

SNAKE BITES

Official Publication of the Motor City Viper Owners
Edition 30 ~ Volume 1-2-3



Club News & VOA Updates

Cruise Nights / Cars & Coffee Events

Winter Party

Bench Racing

Spring Brunch

Spring & Fall Tech Days

Motorsport Events

NVE 6 National Event

Annual Smokeout BBQ

Kennonball Run

Woodward Events

Ohio Mansfield Event

Fall Color Tour

Annual Christmas Party

Upcoming Events

2025 "YEAR in REVIEW"



Snake Bites is published several 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. Optional membership levels within MCVO are Standard, Associate, National Affiliate, Social 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: 2025 MIS Event, Chuck Lawrence

Back: 2025 Woodward Thursday, Lori Emerling

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MCVO club / board of directors:

executive committee 2026

President Marty Heitkamp

Vice-President Lori Emerling

Secretary Paul LaPlant

Treasurer John Huszti

directors

Club Advisor Mike Sutton

Membership Marty Heitkamp

Merchandise Paul LaPlant

Motorsports Paul McClorey

Newsletter Lori Emerling

Club Photographer Susan Andring

Technology Mike Sutton

Social Events Team Elaine Heitkamp, Brandy Adams, Susan Andring

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 also 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.

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Hello MCVO members !



Hopefully, everyone is looking forward to getting on to spring and the next Viper driving season and outdoor club events – it sure has been a long winter !! This edition will cover our club activities from most all of 2025 – basically a “year in review” and then on to some upcoming 2026 events. Life has a way of interrupting the best of plans and therefore, the newsletter issue last fall didn’t happen. There were so many great events last year and we had a great turnout at so many of them. A few articles contained may be smaller than normal, but we didn’t want to miss sharing any of the great things this club has to offer. From cruise nights every month to motorsport driving events and several tech-related events and our numerous social and driving events, 2025 was a very busy year.

One of the larger events last summer was the sixth National Viper Event (NVE 6) that was held in Pittsburgh, PA. MCVO had a great representation at the event – with nearly 30 club members attending. It was so nice to have a national event so close to home, ie. ... within driving distance. Check out the articles and photos. Woodward was another great event, as usual, with many out-of-town attendees joining our MCVO activities. We even had two events in Ohio (and sadly, I missed both of them). Many of our repeat activities and monthly cruise nights were fantastic (as usual), always well-attended and a lot of fun.

This year’s planning team has been working hard to add more events for our members to choose from. Several events that have been missing for a few years are on the agenda again, and hopefully you will enjoy a few new items too. Watch your emails for details and sign-ups. Events may sometimes show up on our Facebook page, but details for location and sign-up will only be via email to club members. Be sure to sign up by deadlines so the event-leader(s) can plan accordingly.

Hopefully, we will provide you with lots of detail and interesting pictures from our past events. I am sure that everyone else has had an equally busy year and times does fly by – as it’s nearing the end of March 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.

Lori Emerling

newsletter@mcvo.net / 248-703-8902



NEWSLETTER / PHOTOGRAPHIC “Notes”

Please remember - We are always looking for good “cover shots” for the newsletter, and for the cover they need to be a vertical image, and higher-resolution or quality. If you are taking a scenic picture of your Viper, please try to take a larger picture, which means “step back” from your subject, or even zoom out a little. Give the item in the image (especially if it is your Viper) enough space around it, just in case there needs to be some cropping of the image. During editing, if the image needs to be cropped to fit a particular space, this extra spacing will keep the image intact and usable.

In the photos below, the center image is where I started for the cover of a booklet for an event last summer. If the image had been the first on the left, I could not have used the image – vehicles too close to edge of photo. Image on the right shows how I cropped it to fit the book and add text where I wanted. Just something to remember – thanks !



Also, keep in mind what is in the background of your photo or surrounding the image you are taking. I have had many images submitted that show a garbage can or worse in the background and it basically makes the image unusable. You can always shift slightly to the right or left to hide an unwanted background.

Note: This photo was taken specifically, to show the problem !



PRESIDENT'S Corner

Hello - Welcome to 2026 !



Hints of spring are beginning to show, and I think that winter is finally in the rear-view mirror. I'm sure that just like me, you can't wait to get behind the wheel of your Viper again.

As the MCVO President, I am also a member of the Viper Owners Association (VOA) Operating Board and have already been on numerous zoom meetings with the VOA leaders this year. The current VOA management team is working to ensure the club will be operating with a balanced budget and there will be no deficit spending.

You may remember several years ago, the VOA was in serious financial trouble and had to borrow a large sum of money to remain solvent. Well, that loan was paid back in full, and the national club is again on sound financial ground. During that crisis, I know many of you dropped out of the VOA national organization and joined MCVO as a direct member. For those that did drop the VOA, and for those that have never been a VOA member, I'd like you to consider joining and supporting the national club. Note that membership fees in the VOA have been reduced and start as low as \$99! For anyone that does choose to join the VOA, we will reimburse the \$75 membership fee that you have already paid to MCVO. So please, consider a VOA membership.

As for MCVO, your operating board is in the middle of planning events for 2026. We are also finalizing our budget which is why it is important to get renewals done as early as possible. The monies from renewals give us a basis for funding and subsidizing the events we will have throughout the year. We are planning some different things for this year including road trip events and track days and bringing back some favorite events from several years ago.

By being on the VOA operating board and communicating with many club presidents around the country, I have found that MCVO is a very active region compared with most others around the country. For example, in 2025 our club had right around 50 events, whereas some regions are lucky to do 5 or 6. I'd like to see us do more, but it always seems to be the same 6 to 8 core volunteers doing the planning and work ... which limits what we can do. Please step up with event ideas and get more involved in running your club !

This is the second year of my term as the MCVO president and I will do my best to ensure we have a fun, efficient and fiscally responsible club. My elected term runs through the end of 2026 and I'm on the fence regarding running again. Please let me know if there is any interest in taking over starting in 2027.

Finally, our annual meeting will be a spring lunch at Joy Manor in Westland, MI on May 17th. As costs have gone up almost exponentially, we have found this venue is the best bang for your membership buck. Save the date and hear what we have planned for the club in 2026.

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

Thanks ! " Think Spring "

Marty Heithamp president@mcvo.net



MEMBERSHIP Director Update

I'm certain everyone know that membership in MCVO is on a calendar year basis. Which means all 2025 memberships expired at the end of the year. As I write this, we currently have 145 primary members in MCVO that have renewed for 2026.

The current breakdown is:

- 77 VOA members
- 9 VOA affiliate members (members in another VOA region, but have also joined MCVO)
- 11 VOA honorary Spirit of Viper members
- 4 Social members (previous MCVO members that no longer have a Viper), and
- 44 MCVO direct members

To all of you that have renewed already, the board thanks you. There are still about 25 that have not yet renewed. To those that haven't renewed ... if you're going to renew, please do it as soon as possible so your MCVO board knows what funds we have available for events. As a side note, although most members are in Michigan, we have a handful in Ohio and Canada and as far away as Florida, Kansas, New Hampshire, Virginia, and Missouri.

MEMBERSHIP Director Update, Con't

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. Since the last Snake Bites, we have had 11 new members join MCVO. Please welcome the following new members:

- - MCVO WELCOMES 11 New Members - -

Christian AndersonSchoepe	Plymouth, MI	Seb Coppola	Rochester, MI
Eric Fiederlein	Ann Arbor, MI	Nicholas Getts	White Lake, MI
Mike Kuchavik, Sr.	Bath, PA	Jeremy Mosher	Suttons Bay, MI
Deyan Ninov	Royal Oak, MI	Bob Roxy	Macomb, MI
Everett Smith	Alpena, MI	Justice Walraven	Harrison, MI
George Vidu	West Bloomfield, 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:

Please note that 2027 will be a National Viper Event (NVE) year ... with NVE 7 being held in the Daytona, Florida area. If you have not been to one of these events, I highly recommend attending. However, in order to attend you must be a member of the national Viper Owners Association (VOA).

