

Snake Bites

Cruise Nights

VOA TOD

CEMA Car Show

Lake St. Clair Tour

Snake Roundup

Vipers at Cadillac Products

JNAP Tour

Member Spot Light

Nurburgring

Mopars at the Red Barns

St. John's Concours

Viper 25th Anniversary

WDC Firehouse Subs

WDC Masonic Temple

Five Gens of Viper



Volume 22 Issue 3

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Summer 2017

President's Corner

The leaves are changing colors and the days are getting shorter as we reluctantly make preparations to put our seasonal sports cars away for the cold weather season. But, we had a full Summer with lots of events, smiling faces, and an ever-growing membership. It's exciting to belong to a club where the enthusiasm is so high – not only are our membership numbers up, but our membership participation percentage rate is the highest it has ever been for the Club.



We've had several successful large events since the last newsletter. The turnouts for our two Dream Cruise events were as large as they have ever been. Dodge's 25th Anniversary party for the Viper had a major MCVO contingent, despite a rocky start on the invitations. The new Put-in-Bay Historic Races event was an exciting time and will be repeated next year. Our Left Coast Tour offered tons of fun in an area of the State where we don't visit often enough. And, of course, our annual Autocross had lots of drivers smiling. Articles on these events will be following in the next edition of the newsletter.

And there's more to come this year. As this goes to press we are still working on the details for the Fall Color Tour and our big Winter Party. Remember to check the current event listing and Club Calendar on our website for the latest information on upcoming events. As always, your Board welcomes feedback on events and your suggestions for new ones. It's the energy that flows from our membership that helps us keep things fresh.

Also, please remember that when you attend our events you are a representative of our Club. As our events get larger and everyone's having a good time we need to remain appropriate with our fellow members, private property owners, sponsors and other people who are observing and interacting with us. Let's keep our image shining bright so that we'll be invited back!

Bruce Heckman



Editors Message

Hope everyone has had a peaceful and rewarding summer driving season. Our calendar of events is still full, although the driving activities will start to decrease. MCVO has been pretty fortunate so far with warm sunny days for almost all our outings. If we had a longer driving season it would be perfect!

Enjoy this edition of Snake Bites, let us know what you think.

Please send your photos and a description of where/what to:



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Calendar Of Events

October

18--Cruise Night

21-Fall Color Train Tour*

15- Lingenfelter Fall Open House*

22—Past Tense Cider Mill

November

2-MCVO Club Meeting

4-Fall Tech Day

15-Cruise Night

17- Stahls Open House*

18-Bocce Ball

December

3-Holiday Party

January 2018

4 - MCVO Club Meeting

17- Cruise Night

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.

* Event of Interest

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Friends & Food!

Marianne Peggi

It was a beautiful evening for our June cruise at 5th Tavern in Bloomfield Twp. With 18 Vipers in attendance, the designated parking and dining areas were greatly appreciated. This is a “repeat location” for the club, everyone seems to really enjoy it there!



Benefits of Membership!

Ann Rappaport

While waiting to go into 5th Tavern, Darrin Ledsinger the owner of a silver Gen 2 introduced himself and his daughter Breah. He explained he just purchased and drove his “new” Viper, two days before, from Chicago. While very pleased with his purchase he mentions how hot it is inside, the heat won’t shut off and it was already a hot day outside! Within minutes the guys swarmed the car, had the hood open and showed Darrin the problem and fixed it for him too. A few other quick tutorials about the care and keeping of a Viper and off to dinner! Darrin joined MCVO that night; he’s now part of a knowledgeable, fun and enthusiastic club and MCVO gained a really nice new member!



***MCVO extends a warm welcome
to these new members:***

Corneliu Polocoser - New Boston

Ray Butters - Farmington Hills

Damien Lo - Clarkston

Zachary Leroux - Clarkston

Steven Jost - Royal Oak

Bradley Khodadadeh - Bloomfield Hills

Sean Gavin - Troy

Lee Sjoberg - Upper St. Clair - PA

Jeff Morton - Bloomfield Hills

Tom Korican - Ann Arbor

Alex Good - Grand Rapids

Marco Zaccagnini - Clinton Township

Byron Scott - Rochester





Tail of the Dragon Ann Rappaport

Last June, Gary and I joined other MCVO members attending the VOA bucket list event, Tail of the Dragon. We arrived in Gatlinburg ready to enjoy the amazing roads. The host hotel was downtown which made for some congestion considering the size of our cars, but parking was secure and many of the dinners were within walking distance.

