

Snake Bites

Volume 21 Issue 2

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Winter Party

Cruise Nights

Viper Outreach

Autorama

Cruise for a Cause

Prefix-Arrow Racing Engine

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NVE2 NOLA

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Auto Show

Feather Bowling

JD Karting

Tech Day for Snakes

Winter Spring 2016



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Well, it's summer and we can go full blast again! The club's membership is slightly higher than it was at the same time last year. I want to encourage all of you to welcome our new members – if you see a new face at one of our

events, please go up to them and help them get into the flow of things.

This year's MCVO club calendar contains a full range of fun events. If you didn't receive a copy of the actual paper calendar at the Spring Brunch, one will be mailed directly to you. Remember that the status of our events is constantly changing and evolving, so please check the club website www.MCVO.net and watch your e-mail for the latest information. Our first several events of the year (Feather Bowling, Arrow Engineering, JD Karting, and Spring Brunch) have been well attended. Your Board has been hard at work to keep the mix of events interesting and diverse. You will see several new events, more driving events, and of course many of our favorite traditional ones.

Now that we have the by-law amendments behind us we are working to get the by-laws and related documents posted on our club website so they can be accessed by any member. In addition, we are in the process of creating a link on the website so that club members can upload to the cloud pictures taken at club events. We'll use some of those photos for our calendar, website page and the Snake Bites newsletter. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Finally, I'd like to announce a change on our Board of Directors. John Began has resigned as Membership Director for personal reasons. We want to thank John for his efforts over the past couple of years. The new Membership Director is Bob White. Bob has held this position before and we are pleased that he will be contributing his enthusiastic talents to the job again.

Bruce Heckman

Finally, sports car weather has arrived!

While the snow was melting, my wonderful husband, Gary, changed all the fluids in my car, thank you kind sir. I am impressed at the commitment so many of you have to Viper.



The fluids alone were in the \$200 range. If done at a dealer it would of cost, by our guess, as much or more than a necessary repair on most daily cars. Tires will cost more than most of us paid for our very first car.

We've replaced a water pump and after weeks of bizarre behavior, found an O2 sensor was bad. I can only guess what the labor charge would of been on this. Many of you are not climbing under your car, rather dropping it off at the dealer or a shop and paying full cost for these things. That raises the cost of maintaining the Gen 1 to the total of the first two cars we bought way back when.

At what point does owning a Viper become a devotion? After you pay for the first repair or maintenance bill! We do love our cars, they transport us from just driving, from crummy moods, from the grind of daily responsibilities, to a torque jolting, deafening roar, heat belching, gas guzzling rocket ship of pleasure.

Your BOD has created some "never been done before" events for members. Branching out a bit with other clubs and trying out different venues for familiar activities. We would of liked to add more but there's little available time in our short driving season. Begrudgingly we left some weekend time for family and other summer interests.

You may notice some cell phone photos inside buildings are not the best. I'd love to have some of your beautiful photos to publish if they were taken using an actual camera. It makes a huge difference.



Lead Editor-

Ann Rappaport

Calendar Of Events

June

- 11 CEMA Walter P. Chrysler Museum, Auburn Hills, Mi.
- 15 Cruise Night
- 18 Snakes Unites Great Lakes Cobra Club & MCVO
- 24 Conner Avenue Assembly Plant Tour, Detroit

July

- 6 MCVO club meeting
- 7 M1 Car Show
- 11 JNAP Plant Tour, Detroit Mi.
- 20 Cruise Night
- 30 Mopar at Gilmore Auto Museum

August

- 4 MCVO club meeting
- 16 Pasteiner's Auto Zone Hobbies w/Cobra Club, Birmingham
- 18 MCVO Viper Night at Woodward Dream Cruise
- 20 Woodward Cruise Reserved Parking, Birmingham Masonic Temple

September

- 1 MCVO club meeting
- 18 MCVO Chelsea Autocross
- 21 Cruise Night
- 24 MCVO at Stahl's Auto Museum

October

- 1-2 MI/IL/IN VOA Three-way
- 6 MCVO club meeting
- 19 Cruise Night
- 23 Past Tense Cider Mill & Frankenmuth

During the driving season we often have more events than shown here, please check the website calendar for the latest information. Please note: details for club events are emailed to members.

Club Board Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month. Please check the website for time and locations. Everyone is welcome.