If you are currently an MCVO member only and want to attend, you will have to join the VOA - which I can certainly help you do.

Please note that if you do decide to join the VOA, we will refund the dues you've already paid to MCVO this year. The reason this is important for the 2026 year, is that registrations will be taken in advance for the event – sometime in the near future of 2026, so your membership needs to be with VOA. Note that VOA Mamba level members in 2026 and 2027 will get discount tickets to next year's NVE. Reach out me if you need more information.

Any other 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 - located under the Club Information Tab and then Club Documents.

Marty Heithamp

membership@mcvo.net



MERCHANDISE Director Update

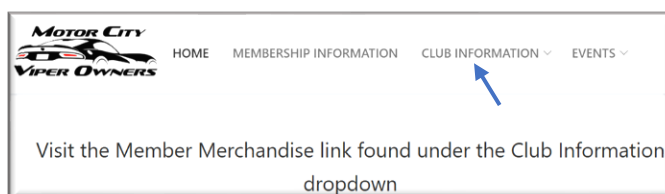
The MCVO personalized apparel website is still up and running. If you haven't already checked it out, please visit this link for MCVO/Viper branded apparel items: <https://motorcityviper.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

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.

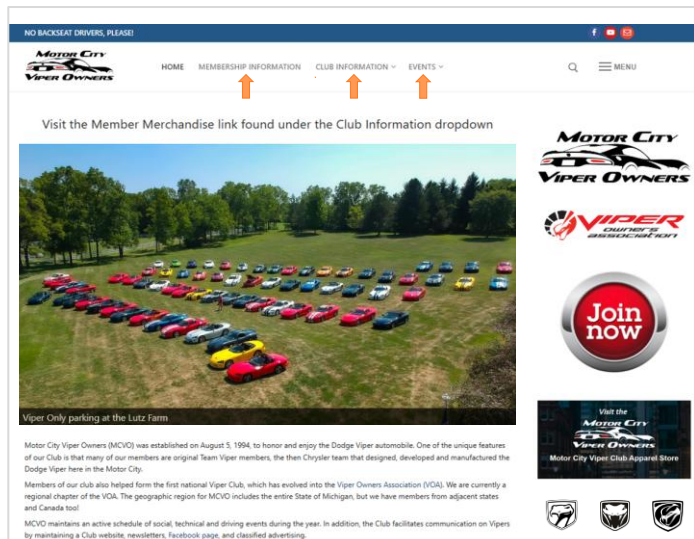
Paul LaPlant, Merchandise Director
merchandise@mcvo.net



TECHNOLOGY Report – Your MCVO Website for 2026

In 2025, I acquired the position of the club's new IT director. I have had several board members helping me take care of the site last year and I greatly appreciated all of your time.

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 we updated the site security. I have recently spent time on further updates to make browsing and finding information you need more fluid. Photos of your club leaders are included on the board member's page, making it easier for new club members to recognize us at the events.



The Home Page was updated with information to introduce club leaders 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 watch for a promo-video of the next NVE event in Daytona (Spring 2027).

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 will be updated often.

Under the Club Information tab is where you will find the online Membership Directory. The directory has changed from a PDF file to a secured database within the website itself.

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. This information was previously asked for prior to the printing of the membership directory – which was distributed or mailed around the time of the Spring Brunch in May. The printing of the directory will most likely not occur this year, as we had so few requests last year for a printed copy.

Please check your information & update if needed at address:

https://www.mcvo.net/membership_directory

Instructions for making updates to the directory are near the top of the page – one for VOA changes, and another for MCVO changes – Click on the HERE button and a form will open for MCVO members to fill out / submit changes.

Remember, several pages under the Club Information tab are password protected to keep club member information secure.

This content is password protected. To view it please enter your password below:

Password:

ENTER

PLEASE NOTE: Once the cut-off for 2026 renewals is reached in 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.

Mike Sutton, IT Director it@MCVO.net

Membership Directory

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

Please scroll right for more member info

Show 50 entries

Search: Type a name or city here

Full Name	First Name	Last Name	Suffix	Spouse/Partner	Address	City	State
David & Jean Buchesky*	David	Buchesky*		Jean	2101 Charnwood Dr	Troy	MI
Carl Dukatz	Carl	Dukatz			5651 Ashwood Drive	Troy	MI
Sandy & Lori Emerling*	Sandy	Emerling*		Lori	3469 Gresham Dr	Troy	MI
Sean & Laura Gavin	Sean	Gavin		Laura	62 Wildwood Dr	Troy	MI
Dave & Kristy Sidlar	Dave	Sidlar		Kristy	445 Ottawa Drive	Troy	MI
Dave Thomas	Dave	Thomas			5214 Orchard Crest Dr.	Troy	MI

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries (filtered from 178 total entries)

Previous 1 Next

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 new table format will allow you to search and sort all members easily and quickly, and it is easily accessible on your phone when out driving. This format also allows our Membership Director to update all records online and in real-time, displaying the necessary changes immediately.

Lastly, the Who's Attending link under the Events Tab will help make finding who is attending an event even easier. Just click on the image of the event and a spreadsheet will open with the attendee's names.

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 upcoming 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



NATIONAL VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION (VOA) Update ~ 2026

As you may or may not know, I am the current 2026 VOA Vice President and a proud member of MCVO, and I wanted to share some important updates about the current status of VOA.



After working hard to address our financial crisis, we have successfully approved new VOA Bylaws and Operations manuals that include checks and balances to ensure past financial issues do not recur. Our goal is to improve and grow our national organization together.

Currently, we are offering two types of membership: a \$99 Standard membership and a \$125 Mamba membership option. Neither includes the Viper Quarterly Magazine, which can be ordered separately for \$100 per year (Hard Copy) or electronically for \$40 per year (4 issues). We understand there are different opinions about separating the magazine from the membership and the reduction in fees, but we are trying to find the best way to serve all members. We aren't yet sure how many prefer the hardcopy versus electronic version of the magazine or who values early registration and discounts for future NVE events.

Some regional presidents suggested that lowering membership fees could help them grow their local groups. We are currently gathering data and will consider other changes to better fit the majority's needs.

Just so you know, each region receives \$75 per member who joins through the national VOA, leaving only \$24 for operating expenses from the Standard membership fee. The financial committee, which I am part of, remains committed to cutting all unnecessary costs.

If you're not a VOA member yet, please consider joining to strengthen our numbers. We are doing our best to make the VOA as strong and successful as the MCVO.

Many 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.

For any membership questions, feel free to contact our President and Membership Director, Marty Heitkamp.

Questions or comments, please contact me directly.

Mike Sutton clubadvisor@mcvo.net

586-782-2225

UPCOMING MCVO EVENTS ~ 2026 ~

As you read through this edition of Snake Bites, which focuses on the many events of 2025 – we wanted to spark your interest right away with the upcoming events already planned for 2026. Remember to watch for club emails with details, locations, and registration dates.

