area.

A couple cruises were on tap for Friday morning. Some chose to attend the Bay Harbor Cruise along the west side of Northern Michigan. Some others chose to cruise with MCVO along the east side of Northern Michigan. It doesn't matter – east side, west side – it's beautiful wherever you go in northern Michigan!! We all experienced more rain during the day, with all cruisers returning in time to attend the Bay Harbor dinner party at the Bay Harbor Yacht Club Friday evening. As the rain continued, Saturday morning still saw many of our Vipers participate in the Bay Harbor Car Show.

Saturday evening was our featured Team Viper 35th Anniversary Dinner Party. This was an outdoor event at Cooperation Park in Indian River. While not the hoity-toity atmosphere of the Bay Harbor Yacht Club the night before, the barbecued burgers and brats, a variety of beverages and the company, for sure, were every bit as good and (definitely) more plentiful.



As the rain continued, it did not dampen the festivities for over 70 of us who enjoyed the venue under the pavilion. Table-clothed round tables with centerpieces, appetizers and local chefs added class while a 'few' somewhat irreverent presentations added a sense of fun to this casual evening setting.

The festivities went on well into the night with all returning safely to their respective hotels and all enjoying a safe ride home on Sunday morning.



70 +
Attendees



Thank You to all of our Team Viper team-mates, the VOA and VOA members, the MCVO and MCVO members and all the spouses and significant others who attended and especially a big, big thank you to all who helped make this weekend's Team Viper 35th Anniversary event a safe and fantastic success!!

Check out the 8 ½ minute YouTube video
recorded during this event.
Search: Viper Team Reunion 2024

Bay Harbor Festival & Team Viper's 35th Anniversary Weekend ~ Continued

June 20th ~ Dinner at the Thirsty Sturgeon

By Lori Emerling

39
Attendees

The beginning of our busy Northern Michigan weekend started out at the Thirsty Sturgeon in Wolverine on Thursday night after everyone arrived in the Indian River area. Getting there from our hotels took "a few of us" down about 6 or 7 miles of gravel roads – oops – a bit of unplanned road construction on the route and it was a little wet – so some dirty Vipers arrived at the restaurant. What a great place this was for a gathering of nearly forty MCVO members and out-of-town Viper friends. We had a special gathering room that allowed everyone to mingle and talk before and after dinner, and by the way – the food was great.



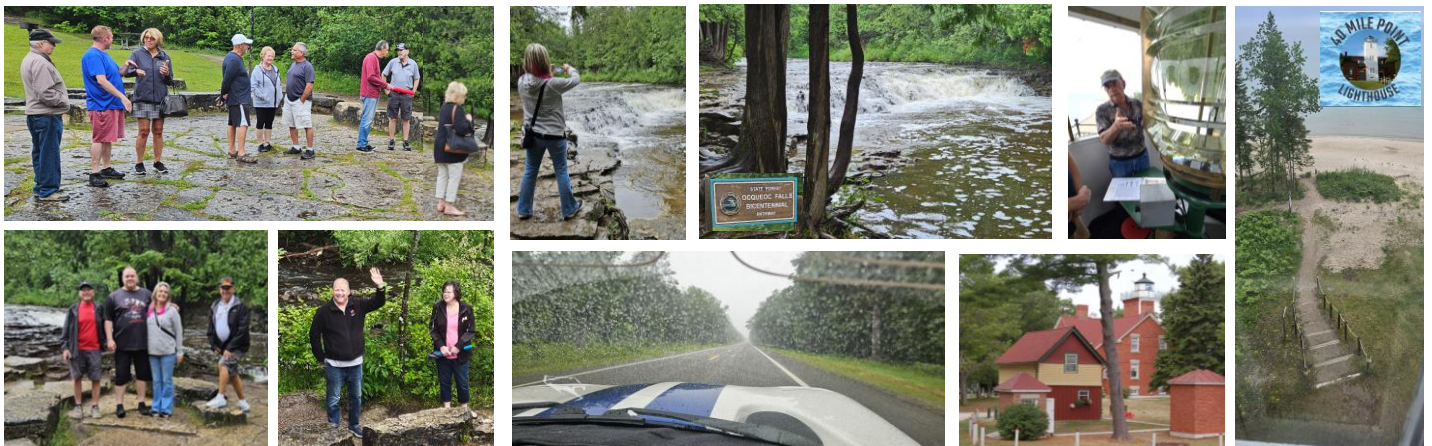
June 21st ~ Friday MCVO Cruise By Lori Emerling