This area of our country is beautiful; roads that wind up and down mountains, small towns with unique shops, places to eat and even some local breweries. The Carolinas and Alabama/Tennessee VOA clubs hosted the event and kept everyone busy with a choice of locations and activities.

The Tail of the Dragon is an 11 mile stretch of US129 which snakes through the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina. It features 318 curves, of which many are switch backs. The road has few shoulders most of them serve as "pull offs" to allow the faster traffic behind, a chance to pass. It is not a road to take chances or act foolishly on. Crossing the yellow or white lines may very well earn you a ticket at the least and cause a serious accident at worse. While a Viper is designed for track use, it handles these challenges with ease, providing you respect the car and the road.

In addition to the Dragon there are dozens of other roads that offer sweeping corners, varied elevations and beautiful county side. The Cherohala Skyway, Moonshiner, Devils Triangle and the Blue Ridge Parkway to name just a few. There are many historical places to visit, parks, waterfalls, the city of Cherokee and Wheels Through Time museum.

Gary and I go to the TOD every fall in a smaller car. I've been wary of driving the Viper on these twisting roads. My concern was unfounded, the Viper handled like the performance car it is. Smooth cornering, always firmly planted on the road and more power than is needed. I found this out when I blew through a dark tunnel in 4th gear.

At the end of the weekend the Vipers gather for a double lane Viper parade down the middle of Gatlinburg with police escort. What a memorable end to a fun Viper weekend. If you haven't gone to the Tail of the Dragon or the endless amazing roads in the area, plan to attend the VOA bucket list event next year, you'll be glad you did.



Founding Member John Colone and myself earlier this summer.



Donations to MCVO

Ann Rappaport

If you attended the pre-Dream Cruise event at Firehouse Subs you might have taken home a piece of Viper memorabilia, some of which was vintage! Several people have made donations to MCVO in the past months. The Board of Directors wants to thank **John Colone**, a founding MCVO member and Chrysler Dodge dealership owner, for his generous donation of many vintage Viper and car memorabilia items. Thank you **Roy Sjoberg**, current MCVO member and head of the original Team Viper, for several copies of his original poster. Thank you also **Jeff Davenport**, Golling Chrysler Dodge Fiat dealership employee, for his large collection of magazines featuring Dodge Viper. And thank you **Frank Berle**, current MVCO member, for several Viper posters.

We will continue to use some of these donations at events as prizes for the attending members. The more unique donated items will be featured in one or more upcoming auctions at future MCVO events. We appreciate the generosity of those who want to benefit our Club.



CEMA 28th Annual Charity Car Show

Ann Rappaport

Every year the Chrysler Employee Motorsports Association (CEMA) puts on one of the best car shows in our area. This year's June 10th show was no exception. The theme was Convertibles in addition to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Viper and recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Prowler.

Many MCVO members along with other Viper owners lined up their snakes, making an impressive sight. As usual, attendees enjoyed cars of every make and model, in total 410 show vehicles filled the lots at FCA Tech Center in Auburn Hills. CEMA uses these shows to benefit local organizations. This year Leader Dogs for the Blind was presented with a healthy check at the clubs appreciation dinner in August.



LAKE ST. CLAIR CRUISE

Bruce Heckman

Club members got a chance to experience the northeast side of the metro area by joining the Great Lakes Cobra Club on their 4th Annual Cruise around Lake St. Clair on May 27th. Fifteen Vipers and twenty-seven MCVO members joined a like number of Cobra Club cars and members to start the day at Jeff and Sharon Grice's canal-front home in Harrison Township. New friendships were made over coffee, juice and a light breakfast buffet while the neighborhood kids got a kick out of the flashy cars on their street.