April 16 th		Cruise Night
April 18 th		Spring Tech Day
May 2 nd	NEW	Ilmor Marine Tour
May 16 th	NEW	Meadowbrook Tour & Cruise
May 17 th		Spring Luncheon – Joy Manor
May 20 th		Cruise Night
May 28-30 th		Tail of the Dragon
June 7 th		Vipers at MIS (Part 1) in Brooklyn
June 12-13 th		EOI - Bay Harbor Car & Boat Show
June 13 th	NEW	Meijer Garden Tours
June 17 th		Cruise Night
June 25-28 th		St. Ignace Car Show / Weekend Event
July 15 th		Cruise Night
July 18 th		BBQ Smokeout, Annual Event
July 19 th		Viper Laps at MIS (Part 2)
July 25 th		Mopar's at the Red Barn
August 12 th		EOI - Kennonball Run
August 13 th		Woodward Thursday Night Dinner
August 15 th		Woodward Saturday Event
August 19 th		Cruise Night
August 29 th		Visit to the Lutz Farm

Cruise Nights

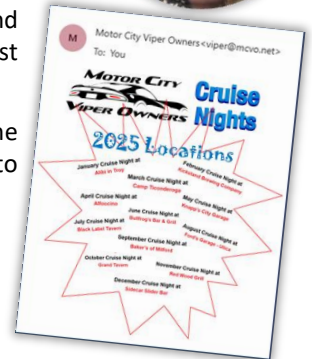
3rd Wednesday every month, watch for the email announcements for location !

By Susan Andring-Sutton, Cruise Night Coordinator

If you haven't had the chance to join one of MCVO's monthly cruise nights, I encourage you to do so !! They are lots of fun - you can visit with members, check out their cars (in the warmer months) and enjoy great food and always, lots of laughter. Check out the pictures in this newsletter from last year's cruise nights – everyone is smiling !

Every month I try to find a new location – or one we have not been to recently – and arrange the event. If anyone has an idea for a location – please let me know. Some of the things I need to consider when booking an event: is there good parking for the Vipers; is there an area in the restaurant where we can be seated together; and the final part is getting separate checks. If you have a location that fits the bill – let's give it a try. Look at all the places we were last year !

Cruise nights are every month, the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm. Be sure to watch for the email announcement which will provide location and time and always confirm on the calendar !



February 2025 ~ Cruise Night @ Kickstand Brewing

By Susan Andring-Sutton

Winter-time cruise nights are just as fun as summer night events – but no Vipers in the parking lot, just good friends laughing and eating and maybe having a beverage or two. The Kickstand Brewery in Commerce Twp was a bit of a ride for some of us, but the food and craft beers were wonderful.



19 Attendees

MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 Events

February 2025 ~ Winter Party @ Total Sports

By Elaine Heitkamp

For the second year in a row, the MCVO Winter Party was held at the Total Sports Complex in Harrison Twp, with 35 members in attendance. As always, our dinner buffet and dessert were outstanding. Everyone enjoyed their "table toys" and our annual Mini Viper Racing event.

Our group was divided into two sessions – while one group was winning prizes at the bingo (oh, I mean the VIPER) tables, the other group was honing their skills with axe throwing. Thanks to Elaine Heitkamp for the use of her Bingo cards, her excellent Viper-bingo calling, and the great idea for the Viper Brown-Bag prizes, where everyone was a winner ! Much fun was had at the axe-throwing cages – the hosts in the cages were excellent instructors and everyone got the hang of the game very quickly, and no one was injured. We finished up the evening with our 50/50 drawing. All in all, it was a wonderful evening of fun and games!



35 Attendees

Motorsports Report

We had some great events in 2025 – quite a few of the driving events occurred with other groups, and we had several MCVO tech events that were well attended. Hoping that more drivers will attend the driving events that will occur in 2026. The MIS event that several members participated in last year was great and we are looking forward to more Vipers at the event this year! Watch your emails – all details included. If you have questions, please give me a call or send an email. There are several motorsport articles here in the newsletter, so hope you enjoy reading about the 2025 events.



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) – Racing at VIR March 13-15th. 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.

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 Motorsport Event :

MCVO Spring Tech Day "2026" – Saturday, April 18th at Sterling Engines. Check your emails, the details are included for the location, directions and the registration link. Please sign-up so we know you are attending.

Cade and Jason have graciously agreed to host us with a tour, discussion, and Q&A about their operation. Recently they took over ownership of Sterling Engines and are bringing the company back to life. Already well established in the marine world, they are now adding more work in the auto world as well. Even on our beloved V-10's. It should be a very fun and informational day.

Coffee and donuts to start the morning, and after the event, we are planning to have lunch at a nearby restaurant (on your own). Hope you can join us.



MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 Motorsport Event

March ~ Bench Racing Event @ Lingenfelter's

By Paul McClorey

So, what is Bench Racing ?? It was the middle of winter, and the idea was just to get together with our MCVO car buddies and compare notes on what we've been doing or what is upcoming, all revolving around our cars. It didn't have to be "racing" per se, but simply car talk. Maybe somebody had been to a new track (or going to one soon), or maybe working on some awesome upgrades and can't wait to show off their ride in the Spring, or maybe someone else had found a great new driver education event that's upcoming, and so on.



For this year's event, we had 26 members in attendance at the Lingenfelter Collection in Brighton. MCVO was the only group in attendance, so to say the least – we had the place to ourselves. The cars were beautiful and we finished the evening with a pizza and salad buffet. MCVO also submitted a donation to the Lingenfelter Foundation. As usual, another great MCVO event.

Cruise Nights

Susan Andring-Sutton, Cruise Coordinator

3rd Wednesday every month, watch for the email announcements for location !
Got an idea for a location ?? – Let me know !

March ²⁰²⁵ Cruise Night @ Camp Ticonderoga

By Susan Andring

Our March cruise night was held at Camp Ticonderoga in Troy. We had 3 Vipers come out of hibernation for the event, and 18 members in attendance. Good food and great fun by all, and the chocolate chip cookies for desert were great.

18
Attendees



April ²⁰²⁵ Cruise Night @ Alfoccino's in Auburn Hills

By Susan Andring

26
Attendees



Our April cruise night brought out a few more Vipers on a cool but beautiful spring evening. We had 9 Vipers and 26 members enjoyed a great Italian meal at Alfoccino Ristorante on Opdyke Road in Auburn Hills.

Another great cruise evening spent with Viper friends !!



MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 Motorsport Event

April 2025 ~ Spring Tech Day @ Paul McClorey's

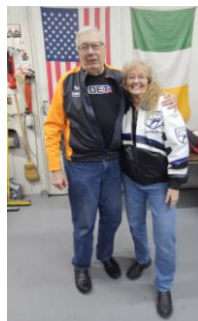
By Lori Emerling

21
Attendees



Our 2025 Spring Tech Day was held at the home (garage) of Paul McClorey, our Motorsports director. Paul and his wife, Allison, hosted a great and informative event for the 21 attendees.

We started the event with coffee, donuts, and lively conversations. Paul then presented valuable information related to preparing your Viper for the upcoming track season. We also had a great tour of his garage and vehicles.



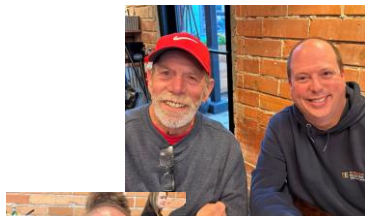
MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 Events

May 2025 ~ Cruise Night @ Knapp's Garage in New Baltimore

By Susan Andring

One of our favorite east side locations ! I am sure that it was a grand time with the 12 MCVO members who were in attendance !!

19 1/2
Attendees



June 2025 ~ Cruise Night @ Bullfrog's in Ortonville

By Susan Andring

We had a smaller group for June's cruise night in Ortonville. Lots of MCVO friends getting ready to go to the NVE6 in Pittsburg – so maybe they were all figuring out how to pack everything into their Vipers. There was an expected storm rolling in, so we only had one Viper in attendance ! However, the company is ALWAYS great, along with the great food, drink and laughter !



11
Attendees



July 2025 ~ Movie Night @ Emagine Theater in Royal Oak

By Susan Andring

21 club members had a fun date night with a private viewing of the exciting F1 movie at Emagine Theater in Royal Oak. Many thanks to [Tony Smith](#) for arranging the event ! A great time was had by all!

