

Snake Bites

Feather Bowling

Gen V Trunk Pop-Up Kit Install

G.M. Heritage Tour

Spring Brunch

Cruise Nights

Oakland Schools Technical Car Show

Winter Party

Drag Queen Bingo

Karting



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I've never met a passive Viper owner. Some are more reserved than others when you meet them, but when you push them, they are all competitive and they don't just settle for "good enough." It's that spirit and the passion for the car that gives us the membership that makes up one of the strongest car clubs in the nation!

Please enjoy this latest edition of the MCVO newsletter. It covers the fun events we've had over the last few wet and cold months. The newsletter and the everything featured in it are the epitome of the generous donations of time and talent that your Board and active members undertake for our club.

Member initiated events have steadily increased as the club has grown. New ideas, places and activities are a win-win for all members. As you can see, we travel all over the state for a few days of comradery with each other. Driving the cars there, with a couple dozen other Vipers, makes these trips a highlight for everyone. Even the short one-day activities are a chance to see what has been updated or changed on the cars. Many a car has arrived with a mechanical issue, a group of members (made up of retired Viper Team persons and Viper knowledgeable mechanics) gather around and the problem is identified, fixed or sound advice is freely given to the owner. What a club!

The often-repeated phrase "you join for the car and stay for the people" really holds true.

Unfortunately, due to work pressures and illness, we've had to recently replace both our Motorsports Director and Treasurer. We hate to lose good people, but we're lucky to have outstanding replacements step up immediately to take their place. I want to thank all of you for your enthusiasm and contributions to our club.

Hopefully we'll soon get to stop playing weather roulette and really get to enjoy our cars. Look forward to the exciting agenda of events we've got scheduled for you this summer!

Bruce Heckman



Editor's Message

As Canadian member, Tom Azzopardi, got ready to drive to our Karting event on March 30th, it became clear his daily wasn't going to make the trip. A very inconvenient time for the Ram truck to have mechanical issues. As any true northerner understands, a little cold weather does not mean you can't take the Viper. It means you just need to be extra cautious driving.

When I offered to take a few pictures for him, my thoughts: snow, gloomy, overcast and a Viper.... cover photo! Taking pictures for events isn't hard, but finding one for the front and back covers, it's always a challenge.

Thank you Tom, for giving me the extra time to take the pics.



Ann Rappaport
snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Calendar Of Events

June

- 6 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 19 - Cruise Night
- 22 - Cohoctah Cruise & BBQ
- 29- Snake Saturday with Kids

July

- 6 - Stahl's Museum
- 11 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 12 - Jefferson Plant Tour
- 13 - Waterford Hills Track Day
- 17 - Cruise Night
- 20 - High Octane Cars & Coffee
- 27 - Mopars at the Red Barn

August

- 1 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 15 - MCVO Dream Cruise Dinner
- 16 - Gingerman Longest Day
- 17 - Tire Rack Autocross
- 17 - Woodward Dream Cruise
- 21 - Cruise Night
- 28 - Harper Ave Cruise

September

- 5 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 6, 7 & 8 - Snakes in the Hills MCVO/Ohio
- 18 - Cruise Night
- 27, 28 & 29 - Wine Tour

Motor City Viper Owners

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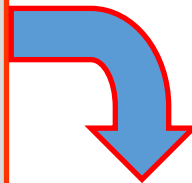
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Vice President - Gary Rappaport
Treasurer - Rick Reuter
Secretary - Rose Klutz

Directors:

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



During the driving season often there are more events as well as changes to listed events. For the latest information please reference our club's calendar at **www.MCVO.net** thank you!

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.

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5th Tavern

Gary Rappaport



This was a strange and unusual spring day in Michigan. The day started out sunny, and warm with a lot of potential. As the day progressed, it became dark and overcast with radar showing rain was moving in. A few were caught in a small 5 minute downpour. With all our weather concerns, we still had a great turnout, with 28 in attendance and 13 Vipers.

Tom Azzopardi came from Canada in his Viper Truck. We'd also had a couple of new members in attendance for their first event. Let's give a warm welcome to: Dave and Cheryl Bailey, and Mike Bedard.

