

A long line of Viper cars is parked along a wall covered in colorful graffiti. The cars are in various colors, including red, silver, blue, and black. The wall features a large red flame-like shape on the left and various abstract patterns and figures. The scene is outdoors, with trees and a building visible in the background.

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners

Publication

2017 Fall Issue

Put-In-Bay

Bocce Ball

Cruise Nights

Holiday Party

Left Coast Tour

Chelsea Autocross

New England Lobstah Roll

Past Tense Cider Mill & Frankenmuth

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There you are, the one who bought an expensive car that you to have to store for a majority of the months of the year! Sometimes it just doesn't make sense, does it? Well, fear not, MCVO has a range of events scheduled for you during the cold months that will make you happy you own a Viper. Be sure you check the Club Calendar on our website (mcvo.net) to be kept up to date on upcoming events.

Speaking of events, we want to remind you that your Board of Directors is always open to suggestions for new things for our club to do. In addition, we welcome your interest in volunteering to assist with events, or even serving on the Board. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the club membership - the other Board positions are appointed. If you've got the interest, expertise and/or energy, please contact a member of the Board to throw your hat into the ring. We encourage new blood to keep the club fresh and relevant.

The year of 2018 marks the beginning of having to get along without any corporate sponsorship from FCA. This puts us in the league with clubs for other famous, but no longer manufactured, cars like the Bricklin, Cobra, Pantera, and early Ford GT's, etc. It will challenge our resourcefulness and strain our sources of outside support, but we're starting the year with the highest membership numbers and enthusiasm we've had in years. Spend some of your downtime this winter thinking about the fun we can have this summer!



Bruce Heckman



Editors Message

In a few months we will be able to get our cars out of garages, rinse the dust off, vacuum the interior and go for a soul renewing drive. Just the thought of driving a Viper in the sunshine is nearly intoxicating at this point.

It's time to renew your MCVO membership. Please do so, we don't want to have an owner miss an event! The members spring brunch will be here soon and from there we'll be back into driving season. You own the car, continue to enjoy all a membership offers- day excursions, trips planned out for you (**priceless**), driving in a pack of Vipers, mechanical help and something which I hope is evident in the photos we publish- the friendships, many of which have lasted since when the car was first produced.

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



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Calendar Of Events

February

- 1-MCVO Club Meeting
- 21-Cruise Night
- 24-Winter Party

March

- 1-MCVO Club Meeting
- 21-Cruise Night

April

- 5-MCVO Club Meeting
- 18-Cruise Night
- 21-Indoor Karting

May

- 2-5 NVE 3 Las Vegas
- 16-Cruise Night
- 19-Spring Tech Day (CC)
- 20-Spring Brunch
- 26-Lake St. Clair Tour (CC)

June

- 7-MCVO Club Meeting
- 9-Lapeer Dragway
- 16-Snake Round Up (CC)
- 20-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 CC joint event w/Cobra Club



Motor City Viper Owners

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Cruise to Put-In-Bay for the Historic Road Race Reunion

Bob White



In the 1950's they would shut down many of the streets on South Bass Island and turn the village of Put-In-Bay Ohio over to the racers of that time. The last road race was held in 1963 and even though no one was hurt, a crash in the village that year raised too many concerns to continue.

But the passion of racers being what it is, they never gave up and nine years ago organized a "Race Revival" which has grown each year since, with this year's entrant list totaling 158. This year's feature marque was "all things Italian" which brought out quite a number of Alfa Romeos and Fiats to play with the large numbers of others including Porsche, Ferrari, Lotus, Elva, MG, Morgan, Triumph, Austin Healey, some pre-1973 production cars and others.

Back in the day, racers were clocked at speeds of 130MPH on the longest straight, and were airborne 35-40 feet on the one jump on the course. Now the racers are confined to the safety of the airport which the FAA allowed to be shut down for the event. And although no one's talking about it, you know how fast a runway can be! There was great viewing of the races at the airport as most of the action could be seen from the covered viewing stands provided by the local Chamber of Commerce.