21
Attendees



Spring Brunch 2025 @ The Gazebo

By Susan Andring-Sutton & Elaine Heitkamp

78
Attendees

The 2025 MCVO Spring Brunch at was another great success. On May 18th, we had 79 members signed up for the event at The Gazebo in Warren. The food is always great at this venue. The skies were cloudy and grey but not a single raindrop fell. It's always terrific catching up with our Viper family at the first big event of the year. I saw nothing but smiles and laughter all afternoon. I personally feel like I didn't have a chance to say hello to everyone.

After enjoying a wonderful buffet, the members received an update on the state of the club by President Marty Heitkamp. Treasurer John Huszti reported on the sound financial status of the club and Club Advisor Mike Sutton gave an update on the upcoming NVE 6 to be held in Pittsburgh. We were also provided the great line-up of summer and fall activities.

Elaine Heitkamp put together some fantastic raffle baskets, and we had beautiful hanging flower baskets for the centerpieces, as you can see in the photos. We also had an amazing group of silent auction items this year. Afterwards, the table prizes and silent auction items were awarded to the lucky winners and then we pulled the winning tickets for the 50/50 winners. It was a lovely afternoon gathering of our Viper family. As usual, it was great seeing everyone.



Many thanks to Susan for the fantastic photos !



Spring Brunch 2025 ~ Raffle Baskets & Joyce Allen Award

Many thanks to Elaine Heitkamp for the beautiful and well-received raffle baskets.
We were all amazed at how cool they were and so excited to be a lucky winner !!!



The Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award

Joyce Allen was a founding member of MCVO, which was formed in May of 1994. She championed the idea of having a charter club back in 1993 and served as one of the early club presidents. Not long after, she was diagnosed with cancer and sadly passed away. The Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award was first proposed to the MCVO board by Liz Livermore in 1998. The Board wholeheartedly approved Liz's proposal. The Joyce Allen Award was initiated in honor of Joyce's work in getting the chapter started and for her love and enthusiasm for the Viper!

The first award was given in 1999, based on the member who demonstrated an outstanding degree of enthusiasm during the previous year. Mike & Diane Cipponeri received the first award.

In the intervening years, a wide variety of members have been awarded the Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award. It has become exactly what Liz had hoped, a sincere thank you and a way for the club to honor the recipient's hard work, commitment and dedication to the club, its members and the car.



At this year's Spring Brunch, the club presented the 2025 Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award to two deserving members, Wil Thorne and Dick Winkles.

Spring Brunch 2025 ~ Viper Friends & Their Cars



National Viper Event 6 in Pittsburgh, PA

By Lori Emerling

35 +
Attendees

What an event ! While trying to put together information for this article, I found enough pictures and interesting facts, that I could have probably compiled a newsletter for just NVE6 itself.

This was the first time in "a long time" that Sandy and I had participated in a National Event. The fact this one was so close to Detroit made it an easy decision; plus, many friends from MCVO and from other parts of the country were going to be in attendance – we knew we could not miss this one. About a dozen MCVO members arrived early to the event and assisted with final set-up and the registration process. Lots of work, but we got to meet everyone who arrived.



Sunday was early registration and on-your-own for dinner, so all the different regions were catching up with their members and checking out all the nearby restaurants.

Monday started the busy week with folks heading to the PittRace track to check it out, and then getting ready for our Spirit of Viper dinner at the Steelers Stadium. Most all the Vipers proceeded in a caravan to the stadium and the view of all of our beautiful cars parked in front of the stadium was amazing. Upon arrival, we were taken on a behind the scenes tour of the stadium and lockers rooms.



Tuesday and Wednesday – participants either spent the day at the track or on one of several cruise events – Fallingwater or the Flight 93 Memorial, or explored downtown Pittsburgh, like to the National Aviary or Zoo.

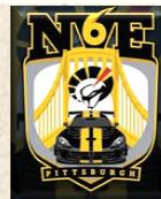
Thursday again saw many at the track, especially in the morning for the Parade lap with all the Vipers. All vehicles were lined up on the track for group photos and overhead drone shots, before lapping the track several times.

Later that evening was the final dinner with great food, lots of laughs, awards and a crazy auction where the auctioneer actually bid against himself once or twice ! Friday morning saw the car show in the parking lot, with an award given to a special Viper to honor Roy Sjöberg, called the School Bell award. After that, everyone was on their way home ! Like I said, ... what an event !!



What was there to do at NVE6 in Pittsburgh ??

Cruise to Flight 93 Memorial
Lots of Fun & Friends
VIPERS !
Car Show & Roy Sjöberg School Bell Award
Cruise to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater



Tour of Pittsburgh Steelers Stadium

VIPERS !

VIPERS !
Spirit of Viper Events
Parade Laps at PittRace,
Raffle Drawings
Grand Finale Dinner
Vendor Sales
Track Events Daily



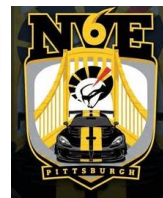
NVE 6 Activities – Flight 93 National Memorial

By Marty Heitkamp

A common field one day. A field of honor forever.



One of the side trips during NVE6 was to the 9/11 Flight 93 memorial. The walkway to the crash site overlook traces the final path that the plane took during the last moments of its flight. Inside the building, each of the 40 passengers and crew on the flight has a section memorializing their life. Outside on the grounds is Tower of Voices containing 40 unique wind chimes for each of the people as well. It is a very somber place to visit.

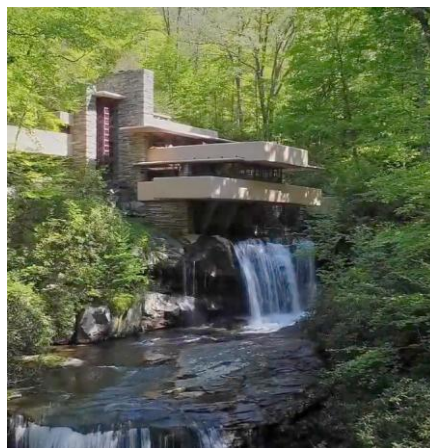


NVE 6 Activities – Fallingwater

By Lori Emerling

Another one of the great side trips during NVE6 was a cruise to Fallingwater, a house designed in 1935 by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was built for the Kaufmann family, owners of Pittsburgh's largest department store at the time. The house was designed to rise above the waterfall over which it is built. It was used as their vacation retreat during the Kaufmann's lifetimes, and in 1962 was donated and entrusted to the Western PA Conservancy, which opened it as a museum for public tours. In 2019, Fallingwater was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The tour was amazing and everyone had a great time – it was a little hot that day - high 90's - so we were all beat by the end of the day.



NVE6 Track Event – PittRace®

By Mike Sutton

During NVE6, we had a total of 353 entries sign up over the three days at PittRace! Who says we can't take our Vipers on the track? This proves track times can be fun for all!

The Driver's Meetings each day were presented by Mike Sutton, who was also in-charge of the track schedule and pacing each group in their allotted times. There were many compliments on the condition and layout of this track. It truly offered the drivers many changes in elevation and hidden corners as well as long enough straight aways to get some good speed - definitely designed for a car like the Viper.