Motor City Viper Owners

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 311, Bloomfield Hills , MI. 48303

Email: viper@mcvo.net

Officers:

President - Bruce Heckman

Vice President - Sam Milana

Treasurer - Tim Sutherland

Secretary - John Wright

Directors:

Membership - Bob White

Social & Apparel- Sandi White

Website - Zach Thompson

Club Advisor - Maureen Hackney

Social Media - Jason Pontello

Newsletter - Ann & Gary Rappaport

Motorsports - Dick Winkles, David Colletti Advertising is available in Snake Bites, please send a request for further information.

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“Cruise for a Cause - Honoring Veterans” is coming!
And MCVO is an exciting part of it

Bob Swartz

Mark your calendars: Thursday, July 21st, for the *Cruise for a Cause* to be held at the Central United Methodist Church in Waterford. **New this year** MCVO members have an opportunity to give back to the men and women who have served our country.



Cruise FOR A CAUSE

WITH *Veterans* AS OUR HONORED GUESTS

Benefitting the:
Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs & MS Society

July 21, 2016 from 4-8pm Come & Enjoy:

- *PARADE OF VETERANS & CARS
- *CRUISING --with nice parking by grassy berms
- *Door Prizes & Trophies like nowhere else!
- *Tastiest Cruise Food Anywhere
- *BEST DJ Ever! - TCD Entertainment
- *FREE Ice Cream - From 6:30 until it's gone!

**If rain chance is 50% or greater, or temp is above 89degrees, event will be delayed until July 28, 2016

Central United Methodist Church
3882 Highland Road (M-59), Waterford, MI 48328
Info: Bob Swartz (248) 666-3703 or racerbob@comcast.net
or <http://www.waterfordcumc.org/cruise.php>

Register at Front Table, Free Will Offering at Entrance
100% of Proceeds go to MS Society & Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs
Are you a Vet? Feel free to wear an "issue" shirt, hat, etc.



The evening starts with a pre-show cruise highlighting the Dodge Viper. I am asking MCVO members to drive an honored Veteran on a short 35 minute/20 mile cruise through the Waterford/Bloomfield lakes communities in your Viper. The route takes you through many lovely areas, some of which may come as a surprise in such populated suburbs.

Our MCVO cruise starts and finishes in the church lot. Please arrive by 4:30 so that Vipers and Veterans can be readied for the 5:00 departure. After the scenic cruise we will cue up for a mini parade through the church parking lot.

Regardless if you are volunteering your time and car or just coming to the show you will have a good time while supporting two worthy causes.

Further information can be found on the MCVO web site or MCVO Facebook page.

Early registration is most appreciated!

If you haven't already, email me directly at racerbob@comcast.net or call 248-666-3703 to be added to the list.
Thank you!

Motor City Viper Club T-shirts are available, dark Gray, short sleeve and very cool.

It features the club logo on the front in white and a full color Viper leaving its mark on the pavement on the back.

\$15 for M-XL

\$20 for XXL & XXXL

MCVO hats Black/Gray with white piping (one size fits all)
\$15 each

Mail checks or money orders to: Motor City Viper Owners, P.O. Box 311, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 48303 add \$5 for shipping



Rusty Bucket Cruise Night

Sandi White

On Wednesday, January 20th, 19 MCVO members braved the typically ugly Michigan weather to enjoy some good food and fellowship at the



on Woodward Avenue. All were happy to find out the newest happenings of their fellow members since the Christmas Party in early in December.



Cruise Night at The Masters

Sandi White

For our February Cruise Night we thought we'd try something a little different at a restaurant in Madison Heights. Since Ed & Elaine Swanson know the owners, they requested a private room for us. Some 23 of us started showing up at 6:30 for dinner. As usual, there was a lot of conversation as well as "car talk". We got to meet a new MCVO member and the current Conner Assembly Plant Manager, Chad Quick. He recently purchased a 2008 Viper and is excited about joining the Viper Nation. Chad's a great guy. He is looking forward to meeting all the members and you will enjoy "talking Viper" with him.





WINTER PARTY 2016

By: Maureen Hackney

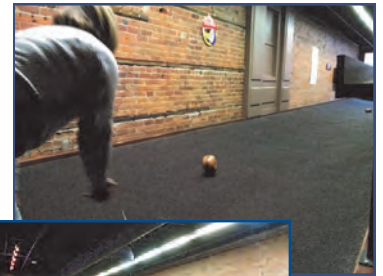
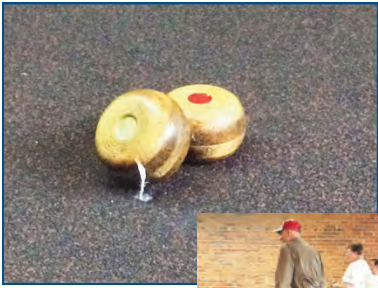
Our annual Winter Party was as lively and crazy as always with thirty nine in attendance. The evening started with fruit and cheese appetizers, followed by chicken piccata, beef tenderloin tips over noodles, veggies, potatoes, salad, rolls and desserts.