20
Attendees

On Friday, there were two different cruises that folks could go on. The initial cruise was coordinated by the Bay Harbor festival and included lunch and visits to a couple car-related locations – over 15 Vipers & 30 people participated. The second cruise was a last-minute excursion for the many MCVO folks who chose not to do the Bay Harbor event. Mike Cipponeri tasked me to "see if you can organize a good route, since you know the area so well." For those who don't know, I grew up in Gaylord and all locations north-east and north-west of Gaylord were places I knew well. So, three days before the event – a cruise was organized. Nearly 20 MCVO members & friends from VOA braved wet conditions and headed east on M-33 towards Lake Huron.

Our first stop was Ocqueoc Falls – we checked out the largest waterfall in the lower peninsula. Yeah, it is only a five-foot drop, but it cuts through the beautiful limestone bedrock that is so prevalent in the area. Our next stop was the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse. MCVO has visited this location before but today was nice as it was not very crowded. We spent a couple hours here and most of us were able to climb to the top of the lighthouse and check out all the related lighthouse buildings.

We drove through a good rainstorm to lunch in Cheboygan. Interesting place, but good food. Planning a cruise through website info and a good memory was crazy, but it turned out well and we all had a grand time. All cars ended the cruise at the carwash !



Bay Harbor Festival & Team Viper's 35th Anniversary Weekend ~ Continued

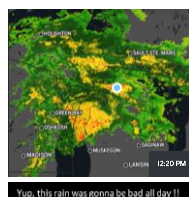
June 22nd ~ Reunion @ Bay Harbor Car Show

By Lori Emerling

25 +
Attendees

For Sandy and I, Saturday, June 22nd was a day that was to have special meaning during the Bay Harbor Festival. Many months before the event was to occur, we were approached to be part of a special display at the show. Y'all know about our white car, and we were asked if we would like to be part of a display with the other two '96 GTS white cars that were built at Conner the same day. The other two cars are both in the Bay Harbor area and were planning to be on display. Our initial thought was "wow" - the three '96 GTS Vipers have never been together since their "birth" at Conner in May 1996. It was going to like a family reunion. Bob Lutz's '96 GTS was also prepared for a special display with us at the show. Although Bay Harbor was celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Team Viper – where many members of Team Viper along with Tom Gale and Bob Lutz would be in attendance – this seemed like it would be an amazing event. A very cool poster, displays and hand-outs were prepared.

As we all know, the weather was most uncooperative that day! Reports all through Friday night showed it was supposed to be rainy – no, it was supposed to be like a monsoon - all day Saturday. Over 30 Vipers were scheduled to be on display during the show, mostly from MCVO. Looking at the weather maps Saturday morning, many chose to not even head towards Bay Harbor, but Sandy and I were in the pre-event parade line-up before 8 am. I was hopeful and praying to the weather-gods! As the Viper was the feature vehicle, our car and several other "of special significance" Vipers were being staged at the beginning of the parade. It was during that wait ... we found out the other two white Vipers were not going to be in attendance. Needless to say, it was quite the disappointment. The rain held off until just after the event started at 10 am. Only 13 Vipers showed up, and all were parked by 11 am when the rain started coming down hard ... by noon, all but 4 cars were gone ... and the rain continued !



Top Section of the Event Poster

June 22nd ~ MCVO & Team Viper Presentation by Lori

During the celebration of Team Viper's 35th Anniversary, a very special and well-deserved presentation was made to one of our own special MCVO members. Near the end of the event, after all of the people who spoke about Viper "back in the days" and all those who shared great stories, club member Tom Beekman came up to the microphone. He said he had another presentation and called "Mother Viper" up to the front – Diane Cipponeri !

MCVO and Team Viper presented Diane with beautiful crystal award for being our MCVO club mom and Mother Viper to Team Viper – as far as I know, this seemed to start with Diane bringing a cake to one of the Team Viper gatherings that included family members. And the rest is history.



Congratulations
Diane !!

PAST EVENTS – SUMMER 2024

July 6th ~ Algonac Lions Pickerel Festival

By Susan Andring

The Algonac Lions Pickerel Festival invited MCVO back again to participate in their 86th annual parade on July 6th. On a perfect sunny day, thirteen Viper friends in eight Vipers enjoyed a wonderful day revving up our engines on the parade route.