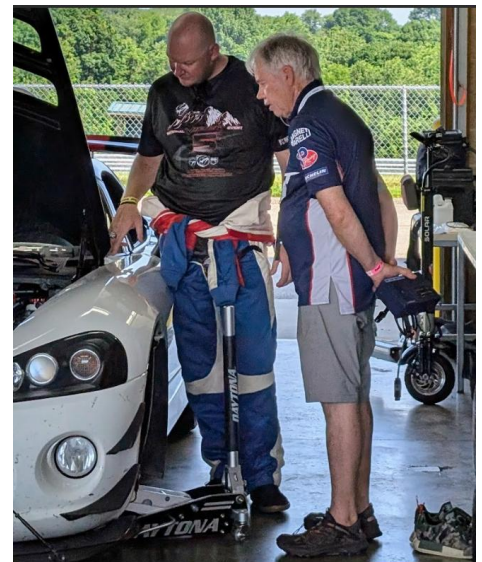
There were very few incidents, a couple of people left the track surface and one Viper had serious damage. Fortunately, the owner had track insurance and after getting some TLC at a local hospital, was back with us in time for the finale dinner. Even though we had a few interruptions from Mother Nature, there was plenty of track time available for those who stayed for all of their sessions

On Thursday, all Vipers were invited for the parade lap and group photos. It was a beautiful morning and the photos that were taken by many different groups were amazing. I wish we could show more of them here.

Our President, Marty, wanted to schedule another track day at this location in the future. Unfortunately, PittRace is no longer a racetrack. The owners sold the entire property to a "data farm."



	Parade	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Viper Racing League
Tuesday	27	33	33	13	15
Wednesday	15	29	37	16	15
Thursday	28	19	49	7	17



2025 National Event ~ More Track Pics & Fun Stuff



the Sjoberg "boys"

Since I had a fuel pump problem at NVE6, I will be packing a Wil Thorne in my Viper's trunk for all future trips ... ☺ Charlie Brown



Cruise Nights

3rd Wednesday every month, watch for the email announcements for location !

July 2025 ~ Black Label Tavern in Shelby Twp.

By Susan Andring

We had a great turn-out for the July 16th cruise night at the Black Label Tavern in Shelby Township. We had 26 in attendance, but only five Vipers as big storms earlier in the day kept most of the Vipers nestled at home. We also had a crazy cake to help celebrate Lori's 70th birthday with her Viper family.

Our Viper family is the family we chose for ourselves !!



26 Attendees



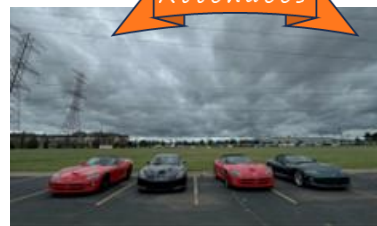
August 2025 ~ Ford's Garage in Utica

By Susan Andring

August 20th was our Cruise Night Dinner with the Viper family.....and the first picture is the reason why only 4 Vipers showed up. Those clouds were ominous ! We still had 17 members in attendance.

MCVO was the first group booked at this new Ford's Garage location in Utica. Good service and good food.

17 Attendees

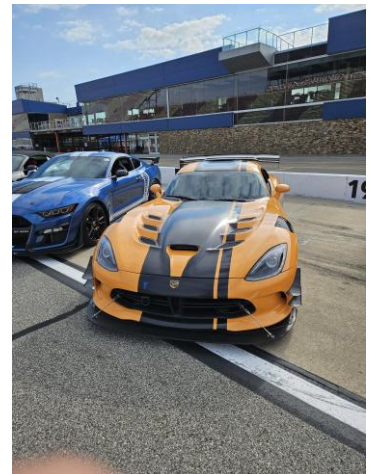


EOI ~ Firekeepers 400 & Track Laps Event @ MIS

4
Attendees

This unique EOI (Event of Interest) was offered to MCVO and other car clubs in Michigan last spring. The Michigan International Speedway (MIS) hosted the event that covered two days of fabulous MIS events. The first day included two grandstand tickets (per car) to the NASCAR Firekeepers 400 race on June 8th, and the second day consisted of a lapping day for your vehicle on the speedway track, scheduled for July 19th.

Four MCVO members (Marty Heitkamp, Mike Sutton, Chuck Lawrence and Mike Prudhomme) and their Vipers caravanned to MIS of the morning of June 8th to watch the race and also be part of a car display during the race. Special parking during the Firekeepers 400 race was in the car corral with other car clubs. The vehicles were available for race fan viewing all day. No other vehicles were allowed in the corral, and there was good security so they could leave the Vipers while off to watch the NASCAR racing.



MIS 2025 ~

By Marty Heitkamp



Marty Heitkamp
June 8, 2025 · 📍

4 Vipers at MIS this year. We need to flood this place next year.

MCVO was asked if we wanted to attend the NASCAR race at MIS and on a separate day return for some controlled pace laps on the track. Four MCVO members took advantage of the offer and we all had a great time. We parked right off the back straight in the Fan-Zone where race attendees could walk by and ogle our cars. Needless to say, we were a big hit.

On the lapping day we went back and did at least 20 laps on the banked tri-oval. It was quite an experience. Because our cars were such a hit, we've been invited back !

*Let's get a lot more Vipers for the 2026 event.
Watch for the registration email !!*



"Great day hanging with great friends down at MIS. Was honored to be on display for all the NASCAR fans to check us out today!!! We were definitely fan favorites. Fun times— with Marty Heitkamp, Mike Prudhomme, and Mike Sutton." ... Chuck Lawrence on FB



GingerMan Events ~ July 28th and September 27th

By Marty Heitkamp

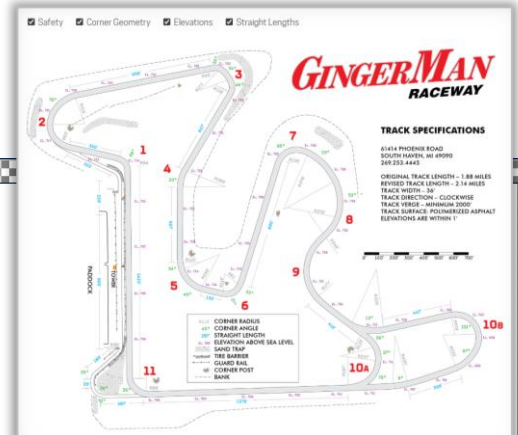
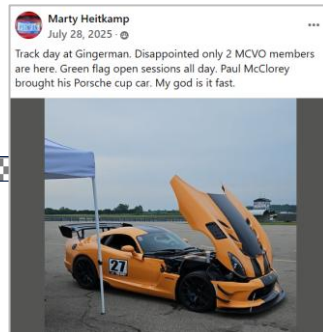
2
Attendees

In 2025, I attended two track-day events at GingerMan Raceway in South Haven, Michigan. One of them, our MCVO motorsports director Paul McClorey was there with his fully built Porsche race car, and it was fast!

GingerMan is a great track for a novice, as well as experienced track rats. It is a very safe but challenging track where you can explore the limits of both your Viper and yourself. Unless you've actually been on a track it is hard to explain the feeling you get piloting these cars at speed in a controlled (relatively speaking) environment. It may sound cliché ... but I really feel alive pushing to the limits.

If you're interested in going to the track, this is a good site to see what's available in our area: trackilicious.com.

For the GingerMan schedule go here: gingermanraceway.com. Hope to see you at the track!



Original Track Length: 1.88 miles
Extended Track Length: 2.14 miles

Number of Corners: 11

Track Width: 36'

Possible Track Configuration: 4 (including counter-clockwise configurations)

GingerMan Raceway is a private road-racing course situated on a 350-acre site.

The track simulates a country road but in a controlled environment without the risks of pedestrians and oncoming traffic. The GingerMan has also eliminated hazards such as ditches, utility poles, trees and other objects. GingerMan is considered to be among the safest road courses in the nation.

The course layout (see track specifications) simulates the full spectrum of driving situations: high speed straights and short sprints, long sweeping corners and tight apexes, heavy and light braking, and elevation change.

The original track is 1.88 miles long. Corner 10 was extended in 2010 to add dynamic elevation change on a naturally rolling landscape. This extended the length of the back-straight to more than 1,700'.