Following dinner the gaming began, we had black jack, horseracing, bingo, and new this year several trivia contests. Everyone was given tickets toward a great array of prizes including two way radios, code readers, TV, printer, camera, shredder, battery jump starters, wide screen monitor, charger sticks, portable phones, blue-ray music system, gift baskets and gift cards.

A special thank you goes to our dealers: Diane Hodel, Joanne Gray, Deb Spampinato and Jess Hackney. What would the evening be like without our awesome drink servers: Bill Hodel (in his latest apron), Tony Spampinato and the lovely Rhonda Wright serving up her specialty drinks!

Also thank you to Frank Berle and Bill Hodel for running our horse racing. We look forward to this event again next year.





FEATHER BOWLING

Sandi White

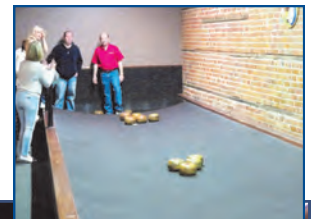
On Sunday, March 13th, twenty-three MCVO members met at Bath City Bistro in Mount Clemens at 5:30 p.m. We were “on the hunt” to find something new, different.....AND FUN! So, we went Feather Bowling. Yes, Feather Bowling!! It sounds strange but it’s actually a very old Belgian sport that has been brought back to life in Mount Clemens. Everyone who had tried it said that they had a blast. And it was the same for us.

We rented a Feather Bowling lane and enjoyed a Pizza Buffet while the first 2 teams played. When they were done the second 2 teams started playing. However, since we all pretty much sucked at the dynamics of the game, we took a lot longer than originally planned and finally had to quit playing because the Bistro closes early on Sundays.

We had a short “Sudden Death” round and came up with a winning team. Each member of the winning team received a \$25 gift card for their efforts. However, everyone commented that they’d like to get together again and see if we can do better. Maybe in the fall we’ll plan another event there.



Thanks to Rose for suggesting it, and to everyone who turned out!



Membership Outreach Program

Bob White

The membership experience for some is not a permanent thing. They buy a Viper and enjoy it for a while, and then for any number of reasons, they sell it and move on. That, as opposed to the more enthusiastic Viperholics among us, is a problem. Some years ago, Chrysler provided new Viper owners with a complimentary one year membership in the club. For MCVO the number of new members was about equal to the number of people who moved away, sold their car, or for whatever reason, dropped out. So for years our membership numbers remained relatively constant. When Viper production stopped at the end of the Gen 4s, the program stopped and was never restarted. The result, along with the loss of some members associated with the VCA break-up, has been a reduction in MCVO membership. We are becoming a club dominated by die-hard enthusiasts which is not all bad, but it does cause limitations financially and socially, and could hurt us in the future.

To keep our club healthy, we see the need to replace the number of members we lose annually. So we're starting an outreach program to capture new members and would like your help.

VIPERS AT THE LOCAL CAR SHOWS We have a few members that show their cars. If you're one of those, or just like to attend, we'd like to give you some promotional material to pass along to any Viper owners you encounter.

VIPERS YOU STUMBLE ACROSS The same is true for Vipers you find in the local restaurant parking lot. Leave them a promotional flyer and a business card.

PICK-UP PARTIES

Another piece of the program is a replacement for the KOOL program (those complimentary memberships) and addresses the purchase of new Vipers, as well as used Vipers sold through dealerships or other used car retailers.

One of the best days in a Viper owner's life is the day he or she takes possession of their Viper. Pick-Up Parties build on that excitement. Imagine arriving at the dealership to find a group of Viper owners waiting to celebrate the purchase with you. Glasses of non-alcoholic Champaign are raised and they are welcomed into the world of Viper ownership. Their car is the center of attention, proudly displayed in the showroom with a big bow on the roof. After they sign the obligatory paperwork, they're given a goody bag which includes information about the local club and how to join.

Sandi and I have done two of these and couldn't have had more fun. If you choose to help with this element of the program, I guarantee you a good time as well.

You'll need to be able to react quickly though. Often these events aren't confirmed until the last minute. We'll need enough volunteers so that we can have a reasonable size celebration when the dealer alerts us to a pick-up. We'd like to have at least five members at each occasion and are looking for twenty to thirty volunteers. You'll need to be prepared to react like firemen when the call goes out.

