

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

2018 Winter Spring

Volume 23 Issue 1



Cruise Nights

NVE 3

Feather Bowling

Greenbrier Concourse

Winter Party

Spring Tech Day

Indoor Karting

Spring Brunch

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, we're finally been able to get our cars out on the roads again! I hope you've been able to find some driving enjoyment while dodging the potholes. I guess we have to rationalize that the limitations we have on driving Vipers in Michigan just make us enjoy the good days all the more.

Your Board of Directors has been hard at work putting together another summer of fun events for the Club. We've got some new events like the Lighthouse Tour and the Shelby Cars Celebration, as well as traditional ones like the Woodward Dream Cruise (at a new location this year) and the Put-in-Bay Historic Car Races (in the middle of the week in September). Watch your e-mail for event announcements and check the Club website calendar to plan ahead.

Speaking of the Board's hard work, it's important to note that this is an election year for MCVO. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be up for election. The holders of those offices will in turn appoint the other eight members of the Board.

In an effort to ensure that we constantly have fresh blood on the Board, I will not be running for re-election as President (I will continue on the Board as Club Advisor, a position reserved for past Presidents). If you are interested in running for any of the elected offices you must submit your name to the Board of Directors prior to September 6, 2018 (the date of our September Board meeting). The election will be held in November, and the new officers will be installed for two year terms in December. If you are interested in serving in one of the appointed positions please also let the Board of Directors know by September 6th. I encourage all of you to consider participation on the Board, it's a rewarding experience.

Bruce Heckman



Editors Message

If your reading this it's safe to say you renewed your membership. Now, what are you going to do with it? It's not snowing, sleeting or freezing outside and there's no salt on the roads. So, what are your plans?

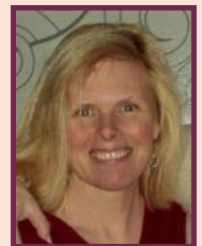
Gary and I are having dinner with 2-3 dozen friends every few weeks, we've got several parties on our calendar in addition to going on long drives with a pack of Vipers and likely spending a couple days doing it. We hope you join us.

This issue covers our least active driving event time of year. Consequently Cruise Nights are on almost every page!

One last thing, back in 2015, while at the wine tour, I did something which really changed our life. I offered to be Snake Bites Editor. There was a lot of clapping and a stunned look on Gary's face. Truth is I'd never edited anything! I'm a notoriously poor speller, often I struggle to speak clearly and procrastinate with great skill.

In 2016 Gary agreed to be recording secretary and in 2018, IT Director. His professional training as an engineer allowed him to quickly catch on to what is needed. He does an excellent job.

Both Gary and I want to say thank you. At the Spring Brunch we were awarded the Joyce Allen award for our efforts. It is a great compliment! Being part of MCVO has been our pleasure, we think we've gotten the better end of the deal!



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Calendar Of Events

June

- 20-Cruise Night
- 23-Viper Picnic at Jeff Morton's home

July

- 5-MCVO Club Meeting
- 7-Stahl's Museum
- 18-Cruise Night
- 26-JNAP Tour
- 28-Mopars at The Red Barn

August

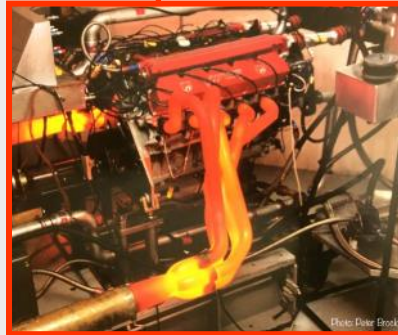
- 2-MCVO Club Meeting
- 3-Gingerman Longest Day
- 4-Tire Rack Autocross
- 16-Dream Cruise Evening Event
- 18-Woodward Dream Cruise Club Event

September

- 6-MCVO Club Meeting
- 7/8/9-Viper Lighthouse Tour
- 15-Lapeer Dragway
- 23-Chelsea Autocross
- 25/26-Put-In-Bay

October

- 4-MCVO Club Meeting
- 6-Fall Tech Day
- 7-Snake in the Grass Color Tour
- 13-Shelby Car Celebration
- 17-Cruise Night
- 21-Frankenmuth Cruise



Winter 1997 Viper

Quarterly Issue

Snake Bites is a Motor City Viper Owners publication. Subscription is included in the membership fee. Editorial contributions are invited, but we are not responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. Submission of materials implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. The opinions and experience of the author, of the article, does not necessarily reflect FCA US, LLC opinion, recommendation or approval. Reproduction whole, in part, or by electronic storage of Snake Bites (printed), Snake Bites Electronic Editions or Snake Update is prohibited without the expressed written consent of the editors.