This year's event to see the races, was prompted by the Great Lakes Cobra Club and planning for the joint MCVO/GLCC event began last January. Since there are many other things to do on the island, a number of those venues were also included in this year's event itinerary.

It began with a cruise from Michigan which included some of the rural roads in northern Ohio. We got our tickets and our entire group of 12 cars boarded the ferry for the 25-minute ride to the island. It was a beautiful day on Lake Erie and many of us took the opportunity to go to the viewing area on the upper deck to take it in. We could see the island, with the third largest monument in the National Park System, growing closer. We were escaping our routine lives on the mainland and were about to start an adventure.



The Bayshore Resort, where most of us stayed, made special provisions for us. They had NEVER allowed reserved parking before, but put out traffic cones and even had someone watching over our cars much of the time we were there. We were invited to decorate their lawn against the hotel and found out later that for weeks before the event they had increased the amount of fertilizer and water in that area. It made for a nice group photo op.

As a resort community, the island has many restaurants to choose from. The two with the best views of the harbor, The Boardwalk and The Keys, were included on our itinerary. Those were also listed on the discount cards we got from the Chamber of Commerce, so we could get 10% off our bills.



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After arriving on the island, and getting a quick lunch, we gathered for the Sunday afternoon car parade. It's a weekly event that's usually made up of about 30 vehicles restored by the locals during winter months when there's not much else to do on the island. But on the day of our visit it included race cars (no mufflers or license plates required) as well as our group. We were near the front of the parade and enjoyed an enthusiastic welcome from those that lined the streets of the village.



After the parade we returned to the airport to look at cars, enjoy a pig roast with the local Pilot's Association and watch airplanes compete for shortest takeoff and landing as well as closest flour bag drop on a target



Those of us who were more focused on the races could stay at the track as long as we liked, while others took in some of the sights on the island. We had a couple of golf carts at our disposal so couples could separate and still both get around. They also allowed us to avoid parking problems due to the limited number of spots in the village.

Before racing began we took the Tour Train where we learned about the various sights and colorful history of the island. After races began, those choosing the alternate venues started with the visitor's center at Perry's Monument. The monument itself was closed this year for refurbishment and we plan to catch the magnificent view from the top during next year's event. We visited the largest known geode in the world which they bill as the "Crystal Cave", and Heineman's Winery, the oldest winery in Ohio. Our stop at Stan's Antique Car museum revealed that it's a lot more than just antique cars, including a 1929 snow mobile, an antique 5-gallon ice cream machine, an antique popcorn truck, a lot of Cushman scooters, big wheel bicycles, and much more.



Although the dates for the 2018 event won't be announced until later, organizers say that it will celebrate Porsche and Austin Healey, especially the Bugeye Sprite.

It was an interesting and thrilling visit to the island retreat. We look forward to doing it again next year.



From left to right – Mike Kelly, Sandy Emerling, Mike Cipponeri, Bruce Hekman, Mike Morss, Dave Buchesky



Chelsea Autocross

Sam Milana

In the past our annual Chelsea Proving Grounds Autocross was always held in July, the hottest month of the year, so a few years ago we moved it to late September to take advantage of the cooler weather.

Needless to say it was 91 degrees on Sunday, September 24th the second hottest day of the year only behind the 92 degrees of Saturday September 23rd. I want to thank Chad Quick, David Colletti, Ed Gatt, Garry Tripp, Rick Jakacki, Gary Rappaport, Wil Thorn, Bob Swartz, Mike Sutton, and Tim Sutherland who braved the heat on Saturday to help my wife, Angelika, and I set up the equipment and course.

There were too many volunteers to list for Sunday, the day of the event, but I want to recognize a few who really stepped up and helped in new rolls. Wil Thorne did an amazing job as the starter and kept the cars moving at a steady pace. Gary Rappaport took over the timing duties with the help of a few spectators. Rick Jakacki did the grilling in-between his Autocross runs.

Finally Angelika Milana, Ann Rappaport, Susan Andring and all the others who showed up early Sunday to do the last minute setup.