We don't expect to have many of these at the start of the program. Dealers are reluctant to do this until we establish a relationship with them.

SELLING YOUR VIPER?

Any MCVO member who is selling a Viper can help us capture a new member.

- If it's staying in the family, maybe all you need is the promotional information to pass along.
- If it's being sold to someone locally, you can call our Outreach Director and arrange for a Pick-Up Party.
- If it's being sold to someone out of state, just find out where they're from and we'll arrange to have the correct region information in the goodie bag we give them at their party. It won't help MCVO, but the VOA and the new region may benefit and hopefully they'll do the same for us someday.

If you're willing to help, just let me know (bobwhitesrv9a@att.net). I'll add you to the list of volunteers, include you when the email notification goes out about pick-up parties, and get some promotional flyers and business cards to you.



Autorama

Ann Rappaport

Autorama at Cobo Hall was as entertaining as ever. It's the chance for private car owners to show their cars in a professional setting to the public. MCVO has been invited in the past and members have participated. The real issue is getting a Viper to Cobo in February. Most of us don't have enclosed trailers and a truck.

In addition to the first floor show cars, vendors, air brush demos and food stations, there's a whole different show going on downstairs. It's a much more casual atmosphere with all kinds of "methods of conveyance" involving motors, tires and a lack of self-preservation on the owners behalf. A lawn mower, with a V8 or some other type of "death wish mod" was as memorable as the one that had a wood kitchen stool for a seat. There were lots of motorcycles, cars whose chrome isn't blinding and a 1940's retro girl contest.

Typically one branch of the service has a large display. This year it was a portable emergency medical unit. It was huge and can be sealed off from outside contamination. I think if you moved the medical equipment and gurneys outside you could fit 6 Vipers in it. One can't be too careful when it comes to keeping a Viper clean.



Back upstairs, there was a FCA Viper on display. Refer to the picture on the right for the car's details.

MCVO member Waseem Qureshi also had his car on display in the Detroit Area Modern Mopar area. Often this group of very enthusiastic owners is referred to as DAMM. There are a few Viper owners in addition to Hellcat, Charger, Jeep and Challenger (and many more) owners in it.

Keep them in mind as MCVO is looking to partner up with them for an event. If you'd like a car show which is less commercial than the International Car Show this defiantly fits the bill.

WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS Showcase

"The 2016 Dodge Viper ACR is a Brash Sledgehammer With a Magnificent Wing. If you get it, you get it." - Road & Track Magazine

2016 Dodge Viper ACR
 8.4L V-10 645HP
 Curb Weight - 3,374 lbs

The 2016 Dodge Viper ACR (American Club Racer) sets a new high-performance benchmark with more track records than any production car in the world, including world-famous Laguna Seca, Road Atlanta and Virginia International Raceway. With unique combination of Extreme Aero Package, Carbon Ceramic brakes, double-adjustable coil-over suspension, and street-legal track tires, the Viper ACR offers club racers the ultimate street-legal race car.

The new Viper ACR with Extreme Aero Package achieves nearly 1 ton of peak downforce through massive adjustable dual-element carbon fiber rear wing, rear carbon fiber diffuser, removable hood louvers, detachable front splitter extension and additional dive planes. Ultimate stopping performance is delivered through ACR-exclusive Carbon Ceramic 15-inch, two-piece rotors and Brembo® six-piston front calipers. The ACR features unique 10-setting, double-adjustable, coil-over Bilstein racing shocks with up to 3 inches of suspension height adjustment.

The massive Kumho® Ecsta V720 high-performance tires designed specifically for the 2016 Dodge Viper ACR, offers the ability to produce lap times that are 1.5 seconds faster than off-road only race tires. This combination of aero treatment, suspension and track-specific tires delivers sustainable 1.5 g cornering during high-speed turns.

Vehicle courtesy of Fiat Chrysler of America

MCVO extends a warm welcome

to our newest members:

Curtis Nienhuis - Holland

Rob Fisher - Oakland Township

Bob Drost - Boyne City

Chad Quick - Davisburg

Deron Rogers II - Detroit.

Steve Mariani - St. Clair Shores

Stanley Snyder - Midland

Michael Sutton - Warren

Craig Lorraine - Northville

Jeff Doolin III - Eastpointe

Carrabba's Cruise Night

Sandi White

On March 16th we decided to meet at another new location. This time we went Southwest. We met at the Carrabba's in Novi at Twelve Oaks Mall. 22 members gathered there at 6:30 for drinks, dinner and great conversation. A few members who don't normally show up for our cruise nights joined us. It was great to see them!