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.

Advertising is available in Snake Bites, please send a request for further information.

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 - Gary Rappaport

Directors:

Apparel - Lori Emerling
Club Advisor - Mike Cipponeri
Newsletter - Ann Rappaport
Membership - Marty Heitkamp
Motorsports - Dick Winkles
Photography -Susan Andring
Social - Diane Cipponeri
Technology - Gary Rappaport



January's Cruise Night we returned to a favorite location. A warm fire, friends, yummy drinks and food. What's not to like?



It wasn't one of the worse nights to be out, but compared to our summer meet ups I tend to think those less hardly would believe otherwise. Not us Michiganders, right?



We had a total of 22 people there, but alas no Vipers in the parking lot. Maybe next year?



Member Benefits Enclosed

You'll find a couple of inserts in this mailing.

The yearly member printed directory.

As new owners join or updates are needed, the on-line directory will have the latest version.

Viper Club car plaques! Mike Sutton had a dream...no wait, he had an idea, which was brilliant! The intent is you can place the card on your dash when out at a show or just parking in a lot. Who knows you might be the one to bring a new owner into the club! Spread the word and show your MCVO pride!

But wait there's more! get yourself a cheap clear plastic frame and display the plaque on your door. Mike made sure nothing will touch the clear coat.

Thank you Mike for all your efforts. Mike had the idea, presented it at a club meeting, got the green light and in no time had a large envelope with everything needed.



I'd like to get pictures of members with the plaques on their cars in as many locations as possible.

Let make it a contest! Winners snag one of the Viper memorabilia items we've been awarding and auctioning off.

Rules- best overall photo: location, content and originality.

1st and 2nd place, 3rd place award for any photo which is just deserving because it's cool. **Get Busy!**

Winners will be chosen (by Board members present) at the October monthly meeting.



Feather Bowling 2018

Diane Cipponeri



On January 21, 2018 MCVO members met at the Bath City Bistro in downtown Mt. Clemens for our annual Feather Bowling Tournament. Twenty members of the MCVO signed up for this *fiercely competitive* event.

We divided up into four teams: The Roadsters, The Coupes, The 5 Gen's and The Roaring V-10's. All came to compete for a bottle of wine and our infamous and very prestigious solid gold (plastic) trophy.



New to our event this year was a prize awarded to the competitor who demonstrated his or her perfect sight and aim by being the first person who can roll the disc on top of the feather. It actually happened and that award went to "eagle eye" himself, Mike Kelly! One can't roll that disc any closer to the feather than that! Way to go, Mike!



It was a great day and a great way to get out of the house and enjoy yourself with some of your MCVO friends for a couple of hours on a cold winter's day. We were able to socialize and catch up on the news we had missed over the holidays. We dined on pizza, anti-pasto salad, Caesar salad and for dessert ... brownies and chocolate chip cookies. Junk food doesn't get any better than that! But healthy too! (ah, kinda)



So onto the winning team. This year's champions were the V-10's. The team members consisted of four women and one man. Pretty lucky guy Alex! The other team members besides Alex Good were Joan Heckman, Cori Reuter, Susan Andring and Rose Klutz. As a side note, one may hope to be on Rose's team in the future. This is the 2nd consecutive year the team she has been on has won! Coincidence? I don't think so! Rose has a dynasty in the making.



At the end of the evening, the V-10's accepted their awards with grace as the rest of us looked on with envy and with a little razzing. What a way to do something on a cold wintery day!

See you next year!

Greenbrier Concours Show

Dick Winkles



May 4th, 5th and 6th, White Sulphur Springs West Virginia – The first annual Concours d’Elegance Classic Car Show was held at the historic Greenbrier Resort and the Dodge Viper made its first appearance in a Concours Show – as the featured car and with a dedicated eleven car Viper class!

