

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

2018 Summer

Volume 23 Issue 3

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's that dreaded time in Michigan when we have to begin thinking about the driving season growing shorter. It's been quite a summer, packed with MCVO events all along the way. We've had some great ones, from our largest ever Woodward Dream Cruise Week, to our Lighthouse Tour, the Chelsea Autocross, Put-in-Bay and on. This summer our Club participation rate broke last year's records and has been at its highest level in history!



I want to throw a bouquet to your hard-working Board of Directors and other key volunteers who spent tireless hours planning and implementing our ambitious schedule of events. Everyone should appreciate what it takes to reserve locations, coordinate parking, order food, make signs, lay out courses, pre-drive routes, make centerpieces, design wearables, schedule fees and payments, deliver clear and timely event notices, photograph events, order port-a-johns, prepare a magazine quality newsletter and the myriad of other things that it takes to keep our Club running. The team has worked together collegially and effectively to put forward a program that is the envy of every other Region of VOA, and had a lot of fun doing it!

This month of October brings our bi-annual election of MCVO officers. In the last newsletter I indicated that I would be stepping down to allow people who haven't served before to have a chance to direct the Club. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, we failed to get any of you to accept the challenge. In light of that, the Board of Directors and others have strongly encouraged me to run for one more term, together with existing Directors and two experienced replacements. I agreed after the key Appointed Directors also committed that they would remain on the team.

I hope you will give us all the opportunity to try to improve even further the activities and success of the Club. Let's have some fun!

Bruce Heckman



Editors Message



I want to share something that happened to Gary and me on our way home from the Light House Tour in order to point out what our club is, does and means.

We were one of the last to leave for home on Sunday. As we turned onto a main road there was this loud "thump thump thump." After finding the problem we realized we were stuck, alone, on the edge of a road, without the necessary tools, in a car that can't be left, far from home. A few of the sparkplugs were loose and one had ejected itself. Seriously, who checks if their sparkplugs are tight? Obviously, not the Rappaports.

But then it happened, Vipers just started appearing like magic! Dave & Jean pulled up, then Bob, Mike & Diane, Sam & Ang, Mike & Susan, Bruce & Joan and Rick & Marianne. Most had left to see something locally. What were the chances they'd be driving by just when we needed them? Within 30 minutes the tools were in Gary's hands. As I turned the ignition there were 6 guys leaning in the engine bay listening to the motor and watching sparkplugs. Dave & Jean also followed us home!

Here's my point, our club is social, we help each other and it means a lot to many of us. Our club is more active now than anytime I can remember and it's bigger too. I'm proud to be part of the "team" that has worked to make this happen. I never in a million years would of guessed I'd be driving a "super car" let alone be the editor of its newsletter!

Life is truly is an adventure if you let it. My hope is the future will be even better for MCVO and its members.

Ann Rappaport

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Calendar Of Events

October

- 4 – MCVO Club Meeting
- 5/6 -Fall Tech Day
- 3 –Shelby Car Celebration
- 17 –Cruise Night
- 21 - Frankenmuth Cruise

November

- 1 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 7 - Cruise Night
- 17 - Bocce Ball

December

- 1 - Holiday Party

January - 2019

- 3 – MCVO Club Meeting
- 16 - Cruise Night

February

- 7 – MCVO Club Meeting
- 20 –Cruise Night

Events for 2019 TBA

Please reference our club's calendar at

www.MCVO.net

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.

Lighthouse Tour picture-

Next issue will have beautiful pics!



Motor City Viper Owners

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Officers:

President - Bruce Heckman
Vice President - Sam Milana
Treasurer - Tim Sutherland
Secretary - Gary Rappaport

Directors:

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

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In our last issue we had a contest for photos of the dash plaques. This was the only submission. No prizes were awarded as this was taken by a Board member.

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

Detroit Diesel Tour & Car Show

Bob Swartz

One little “event of interest,” the “Mercedes-Benz Car Show and Detroit Diesel Tour” on August 17th turned out to be way more interesting than was ever expected! So much so that I can’t really describe it adequately. Maybe no one person can. So here are excerpts from the comments some of the attendees provided:

“People who worked well together & expressed real ownership & pride in their product, plant and customers. Impressive!”

“Exceptionally maintained with attention to detail. Staff was overly friendly and car show food trucks were amazing. Excellent presentation!”