VENOMM in the Cruis'News puzzle section!





MCVO Prefix – Arrow Racing Engines Tour

Dick Winkles



Saturday April 9th started out like too many of our spring days lately with cold temperatures and light snow making for some early morning slippery driving. Definitely not a good day to be out in our favorite Snakes. But despite the weather, about 50 MCVO members got to hear their beloved V-10's running at full song at the Prefix-Arrow Racing Engines shop in Auburn Hills.

I started the tour/open house at 10:00AM with a brief history of Arrow. Arrow opened shop in 1982 and since 1991 has specialized in the Viper V-10 engine. Arrow also provides Engineering Services to SRT and Mopar today and is the only APCM (Approved Powertrain Control Modifier) in the Chrysler supplier chain.

Arrow was the official Viper Engine Warranty Center for Chrysler from 1992 through 2010. That changed in 2013 when Chrysler brought the V-10 back into the normal warranty system although Arrow still provides service and expertise to the Chrysler dealer network when they encounter an issue that goes beyond the typical dealership scope.

Kevin Bushon, Manager of Prefix Performance was also on hand and brought a bright green “Minotaur” 4X4 truck for display which Prefix builds from a RAM. Kevin talked about the capabilities of Prefix Performance and their concierge service for Viper owners – virtually anything the Viper owner could want done to their Snake is possible at Prefix Performance including custom body, paint, interior, engine/powertrain, suspension and brake work.



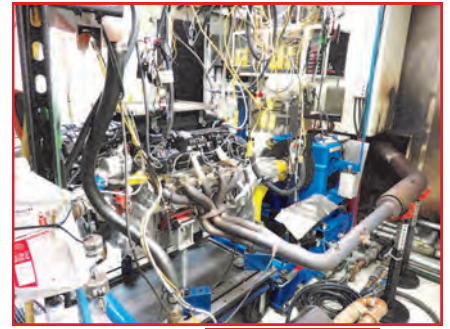
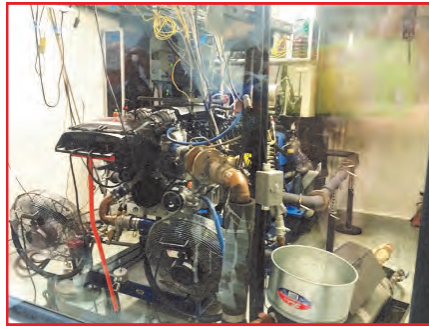
Todd Claucherty, a long time Arrow employee and Viper expert conducted informal tours of the Arrow shop including the Tear-Down and Inspection areas, Engine Build, Machine Shop, Cylinder Head Flow and Build and the Engine Dynos.

Two of the three Engine Dynos were on display running V-10 engines. Dyno Tech Charlie Castillo showcased a production 2016 8.4L V-10 in cell #3 on the normal audit test which Arrow runs for CAAP on every production engine before it is installed into a new Viper. The Audit test is 42 minutes in duration and measures peak torque at 5000 rpm at the end of the test to make sure every engine is within a +/- 2% window. If the engine is lower than -2% it is rejected. Each engine also gets a post-test inspection for leaks or any debris in the oiling system which could indicate a potential problem. The engine on display this day passed with flying colors as most do!

Dyno cell #2 showcased a modified 2016 8.4L V-10 customer “Stage II” engine. The modifications to the engine include a more aggressive camshaft, larger intake valves, fully ported cylinder heads, exhaust headers and high flow exhaust system and a modified calibration. These modifications bump the horsepower by about +100 hp and this engine did not disappoint screaming up to 6500 rpm and showing over 730 hp.

Once the Tour was finished, an informal question and answer session followed and the MCVO members then left for a lunch at the nearby Red Ox Tavern.





Post Prefix-Arrow

Racing Lunch

Ann Rappaport

Following the Arrow Racing tour most of the group met at The Red Ox which is adjacent to Oakland University. We filled the center of one of their dining rooms and I believe a few members dropped by who hadn't attended the tour. As usual it was a little (actually very) loud with all the conversation and laughter. The food arrived and sure enough the sound level dropped very quickly.