Earlier in the day, we met at the Sutton-Andring residence in New Baltimore for some breakfast goodies and then caravanned up to Algonac. It was such a nice country drive.

At the staging area, the cars were adorned with the beautiful red, white and blue flags for the 4th of July holiday. The kids on the parade route gathered up a nice amount of candy that we tossed from the cars.

Afterwards we went for lunch at Johnny Legas on Anchor Bay and after eating, we walked out to the end of the pier to watch the boats go by. It was such a nice relaxing day with our great Viper family on the water in Michigan.



Vipers, amazing friends, a parade, good food and glorious weather. It really doesn't get any better than that.



13 Attendees

July 25th ~ Bob Lutz Event at Meadowbrook Hall

By Sandy Emerling

In early March, Lori & I were contacted by Jon Block, who was on the organizing team for an Auto Industry Design Forum at Meadowbrook Hall in July. The forum was to be moderated by Bob Lutz and Steve Pasteiner, and included on the panel were design leads - Ralph Gilles (Stellantis), Mike Simcoe (General Motors), and Joel Piaskowski (Ford). This was also an event to honor Bob Lutz and his rich history in automotive design.

As such, they were looking to showcase 12 vehicles in which Bob had significantly designed, created or master-mined throughout his automotive career. Our 1993 Red RT/10 and Greg Ornazian's 1998 GTS-R were showcased along with other vehicles from Opel, Ford, Chrysler and GM during an elegant outdoor garden party with great food and drink. The forum was very informative, and the overall event was a fundraiser for local scholarships.



PAST EVENT - WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE ACTIVITES

August 22nd ~ Woodward Thursday Dinner

By Susan Andring

MCVO starts off the 2024 Woodward Dream Cruise with our annual Thursday dinner at the same lot we rent for the main event on Saturday. This year's cruise turned out 45 Vipers and the lot was so full, late comers had to park on the side of the building.

It was a great evening to enjoy some delicious BBQ as well as watch and listen to the cruisers roar down M-1. The best part is we had the most perfect weather.

A few of our Ohio members also joined us. Bruce Johnson came from a few hours away. For dessert, we invited the Treat Dreams Ice Cream truck of Ferndale back. Always a big hit, 'cuz, who doesn't love ice cream?

Our Viper Family truly is the best !

90+
Attendees



PAST EVENTS - WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE, Continued

August 24th ~ Woodward Saturday

By John Huszti

This year's Woodward Dream Cruise celebration was a success despite the weather we incurred on Saturday, as well as our club president Mike Sutton falling ill at the last minute and unable to attend. Thursday's Dream Cruise Dinner brought out over 100 members and guests with almost everyone driving their Viper that evening. The weather was perfect, the food was excellent, and the ice cream was cold. Thank you to all the behind-the-scenes members that were involved in organizing this event.



Saturday, the official Woodward Dream Cruise Day, did not attract as many Vipers and members as we had hoped for; but those that did make it had a great time.

The rain came down very heavy mid-afternoon and unfortunately the parking lot cleared out quickly leaving only a few brave members. The sun eventually came out, the rain dried up, and those few that remained enjoyed the rest of the afternoon watching cars cruising up and down Woodward. Hopefully, Woodward 2025 will be dry one.





Cruise Nights

3rd Wednesday every month, watch for the email announcement and always confirm on the calendar !

Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator



August 21st ~ Cruise Night @ Whiskey Rae's in Rochester

By Susan Andring

There is a great eatery in Rochester Hills that we discovered for our August cruise night, Whiskey Rae's. 20 members came out in 10 Vipers. Another evening of great Michigan weather. This restaurant had an extensive whiskey selection if that's your drink of choice.

20
Attendees

Oh yeah, and the food was great too! Reminder, if you know of any great restaurants that we could use for our next cruise night. please let me know. My phone is 586-894-4803.



PAST EVENT - ANNUAL EVENT WITH COBRA CLUB

August 31st ~ Snakes in the Grass @ Canterbury Village

By Lori Emerling

MCVO once again participated in the annual car show event held at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. This has been a joint gathering with MCVO and the Great Lakes Cobra Club for many years – ie “Snakes” in the Grass. This year, Canterbury Village was also hosting the 19th Annual Corvette Fest, so we were both totally outnumbered by them.