“The manufacturing environment we toured today is first class. I wish I worked for a company where dedication and appreciation prevailed.”

“I had an awesome time and ate well today; and hopefully more tours like this will be in the MCVO future.”

“An outstanding representative that shows passion for her work, technology, and the history of her company.”

“Overwhelming Hospitality” “The benchmark as an industry leader” “Great Pride in Product”

“How Rodger Penske motivated his workforce by explaining the basics of business to them. Everyone can be inspired if they understand how their role really fits into the total picture. It was an excellent piece of insight that you wouldn’t get on a normal plant tour.”

“I thought Bobbie put on a first-rate car show and loved the food trucks. The food was great.”

“I appreciated the time Pam spent talking about the hardworking men and women of the UAW and the sacrifices we’ve all made to help our companies.”

“I work in a manufacturing plant that I thought was clean, boy was I wrong. Your facility was spotless and should be a benchmark for the manufacturing industry.”

“The Mercedes Benz show was fun and variety of food trucks a real pleasure. Best was the plant tour. The support of labor is terrific and way beyond any other companies I am familiar with.”

“The tour lasted twice as long and we weren’t bored at all”.



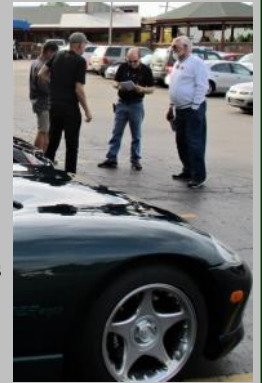
June Cruise Night

Ann Rappaport

As you can see the weather was wonderful for the monthly cruise night which was at a favorite location in Ortonville, Bullfrogs. The club tries to have these events all over the area so all members can attend at least a few.

A total of 15 Vipers and 28 people attended. It seemed like more as we kept adding more tables! A few of us were delayed in traffic as a pick-up truck had encountered a deer, the wait made the cold drinks refreshing and the food welcomed.

Again Gary and I were able to sit with members we didn't know as well, it's always a rewarding experience and wearing our name tags has helped a lot! I'm still not great with names but after a few hundred times I remember, please keep wearing those name tags!



MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:



Kyle Gawry – Negaunee

Mike Haislet – Fenton

Terrance Henry – West Bloomfield

Dennis Johnson – Waterford

Joe Koliba – Chesterfield

Scott Sicinski – Sterling Heights

Mark Trostle – Rochester

Tim Wiczorkowski - Presque Isle

Enio Parete - Harrow, Ontario

Jim Bielenda - Dearborn

4th MCVO Visit to “MOPARS at the RED BARNS”

Bob Swartz

Just when you think I've overused all the superlatives possible in describing this, it turns out our July 28th event was even sweeter, bigger, more fun and quite likely the very best so far.

From a sweet cruise on bending freeways, fast state roads, and nice little twisty country roads to reserved parking spots for our own “Snake Pit” thanks to Scott and Janine Kooienga; love you guys!

We had beautiful weather and a show field packed with MOPARS of ALL descriptions; K-Cars too, oh my! With meeting all the MOPAR enthusiasts, getting to chat with them and share our bragging rights for our favorite rides, it was a wonderful day. Maybe best of all, we got to introduce some of our MCVO buddies to the magic of the Gilmore Car Museum!

There's really so much there that you can't see it all in a day. We'll have to do it in one day stints every year or so.

See you at the “Barns”!





Lake St. Clair Cruise

Bruce Heckman

This has become one of the favorite joint events between MCVO and the Great Lakes Cobra Club. It all started off nice enough this year on May 26th. We had 21 Vipers and 9 Cobras gather at Jeff and Sharon Grice's wonderful waterfront Harrison Township home. The 54 attendees from the combined clubs enjoyed a continental breakfast and bench racing each other's cars. Then around 10:30 am, when we were getting ready to start our cruise, the skies opened up and spoiled the fun for several in our group!



Over Flow Parking

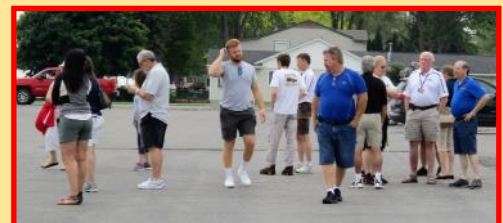




Nonetheless, all 21 Vipers and 4 of the Cobras enjoyed a pleasant low pressure, tour along the shores of the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair to the River Crab Restaurant in St. Clair, MI for lunch. The food was great, the view of freighters going down the river was impressive, and the local residents went ga-ga over the fancy cars in the parking lot.