After a while we gathered together to caravan via 52 miles of backroads to the Dorsey House in Ruby, MI. Along the way was a 10 mile stretch of road that was tree and stream lined, twisty, and hilly - reminding us of our famous Wine Tour routes. At the Dorsey House we had a private second floor room where we were served a buffet lunch while looking out at visitors ogling the assembled cars in the parking lot.



After lunch we took another run through 31 miles of twisty roads along the St. Clair River to Marine City. There we invaded the Sweet Tooth store for fantastic ice cream! All the cars were parked along the river and gathered a small crowd of admirers. When everyone had finished our cones we took off for another 36 mile run along the river and the north side of Lake St. Clair to I-94 and our various destinations for the rest of the day.



The combination of friendly folks, terrific roads, great food and good weather made this event a big hit for all who attended. Thanks to the Grices for planning and organizing the trip.

SNAKE ROUNDUP

Bruce Heckman

At eight in the morning on June 10th, twenty Vipers and eighteen Cobras slithered into the Lingenfelter Cars and Coffee event in Wixom. It was the second annual Roundup between MCVO and the Great Lakes Cobra Club. Thanks to advance contacts by Ed Gatt, we had our own dedicated parking lot up front and enjoyed being the featured cars of the event. After a couple hours of enjoying the special autos and making new friends, we saddled up for a fun cruise to Hell, Michigan! The interesting route was laid out by Garry Tripp.



The combined snake convoy descended upon the central parking lot in the little village of Hell, making eyes pop on the tourists previously gathered there. As the gang stormed into the adjacent general store for ice cream we discovered that the owner was none other than John Colone, a founding member of MCVO! We all swapped stories, ate ice cream, shopped for Hell trinkets and took the five minute tour of the village. Now thirty-two members of MCVO can say they have been to Hell and back!

After ice cream the snakes hooked up again and chased each other a little over nine miles to Zuckey Lake Tavern for lunch. The Tavern staff had roped off a special section of the parking lot for the parade of reptiles. Members from both car clubs mingled over the buffet lunch, enjoying the events of the day. After lunch some groups sped off on private tours and others left to enjoy the rest of their Saturday in other ways.

With all the smiles in the crowd, we decided that we're going to make the Snake Roundup an annual event with our two clubs



Cadillac Products Safety Celebration

Gary Rappaport

On June 29th, MCVO was invited to a very special occasion. Cadillac Products is a local manufacturer of the Viper door watershield. They were celebrating a safety milestone - 4 years without a "lost day" incident. This means that in the last 4 years, working 2 shifts, none of their employees had a serious accident that required taking a day off!

MCVO was invited to bring our cars and show the employees how they helped make a Viper. We were asked to attend a 1st and 2nd shift ceremony, so that all employees could participate.

Our club has a nice showing, with a range of different generations. We had 6 cars at the 1pm and 5 cars at the 5pm event. There was a lot of joking and camaraderie over who had the best looking car between the employees and our attendees.

The employees (and our members) were treated with ice cream and slush's. Each employee was also given a Fitbit-like watch, to keep them physically motivated and track their progress.

The Plant Manager, Eric, along with all the employees thanked us for helping to make it a special and fun celebration, of their safety milestone.



The Moose Preserve

Sam Milana



On June 21st we gathered at a popular MCVO watering hole, on Woodward Ave. The Moose is a favorite location for dog lovers and we have plenty of those in our club. The walls are covered with over a 1000 pictures of customers' dogs. The weather was amazing and we had a tremendous turnout. Bill Golling decided to be a little different and showed up with his beautiful 1934 AirFlow.



Nurburgring

Ann Rappaport

The brand new stock 2017 ACR set an unofficial 7:03.45 lap time at Germany's famous track. Organized privately by Viper enthusiasts and paid for by crowdfunding, the Gen 5 was driven by Dominik Farnbacher. The cars which were chosen to make the trip were taken off the showroom floor at the Viper Exchange. Our pictures were taken by Dick Winkles who lent his technical skills and knowledge to the effort. Sadly unofficial doesn't make the mark we all were hoping to see.





If you attended the New Orleans NVE you know how much fun they are. If you didn't likely you heard about it! This NVE has some unique and different things planned.