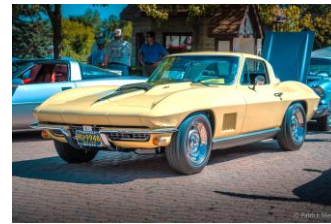
19
Attendees



The day was glorious, and the cars turned out in droves. We arrived a little after the stated starting time and there were hardly any parking spots. We have attended this show many times in the past and do not recall ever seeing so many vehicles. They were parked all over the lawn and roads and - although there were a lot of Corvettes there – the cars were all stunning beauties. We had 19 MCVO members and 11 Vipers. Yes, a lot of red Vipers that day !



Thanks to Patrick Merz for many of these great photos taken that day !



PAST EVENT – DOWN MEMORY LANE: Conner Avenue Assembly

September 14th ~ Conner Avenue Tour with VIPER Club of Ontario

By Lori Emerling

The Viper Club of Ontario invited MCVO members to join them on an outing at the Chrysler Conner Center and M1 Concourse/Prefix Garage on September 14th. Several members of the original Team Viper were invited as VIP guests and 42 MCVO members attended this fun event. The Ontario group had an entire weekend of Viper activities planned with their members, and we were honored to be part of their event.

The event started at Conner Center with over 50 Vipers from Ontario and MCVO, and the day could not have been more perfect. Once everyone was parked, we admired all the great cars and met many friends from Ontario. There was a lot of mingling with the Team Viper and Gen V engineers and many owners had them all “signing” their Vipers.

42 MCVO
Attendees



Once inside, we enjoyed a panel discussion with the team that designed the Gen V vehicle. Ralph Gilles also discussed many of the obstacles, as well as humorous stories, during the creation of the Gen V – it was an enlightening discussion and then he answered many questions from the attendees. After Ralph's presentation, the Ontario club presented him with a Member Appreciation award for his outstanding contributions to the Viper community, and the Team Viper attendees were given an Ontario Honorary Membership. We all enjoyed a lunch that was funded by both Ontario and Motor City Viper clubs.



After lunch we spent another hour touring the collection of Vipers and the spectacular Chrysler and Dodge classic vehicles. Our next stop for the day was heading to the Chrysler Tech Center, or CTC, as it is fondly known. The line of Vipers heading up I-75 to Auburn Hills had to be a great sight for anyone on the highway that day. After a lap around the Tech Center, we lined up for a photo-op with the Chrysler HQ in the background. Easier said than done, but some great photos were taken.



At that point, the group headed towards M1 in Pontiac for a visit at Prefix and then a couple of parade laps around the M1 track. Many participants continued their day with a trip to Dick Winkles M1 garage for a view of his prized possessions. Many thanks to Bruce Hadfield and the Ontario Viper Club for inviting MCVO members to join them on this great event.

FALL EVENTS - CRUISE NIGHTS

September 18th ~ Cruise Night at Twisted Rooster in Chesterfield

By Susan Andring

We sure have been getting lucky with beautiful weather for our last few cruise nights. For the September dinner, we had 21 members gathered at the Twisted Rooster Bar & Grill in Chesterfield. We celebrated birthdays by singing for Sam Milina and Mike Cipponeri. Brand new member, Mike Palazzolo joined us with his family. So nice to meet you Mike, and your super cute kids!

We even had a couple of MCVO members that had to bring their daily drivers. Yes....a Corvette is a daily driver.....LOL ! Hopefully it will still be nice in October to get out one more time before the cars get tucked in for winter.

21
Attendees



October 16th ~ Cruise Night at the Rusty Bucket in Bloomfield Hills

By Susan Andring

Wednesday's cruise night at The Rusty Bucket in Bloomfield Hills brought out 22 members and 9 Vipers. October is a mighty fine month to cruise and eat!

New members Graham and Jenna came to their first cruise night. We got to hear the story of how Jenna bought Graham his Viper. She's a good woman (and very sweet) !

Welcome to the club! So, a good time was had by all!

22
Attendees



October 18th ~ Fall Viper Gathering in Elkhart

By Lori Emerling

20+ MCVO
Attendees

MCVO was again invited to attend the Ray Sweers annual Viper Gathering in Elkhart, Indiana. Ray's annual event has been attended by numerous MCVO members for the last 4 or 5 years. This is always a fun event. Eight of us drove to Elkhart a day early so we could do a little local sightseeing on Friday. It was a beautiful sunny day – perfect for a ride in the Viper, and the fall leaves were a-blazing with four Vipers heading down the highways.