Members driving a test run



Gary applying chalk outline



Volunteers recording driver's times



Jason leading the way



This was the first CPG autocross for these MCVO members: David Bronson, Greg Farrelly, Sean Gavin, Doris Gilles, Alex Good, John Hayes, and Janine Kooienga. The course was a little different than last year but just as long with some tight zones and had areas where you could pick up some speed. Although it was hot, we had plenty of shade and water. The food was good and the camaraderie was even better.



Thank you Sam and Angelika Milana for putting this event together! You did an outstanding job!



Congratulations to this year's winners:

Gen 1 – Ed Gatt 104.4 sec

Gen 2 – Mike Sutton 101.93 sec

Gen 2 w/ABS – John Hayes 100.34 sec

Gen 3 – David Coletti 89.4 sec

Gen 4 – Chad Quick 105.2 sec

Gen 5 – Jeff Lambert 97.05 sec

Fastest Time of the Day – Ralph Gilles 88.1 sec

Fastest Female – Doris Gilles 105.6 sec

Most Cones Killed – Ken Nowak

Thank you FCA for having a CPG Photographer attend



Gem Electric Car -
Ann Rappaport 300.06 sec

Cider Mill And Frankenmuth Trip

Bob Swartz

If you couldn't make it to this event, plan on joining us this year! We had 27 Vipers, all in a row cruising a very scenic and leisurely route in addition to what had to be the absolute PEAK of the fall color for our region. It was perfectly BEAUTIFUL weather - surprise, surprise!



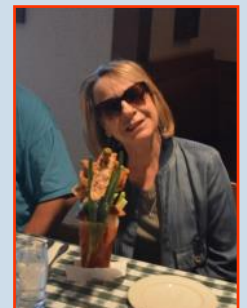
After meeting up at Great Lakes Crossing, our first stop included cider, donuts, shopping for goodies, and MCVO Prizes galore at the Past Tense Cider Mill. Always a favorite as there's something for everyone.



Next up, another smooth cruise through Michigan's back roads. Lots of curves, straightaways and beautiful country side.



Our final destination was the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth for a fun lunch. They even have a unique lunch and Bloody Mary combination!



Best of all, enjoying the day and our friendships with 51 of the FANTASTIC Motor City Viper Owners.

I'd like to say a special thank you to all my many buddies that helped in many important and sometimes spontaneous ways! I hope you had as much fun as I did! What a great fall day and we had a blast! Just makes us want MORE next year!

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



Kurt Wadsworth - Clarks Summit, PA

Ron Ortolan - Allen Park, MI

Greg Priestap - Waterford, MI

Chris Kierstead - Peterborough, Ontario

Michael Menuck - Sylvan Lake, MI

Paul McClorey - Howell, MI

Joseph Skrisson - Clarkston, MI

Raoul Eiseman - Okemos, MI

John Hayes - Waterford, MI

Gary Kocian - Redford, MI

Richard Maccani - Northville, MI

Mike Bassier - Macomb Township, MI



October's Cruise Night

Another beautiful evening spent with club members at a new venue. As usual the cars were admired then everyone went inside for an enjoyable meal.



-VOA Bucket List Event-

New England Lobstah Roll

Joanne Gray



What a fantastic event! Lots of driving, gorgeous scenery, some fall colors, a fun bartender, TONS of lobster, driving above the clouds, an engagement, bonfires and great people. Frank Berle even did some Viper maintenance! New England knows how to put on an event!

Frank and Kim met Ted and I at the Doubletree in Port Huron to start the three-hour leisurely (aka lawful) ride across Canada. A quick tourist stop was made in Niagara Falls and then an overnight stop an hour down the road to break up the trip to New Hampshire.

The event hotel, The Arlington, was very nice with large rooms and the Vipers owners pretty much had the run of the place. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed staying there. I think the bartender was happy to see our group!

We had a warm welcome from New England club members and given a goodie bag. Besides wine and chocolate (score!), there was Vermont maple syrup, Cape Cod potato chips and a custom Viper key chain. After we explored the small town and had some dinner, we headed back to the hotel for our first bonfire of the weekend.