Save the date: May 2-5 2018

Refer to your VOA emails for details. Registration begins Oct 1st

Also see: driveviper.com/nve3

If you can't drive to Las Vegas, for past events members have joined together and arranged to have their Vipers transported and then flown out. Also some are flying and leaving their car at home. While you won't have your baby to jump into, you can still participate in the many activities planned.

National Viper Event (NVE)

These gatherings are the VOA's signature event which converge VOA members from around the world! Held every two years (on even years) they serve as the largest Viper gathering anywhere on the globe. Different cities are chosen each time and provide a wide variety of activities including car cruises, track events, tours, dinners, car shows, auctions, shopping, vendor displays, free gifts, and more.

Members often ship/drive their cars long distances to participate with their Vipers! Planned as vacation style events, meant to encourage participation by the whole family. Aside from club activities, we plan strategic free time so you also have the opportunity to take advantage of the trip to explore the area on your own, spend time with family, and meet up with friends (and of course wash your car!).

So whether you're new to the club or are a veteran, everyone benefits from these massive gatherings. There's nothing like being surrounded by HUNDREDS of Vipers and the passionate people who own them! And if it's too far to bring your car, don't worry, you can attend without your Viper.



MOPARS at the RED BARNS part Deux Bob Swartz



It was good enough last year, that in spite of lousy rain all morning, that we had to do it again! And this time it was a PERFECT day.

The Good:

- We were pleasantly surprised finding Scott & Janine Kooienga already there waiting for us with spaces saved all together.
- Approx. 300+ MOPAR show cars, vendors (yeah, I bought some stuff).
- The mighty Gilmore Car Museum
- Really loved the caravan route along State and County country roads
- 9 Vipers on the field
- 10 members attended, plus 2 prospects that found us
- Steve Dreyer (of AutoForm) happened upon us and we had some great conversations with him
- The Sinclair Grill, proved to be a treasure: accommodating, friendly, great food, super Americana & outstanding photosetting
- Zach found a really nice alternate route so we can have interesting cruising and new sightseeing both coming and going.
- Good gosh, I had fun running this MCVO event! Thanks MCVO!



The Bad:

Having to wait till next year to do it again.

JNAP Tour

Sam Milana

For the third year in a row, MCVO members had the opportunity to tour the Jefferson North Assembly Plant. For most of the day on July 12th it was windy and rainy with severe thunderstorms throughout S.E. Michigan. Fortunately, this year we planned the event in the evening to accommodate



the second shift work force at JNAP and the MCVO members who couldn't make the past two events held during the day. By the time we gathered at 7pm, the skies had cleared and it was a beautiful evening in the city of Detroit.



The group was welcomed by the plant manager Zach Leroux, (one of our newest MCVO members) and UAW Local #7 President Reggie Griffin. Also attending his very first MCVO event was new member Stephen Jost with his friend Dan Tomlinson.

Don Badaczewski took advantage of living only a few miles from the plant, and attended with his friend Mitch Dombrowski. In total we had 22 members dine on chicken, breadsticks, salads, sub sandwiches, chips, and cookies.

Everybody was treated to a guided tour of the facility and asked to sign all three MCVO banners the plant had made for us. One will go to the plant manager, one will hang in the plant next to the 2015 and 2016 banner, and one will stay with MCVO.



Pre-Dream Cruise Event

Diane Cipponeri



In years past, MCVO held the club's Dream Cruise even at the Coffee Beanery and then at the Northwood Shopping Center, in conjunction with Dodge. Now that both locations are closed we had to find a new venue, not an easy thing to do if you want to be located on Woodward Avenue. To everyone's relief a spot was found and plans were made.

But less than two weeks before the event was to take place, we were notified the available parking spaces had been reduced. So again we were on the hunt for another location. All the Board members stepped up as it took some real team work to pull it off! After much anxiety (which Ann describes as panic) we were able to secure a new venue, Firehouse Subs, which took over the Coffee Beanery location!



Parking was plentiful for our treasured snakes. Many of us put chairs in front of our parked cars and watched the beautiful works of art go down Woodward. Among the many beautiful cars were homemade creations and versions of what owner's thought of as works of art! There was a hot dog car along with a camper made into a political bumper sticker mobile! Some of the cars had paint colors that even Crayola does not have! And of course as usual, lots of conversation and camaraderie with our MCVO members.