A Technical Snake Day

Bruce Heckman

On May 21st MCVO members joined members of the Great Lakes Cobra Club and the Michigan T-Bird Club for a Tech Day at the home of Bill Gill in Troy, MI. The 44 attendees were easily accommodated in the Bill's extensive garage and automotive playground. After some initial greetings and ogling of each other's cars, the members of the three car clubs were treated to a presentation by Dick Winkles on the evolution of the Viper engine. Dick brought out several interesting highlights and little known facts about how and why our beloved V-10's were developed and changed through the years. Dick further elaborated on the differences between carburetors and various types of fuel injection, and the advantages of each. He kept everything on a technical basis so that the non-Viper aficionados could put what he was saying in their own context and there was an active question and answer dialog throughout the presentation.

After Dick's presentation those in attendance continued to mix, expand on what they had learned, and admire the finer parts of the 24 exotic cars in the driveways and on the street – everything from a Daytona Coupe to several Cobras, a couple of Thunderbirds, every generation of Viper, and even two Corvettes. Mr. Gill was the perfect host with refreshments and a series of surprise giveaways. Everyone left with a warm feeling of having really learned things from a technical standpoint and making new friends with fellow car-people.



If you haven't yet joined our Motor City Viper Owners Facebook here are a couple of posts about an evening. It's a great way to keep up with the club events you can't attend or to share pictures for other members when you do!



Our May Cruise Night was at Bullfrogs in Ortonville. It's our usual haunt for May.

Detroit International Auto Show

Ann Rappaport

Our son, a non-car guy invited us to the International Auto Show at Cobo Hall this year. The kid is showing interest in cars, maybe he thinks there will be one or two passed onto him? Not likely, but we don't tell him this. As reported in the press it was very flashy, lots of lights, stages with new cars and tons of people. Even on the last day it was impressive and well worth attending.

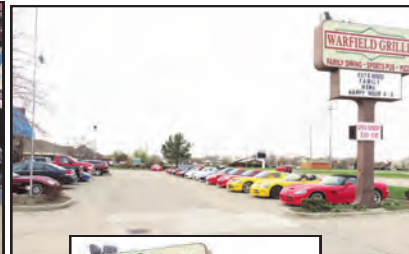


At the Fiat Chrysler Automobile display a Viper was spotlighted on a rotating platform. Standing near the onlookers and listening to what they were saying was interesting. Every single person that approached commented how beautiful it was or had this almost "in awe" reaction that they were standing in front of the holy grail of cars. For us it's no big deal, but many people in the crowd had only heard of a Viper, they had never looked inside or been close to one. The crowd was always 2-5 people deep and it was difficult to get a spot in the front row. We are very fortunate to be able to own, drive and enjoy these cars.



FCA also had a Viper "driving" experience, which let you drive on a virtual race track. This game was great fun! The steering was extremely touchy causing many if not most drivers to go off road. If you didn't make a sudden move the car stayed on the track fairly well. The car was set up as an automatic; sadly the manual transmission has become a lost art with most people. There was this funky way to go in reverse, tap the gas or brake if I remember, providing you stay on track reverse was not needed. This same "game" was at NVE2 in New Orleans at the NOLA Motorsports track as well. Sitting in the drivers seat there, out in the open, with the sounds of Vipers skidding, roaring and accelerating around the vari-

ous events made it a lot more realistic. This would be excellent to use during the off season!



APRIL CRUISE NIGHT

Sandi White

April 20th was our April Cruise Night. This month we went to the Warfield Grille in Fraser for our event. 27 of the faithful showed up for our monthly get together.

The adjacent golf course was a beautiful green already, however our perennial enemy the dandelion hadn't shown its ugly head yet.

New members Steve and Amanda Mariani attended as guests and joined the club soon after!

We all had a GREAT time.....as usual socializing.





THE LINGENFELTER COLLECTION SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Bob White

Saturday, April 23rd MCVO visited The Lingenfelter Collection in Brighton. It was their Spring Open House. The club members gathered at 10 am in front of the museum, along with at least 250 other car enthusiasts and waited somewhat patiently for the museum to open. The line to enter became exceedingly long, but moved relatively quickly.

Inside the 40,000 square foot space, we viewed 150 unique cars. The collection originally started out as five cars packed into a modest three car garage.....and has grown into a collection of more than 150 unique cars. Today, the collection holds a variety of Corvettes, muscle cars and exotics. Several vehicles in the collection are among the rarest automobiles in the world, including a Bugatti Veyron, an Enzo Ferrari, and a Lamborghini Reventon. The collection continues to evolve. They are continually searching for the latest and greatest rare exotics and superior muscle car editions.

Of course, all our club members really enjoyed this ostentatious display of horsepower. It's our "thing".....and we LOVE IT! If you haven't seen this collection, you need to. It's awesome.