At breakfast, we met a couple who had trailed their car from Michigan, Janine and Scott Kooienga. Yeah, there were six of us! Friday was a full day with lots of driving. We headed out to Castle in the Clouds, ninety miles and almost two hours from the hotel. We ate box lunches there and then took a trolley up for a fantastic view and a tour. From there we drove another two hours and 62 miles to Mt Washington. After a barbecue dinner, we took a slow ride up to the top. It is a private road over the tree line; above the clouds, 7.6 miles up. They had closed the mountain for us but we did encounter visitors coming down. In the latest Viper Quarterly, you can see the fantastic pictures Maurice took and this is where the surprise proposal happened! (Be sure to check out the great picture on pages 32/33-MCVO represents!



Driving home was 45
an hour. The Vipers had fun that day!

miles and a little over

Back at the hotel, the party kept going with the happy fiancé celebrating by picking up the bar tab for a couple of hours. A relaxing grilled dinner with refreshments appeared out of the support truck. The day ended with another bonfire in the company of fun people!

On Saturday we were able to see the private car collection owned by Bob Bahre. (He is the former owner of New Hampshire International Speedway.) They open the collection only once a year for public viewing but we were lucky enough to have a private show! The collection was 80 miles and two hours away. There was even a secret meeting at the McDonald's – the address could not be released. After our tour we had lunch overlooking a golf course a block away. It was a hot day but those beers were good and cold!

The VOA social and dinner began with a gathering in the courtyard for appetizers and cash bar. We then moved into the dining room for dinner and the night's program. There were items for sale as well as a silent auction. The mandatory center pieces were on each table – a custom made wine holder, with a Viper on top and a bottle of wine. Keeping with past events we thought the centerpieces would be given out to someone at each table, we all made an agreement to drink the bottle. Thankfully prior to opening ours, we asked and discovered that was not how the centerpieces would be won. The table next to ours had already opened theirs. Oops. As it turned out, our table won two centerpieces!

After acknowledgements of those who had worked so hard on the Bucket List Event and silent auction, the floor was turned over to extremely energetic dancers. We retreated to a table outside where we could see the action as well as the nightly bonfire. Our bartender found us and brought our "usual".

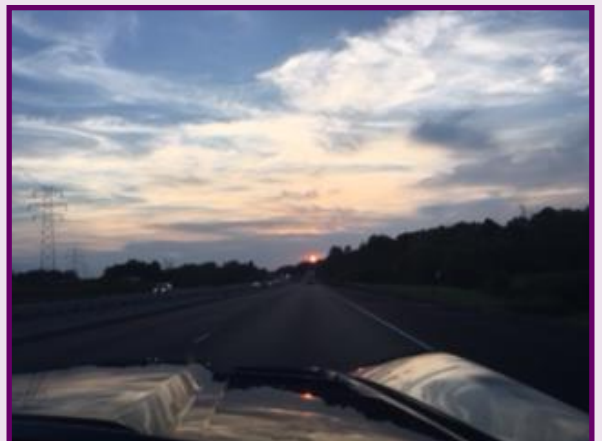
The next morning, we were off to Massachusetts for the original event, the Lobstah Roll Party. It was a three-hour cruise for which we were broken into smaller groups for the trip. We stopped along the way at a rest stop but they do not have rest stops like this is Michigan! There was a HUGE liquor store with great prices! We determined we could squeeze three bottles in the car. Maurice had an impromptu photo shoot with 3 Snakeskin Green Vipers "fueling" at an electric car charge spot.



The Lobstah Roll party was hosted by Anthony & Lenore Gravallesse, parents of the new fiancé. They had tons of room for the Vipers and a great place for the group photo. Maurice climbed up on top of the garage roof which, in itself, was fun to watch. That picture can be found on page 38 in the latest Viper Quarterly. It was a great party, a band, hamburgers, chicken, and hotdogs for those who didn't want lobster. We came for the lobster! I won't say how many, but I believe Frank held the record for the most lobster rolls consumed that day.