In attendance, we had 39 Vipers and 68 members come out to enjoy this very popular MCVO event. The Firehouse Subs proved to be a great host supplying us with a wide selection of subs, chips, salads, drinks and cookies for dessert to top it off. We raffled off many gifts including old Viper memorabilia, gas gift cards and other Viper treasures.

What a gorgeous day for the Dream Cruise event! We could not have asked for better weather! Put it on your calendar for next year. This is an event you don't want to miss. We all had a great time. Thanks again to Gary & Ann Rappaport. Without them this event would not have happened.





Woodward Dream Cruise

Sam Milana

The world's largest and most popular one day automotive event definitely lived up to its expectations. This year's Woodward Dream Cruise was MCVO's most attended ever. We had a total of 63 Vipers registered to be on display. Over 100 owners and guests participated in what turned out to be a gorgeous day at the Birmingham Masonic Temple.

This was our third consecutive year at this location and the best weather conditions as well. Word must be getting around about how much fun this event is because 13 of the 63 Vipers registered were from outside the state of Michigan. We also had plenty of MCVO members drive a great distance to attend. Scott and Janine from Dorr, just south of Grand Rapids, Frank and Kim Berle, from Traverse City, Steve and Sue Nelson from Ishpeming, Roy and Peg Sjoberg from Indian River, and Lee Sjoberg from Pennsylvania.



We had an apparel tent featuring MCVO wearables. Apparel Director Lori Emerling had planned to take orders for a few hours during the day, but there was so much demand she ended up taking orders all day with 45 items and counting, sold. The selections Lori has made for the club are outstanding both in quality and colors. We will continue to make them available as often as possible at events.

A real benefit of our location is the ease of parking and the ability to leave for a bit and then return. Throughout the day Vipers came and went at their leisure. We always had a spot available and a rotating selection of cars for the cruisers on Woodward to see. An on-site food truck and use of the Tem-

ples restrooms makes this a extremely comfortable location. If you haven't attended a Dream Cruise, I encourage you to join us next year,

We are looking towards having our event the Masonic Temple next year, although nothing on Woodward Avenue is a sure thing when it's the 3rd Saturday in August!



As our club grows we are delighted to meet new members and learn how they came to own their Viper. It usually ends up sounding a bit like a "falling in love with my spouse" story.

My Viper Acquisition

Damien Lo

Two events now stand out in my life:

1. Holding Julia's hand for the first time on a freezing cold morning in Germany.
2. Hitting the accelerator pedal instead of the brake pedal as I attempted to slowly back out of the driveway in my new Viper.



Both got the heart racing. In the weeks leading up to the delivery I think my girlfriend, Julia, was more excited than I was. For me it was a muted excitement combined with the disbelief that the dreams of a 10-year old me could become a reality. After getting more acquainted with my well-endowed V10 friend, I can say reality is better than my dreams. Where the optimist says: the glass is half full, and the pessimist half empty. The Viper owner would probably say the glass is overflowing, and I want another just like it!

I had my first Viper ride in a used Gen IV ACR Voodoo, when I met Bill P. at Woodhouse on a Saturday morning 6 years ago. That sound still resonates in my head if I lay very still in bed at night. Bill helped me order my Viper in that short window that reopened earlier this year. The options I selected through the 1 of 1 GTC program meant my Viper made it through production incredibly quickly. Bill and Mark at Woodhouse managed to get my car wrapped in Xpel and delivered to me for my vacation with Julia. I will be thanking them in person later this year. They definitely made it a more exciting for the young German lady accompanying me, it was her first time in the U.S., and in a Viper too.

"I didn't get the point of spending that much money on a car, until I sat down in it." - Julia.