We stopped for lunch and then headed to the National New York Central Railroad Museum in Elkhart. This was a great stop, and I learned a lot about the history of the NYCR. We found out that Marty Heitkamp grew up across the tracks from this railroad line in Syracuse, NY. Aahh, that is where his love of trains comes from ! Train questions – ask Marty. We met up with more MCVO friends for lively dinner close to our hotels.



On Saturday morning, we headed to Ray's property. The stream of cars pulling into his parking lots were amazing. We were lucky to have another beautiful sunny day. We were told over 60 Viper related cars were in attendance. Ray has a great collection of vehicles on site, so looking at those plus checking out all the attendee's cars – this kept us all busy until lunch – which was provided for all attendees, and delicious !



Ray had asked five original members of Team Viper (Sandy Emerling, Ken Nowak, Dick Winkles, Mike Cipponeri, and John Donato) to host an open discussion on the early Viper development and share some personal stories. Everyone enjoyed this and asked many questions. After a great discussion, about 50 cars participated in the "Color Tour" around Elkhart and then returned for door prizes and closing. Another amazing day for all. Many thanks to Ray and his team for putting on this great event and including MCVO again. Watch for the notice for next year's event – it is usually the 3rd weekend in October, and it is a lot of fun.



Photo credits to
Jim Vander Wal and Miller Sivak

Check out the YouTube video for
the Color Tour Cruise

YOUTUBE.COM
2024 Viper Gathering Elkhart Fall Tour Start



FALL 2024 EVENTS

October 26th ~ Fall Tech Day @ Pratt & Miller in New Hudson

By Lori Emerling

The Fall Tech Day this year was held at Pratt Miller in New Hudson. Paul McClorey, our Motorsports Director, provided the opportunity for the club members to tour the Motorsports portion of the Pratt Miller facility. The tour started with coffee and donuts in the lobby and the turn-out was huge.

The Pratt Miller team had a great video presentation to help everyone understand their role in the recent and historical high-performance motorsports field. A few special rules were discussed – one of the biggest was no photos past the front lobby. We all complied with this request, therefore there are no photos with the article, besides this one of the lobby. You can see the items in the windows, on the ledges - they are all trophies the company has won over the years – and I was told this is just a very small portion of the collection. The tour was very informative, especially the design, engineering and the manufacturing processes.

Many members that attended the tour also went to lunch as a group at the Draught Horse Brewery & Spirits in South Lyon. Since Sandy and I attended the tour and not the luncheon, I do not have any photos or particular details, but it sounded like it was a great place from those I talked to.

Another great part of this day (which we also missed) was a tour of the Warbirds of Glory Museum also in New Hudson. Joe Ventimiglia has been working on an amazing project – restoring a B-25J to flying condition, and he invited everyone to come in for a tour of the project. Everyone was very impressed with this museum and the entire project. A fantastic day was had by all !



November 9th ~ Stahl's Veteran's Day Event

By Lori Emerling

In August, Stahl's Museum put out a request to the local car clubs requesting a club-member veteran who could be honored during their special Veterans Open House. The event would honor and celebrate the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans and also help raise funds for the Guardian Angels Medical Support Dogs.

The MCVO board decided to nominate Doug Livermore who had served in the U.S. Navy. We had a good turn-out of club members and family members who came to honor Doug, and to also explore the collection of classic cars and listen to the automated machines. There was a beautiful ceremony and the museum was packed.

Doug was joined by many of the MCVO members who went to lunch afterwards at the Knapp's City Garage in New Baltimore.



Congratulations, Doug !



December 7th ~ Christmas Party @ Ukrainian Cultural Center

By Susan Andring & Lori Emerling

Our annual MCVO Christmas party was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren. We had nearly 50 members in attendance, some were dressed in their holiday best, others snappy casual. This was the first time we have held an event at this location. The room was beautifully decorated, and the food was plentiful and delicious.



We also celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our MCVO club. Diane Cipponeri out-did herself again and created beautiful table centerpieces that celebrated our big event. Elaine Heitkamp had all of us guessing on who would win the centerpieces – questions and answers that moved the “possible winner’s name” around the table numerous times. Elaine also had beautiful decorations and great door prizes - everyone had a chance to win and take 1 home.



We had a surprise club member show up for the party – Ralph Gilles. He made a grand entrance and provided all of us with a great insight into the company (Chrysler, ... oh yeah ... Stellantis) now that we had heard the upper management had just recently changed. It was good to hear his positive outlook of the future.