Thanks to Rick Jakacki, our Cruise Night Director, and everyone who attended.



MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:



Mid	Aman	Farmington Hills
David	Bailey	Rochester
Michael	Bedard	Sterling Heights
Jon & Donna	Block	Rochester Hills
Jordan	Buscemi	Plainwell
Dave	Camire	Lakewood Ranch FL
Barry & Sue	DeWitt	Fenton
Tom	Dusseau	Traverse City
Aaron	Good	Jackson
Timothy	Joyce	Macomb
Charles	Katko Jr	Lake Orion
Paul	LaPlant	Wauseon OH
Ken	Snyder	Shelby Township
John	Thomson II	Beverly Hills
Tim	Unger	Maple City
Martin	Wilds	Brighton

Feather Bowling 2019

Diane Cipponeri



The Bath City Bistro in downtown Mt. Clemens was the venue for this year's Feather Bowling Tournament on January 20. Twenty five members of the MCVO signed up for this fun and enjoyable competitive event.



This year we had six teams: The Roadsters, The Coupes, The Venoms, The Snake Pits, The Happy Asps and The Roaring V-10's. All came to compete for a bottle of wine and our infamous individual solid gold trophy.

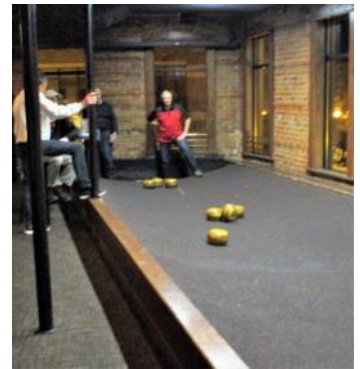


It was a great day and a great way to get out of the house and enjoy yourself with some of your MCVO friends for a couple of hours on a cold winter's day. We were able to socialize and catch up on the news we had missed over the holidays. We dined on pizza, antipasto salad, Caesar salad and for dessert ... brownies.



This year's champions were the Roaring V-10's ... again. The team members this year consisted of Gary Rappaport, Tiffany Sutton, Rich Maccani and Rose Klutz. This is the 3rd consecutive year that Rose Klutz has been on the winning team. Rose continues her dynasty.

At the end of the evening, the Roaring V-10's accepted their awards with grace as the rest of us looked on with envy and with a little razzing. Even without our Vipers we can still enjoy each other's company.



Event of Interest

"O-Tech" Car show

Charlie Brown

I attended the Oakland Schools Technical Campus car show on May 3rd. Only two Vipers showed up -- mine and Ted & Joanne Gray's Stryker Purple Gen 5. There were two Cobras and a dozen or so other 4-wheel toys brought by the adults and another dozen or so by the kids.



I think the rain/drizzle put a damper on the turn-out (pun intended). The Gray's took the win in the adult category with second going to a very nice, very stock '51 Chevy. We all had a good time, but are definitely looking forward to better weather for next year's show! The morning munchies and BBQ lunch by the school's culinary crew was first class!! The homemade trophies -- made by the kids -- were really cool, too! Look for an email announcing their show next spring. This is another EOI well worth attending!



Event of Interest

GM Heritage Center

Gary Rappaport

Our club had the unique pleasure to tour The GM Heritage Center. The Center displays more than 200 of GM's Concept Cars and Special Interest Styling/ Performance One-Offs. It is not open to the Public so this is a great opportunity to see one of the greatest car collections in the World. We had about 12 members and their guests meet at The Pantry prior to the event. Others chose to meet at the event and we had approx. 18-20 in total. Unfortunately, our group photo did not capture everyone in attendance.



Camp Ticonderoga

Gary Rappaport

Our winter has been pretty mild and everyone is trying to get back to their routines after the holiday season. For the January cruise night we met at the festive Camp Ticonderoga for an evening of good food and friends. Camp "Ti" is still decked out in it's "holiday attire" and was a beautiful backdrop for our evening. There were 21 people in attendance



Rusty Bucket

Rappaport's

February's cruise at was on a very snowy night! Michigan had just seen a few days of extreme winter weather from snow, rain, to freezing rain. The day of our cruise, another couple inches of snow had descended, creating havoc for drivers thru-out the day. People arrived early anticipating a long drive, but most were not delayed.