We are a lucky few, us Viper owners. I think my hand was shaking for a good five minutes while at the Secretary of State waiting to



register it, I'd only driven 1.2 miles to get there. This is probably as close as I'll ever get to riding a dragon. A loud, fire breathing dragon, who doesn't care what anybody else thinks. The car drew attention everywhere we went that first night as I tried to get through the first 100 miles of break in. Parked right at the back of Walmart, a guy in an SUV drove up to compliment it, only to tell us he's buying a Z06. A pizza delivery boy wanted me to step on it at a set of lights, sorry kid, gotta keep it under 3500 RPM. The next morning we headed out for Chicago, but still needed another 40 miles before I'd reach the second break in phase. We made several stops, one for a car cover, two for fuel, and one for lunch. I imagined myself as a Hawk, ready to pounce, as three humans swung doors wide as they exited their silver GMC next

to my Viper.

"That was fun!"

...escaped her lips as I'd just floored the accelerator after going through a 5mph toll booth south of Chicago. We'd spent the late morning on highways varying gears when there was no traffic behind me, slowing down to minimum highway speed and accelerating back up to 70. When we finally got to Chicago late afternoon and reaching break-in phase 3, we hit the infamous traffic. I managed to stall the car while bumper to bumper, too much clutch and not enough gas. The lady behind me was not happy at all, the horn reminded me of the small repeated yelps of a Chihuahua. After finally firing up the engine, I made a nice big gap behind me. Four people cut in front of her, is it karma if I make it happen? I'm quite certain the Viper was not only the loudest thing on Michigan Avenue that afternoon, but also the shiniest.



"You just scared that little kid."



I startled a little kid when firing up the engine while leaving the parking lot of a Cheesecake Factory. After two nights in the Chicago area we aimed for Louisville, KY to see my friends. The suspension is surprisingly livable, in a Viper GT. I'm sure I could drive it daily, I'd love to drive it daily. There's something about always having more than enough torque to pass anything on the highway that gives this immensely gratifying feeling. A change of plans meant we had to get the car back to Detroit. We continued our trip with a rental car to the Tail of the Dragon and beyond. Over 1250 miles of city and highway driving I still managed close to 19MPG. I think I have a new best friend, he's a social drinker and prefers 93 on tap.

Duggans Cruise Night

Marianne Peggie

Duggan's – the epicenter for the Woodward Dream Cruise – was the site for the July **Viper** Cruise **Night**. It was a great turnout with 24 Vipers there. We had window seating with a great view of Woodward. Cold drinks and tasty food combined with friends old and new made for another enjoyable get-together.



*and
yellow!*





25th Anniversary Event Conner Avenue Assembly Plant (CAAP)

John Wright

FCA/Dodge's 25th Anniversary celebration was definitely one of my favorite days of Viper ownership in 13 years. I had about a 30 minute drive to the CAAP plant that morning and then was blown away at the long line of every imaginable Viper waiting to get in: year, color, aero, and wheels - so impressive!

After we got the cars parked there was a great set up of drinks and snacks, very nice goodie bag and plenty of Viper clothing items for purchase. There were appropriate speeches by Dodge and CAAP officials. Just importantly, I got to visit with many owners from out of town, Viper people are fantastic!

To me, THE highlight was the 200 Viper police escort convoy / parade from CAAP to M1. It is hard to put into words. I was 5th in line. Crazy! About 15-20 cop cars and motorcycles with full sirens blaring for 15 miles honoring our beloved snake. Hundreds and hundreds of cars stopped with folks taking pics. ALL traffic stopped, felt like a presidential motorcade on Eight Mile from Van Dyke to Woodward, then on Woodward from Eight Mile to M1 Concourse just north of South Boulevard. For perspective, this 15 mile police escort took an hour and a half!

Check out the VOA website, YouTube and Facebook for pics and videos. Cars sat in line for a long time outside M1 until everyone caught up and then we all rolled in like Rockstars, with police escort! The entire place stopped and watched and snapped pics.

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There was a great Dodge setup at M1 with CRAZY thrill rides in Hellcats and Vipers, along with a Demon dragstrip simulator. We had special Viper VIP parking and there were tons of other muscle cars everywhere. Live music, great food and live/legal 1/8 mile drag racing on Woodward was available for everyone. Wow, I've never seen burnouts by top fuel dragsters and 11,000 HP funny cars before, that was almost deafening and shook the ground and your whole body.