RECENT MCVO EVENTS

Christmas Party ~ Continued

50 +
Attendees

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!



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. Everyone seemed to have a great time catching up with friends. It was great to chat with several new members. Everyone left with gifts and smiles !

Additional Event Snippet & Cold Weather Cruise Nights

August 9-10th ~ 2024 MOPAR Nats & BruceFest in Ohio

By Mike Sutton

The Ohio Viper Club invited MCVO to join them at the Mopar Nats in Hebron, Ohio with special parking in the "Viper Pit Show Field", very close to the track tower. They also provided food, drinks and A/C in the JEGS suite overlooking the track. Your former president, me, fell asleep at the line and turned in a 12.7s, 112.64mph pass. Some people don't know how to turn off traction control ... I did however get the #1 designation.

Note: #888 was a Dodge Demon with some young whipper-snapper driver.



Bruce & Betsy Johnson, Ohio & MCVO members, graciously hosted the 1st Annual BruceFest at their beautiful home. Food & drinks were fantastic! Rusty Ranney supplied music, and all had a great time. I'm sure we'll be invited for many years to come.



LEFT		RIGHT	
Car # ...	1	888	
Class ...		SM	
DIAL ...			
R/T ...	.611	.069	
60' ...	2.213	1.504	
330 ...	5.621	4.436	
1/8 ...	8.995	6.844	
1/4 ...	83.05	102.35	
1000 ...	10.819	8.923	
E.T. ...	12.779	10.686	
MPH ...	112.64	127.70	

November 20th ~ Cruise Night @ Milestone Grill in Warren

By Susan Andring

John Huszti recommended a restaurant for our November cruise night, the Milestone Grill on 12 Mile by Macomb College. It had changed owners the last few years and had a remodel recently. I can't remember the count of attendees as your Cruise Night Director/Club Photographer was forgetful that night and didn't take any pictures. I can tell you that even though the Vipers were put away for their long winter's nap, the food and service was great (especially the lamb chops) and everyone had a terrific time. We always do !

December 18th ~ Cruise Night @ Kruse & Muir in Rochester

By Susan Andring

December's cruise night took us to Kruse & Muir in downtown Rochester at Robin Ornazian's suggestion. It was a perfect time for members who've never seen the Christmas lights on every storefront in downtown. Kruse & Muir has been around forever and has always been known for great food. It was right before the holiday so everyone was in the Christmas spirit. I think we had 27 in attendance. If you have any favorite restaurants for cruise nights, please let me know.



January 15th 2025 ~ Cruise Night @ the Alibi in Troy

By Susan Andring

January's cruise night was at the Alibi Inn in Troy and we had 31 members come out in the COLD. That is the largest group we've had in a long time. Saw some faces we haven't seen in awhile.

The restaurant was full, so I guess other people don't mind eating out in the frigid temps either. The servers were attentive, and the food was delicious. Always lots of laughs.



Motorsports Report / Upcoming Events

MCVO Spring Tech Day – I am still working on this event. Suggestions are welcomed from club members

For those looking for true Driver's Education, please look at the Rally Sport Region of the Porsche Club. These days are well run and organized and not intimidating. <https://rsp.pca.org/bs/drivers-ed/>

Viper Racing League (VRL) - The 2025 Schedule so far is the end of March at Daytona and then at NVE 6 at Pitt Race. Details to come. If anyone would like more information, please contact me, or go to: <https://theviperracingleague.com/>



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>

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 !*

February 1 st	Winter Party @ Total Sports
February 19 th	Cruise Night
March 19 th	Cruise Night
April 16 th	Cruise Night
May 18 th	Annual Spring Luncheon – the Gazebo
May 21 st	Cruise Night
August 14 th	Woodward Thursday Night Dinner
August 16 th	Woodward Saturday Event

Many other events are in the works, but we do not have definite details at this moment. Please check the MCVO website Calendar for more up to date information. Looking forward to seeing everyone at many events this year !!

***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 !!*



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

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Snakes on the Mountain: Josh Haskell, Josh Cole, Aaron Bailey, Havik Performance

Ray Sweers Event: Gordon Mock, Jim Vander Wal, Miller Svak

Facebook posts: MCVO, Patrick Merz, Doug McLaren, Bruce Hadfield/Ontario Viper Club

websites: VOA website, National Museum of the USAF website



Snakes on the Mountain - Pennsylvania

June 15, 2024