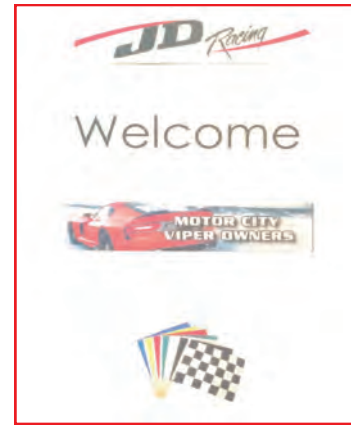
Waseem Qureshi has a new wrap on his car. It is subtle and takes advantage of the curves & lines of the Viper. It looks sharp and is a great design for his MotorCity Rally.





JD Karting Event

Dick Winkles



Following the tour at the Lingenfelter collection, 20 members plus a few spectators took the short drive to Buddy's Pizza in Novi for lunch and then around the corner to JD Karting for some indoor Go Kart Racing.

JD Karting features quiet electric karts that can reach speeds of up to 40 mph but best of all (for indoor karting), there are no fumes that can make you a drunk driver! The track measures almost a quarter of a mile and features a combination of fast-sweeping sections mixed with tight technical corners.



Our event was the "Mini-Grand Prix" and included a 10 lap qualifying session followed by a 14 lap race. With 20 drivers, we split into 3 groups for qualifying with the 10 fastest qualifiers going to the "Championship" race and the bottom 10 qualifiers running in the "Consolation" race. The qualifying action was tight with the top 5 drivers within 0.5 seconds of each other for lap times.

The Championship race featured a standing start (like Formula 1) and was later slowed in lap 10 by one fiery crash with numerous spins and mid-air flips... well, ok, how about by a couple of spins and a minor collision. At the checkered flag Jason Hallberg led wire to wire and took home top honors with Dan Frakes, Spencer Tripp, Dick Winkles and John Wright rounding out the top five in that order. After 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals were awarded each person was interviewed. Jason Pontello won the best prize of the day for his last place finish, the distinguished "Flat Tire" award (which may have been his plan all along - the winner didn't get anything)!

Everyone who participated enjoyed the event and would do it again! If you like Go-Karting and haven't tried electric karts you will be pleasantly surprised by the instant throttle response and torque. Something akin to a big V-10 engine that we all know and love!!



SPRING BRUNCH 2016

Maureen Hackney



Our annual Spring Brunch was held at the beautiful Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. Even though the weather was less than cooperative, we did have 76 in attendance several of whom drove their Vipers. Our goody bags were handed out at check-in and included many items generously donated by Dodge: the small back pack, insulated aluminum water bottle, key chains, bottle opener, toothpick holder and Dodge stickers. The club added collapsible water buckets (perfect for wiping down the car), new directories, club calendars, membership information and upcoming event information. Our apparel director Sandi White outdid herself with an apparel sale of our merchandise. Everyone had time to shop before and after the brunch and quickly grabbed up shirts, hats, jackets, shorts, socks and many other items.



Following a group picture outside, we enjoyed a wonderful brunch with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, waffles, eggs benedict, chicken cordon blue, fruit and pastries and of course everyone's favorite fruit cobbler. If you left hungry it was your own fault.



President Bruce Heckman introduced the current board members and asked Tim Sutherland to give us a brief overview of the financial state of the club. We also discussed our new by-laws changes and voted to accept them, which they were.



Each year we award the Joyce Allen/Member of the Year award to someone who goes above and beyond for the club. This year Sam Milana had the pleasure of presenting the award. Sam and Ted Gray put together an awesome slide presentation of pictures over the years of the winner. I had the great pleasure of receiving this prestigious award and needless to say I was overwhelmed and at a loss for words; especially when the background music was Jesse's Girl!



Bruce and Ted also put together a presentation of various Viper TV commercials which really turned out to be entertaining.



Bruce briefly went over some of our upcoming events and we were visited by Ralph and Doris Gilles who stopped in to say "hello".



Brunch wouldn't be complete without our raffle prizes and the coveted centerpieces. We had gifts such as a deluxe code reader, retractable cord and reel, ramp sets, racing jacks, oil less pancake compressors, jump start power packs, gift baskets and Amazon fire sticks with voice remote control. This year's center pieces were four beer mugs with our new club logo etched on them.



This event continues to be one of our largest attended events and kicks off our driving season. If you missed it, join us next year, it has to be sunny one of these years!