The track layout was developed by Alan Wilson of Motorsports Development, Denver, Colorado and Dan Schnitta, to take advantage of the natural terrain. Track grading and paving was done by Klett Construction Company, a local firm, using special polymerized asphalt material formulated to stand up to the stresses of racing and Michigan winters.

Credit: GingerMan Track information from their website, gingermanraceway.com

July 26th 2025 ~ Annual Smokeout BBQ in Cohoctah

By Lori Emerling

Our annual "Smokeout" at the home of Paul & Alison McClorey was another great event of the summer. After meeting at Colasanti's Market in Milford, we caravanned to the farm in Cohoctah. For those who have not participated in this event, the smokehouse on their property produces some of the most flavorful and delicious meats. Along with other sides and ice cream treats for dessert, no one went hungry.



Watch your emails for this year's event – we may even have something special added to the day ...



August 13th 2025 ~ Kennonball Run / Team Viper Cruise

By Ken Nowak / Lori Emerling

Every August, MCVO & Team Viper member, Ken Nowak has hosted a cruise for the Team Viper alumni through the Irish Hills area. In 2025, Viper was the featured marque at M1 Concourse, and many VOA members were coming to Detroit to experience the Woodward Dream Cruise. Ken opened his event to MCVO members and those VOA guests that were part of the M1 event – adding at least 20 more vehicles to his cruise, fondly known as the annual KENNONBALL RUN. Not sure how many cars we had, but we did have 78 participants !

The tour started at the Chelsea Proving Grounds with a gathering of vehicles and friends, where everyone received their lunch wrist-band and a detailed rally-style route book. Bob Lutz and his wife joined us for the day, and we also sang happy birthday to Sandy Emerling. The blacktop roads were selected for scenic beauty, low to moderate traffic, and that elusive "fun-to-drive" factor. After one rest stop, the group continued on to the Beach Bar

Restaurant in Clark Lake, where we enjoyed a pizza variety buffet, salad, croissant sandwiches, soups and soft drinks. The restaurant had great parking, a lakefront view, and an ice cream shop on the beach across the street. What's not to love? After lunch, the tour headed east on US-12 for a relaxing Irish Hills drive back towards Woodward Avenue and the Dream Cruise. Thanks, Ken !!



Woodward Dream Cruise 2025

By John Huszti

130 +
Attendees

Every summer, all over Michigan, the aroma of fresh cut grass, sweet-scented flowers and backyard barbeques fill the air. But in the metro Detroit area, we also have the smell of gasoline and burnt rubber. From early spring until late fall, the streets of metro Detroit are filled with the sounds of roaring engines, squealing tires and loud music. This is after all, the Motor City.

Along with being the birthplace of the American automotive industry, Detroit is also known worldwide for having the largest North American one-day automotive event, the Woodward Dream Cruise. Cruising Woodward Avenue became popular long before most of us can even remember. But for many of us, probably just kids at the time, our first memories of cruising most likely began sometime in the 1960s. The era that brought us factory muscle cars. Fast and powerful, any color you can think of, coupes or convertibles, stick shift or automatic; these cars dominated the streets until the early 1970s when oil and gas shortages changed the automotive history and brought with it the death of the American muscle car. Roughly twenty years later, Chrysler delivered us another raw, powerful automobile, unlike no other – the Dodge Viper. Also conceived and built in Detroit - the Motor City.

Every year in August, the Motor City Viper Owners carry on the cruising tradition by participating in the Woodward Dream Cruise. Although the official cruise is designated as the 3rd Saturday in August, activity on Woodward Avenue increases immensely at least two weeks prior. On Thursday evening, two days before the big event, MCVO hosts the Dream Cruise Dinner. Held outside in the parking lot of a Bloomfield Township office building on Woodward Avenue, this wonderful dinner and Viper gathering is open to all MCVO members & their guests.



This year we had a spectacular attendance of about 130 dinner guests, including a few VOA members from all over the country. Vipers filled the parking lot. Mother nature was good to us and the weather held out, bringing us sun and warmth. No rain whatsoever. Hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh salads and vegetables, along with all the necessary condiments and snacks, were provided by Cass Catering. They did an awesome job, and everyone without a doubt had plenty to eat. Our specialty dessert, courtesy of Treat Dreams, including "Viper" inspired ice cream and sorbet, was a big hit with everyone. No one left disappointed, no one left hungry that evening. It was a lovely evening of meeting new friends and visiting with old ones.

Of course, the hit of the night were the ~ VIPERS! VIPERS! VIPERS!



August 24th 2025 ~ Woodward Saturday

By John Huszti

60 +
Attendees

Dream Cruise Saturday brought back a lot of the same members from Thursday and some that we haven't seen in a while. A few non-MCVO Viper owners joined us as well. Overall, the 2025 Woodward Dream Cruise was a success for the Motor City Viper Owners. Family, friends, food and Vipers. A good time was had by everyone. See you in 2026!



MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 Events

October 4th 2025 ~ Fall Color Cruise to Irish Hills & Beach Bar

By Susan Andring-Sutton



21
Attendees

On Saturday, October 4th, MCVO members traveled through the Irish Hills of Michigan for a relaxing fall color cruise. The cruise began at the Chelsea Proving Grounds on M-52, just south of I-94 at exit 159. Everyone made sure their fuel tanks were full, as we readied ourselves for an 80-mile cruise through some scenic backroads on beautiful tree-lined paved roads. After a short stop at a rest area, we continued on to Clark Lake for lunch at the Beach Bar on the shore of the lake, for a nice lunch (on our own) and appetizers provided by the club's event subsidy.

Following lunch, several members were going to check out the Oktoberfest celebration in Grass Lake - others made their way home at their leisure. Another great MCVO day with friends and Vipers.

October 25th 2025 ~ Fall Tech Day @ Ilmor Engineering & Lunch

By Sandy Emerling

The Fall Tech Day this year was held at Ilmor Engineering in Plymouth, MI. Many thanks to our Motorsport Director, Paul McClorey, for setting up this event. We were treated to an interesting presentation regarding the design, development, and manufacturing of high-performance race engines for Formula 1 and IndyCar. Ilmor also design engines for the marine industry – so watch for a Spring Tech at that location.

After the great tour, the attendees drove to the Sidecar Slider Bar in Plymouth for lunch (on our own).



Eric Lew

Great fall tech day. Very cool to learn about the company and what important part they are to Indy and NASCAR racing.



Bob Rollin

This was a fantastic event! Thanks to everyone that made this possible.

a few comments from our MCVO Facebook page:



Dan Lewkowicz

Where was this and what was the occasion Lens On Photography?



Marty Heitkamp

Dan Lewkowicz MCVO tech day at Ilmore Engineering. ...

22w Like Reply Edited



Dan Lewkowicz

Awesome ...



Susan Andring

Great pics!

editor's note: Thanks to Ben at "Lens on Photography" for capturing these beautiful images as we made our way into the Ilmor parking area.