While the event officially ended after the Sunday Lobstah Roll party, on Monday morning some of the club members took us on an iconic cruise of New England. The meet up place was a gas station near the hotel. While most filled up and waited for others to arrive, a member from Illinois was having trouble with his car. At one point, there were maybe six guys staring under the hood. Finally, our own Frank Berle took action. He got a tool kit out of his car and within 20 minutes had the Viper ready to roll.



It was a rainy day but it was still fun to drive through towns with so much history and the coastline was beautiful, even in the rain. We had lunch in Gloucester, on the water. Unfortunately, not nice enough to sit outside, but we had a wonderful final lunch with our friends, old and new. After lunch, we hit the road west while Kim and Frank stayed out east to visit family. It was our first bucket list event and one of our best Viper events ever!

LEFT COAST TOUR - Wrap Up

Bob Swartz

Here's the short and sweet on our Left Coast Tour: everybody seemed to have fun. LOTS OF FUN! In retrospect, not for any planning or talent on my part but thanks to a super group, that plays well together, everything seemed to work perfectly.



Highlights include:



- Sinclair Grill, Boatwerks restaurant, AUTOFORM, Courtyard Downtown by Marriott, City Flats Hotel, The B.O.B., Mojo's Dueling Piano Bar (Oh Yeah!), Founders, Brewery Vivant, Elk Brewery, Downtown Market Place, Grand Rapids Brewery, Osteria Rossa, and Fredrik Meijer Gardens - - WOW! All these folks bent over backwards to please and entertain us. We owe them a repeat visit to support them because they supported us so well.



- Some really nice folks joined in from Illinois, the Schondorf's and Rocke's and it seems like we knew them all along!



- We owners of supercars who obsess and pamper and love to drive them actually parked our beautiful beasts from Friday till Sunday. All the better to enjoy ourselves and protect our "babies" to the fullest!

- Singing, dancing and acting foolish in public? You bet! The official word of the day at MO-JO's Dueling Piano Bar was "Dodge Viper"!



- Riding a public bus? Defiantly, it was a great ride on The Rapid. Later it was suggested that it would have been nice to have a keg on hand. We'll see about that.



- A chance to savor a traditional Italian dinner at Osteria Rossa. I had my first taste of octopus and it was really good as was the whole dinner and experience!



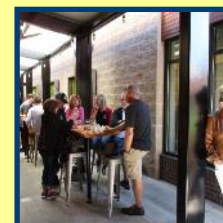
- The Fredrik Meijer Gardens - Can a bunch of motor-heads like a sculpture, a horticulture park and of all things a Tram Ride? YES! more fun! (Why hadn't I ever been there before - and only a 1:44 drive from Waterford - sheesh I sure learned something thanks to the Left Coast Tour.)



After the Left Coast Tour everyone will always be good friends, that's partly because now we know too much about each other. And that's a very good thing! Thank you all who participated as well as all the helpers and hosts.



Elk Brewery had PB&J beer!





MCVO's private tour of Founder's Brewery

MCVO Bocce Ball Tournament

Mike Cipponeri

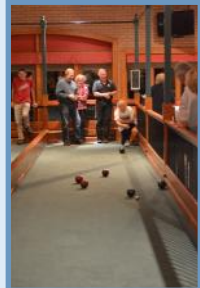


The MCVO met at the Villa Penna Ristorante in Sterling Heights on the evening of Friday, November 10, 2017 for a very pleasant enjoyable meal and a very intense Bocce Ball tournament. In all, 35 members attended out of which eight teams competed for the prized bottles of vintage wine and the highly coveted individual solid gold (plastic) MCVO trophies.

The eight teams, **The Roadsters, The Coupes, The Roaring V-10s, The Fangs, The Happy Asps, The Sneaky Petes, The CAAPs and The Mopars**, vied all evening on the two Villa Penna Bocce Ball courts in very heated and competitive Bocce Ball matches in the hopes of being the ultimate champion. However, **The CAAPs** would not be denied as they rolled undefeated. They defeated **The Roaring V-10s** in a very competitive final game to be the undisputed MCVO Bocce Ball Champions for 2017. Well done **CAAPs** !! They truly know how to toss their balls to get closest to that little white ball known as the pallino.