The Greenbrier Resort is a National Historic Landmark that has been welcoming guests since 1778. The natural mineral springs drew the first guests and today, the 11,000 acre site includes a TPC Golf Course, Casino, Spa, awesome Indoor and Outdoor Pools, a Bowling Alley, Tennis and Riding

Club and a Sporting Club just to name a few! The current hotel opened in 1913 and includes numerous restaurants, shops and incredible period rooms and architecture. In the 1950’s during the peak of the Cold War, the United States government constructed a top-secret bunker under the Greenbrier to house Congress in the event of an attack. The bunker remained a secret until 1992 when a newspaper article exposed it. Today, tours of the bunker are offered daily.

Roy Sjorberg (aka Father Viper) was asked by the Concours committee to serve as the head judge for the Viper class. Roy drafted Herb Helbig (aka The Viper Grailkeeper), Ken Nowak from the original Team Viper and myself, a longtime Viper engine engineer to serve as the assistant judges for the group.

Roy, Herb, Ken and I all drove our Vipers down to the show (although I drove the Prefix Medusa 9.0L “X-Treme” 820 hp car rather than my own!) and participated in the Thursday evening cruise and pizza at K2 Motorsports. Friday offered a four hour drive for fifty Classic, Sport and Exotic cars through the back country West Virginia mountain roads including lunch at the Summit Restaurant with ten Vipers participating. On Saturday the “Club Day” car show was held on the Golf Course for cars not entered into the Concours show itself and twelve Vipers braved the on and off rain to make a good appearance for the Viper community. Only the Ferrari Club had more cars in attendance.



A panel discussion took place on Saturday evening in the Greenbrier Theater with Roy, Herb and I sharing “Secrets and Stories” from the Viper Development Team. The discussion was very well attended and the panelists signed special numbered lithographs commemorating the event and “25 Years of Viper” with proceeds going to charity.



The skies opened up Saturday night and Sunday morning causing the show committee and Greenbrier to move the Concours show from the golf course to areas around the hotel since the pro golfing tour Greenbrier Classic is scheduled for July. Additionally none of the classic cars wanted to deal with flood waters and mud, this turned out to be a very good decision!

The Concours show included twelve classes with about ten cars in each class. Classes spanned automotive history with classes for: 1) Brass Era, 2) 1925-1948 Classics, 3) 1916-1942 Pre-War Production, 4) 1946-1984 Post War Production, 5) 1946-1984 Foreign Sports Car, 6) 1946-1984 Exotic Sports Cars, 7) 1946-1984 American Sports Cars, 8) Preservation Cars up to 1984, 9) Race Cars 1900 to Present, 10) 1961-1984 Muscle Cars, 11) 1992-2018 Vipers and 12) Display Class for non-judged 1900 to present day cars. Each class had a panel of three judges with a class winner and two “Springhouse” award winners. Cars were judged on a 100 point scale for authenticity and elegance but the judges had bonus points they could award for tasteful modifications or rarity. The Viper panel also awarded 3 bonus points for cars driven for the back road event on Friday.

The show was held with several classes lining the front circular drive of the Greenbrier making for a stunning display. Brass and Pre-War cars were on display inside the bunker in the convention center. The Vipers were parked on one of the brick courtyards outside of the Grand Ballroom with three historic Vipers provided by FCA – the original 1989 show car, VM01 white mule car and the 1996 concept Viper coupe, displayed in the indoor atrium leading to the courtyard. The Viper display area was one of the most popular areas for the show!

The Viper class included cars from all five generations. The class winner went to Bob Miller’s 2017 Stryker Purple GTS that he had driven from his Maryland home. Springhouse awards went to Brian Willey’s 1999 ACR Coupe and Keith Filzen’s 2010 ACR Convertible. It was a very difficult class to judge since all eleven of the cars were stunning examples of Viper!