After lunch our brightly colored caravan continued down the road to the famous Sweet Tooth ice cream shop in Marine City, MI. Everyone enjoyed feasting on ice cream desserts and strolling along the downtown waterfront. After ice cream, members were free to find their way home however they wanted. There are some exciting stories about those trips!



SNAKE ROUND UP

Bruce Heckman

Our third annual Snake Round Up, with the Great Lakes Cobra Club, on June 16th started with an early morning spring rain. Unfortunately, this discouraged many of those who had previously signed up from attending. The rain particularly hampered our Cobra friends, but nevertheless 18 Vipers and 1 Cobra made it to the start point at the Lingenfelter Cars and Coffee in Wixom.



We had our own special parking lot across the street from the Lingenfelter building. Despite the sogginess, the grouping of our cars attracted lots of attention. Thankfully the rain stopped by the time everyone arrived and we all enjoyed a damp, but interesting car show with our coffee.



The second stage of the Round Up took place at RM Motorsports, right down the road from Lingenfelter's. Several members from both clubs joined us there with their daily drivers. Everyone enjoyed viewing the wide array of racing cars maintained at RM and were treated to an interesting presentation on the services RM offers, as well as a tour of their facilities. They do work on Vipers!





Afterward, the Vipers, Cobra, and daily drivers convoyed to Zukey Lake Tavern for our traditional lunch. Our route provided drivers a chance to “appreciate their car” which made the daily drivers happy! Even with the damp start to the day, members from both clubs enjoyed the relaxed activities which had something of interest for everyone.



Cruzin at Duggan's Irish Pub

Diane Cipponeri



On the very hot summer night of July 18, fifty two of us brave souls drove out to Duggan's Irish Pub on Woodward and 13 Mile Road for our monthly Cruise Night. Woodward was especially active that night because it was only a month before Dream Cruise week. For some of us without air conditioning (can you say Gen 1), the night was especially hot and muggy.



Rick Jakacki did his usual fine job in reserving Duggan's first floor back room for us MCVOers. We packed into the large room and were nice and cozy. There was plenty of parking for all of us although at times it did get a little challenging maneuvering our Snakes. Our personal parking attendants helped direct the Viper traffic into the parking lot while at times blocking traffic on Woodward. They did a great job!

The Duggan's atmosphere and the food were great allowing us to socialize throughout the evening. Woodward in July was a great venue for Cruise Night because there are always beautiful, vintage cars driving up and down the street - Vipers included – in preparation for the August Dream Cruise festivities. We just started the Dream Cruise a little earlier this year.

A big thank you goes out to Rick who coordinates our MCVO Cruise Nights every month. He did another fantastic job! Come on out with your car (or daily when your snake is unavailable) and attend one of our monthly Cruise Nights.

What makes these events so successful is our MCVO members driving their cars and joining up with the rest of us. See you at the next Cruise Night - same time, but not the same place!



Gratiot Cruise

Gary Rappaport

August 5th was a beautiful, hot, and sunny Michigan day, with temps in the 90's. We had a nice turnout with members leisurely coming and going. We had approximately 13 cars and 15 people. We even had a potential new member stop by, after seeing our event notice on Facebook. Many thanks to Jason Pontello, our Event Coordinator and Eric from Baker college, who reserved parking.



Project Beautiful – Inside and Out’s Horsepower Happy Hour Car Show

Doris Gilles

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the friends that came out to support Project Beautiful – Inside and Out’s first Horsepower Happy Hour Car Show at Clubhouse 81 in Auburn Hills on August 14th of Woodward Dream Cruise Week! It was a beautiful night and we were graced with some AMAZING cars! The Motor City Viper Owners came out strong with 16 cars in attendance.



Car show entrants vied to win a one-of-a-kind trophy built by Arts Speed Shop. Attendees voted for their favorite vehicle by placing a toy army man on the vehicle’s windshield, or in the case of winners Clark and Leslie Harris with their Saleen S7, on the ground in front. Additional congrats to runners up, Jeff and Nancy Davis, and their Dodge Challenger 392 - “Envied”!