Lens On Photography



Ohio State Reformatory Tour in Mansfield, OH September 26th - 28th 2025

By Brandy & Paul LaPlant

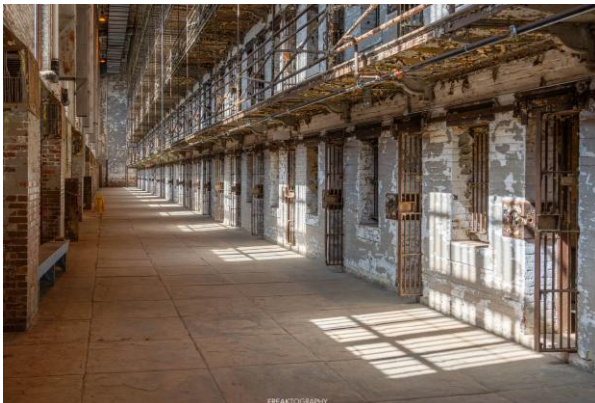
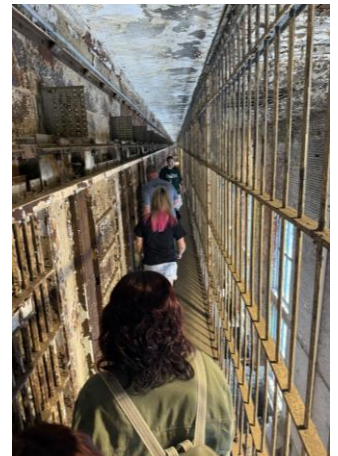
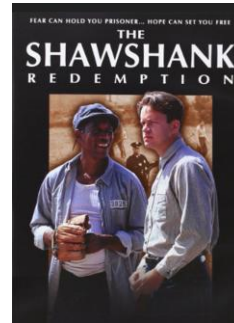
Our MCVO weekend event centered around touring the historic Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. There, we discovered what happens when history, Hollywood, and the paranormal converge in one famous, unforgettable place. 14 MCVO members, and 7 Ohio guests were in attendance for this great weekend event.

Our weekend started on Friday with the group meeting at Rancho Fiesta for dinner before heading to Exithis Escape Room, where the girls were triumphant over the boys in escaping their rooms.

Saturday, we explored what Mansfield had to offer. We started the day at Ohio's premier blueberry plantation, The Blueberry Patch, where we ate lunch and perused their wine selection, gift shop, bakery, coffee and tea bar. We then experienced an authentic pub atmosphere with some quality craft beer on the patio of the Phoenix Brewing Company which is housed in the restored 110-year-old Schroer Funeral Home and Mortuary. Afterwards, we took a walk through Mansfield's historic Carrousel District to Richland Carrousel Park where we released our inner children with an exhilarating ride on the hand-carved indoor wooden carousel. Later that night, we experienced fine dining and delicious cocktails at Hudson & Essex, which was built in the 1920's to serve as a Hudson and Essex automobile dealership.

We finished the weekend on Sunday, with a private tour of the infamous Ohio State Reformatory. We marveled at the gothic architecture, learned about what prisoners endured there, were told ghost stories and explored the filming locations of The Shawshank Redemption.

21
Attendees



September ²⁰²⁵ Cruise Night @ Baker's in Milford

12
Attendees

By Susan Andring

Since Mike and I did not attend this cruise night, we do not have a report or any pictures. I am sure that it was a grand time with the 12 MCVO members who were in attendance !!

October ²⁰²⁵ Cruise Night @ Grand Tavern in Rochester

By Susan Andring

17
Attendees

October's Cruise night at Grand Tavern in Rochester Hills. The chicken strip appetizer was so good. Only 3 lonely little Vipers. Disappointing as the weather was perfect Viper temperature. We had 17 members in attendance !



November ²⁰²⁵ Cruise Night @ Red Wood Grill in Waterford

By Susan Andring

25
Attendees

Great turnout for our Wednesday cruise night with the Viper family! Bob Swartz recommended this restaurant way the heck on the other side of town! Only 3 lonely Vipers came out to party even though the roads were dry!!!!



October 2025 ~ Fall Viper Gathering in Elkhart

By Lori Emerling

Watch for the MCVO notice for the 2026 event – it is usually the 3rd weekend in October, and lots of fun.

9 Attendees

On October 25th, MCVO was once again invited to the annual Ray Swears annual Viper Gathering in Elkhart, Indiana. Ray's annual event has been attended by numerous MCVO members for the last 5 or 6 years, and always a fun event. This year's event was previously scheduled for the 18th, but the weather was predicted to be terrible. Moving the event a weekend later, unfortunately conflicted with the MCVO Fall Tech day back near Detroit, so only 9 MCVO members were in attendance.

We were told there were 51 Vipers, 2 Viper Trucks, and 1 Viper Cobra this year – along with many other beautiful vehicles. As everyone arrives, they check out all the cars and meet up with friends they have met over the years. Ray has a great collection of his own Vipers and other vehicles on site, so looking at those plus checking out all the attendee's cars, kept everyone busy until lunch – which was provided for all attendees, and delicious !



Photo credits from
FB Posting of Gordon Mock



Every year, Ray has invited members of Team Viper to attend and participate in a discussion panel on Viper. This year, Ken Nowak, John Donato and Dick Winkles were the featured speakers. As usual, everyone asked lots of great questions and learned more about Viper history. After a great discussion, many cars participated in the "Color Tour" around Elkhart and then returned for door prices and closing.

Many thanks to Ray and his team for putting on this great event and including MCVO again. Ray loves sharing the event with everyone who attends by taking pictures of owners with their vehicles and creating a special memento – which you pick up at next year's event! The circular items on display behind the Team Viper guys are the 2024 treasures ... custom clocks with guests standing in front of their Viper. Thanks to Ken for bringing back the unique clocks from the 2024 event for those of us who were not in attendance this year.



December 6th, 2025 ~ MCVO Christmas Party @ Joy Manor

By Elaine Heitkamp

72
Attendees

On December 6, our annual Christmas Party was held at Joy Manor in Westland. 72 members and their guests enjoyed a lovely buffet dinner, music, gifts, and prizes for everyone. The hit of the evening was an appearance by two special visitors. Thank You to Santa (Mike Sutton) and his Elf (Marty Heitkamp). As always, Santa had his bag of goodies, and his Elf helped pass them out. The snapping of pictures being taken of guests on Santa's lap rounded out a wonderful evening celebrating the season!



MCVO "Year in Review" ~ 2025 CHRISTMAS PARTY PICS



Editor's Note ~ Additional Event Snippets

As you can tell by the many articles in this newsletter, MCVO has a very busy club in terms of sponsored activities and events of interest. Very early in the year, the board compiles a "calendar of events" of activities - some are events that we repeat each year, plus we also review many activities which can be added. As we get into the first few months of the year, there are always things being added through communication with our members and/or other VOA clubs. Our calendar gets busy.

Most all of the MCVO club sponsored activities have a monetary subsidy which either covers a member's registration fee or significantly reduces the fees. This has been the goal of our club for many years. Club sponsored activities have an organizer who takes care of the many details, such as times, location, monetary amounts, plus getting information together for the club's emails. The events of interest (EOI) are activities in which the club participates but has no direct involvement of running the activity or funding it. Many times, there is still a coordinator for the event – making sure we get notifications to club members.

As a recap, we had just over 50 events available in 2025 !! Some sponsored events, some events of interest, some with only a few attendees, a couple EOI's with no attendees, and many events with lots of attendees. For example: 12 monthly cruise nights, over 10 cars / coffee events & car shows, over 10 motorsport and tech days, and over 16 social & driving events ... WOW !!

That being said – if anyone attends an event and takes pictures and/or can provide a short write up, please let me know.

These items below (from 2025) had members attend, but no information for me to share, with exception of the couple pictures.



RIP – MCVO Members

In Memory of Roy Sjöberg – March 30th, 2025



A Personal Farewell from Diane Cipponeri

I never knew Roy Sjöberg as an executive, a boss, a VIP or an employee. I only knew him as a friend. And what a friend he was to me. We became friends in 1989 ... of course, on the Viper Project. He treated me as if I was his daughter. God knows I'm a lot older than Sara! We visited and stayed with each other while in Indian River and down here at our home. Roy and Peg would spend nights with us and us with them also. Roy, up until recently, would still call my husband, Mike, and ask his opinion on something or ask how to fix a problem on his or somebody's Viper. We always looked forward to his calls, his e-mails and his visits.



Many in the Viper world know me by my special name that Roy bestowed upon me. He always referred to me as "Mother Viper." That's because he saw my enthusiasm for the car and Team Viper. I wasn't asked to, but I surprised him and made a huge cake for Team Viper's first open house at the "Viper Pit" in May of 1990. It had a hand drawn (and I am definitely not an artist) frosting Viper on the top! He was known for always having special events for the team to attend, and he truly appreciated such a small gesture so much, hence the name I was given. He never forgot and neither will I.