Overall the show was a lot of fun at a fantastic venue with things to do for everyone – the wives enjoyed the various tours, sights and afternoon teas! The drive down to Greenbrier from Michigan was about nine hours making for a relatively easy one day trip with beautiful roads and scenery. The Concours committee members were very pleased with the Viper turnout and participation and want the Viper back for next year’s Greenbrier Concours on May 3-5, 2019. If you like to see beautiful cars from all eras and spend time with other Classic Car and Viper enthusiasts this should be a must see event!



National Viper Event 3

Ann Rappaport

Another NVE is past, leaving everyone with memories of a new place, experiences and friends. Gary and I chose to leave the cars at home, a first for us. The long drive was just more than we were up too and for most of the time I didn't mind being Viper-less.



The event location/host hotels had endless pool choices which worked for us nicely as we are not gamblers. I did find a \$5 on the casino floor walking through one evening which I counted as win/win.

The weather started out brisk but warmed up nicely. The non track events were very entertaining, a tour of inside the Hoover Dam and the chance to see endless Vipers driving across it on the way to our parking area made for another reason to attend these events.

Without the Vipers we had no interest in taking a 6 person cargo van for a spin around the track so we did a lot of walking on the strip, as well as, visiting that famous pawn shop which is on T.V. It's surprisingly small inside.



NVE & VOA merchandise was available with many choices to be made. The keepsake for attendees was special NVE3 wine with engraved wine decanter and glasses.

Thank you to Wil Thorne for driving many sets of them back home for us. Either due to flying in or driving a Viper only Wil had the space in his trailer to get it all home. Thank you to MCVO member Sandi White, who worked tirelessly to have the VOA merchandise available for purchase. She drove to Las Vegas in a rental truck! Talk about no fun in any way.



There were additional items in a silent Auction. Our member, Tony Spampinato, donated a beautiful travel bag with a Viper logo embossed into the leather. Also there was a hand made quilt featuring Viper, end tables, posters and massive Fangs, Stryker and Sneaky Pete wall pieces.



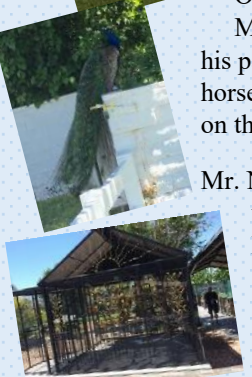
As usual there WAS a 4'x6' standing display sign at the top of the stairs, but within 20 minutes it was gone. *Must of grew legs and ran off!*



One whole day was spent at Wayne Newton's estate, Shenandoah. It was really such a treat to see all that Mr. Newton was involved in, his accomplishments and interests. The property has the original home he and his parents lived in as well as stables for those beautiful horses. I found out you can't step over the red line or touch the horses. Luckily a really wonderful docent took a liking to me and I slipped out of any trouble since I had been recorded on the inhouse security system as a person who was shifty and not to be trusted.



Mr. Newton has this uber impressive home and zoo as well. I could likely stay there and never leave the property. While there, one of group got married. Mr. Newton offered them the use of his personal bedroom/master bath to get ready. He no longer lives on this property, rather a few miles away.





He even has his original touring airplane there. It has a neat Detroit connection too. It became grounded here and due to changes in regulations and could no longer be flown. Seeing pictures of our “Detroit get it done” approach to disassembling it, loading it onto massive trucks to be driven to Shenandoah couldn’t help but make you proud.

It was well worth attending this event. While you’re at this beautiful lush spacious property there’s commercial airplanes flying just over the main house, a surreal experience. The Andrings/Sutton rented Harley’s and had a ball driving around the area.



We extended the trip with a Colorado River Rafting Ride (recommend) seeing the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (beautiful) and a Segway Tour in Sedona (most fun).

I even had time to meet a friendly snake!

Track Experience

Robert Schwarzli aka Mopar Boy aka Sweeeet

The track event for NVE3 was held at the world-famous Las Vegas Motor Speedway. VOA booked the entire facility 2 days making it a Viper only event. The weather also cooperated with a sunny 90 degrees. The day was broken into three separate events for the track hungry Viper fans: Autocross, road course, and oval. Having driven all three modules, my experience was as follows:



The Autocross was set up by the NV region SCCA and broken into a north and a south track. The south track was timed and participants were allowed to make as many runs as one wanted. The untimed north track was just for fun. Between the two tracks, you never had to wait more than a minute or two before another run.