Bob Drost won his choice of a beautiful stain glass Snake.

Hand made and generously donated to MCVO by member Sam Milana



TEXAS INVADDED BY SNAKES!!

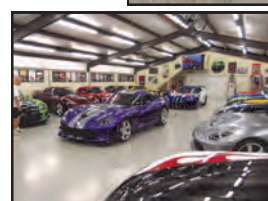
Rose Klutz

A few days prior to NVE2, several MCVO snakes ventured to Henderson, TX, for an overnight stay. The next day dozens of VOA members joined in for a tour of the Rauh car collection. The Rauhs were very hospitable and graciously showed us the part of the collection stored at their home. Gleaming snakes, parked side by side, made awesome pictures, not to mention a fabulous breathtaking adventure. Their blooming 'Yellow Rose of Texas' added to the beautiful landscaping.

Everyone grinned at the sign that stated 'Viper owners like all sports cars – they all taste like chicken'. The 'hors d'oeuvres' and beverages served between the cars was really a treat to behold.

It was hard to do, but Viper owners have the grit to do it, and 40 plus Vipers left the Rauhs' estate to snake over the local roadways to a place called Country Tavern where more comradery was exchanged - along with plentiful very cold liquids and 'fall off the bone' meaty ribs. And they were 'finger lickin' good!! Kudos to the Rauhs for a well-planned excursion and eatery selection.

The next day the Viper entourage of 50 plus snakes left the hotel to meet up with snakes from Louisiana and various other places to cruise into New Orleans for several days of relaxation and required partying.





NVE2 in the Big Easy

Ann Rappaport



NVE2 New Orleans was a busy fun filled extended weekend! MCVO had many members attending with some detouring to see D'Ann and Wayne's Viper collection in Texas. With almost 80% of the attendees bringing their cars, Vipers filled most of two floors in the parking garage. The weather was near perfect and for us Michiganders pretty warm!

Bob and Sandi White drove down in a U-Haul truck loaded with VOA merchandise. How many people do you know would leave their brand new ACR at home, so club members could buy a shirt, bag or jacket? To say thank you seems lacking, but it's all I have to offer, THANK YOU Sandi and Bob. I wish you could of been able to at least driven the U-Haul around the road course at the track, although it would of been more terrifying than thrilling I suspect.



VOA scheduled events so we had plenty of free time. In addition to the NOLA Motorsports Park and planned group tours, we had time to relax and explore the city. Other events included a dinner PARTY on the Mississippi River on the Creole Queen Paddleboat, a Plantation Home

Tour, a Mardi Gras dinner Party which included a tour of a warehouse filled with hundreds of floats, a scenic Gulf Coast dive and an Explore the French Quarter evening.



A special thank you to Marianne Peggie and Rick Jakacki for getting our whole group googlie glasses!

Track days were arranged very well so that you had little or no wait to drive. Cars cued up at the road course and after a driver's info session took off for 30 minutes of spirited laps. The autocross was popular as well, with a lot of squealing tires and smoke in the air.

Dodge brought a whole bunch of cars and drivers who were very happy to take you on endless rides drifting, autocrossing, drag racing or laps in an ACR on the road course. Many members commented that the ACR blew the doors off any other Viper on handling, cornering and overall performance.

The Go Karts were a gas! A long course with one challenging corner that caused many to lose time or go off the track. An afternoon course change lengthened the course and had less technical challenges.

The final night arrived and with it one lucky person would take home Voodoo II with its special Venzano NVE2 interior details donated by Tony Spampinato. Tony and Sam Milana donated to the VOA auction as well. Tony created a beautiful Viper theme leather purse while Sam gave one of his VOA logo stained glass pieces. Donations like these contribute to the financial health of the club. After dinner we watched the drawing which takes place in Ohio on a live feed. As the winning ticket was announced there was no mistaking the sound of 620+ hearts breaking as we realized we were going home without "our" car. In the end a rather stunned couple from Texas were the only ones left standing. I have to think they were pretty overwhelmed to realize Voodoo II was theirs!

NVE3 will be in Las Vegas. It isn't necessary to have your car as you can enjoy the events from one of the many empty passenger seats or get there in a rental. Do consider attending in 2018.





Sam & Angelika Milana's Gen-1 at CAAP



Viper water intrusion testing team ready to get to work!



Work being done on a rolls machine prior to installation



Photo Credits:
Gary & Ann Rappaport, Bob White, Bruce Heckman, Marc Rozman,
Frank Berle, Sam Milana, Jason Pontello, Joe Klutz, Maurice Liang