I miss him already, knowing now that he is not here anymore. I know he is in a much better place and I know I will see him again. So, until that day my friend, Rest-in-Peace with our Lord!

Sending you hugs and kisses just like you always did to me! Love, Di

In Memory of Harry Lewis



One of MCVO's founding members, Harry Lewis passed away on July 3rd, 2025. Harry spent most of his distinguished career at Chrysler in the manufacturing finance area and plant controller at numerous assembly plants, including the high-tech Huntsville Electronics in Alabama. He traveled the globe studying best-practices of leading manufacturers in Europe and Asia for implementation in the US. The systems and strategies he implemented remain part of modern automotive manufacturing and management to this day. Owning and selling 3 Vipers over the years, Harry was a proud member of MCVO, where he shared his lifelong enthusiasm for auto design, performance, and the Chrysler legacy with fellow car lovers and friends.

In Memory of Liz Livermore



Long time MCVO member, Liz Livermore passed away peacefully in the early morning of Monday, July 7th, 2025, after suffering a long illness. Doug and Liz were Charter Members of the MCVO and Liz served as one of the early board members of our Club. She was instrumental in initiating many of the events, like the Spring Brunch, that we still enjoy today as MCVO members. Doug and Liz remained active in the Club and national Viper events through the years until her illness slowed her down over five years ago. Among many of Liz's MCVO accomplishments, Liz was the driving force and championed the creation of the MCVO's annual Joyce Allen Award. While Doug remains active in the MCVO, Liz will be sorely missed.

In Memory of Bob Dixon



Long time MCVO member, Bob Dixon, passed away suddenly on October 12th, 2025. Bob and his wife Janis lived in Windsor, but they rarely missed many of the MCVO events across the bridge. He was the devoted business owner of Dixon Tool Co Ltd. for 49 years, and an avid antique car enthusiast. He was a proud member of the Viper Club, the Ford Retractable Club, supporter of the Shaker's Car Club, and long-time pit crew for his son Brad at Erie Rambler's Motorcycle Club. RIP, Bob.

In Memory of Rick Jakacki



Long time MCVO member, Rick Jakacki passed away suddenly on October 12th, 2025. Rick was a beloved member of MCVO and was a great fun-loving addition to any MCVO event he attended. Rick spent several years as our Cruise Night director and organized many great locations for our monthly gatherings. Rick worked at Ford Motor Company as an engineer in Advanced Product Development. Outside his career and volunteer work at the Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit, Rick enjoyed everything related to cars. He took pride in still owning his first car that he and his father restored (a '68 Camaro convertible), his '56 Ford pick-up he purchased when starting his career at Ford (so he could meet the company requirement of driving a Ford, albeit not a current model) and of course, his beautiful Viper that he loved to drive. As Susan Andring stated, "Rick was one of the kindest people – he will be sorely missed by all that knew him."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~ Upcoming 2026 Events

May 16th ~ NEW ... Meadow Brook Tour, Cruise & Lunch

Organizer: Jon Block

There would be no Dodge nor Dodge Viper if it were not for the engineering and business genius of John Dodge, along with his brother Horace. When John died of Influenza in 1920, his wife Matilda became the wealthiest woman in North America. \$127,000,000 might not sound like a lot today, but in the 1920's, it was enormous. Matilda eventually met and married a Michigan lumber baron, Alfred Wilson. They built a comfortable house for their family way out in the country, thus the 88,000 square foot Meadow Brook Hall was created. Funded by John Dodge, and created by Matilda and Alfred.

Our MCVO event starts by parking our Vipers in the Courtyard of Meadow Brook Hall, and then a tour through this amazing piece of architecture, the 4th largest manor house in the USA. Our tour guide will also tell us more about John Dodge, who originally bought the 1500 acres, including the land for the campus of Oakland University, and built himself a modest house and then a golf course for him and his friends to play. There is a lot more to the story, so you'll just have to attend!



From our tour of Meadow Brook Hall, we will take a scenic drive north through the country to Metamora, to have lunch at the White Horse Inn, the oldest restaurant in Michigan. Built in 1848, it was originally run by Lorenzo Hoard as the "Hoard House." Rooms there cost 50 cents a night to rent. The building served as a central resting stop for travelers on stagecoach and train, where they could get a hot meal and rest for an evening before continuing their journey. The now renovated interior is astounding, with life size horses painted on the wall by the French artist who painted the interiors of the stables at the Palace of Versailles, and the wood floor pattern of a life size walnut tree sliced down the middle. And their food is damn good as well!

The cost of the event is a \$15 charge for the Dodge / Meadow Brook Hall tour, and lunch is on your own at the White Horse Inn.

Please register via the email link – Registration DEADLINE is April 24th.

June 25-28th ~ RETURN to the St. Ignace Car Show Weekend

Organizer: Mike Cipponeri

It's been a while since MCVO has been to St. Ignace and this is the perfect time to go back since it is the **50th Anniversary of the St Ignace Car show**. Our event will be from **Thursday, June 25 to Sunday, June 28**. Our plan is to caravan up together on June 25 with a few entertaining stops along the way. If you cannot go north on Thursday, you can always join when you can.



We would like the MCVO to have a good showing, so if you are interested in going ... **please do two things right now:**

1. For more info and to Pre-register your car (\$25 fee) with St Ignace, please go to this link:

<https://visitorsbureau.regfox.com/50th-annual-car-show-weekend-2026>

If you pre-register before June 12, you will receive a special 50th Anniversary gift.

2. Please sign up with the MCVO by going to this link: <https://mcvo.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c13aa309e7a0cc55634f5fec&id=8919335358&e=3dc3192b31>

There will be a cost of \$50 per person to cover MCVO expenses.



More information to follow regarding lodging and other details. Our plan right now is to stay together either in Indian River or somewhere in the Upper Peninsula.

Please register ASAP so the team can get all plans together.



UPCOMING MCVO EVENTS - Mark your Calendars

April 15 th	Cruise Night
April 18 th	Spring Tech Day
May 2 nd	NEW Ilmor Marine Tour
May 14 th	EOI - Stahl's Rock-In Roll Cruise Night
May 16 th	NEW Meadowbrook Hall Tour, Cruise & Lunch
May 17 th	Annual Spring Luncheon – Joy Manor
May 20 th	Cruise Night
May 28-30 th	Tail of the Dragon in TN
June 7 th	EOI - Vipers at MIS (Part 1) in Brooklyn
June 12-13 th	EOI - Bay Harbor Car & Boat Show
June 13 th	NEW Meijer Garden Tours
June 17 th	Cruise Night
June 18-21	NEW Snakes on the Mountain in PA
June 25-28 th	RETURN St. Ignace Car Show Weekend Event
July 15 th	Cruise Night
July 18 th	BBQ Smokeout
July 18 th	EOI - Viper Laps at MIS (Part 2) in Brooklyn
July 19 th	High Octane Cars & Coffee
July 25 th	Mopar's at the Red Barn
August 12 th	EOI - Kennonball Run
August 13 th	Woodward Thursday Night Dinner
August 15 th	Woodward Saturday Event
August 19 th	Cruise Night
August 29 th	Visit to the Lutz Farm



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 !!

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 !!

Questions regarding an event ?

Please send an email to :

viper@mcvo.net or president@mcvo.net

Watch for Club e-mails for
Details of all Events !



Many of these upcoming events have already had emails sent to the membership with details.

As we noted before, PLEASE register as soon as possible so the planning team can create the best event possible.



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for
Volume 30

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MCVO's Woodward Thursday
August 14th, 2025