The road course portion was first broken into multiple skill levels and then onto the track we went. A track in the southwest desert is a bit different than we have in the north and Midwest. It gets a bit greasy and the sides are gravel. Between the gravel that gets relocated to the track if someone gets off course and the sliding from a hot track, it made driving this track just that much more interesting!

The highlight of the track day, from almost everyone I spoke with, myself included, was the oval. The 1.5-mile-long tri-oval features angled banks from 12-20 deg. The groups were again broken into different classes based on ability with the experienced drivers reaching speeds of over 140 mph. It was an amazing to be able to experience driving on this famous NASCAR track. It was one of the highlights of the trip and this was one module I found I could not get enough of!





JD Karting

Gary Rappaport



On April 21, Michigan was just beginning to see the first hint of spring, and even a few members of our club brought their Vipers, for our yearly pilgrimage to Buddy’s Pizza and then onto JD Karting.



Our day begins at 11:30am, at Buddy’s Pizza. Their pizza is fantastic and their location is within walking distance of JD Karting. We had to be at Karting by 1pm, and our group totaled 17, raring-to-go racers.

Mark at JD Karting briefed the drivers on the track and racing details. The karts are electric, with almost instantaneous torque and can reach speeds up to 40 mph. They use a state of the art, timing and scoring system, and the track has a combination of fast sweep sections mixed with 8 tight technical corners. The drivers were instructed on the various “signal flags” and had to choose their Racer Name.

Our group ran the “Mini Grand Prix” race which consisted of a 10 lap Qualifier and a 14 lap Final race. The qualifier is based off your fastest lap and then the drivers are ranked accordingly. After each race the drivers were given a printout showing their statistics, and relationship to the other drivers.



There was a lot of discussion between races, as we compared our scores and performance. At the completion of the Final race, there were awards given to the top 3 finishers and live interviews from each, at the podium.



The awards were as follows, along with their Racer Names:

1st – John Wright (JDubs)

2nd – Pat Combs (Pat C)

3rd – Gary Rappaport (Gas Guzzler Gary)

Congratulations to John, he ran a fantastic race.



Rumor has it, that Ann Rappaport, a.k.a. Aggressive Ann, was called out by track personnel for causing or being in, a multi-car pile-up.

I like to thank everyone who came and a shout-out to a new member and his daughters, Michael, Nina and Grace Prudhomme. This was only Michael’s second event with MCVO. We hope he’ll attend many more.





May's cruise night had 40 members attend dinner at 5th Tavern in Bloomfield Hills. We had a private dining room and reserved parking for our Vipers. Great company, great food, great cars!



Did You Know?

Motor City Viper Owners is the only regional club which produces a paper newsletter according to Maurice Liang. I believe MCVO has continually published Snake Bites since it was started.

March Cruise night was in Sterling Heights.

One of the most versatile menus I've seen in quite a while.

33 people attended despite the cold temps outside. Everyone enjoyed the drink, appetizers and meals but as usual it was the other members that made attending such an enjoyable night.



Member Rick Jakacki along with Marianne Peggi are the people who plan our Cruise Nights location— Thank You!

MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:

Adam Clifton-Washington Twp.

Raymond Clark-Jackson

Kurt Darga-Westland

John Huszti Jr.-St Clair Shores

John Huszti Sr.-Grosse Pointe Woods

John Kelly-Grand Blanc

Michael Montgomery-Shelby Township

Alan Prudhomme-South Lyon

Michael Prudhomme-Howell

Kim Zeile-Rochester Hills

Yaz Abusaif-Macomb

David Sidlar Troy MI



February Cruise night was at Bar Louie. 19 people came out taking a break from the seemingly endless winter weather.



Our April cruise night met at Granite City Brewery with 26 members enjoying good food and friends.





MCVO Winter Party

Diane Cipponeri

What can I say! Another event has come and gone, entered in the archives of our Club. For those who attended I hope you had a good time. For those who didn't I'll try to reconstruct it so you won't want to miss it next year!