Thank you Dodge for a great event and the Viper Nation for showing up in force! Hope you all enjoyed the MOTOR CITY and home of Viper, especially if this was your first trip.



MCVO member Doris Tseng Gilles organized a brunch in Auburn Hills for Sunday. It was a enjoyable end to a bittersweet weekend. The location, *Club 81*, while normally closed on Sundays, opened its doors just for this event. The parking lot was full of colorful snakes and owners. A couple of "official photos" were taken, one of which shows just what good friends this car has created. Thank you Doris for your efforts!

Ann Rappaport



Viper and Ralph Gilles Honored at Concours d'Elegance

Bruce Heckman

The 2017 Concours d'Elegance of America at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan featured themes of Aerodynamic Coupes and Carroll Shelby Cars, including Vipers and Cobras.



On Sunday, July 30th, MCVO partnered with the Great Lakes Cobra Club to host a private parking corral with courtesy golf carts for attendees.

We met up beforehand, at a business near the event, which allowed us to enter and park together. In total there were twenty-five Vipers and fourteen Cobras.



Enthusiastic members toured the grounds, enjoying all kinds of automotive engineering and design magic. Automotive art was featured in a large tent and available for purchase.

Wayne Carini from the TV show *Chasing Cars* passed our group in a chaperoned golf cart. Not a surprise as there were endless cars from past eras on display, with many of the attendees dressed in equally nice apparel.



At noon, the Clubs convened in the Burger Loft of the Inn at St. John's, for a shared luncheon.



After lunch we watched the public presentation of Ralph Gilles as 2017 Enthusiast of the Year. Ralph and his wife Doris were all smiles as they interacted with the crowd.



The rest of the day was spent watching the Concours awards presentations and regaling the outstanding cars from all over the world.

Cover photo: our parking accommodations.



St John's Concours d'Elegance

Bob Swartz

It's easy to use all the superlatives in the dictionary when talking about this Concours, Vipers in general, and this MCVO event - actually, all those words of praise are well deserved.

But each time a member gets the privilege to display their "Super Car Viper" here or at the other prestigious car shows it's a real treat.

Mike Kelly got that opportunity for 2017 and he did us proud by his efforts.

"Spit polishing" that beautiful brute of his.

Making the extra trips to St. John's for all the preliminaries and getting up super early to be in place, on display, and ready for the admiring crowds at the opening bell.

Lucky for him that he had a seasoned, savvy "attendant" - - me



Add to that the 'Sea of Super Car Vipers' in the club parking area and you have the perfect mix for the perfect day it was for the perfect show.

I hope you were able to go to this festive and amazing event. It'll be a long winter before we can start planning another visit to the Concours deElegance at St. John's next summer.

5 Generations of Viper

Sam Milana

On Saturday July 29th we attended a Cars and Coffee event hosted by the Inn at St John's in Plymouth. It was a beautiful morning with well over 300 cars participating. After a few hours of looking at cars and chatting with other enthusiasts, we proceeded to the Grande Ballroom for a 5 Generations of Viper Discussion moderated by Dutch Mandel, Chief Editor and Publisher of Autoweek.



The panel consisted of: Roy Sjoberg ("Father Viper" Chief Engineer Generations 1-2), Herb Helbig (Vehicle Synthesis and Grailkeeper Generations 1-3), John Fernandez (Chief Engineer Generations 3-4), Dick Winkles (Powertrain generations 1-5), and Ralph Gilles (Head of Design, FCA Global Generations 4-5)

The discussions were both humorous and informative as the panelist told stories about achievements, challenges, and regrets. On display in the ballroom were 5 generations of Vipers, Gen 1 (Chris Theodore), Gen 2 (Sandy and Lori Emerling), Gen 3 (Ken Nowak), Gen 4 (Dick Winkles), and Gen 5 (Ted and Joanne Gray).

Roy Sjoberg created a special poster in honor of Robert Kane, one of the original Craftsman's on Team Viper who was killed in a car accident. Joe Gall sold the posters at the event, with many prominent Viper team members, on hand to sign them. Joe raised \$360 for MCVO and presented the check at the Board meeting held on August 3rd.



MCVO and Cobra Club Lake Saint Clair Tour

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