The group enjoyed socializing and greeting the newest members. 18 of our toughest members braved the elements to come out and enjoy great camaraderie and good food. Our server, Zach, handled our group with a smile and kept the food and drinks coming in a timely manner.

Rusty Bucket delivered on its food and quick attentive service. While one of the smaller cruise nights, it was still loud and lively!

Many thanks to our Cruise Night Director, *Rick Jakacki*, who drove over 2-1/2 hours to attend!



Illustrates the two handed process to open the trunk.

A "use before date" humorous!



Pop up with threaded base



The existing rubber trunk stop



Unscrew and remove the rubber trunk stop

Gen V Trunk Pop-Up Kit Install

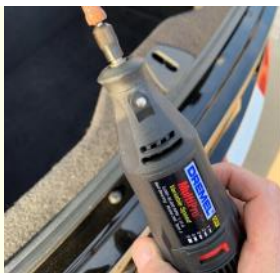
Sam Milana

There's two ways to pop the trunk on a Gen V. You can use the button on the remote or the button on the underside of trunk lip. When the buttons are pushed, the trunk releases but stays latched so it takes two hands to fully open the trunk, one to hold the button in and the other to lift it past the latch. In 2017 Dodge realized this was a problem and started installing spring loaded pop-ups. You can easily fix this problem on the 2013-2016 Vipers by installing the Mopar pop-up kits. There are two Mopar parts available for this:

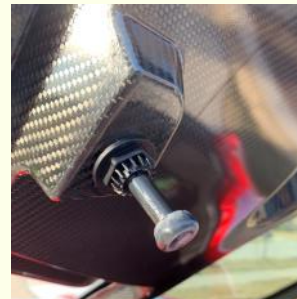
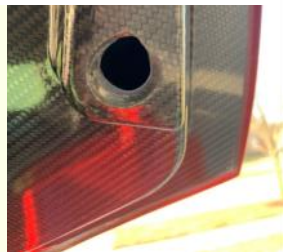
68334530AA is for Vipers with a rear wing and 05043098AA is for non wing Vipers.

After talking to a few owners who had installed these, they recommended the *68334530AA Mopar part with a stronger spring.*

A Dremel or similar tool is needed to elongate the hole to accommodate the new pop up



Widen the hole just enough for the new pop up to fit in.



Thread the new pop up in the hole.

The trunk now releases past the latch for one hand operation



Steelhouse Tavern

Rappaport's

The March cruise night was a success even with the crazy weather. We've dined in Steelhouse's semi outdoor patio seating in the past. With the huge fireplace going you really don't know you're on a patio.



The food was very good and the friends- even better! We had a visit from a perspective new member, who we introduced to Bill Golling, as he's looking to purchase a Viper. All in all it was an enjoyable evening!

Marty Heitkamp wanted to bring his new ACR to the event if it didn't rain. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans. Temperatures had been in the 40's during the day and the snow was gone, but winter was still hanging on. It was a brisk rainy evening. We still had a great turnout of 31 people. Steelhouse is of our favorites for the winter, where everyone can huddle around the fire pit.



We'd also like to welcome some of our newest members, Carl and Leanne Dukatz, who came all the way from California, and attended their first MCVO event!

MCVO Charter Members

Diane Cipponeri

When the club started, back in 1994, there were 64 people who originally signed up to be part of the MCVO. Out of those original 64, today there are 13 members that still belong to our club! I would like to say "Thank You" to these 13 people. Not only did you have a vision, but you still believe in that vision of this club. The members are as follows:

Floyd Allen

Sam Brasile

Charlie Brown III

Dave Buchesky

Sandy Emerling

Basil Hargraves-Thomas

Joe Klutz

Doug Livermore

Mike Morss

Rick Reuter

Roy Sjoberg

Ron Stene

Frank Vaughn



Interior concept car



Viper concept car



Event of Interest

Drag Queen Bingo

Gary Rappaport



On April 12th, Ann and I hosted a unique Event of Interest – Drag Queen Bingo. This is a new twist on the timeless game of bingo. This is definitely not your mother's bingo! The evening started with the group meeting for dinner at 526 Piano Bar in Royal Oak. Since none of our group, including the hosts, had ever been to Drag Queen Bingo, there was a little apprehension and much excitement about how the evening would unfold.