The venue was the beautiful Gazebo Banquet Hall once again. Our members were treated to a delicious buffet dinner consisting of veal parmesan, chicken supreme, stuffed shells, roasted anna potatoes, California medley of veggies and of course salads, veggie trays, cheese & crackers, fresh fruit tray and don't forget ... DESSERT!

We focused on the traditional game of Black Jack. Thanks to our president Bruce Heckman for calculating and compiling the scores of the players throughout the night.

Our annual Viper roll of the dice car race was as popular as always. In years past we used ponies, but made the switch to Vipers, at least the die cast kind.

New to the games this year was our remote control Viper autocross. It was a lot harder to do than one can imagine. Our winner was Rick Jakacki. Great job of maneuvering through the miniature autocross!

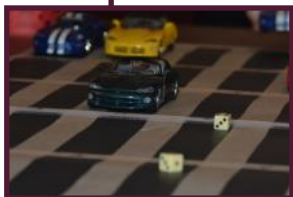
I want to also thank our Black Jack dealers Rick Jakacki, Mike Cipponeri, Joan Heckman, Tim Sutherland, Mike Sutton, John Wright and Sam Brasile. Without you we could not have played any games! You kept the games fun and exciting using a flexible interpretation of the rules!

Every member went home with a gift. There was a wide variety ranging from useful electronics to small home appliances. Gift baskets galore and each individually wrapped.

Thank you to Bruce and Rick for helping me out by being my tag team partners, announcing the winning ticket numbers and awarding prizes.

The last game was the 50/50 raffle with the winner going home with more cash than they came with, unless it didn't cover their bar bill! The real beneficiary is the club's general fund, thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

A big Thank you to all who attended this year's MCVO Winter Party and hope to see you at next year's event!





MCVO Spring Brunch

Diane Cipponeri



This year's annual Spring Brunch was held on May 20th at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. We are the invited guests of our long time MCVO members, Mike & Joann Morss. A big thank you to them both for allowing us to hold our Brunch there for the past 23 years! Amazing!

The date was a couple of weeks later than usual this year. Many members approached us and said how they enjoyed the later date for this event. They said the weather is warmer and many more had a better opportunity to get their cars out.

What a great turn out with 98 MCVO members in attendance this year. Again, there was a wonderful selection of food and of course it was plentiful. President Bruce gave the State of the Club report and individual members of the MCVO Board reported on the areas for which they are responsible. Our members who are coordinating events spoke about what is being arranged. All members are encouraged to not only attend our events, but to originate events themselves. It is really a lot of fun and very rewarding. If you have an idea, contact the Board and give it a try. The majority of special weekend drives are planned for you by your fellow members - someone who volunteers their time to create a memorable MCVO activity.



Every year an award is given to a person or persons who has/have demonstrated a commendable enthusiasm for our Club. This year the Joyce Allen Award was given to a couple who has more than given their share of their time and talents to our Club. The award this year went to Gary and Ann Rappaport. They were very appreciative and very excited to accept their award! Congratulations Ann & Gary! Very well deserved!



A silent auction was held this year for the first time with members bidding on various items that were donated to our Club. All items received bids and those monies raised will enable MCVO to continue it's financial well being.



We also auctioned off two "one of a kind", hand crafted leather products with embossed Viper logos crafted by our very own member, Tony Spampinato. Congratulations Marco Zaccagnini who won the detailing stool and Kim Berle who took home the woman's purse!

This year we made sure every member went home with a gift. They were not necessarily automotive related which was well received by our members especially the women! Feed back from past events indicated offering things other than tool chests, hydraulic floor jacks and other mechanic related item would be greatly appreciated. Next year it is going to be even harder to find give-a-ways for our events. Have some suggestions? Please let me know. See something unique, let me know!

I believe all had a great time this year. The weather cooperated and we had many more cars than usual attend. Looking forward to our 24th annual brunch and hoping that even more members will attend next year!



Editor's Note:

All our events are personally planned by Diane. She and Mike put an enormous amount of time, effort and energy into them. I am continually amazed at their efforts. MCVO is incredibly lucky to have them serve on the Board. Diane and Mike thank you!



Photo Credits

Susan Andring

Ann Rappaport

Gary Rappaport

Cathi Winkles

Mike Sutton

Robert Schwarzli