The evening began with a high carb, all you could eat diet of mostaccioli with red meat sauce or Alfredo sauce, pizza with various toppings, lots of bread and butter and salad (salad? how did that get in there?). It was a nice evening as many of us competed, socialized and cheered our teams on to victory. 'Wait til next year' was the battle cry of the other teams as they went down in defeat !! During the individual competitions the rest of us continued to socialize, enjoyed various libations and munched on cookies and cake. Hmm, hmm good.

At the end of the day, **The CAAPs** proudly accepted their victory bottles of wine and trophies in triumph as the rest of us looked on with envy. Congratulations to everyone but especially to **The CAAP** team members - Angelika Milana, Donna Sutherland, Sandy Emerling and Gary Rappaport - for a spirited evening of food, drink and good natured (really?) competition. See you next time !!



The MCVO Holiday Party

Mike Cipponeri

The 2017 MCVO Holiday Party was held at The Gazebo Banquet Hall in Warren, Michigan on the evening of December 3, 2017. Fifty three of our MCVO members enjoyed a festive evening of Holiday music, fine buffet dining, holiday spirits, socializing, 50/50 drawing and gifts galore. Everyone looked great in their holiday attire and all were in the mood for a very festive evening.



Once again The Gazebo Banquet Hall proved to be a beautiful venue for our event. The entire Hall was decorated to the nines with Christmas and holiday decorations. The staff at the Gazebo also lived up to their standards as very gracious and courteous hosts for our group. The food was excellent, plentiful and presented very well. To be honest though, I think the most popular Gazebo staff member was our bartender, Hu, who treated all of us to our favorite libation with a smile.



All who attended were treated with a personal gift as they entered the Hall. In addition, after dinner a spirited Christmas tree game was played that allowed everyone to win another prize. My lovely wife Diane handled drawing tickets with help from Rick Jakacki. Prizes through the night were plentiful and at the end of the evening was the drawing for the big prizes lottery. Everyone went away a winner with gifts to help celebrate the Holiday season.

This event was a great way to end the 2017 MCVO event season as members ate, drank and socialized with our good MCVO friends. Thank you to all who attended and all those who helped make this event happen. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year everyone!!



I'd like to add that our Social Director, Diane Cipponeri, did an outstanding job on this, as well as all the events she's handled. Her attention to detail and forethought shows in every thing she does. Thank you, we sincerely appreciate it!

Ann Rappaport

Changes to the Board of Directors

Ann Rappaport

The entire Board of Directors wants to extend a well earned “thank you” to Jason Pontello for his endless hours of work while appointed as your Technology Director. When Jason was originally appointed, our web site had not been updated for a number of years.

Jason was tasked with building a new web site. This involved finding a hosting site and intergrading all the functions we need. This was no small undertaking. I venture to guess most of you didn't notice any issues as we transitioned. This was due to Jason's knowledge and skill. Every email you get, all the event notices and maintaining the web site were because of Jason. We can not thank him enough for the time and talent which he invested in our club.

Now that we are set with our web site, Facebook page and the various paths of communication we use to run MCVO, Jason has handed the reins over to Gary Rappaport. Gary has proven to be a quick study and has stepped into this role seamlessly.



September's Cruise night was at Culver's in Lake Orion. Normally parking is on a first come basis as their car night is wildly popular, but the owner rolled out the red carpet for our club. Reserved spots, give-a-ways, a DJ and use of a semi private dining room. Turnout was a bit lighter than other Cruise nights owing to the less than sunny weather, but everyone enjoyed the evening and was glad to of made the effort to come on out.



Ann Rappaport



What is NVE?

National Viper Event

National Viper Events are the VOA's signature events 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!).



*Track day preparation at a NVE 2
Doesn't everyone buy a huge tire on vacation?*



The 2018 NVE 3 in Las Vegas has sold out.



Photo Credits

Susan Andring

Ann Rappaport

Mike Sutton

Gary Rappaport

Lori Emerling

Ted Gray