After dinner the group of 16 walked to the Bingo venue: Five15, located a few blocks from the restaurant. The evening started with our "hostess" Carol introducing herself and sharing a history of her extensive stage and performance background. The banter is "adult themed" but it's all in good fun. Within minutes, the entire room was roaring with laughter.

Carol would proceed to call out numbers, with an eventual winner. Ann won a round and was called up onstage and presented with a naughty coffee cup and t-shirt. During the evening, Carol asked each group about themselves. We explained we were the local Viper Car Club to which we heard many favorable comments about Vipers, except the sheriffs office group, they had the "we've got our eyes on you" look thereafter.

As the evening progressed, Carol would banter with the audience, poking good-natured fun at various attendees, while playing bingo. By the end of the evening, it's fair to say everyone spent the majority of the evening laughing.

Everyone had a fantastic time and was glad they gave it try. Ann and I may make this a yearly event and maybe next time, MCVO will take over the room.





MCVO 2019 Winter Party

Diane Cipponeri



This year's MCVO Winter Party once again was held at The Gazebo in Warren on Saturday, February 23. Forty seven MCVO members attended and were treated to a delicious buffet dinner complete with dessert, games, 50/50 raffle and prizes for all. The games were the focus of the evening with the traditional Black Jack tables providing hours of fun and entertainment.



Thanks to those who volunteered to be our black jack dealers. They kept the black jack games competitive but fun for everyone. For the second year we had the Viper racing which added another element of fun.

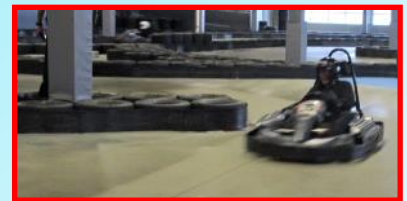
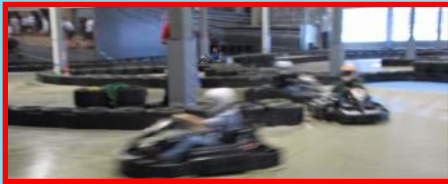




The evening continued with a 50/50 raffle with the happy winner going away with a smile. The evening concluded with the raffling off of all the prizes where everyone goes away a winner.

Thanks to all who attended this year's Winter Party and already looking forward to next year's event.



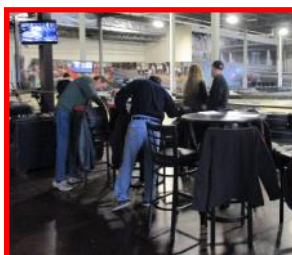
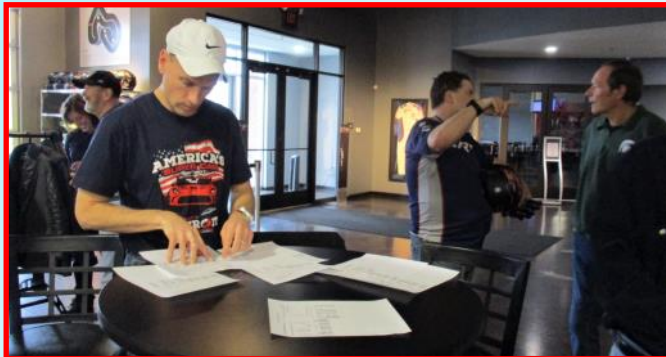


JD Karting
Ann Rappaport

Another fun JD Karting event was held on March 30th. Inside was warm and the karts didn't disappoint. Outside it was gloomy and as we were leaving, snowflakes started falling.

The karts are electric and go from 0 to 40 mph with small push of the accelerator, a rather intoxicating experience. This can lead to some "bumper car" like situations. Having caused some and been the recipient of a few, I can say 40 mph packs a punch!

For the second year in a row first place went to John Wright, who bested a member or two that had expectations of taking first. Second place went to Jeff Morton, with Gary Rappaport claiming third place. Everyone enjoyed driving especially since we've spent months going without.



Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award Winners

Diane Cipponeri

This is our MCVO Club's 20th year in handing out this prestigious award. I'd like to share with you who has won this award since its beginning! This award is given out every year at the Spring Brunch to the person/persons who's contributions to the club stand out. This includes volunteering their time, talents, running of events, attending club functions and representing MCVO in a positive and professional manner.

1999	Mike & Diane Cipponeri
2000	Jim Bielenda
2001	Lori Emerling
2002	Lori Emerling
2003	Lori Emerling
2004	Sharon Cockrell
2005	Jim Bielenda
2006	Maureen Hackney
2007	Ron Stene
2008	Mike Cipponeri
2009	Maureen Hackney
2010	Ted & Joann Gray
2011	Jess Hackney
2012	Bob White & Sandi Manning
2013	Mike Kelly
2014	Sam Milana
2015	Maureen Hackney
2016	Bob Swartz
2017	Gary & Ann Rappaport
2018	Bruce Heckman

Joyce Allen was a founding member of MCVO which was formed in May, 1994.

She championed the idea of having a charter club back in 1993-94 and served as one of the early club Presidents. Not long after, Joyce was diagnosed with cancer and sadly passed away.

The Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award was first proposed to the then MCVO board by Liz Livermore in 1998.

The Board wholeheartedly approved Liz's proposal. The Joyce Allen Award was initiated in honor of Joyce's work in getting the chapter started and for her love and enthusiasm for the Viper!

The first award was given in 1999, based on the member who demonstrated an outstanding degree of enthusiasm during the previous year. Mike and I were most fortunate to receive the first ever Joyce Allen Enthusiast Award!

In the intervening years a wide variety of members have been awarded the Joyce Allen Enthusiast award. It has become exactly what Liz had hoped, a sincere thank you, a way for the club to honor the recipient's hard work, commitment and dedication to the club, it's members and the car.



Granite City April Cruise Night

Gary Rappaport

It was a cool spring day, with rain predicted. Marty Heitkamp was the only brave soul who brought his Viper. We had a good turnout, with 23 in attendance.

We also had a chance to celebrate Elaine Heitkamp's birthday!

Thanks to Rick Jakacki, our Cruise Night Director, and everyone who attended.





MCVO 2019 Spring Brunch

Diane Cipponeri



The official start of the 2019 Viper driving season was kicked off with our annual MCVO Spring Brunch on May 19. This event was attended by 93 MCVO members.

The venue was held at our traditional Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville Township. Thank you to Mike and Joanne Morss for once again sponsoring this event here for the 23rd year in a row. This year 2019 also marks the 25th anniversary of our MCVO car club.

All members went home with a custom, handmade four-piece coaster set designed with our Club logo and the three Corporate Viper logos.





A 50/50 raffle was held and many prizes were raffled off so that everyone went home with a keepsake. Club merchandise was available to order.



New members were introduced and recognized along with all Club Charter members in attendance. The state of our Club was also discussed including our financial position. Upcoming events were enthusiastically summarized by individual event coordinators.

At each year's Brunch we recognize the Member of the Year with the Joyce Allen award. This year's recipient was Bruce Heckman, president of the MCVO. Thanks to Bruce for all the time that he continues to put into guiding our Club. He is most deserving.



Here's to a safe driving season. Hopefully we'll meet all of our members at one event or another this year. Have a great summer!

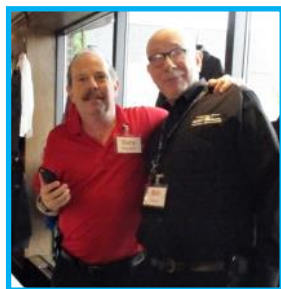
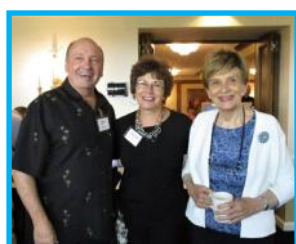




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Susan Andring

Mike Sutton

Gary Rappaport

Sam Milana

Rhonda Wright

Rachael Morton

Charlie Brown

Floyd Allen