Vik and the Team at Clubhouse 81 generously donated 20% of food and drink sales. Their donation plus the generous donations of attendees raised \$1840 which will go toward expenses for Project Beautiful - Inside and Out’s Horsepower for Hope event at M1 Concourse on Sunday September 30th. This will be a fun-filled car themed event for the general public and special guest families from D.C. Strong, Kids Kicking Cancer and The Rainbow Connection. I encourage everyone to attend; in addition to having an enjoyable time, you are helping improve the lives of others.

I’d like to personally thank each of you for your continued support of Project Beautiful – Inside and Out! If you would like to learn more about events and the organization, please visit our web site at :

projectbeautiful-insideandout.org

See you on the 30th!



Doris - Executive Director of Project Beautiful – Inside and Out



Stahls Automotive Museum

Ann Rappaport



On July 7th a group of us drove to New Baltimore to see this unusual museum. Many in attendance had been before, since this was my first time I'd like to share my impressions with you. I am not a fan of museums in general, but Stahls has hit on the magic combination of collecting, presentation and focus.

The entrance room was filled with all types of musical machines. Some were very much like a player piano, while others took that concept to a whole new level as in an entire band stuffed into a wood box. Some ingenious person figured out how to have not just a piano mechanically play, but horns, drums and more. It is clear the staff has restored these antique, one of a kind instruments, with skill and great care, they were in excellent condition.



The next area is the automotive collection. It makes up approximately 95% of the displays and it does not disappoint. The room is very bright and open, a real plus for those of us who are not expecting to enjoy a museum. It is also laid out in such a way your interest is held from the current display to the next no matter which way you wander. Every now and then these massive calliope pipe organ displays above would start a selection of music and lights.



As you can see in the photos it's not just cars that are on display. Where else can you see a mechanical walking elephant car? The workshop area was on display as well. Honestly there was so many varied items to see one visit isn't really enough.



After, the group went to lunch at Bad Brads BBQ which was chosen from several recommendations and the online reviews. I think everyone was pleased with the choice, the food was tasty as were the cold drinks. We were all sat together which isn't always the case with our large group. After the meal and relaxing, we took off for home and a long nap!





MCVO Picnic at the Morton's

Diane Cipponeri

In late May, Jeff and Rachel Morton contacted me with an idea for a club event. On June 24th they graciously opened their beautiful home to members for a barbecue picnic! Leading up to this event, got a little tricky watching the weather forecast to see what Mother Nature had in mind for that day.



Nonetheless the day turned out to be a beautiful day for a barbecue. Jeff was our Executive Chef turning out designer burgers and hot dogs cooked to perfection. Quantity of food was not a problem as we had plenty of potato and pasta salad, baked beans, watermelon and of course, cakes and cookies for dessert. As always the food was tasty and no one went home hungry.



The swimming pool in their yard looked very inviting on this muggy day. However, only Lily and Colin Aitken jumped in while the adults (we're adults, right?) watched. It was great activity for the kids and they were not shy about making the most of it!



All those Vipers parked in the Morton's circular driveway in the front of their house was quite a sight. The long sweeping circle and expanse of green lawn, framed by trees and the Morton's home made for some stunning pictures.



The 33 MCVOers who attended had a great time. As always, good food, great friends and wonderful cars made this a super event. It doesn't get much better than that!



Thank you Jeff and Rachel for hosting this event at your lovely home and letting us hang out with you for the day enjoying MCVO friendships!



Jefferson North Assembly Plant

Sam Milana

After last year's JNAP tour I contemplated stopping the event. We had done it three years in a row and I was concerned the members were tiring of the event. Zach Leroux (JNAP plant manager and MCVO member) talked me into having the event again this year and I'm glad we did.



On July 16th 30 members participated and we had 15 Vipers on display. That's the most attended JNAP tour we've had over the four years. It was nice to see that 23 of the 30 members had never been to JNAP before. Members like: Alex Good, who drove in from Grand Rapids, John Huszti (Jr and Sr), Bryon and Alisha Scott, Paul and Allison McClorey, Marco and Tonino Zaccagnini, Greg and Janet Priestap, Mike and Jill Prudhomme, Alan and Sheila Prudhomme, Ann Rappaport and Sean and Laura Gavin.





We all met outside the main entrance and had a security escort into the plant. The cars were parked in the body shop atrium and we were greeted by the plant manager, his staff, and UAW Local 7 officials. After a brief introduction and PowerPoint presentation, some members went on a plant tour while the others mingled with the employees who had come to see the cars.



Lunch was served, after which, members took advantage of the opportunity to get pictures of their cars in the plant. Before leaving we all signed a MCVO banner and took a group photo.



LaFontaine VIP Event at M1 Concourse

Gary Rappaport

Traditionally, the week of Dream Cruise in Michigan, is non-stop with car activities. This year was no exception. MCVO was either sponsoring or invited to events almost every day of the week.

Drew Sauvola, from LaFontaine Chrysler, invited MCVO members and their guests to be a part of their open house, on Wednesday August 15th, at their garage in the M1 Concourse. The LaFontaine Chrysler garage did not disappoint! It's a huge, beautifully decorated double-door unit, with a mezzanine that overlooks the race track. In addition the first 24 Vipers were to be parked inside the Concourse, next to their garage.



It was a picture perfect summer evening. We had a fantastic turnout with 54 cars and 90 attendees. When we arrived, we were treated to beer/wine and a beautiful buffet. Normally that would be a great event, especially since it was free, but we also were treated to thrill rides in Hellcats on the M1 race track.



I spoke with numerous members who attended, and everyone had a great time. It definitely put everyone in the mood for the upcoming Dream Cruise. I thanked Drew for the opportunity that was provided to our members and asked that they please keep us in mind for next year.



Dream Cruise Thursday

Diane Cipponeri



The Woodward Dream Cruise festivities started out for the MCVO with our traditional annual Thursday evening get-together. This year Sam Milana was able to procure a choice spot for our Snakes on the east side of Woodward just north of 16 Mile Road. This location was a prime spot to view the show leading up to Saturday's official Dream Cruise day.

Fifty-three of our MCVO members ignored the weather forecast and showed up for this event. Well, the weather gods (they must love seeing our collection of Vipers) were with us because after starting out with a slight mist we were rewarded with a beautiful evening for the thirty or so Vipers who attended.



But it didn't stop there. Food was plentiful with Jet's pizza, antipasto salad, refreshments, watermelon and of course desserts galore. Taking seconds and sometime thirds was encouraged and we all obliged as the food just kept coming.

Our MCVO members who attended set up their chairs on the grassy area adjacent to the road and spent the rest of the evening socializing with fellow MCVOers. Always a good way to renew friendships and ignite new relationships. While eating and drinking, our attendees enjoyed their libations with the flashing, LED wine glasses that were given to them as the event gift. It was cool to see all these flashing glasses on the berm as we enjoyed the show on Woodward. Hey, we're still kids aren't we?

It was another great time with an excellent turnout by our membership despite the forecast. Plan to see you at any and all of our upcoming events. See you on the road !

I'd like to thank everyone who came early to set up. It was still misting and you spent the rest of the evening damp! After everyone had left; there you were again picking up any stray trash and putting things back into the Cipponeri's vehicle. Mike and Diane had to drive a daily in order to transport everything.

It takes volunteers to have these fun events, thank you all! Editor



Woodward Dream Cruise

Sam Milana

The world's most popular car cruise and largest one day automotive event definitely lived up to expectations. This year's Woodward Dream Cruise on August 18th was MCVO's most attended ever.



We had 79 Vipers and 119 participants during the day! Fifteen of those participants were out of state or Canadian VOA members and their guests.



We put one example of each generation of the Viper out on display at the curb's edge for the whole day. Steve Dreyer from Autoform in Holland, Michigan, brought three of his unique "wide body" Vipers, one of which went on display too.



Our new location at 38500 Woodward Ave. had plenty of parking and shade trees for us to sit under to watch the parade of cars go by all day and into the night. Large events like this take a lot of planning and effort. As the event coordinator, there's no way I could do it alone. Luckily MCVO has a cohesive board of directors who all work together to make these events a success.





Our President Bruce Heckman and Dick Winkles met with me to look at the lot and sign the contract. Secretary Gary Rappaport and Treasure Tim Sutherland with support from Rick Jakacki helped register members as they entered and Apparel Director Lori Emerling sold MCVO merchandise.



There are so many more people who helped and I want to thank you all.
Hope to see you at next year's event!



Dave you're in the wrong ride!!



Photo Credits

Ann Rappaport

Gary Rappaport

Dave Dziekan

Sam Milana

Kyle Hueston

JNAP

