

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

2019 Fall ~ Volume 24 Issue 3

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Holiday Party

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, hopefully your snake(s) are snugly tucked in for the cold weather season by now. It's time to take account of the maintenance issues you need to address so that you can charge out of the gate in the Spring. Make sure you order any parts you need. Remember, now that they're not making the car anymore, parts are scarcer and it often takes more time to get them. If you can't work on your car over the Winter, plan ahead for when you want to get the work done. It's not crazy to book appointments with your dealer/mechanic now.



One of the reasons you may want to charge out of the garage in the Spring is to attend the National Viper Event in Miami (Apr 29 – May 2). We have a large contingent of MCVO members attending and it should be a grand old time. Check our Who's Attending list to see the attendees and coordinate fun with your friends.

Your Board has been hard at work developing a strong schedule of events to carry us through the year. We have some exciting new events that should catch your attention and we are carrying over several of our tried and true traditional events. Check the event calendar on the MCVO Web Site to make your selections. It's going to be busy!

As always, we remain open to comments and suggestions from members. We encourage your active participation. If you would like to be an event coordinator or assistant to one of our Directors, please let us know. We're going to have elections at the end of the year and if you think you might want to be a member of the Board of Directors, now is the time to get involved.

Bruce Heckman

Editor's Message

It's supposed to be winter right now. But last week I drove the Gen 2 home from Chelsea on dry, clean roads. What a treat, being able to drive one of these cars safely in December.

Behold the new garage! What a long arduous experience new construction is. We're glad to have a garage, but still exhausted from all the B.S. encountered along the way. The lift is great, but putting all the "stuff" away hasn't been very much fun. Still working on that part.

At the January Board meeting we worked on plans for this driving season. MCVO is one of the most active car clubs I know of. We've had more members offer suggestions and then help with the event than ever before. This is great, and *it's important*. MCVO is a big club, to have events run smoothly there needs to be enough people helping out. Please consider becoming involved in some way.

You have a talent which the club needs, remember good things happen when you give of yourself.

Last thing, for some reason quite a few of the pictures I took were blurry or out of focus. Because they were the only pictures we had for the event and I was able to clean them up a bit, I used them in this issue. Evidently our little "point and shoot" camera was not functioning very well.



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

February

- 6 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 19 - Cruise Night
- 29 - Winter Party

March

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

April

- 2 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 25 - Spring Tech Day
- 29-30 NVE4 Miami (also dates in May)

May

- 1-2 NVE4 Miami
- 7 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 17 - Spring Brunch
- 20 - Cruise Night
- 23 - Snakes Invade Shelby
- 31 - High Octane Cars & Coffee

June

- 4 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 6 - Car Collection Tour
- 7 - MIS Parade Lap (tentative)
- 17 - Cruise Night
- 27 - Avian Experience

Motor City Viper Owners

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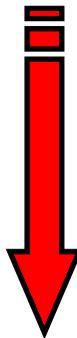
Officers:

President - Bruce Heckman
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

Please Note



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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MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:



| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| George | Basil | Warren | MI |
| William | Botsford | Grosse Pointe Park | MI |
| Paul | Choukourian | Birmingham | MI |
| Michael | Harris | Saint Clair Shores | MI |
| Bruce | Shotwell | Shelby Township | MI |
| Josh | Tait | Westland | MI |
| Chris | Thompson | Jackson | MI |
| Cacin | Turner | Detroit | MI |

Ferrari v Ford Movie

Ann Rappaport



Excellent movie, excellent seating in our own theater and MCVO friends to watch with. It may have been a cold November night outside, but inside we were enjoying the sounds of loud motors and wishing we could go for a drive in our own cars.

A big thank-you to Tony Smith for making the arrangements.



November Cruise at Twisted Rooster

Bruce Heckman

Twenty-one members braved the newly arrived cold and snow to meet at the Twisted Rooster in Belleville on November 6th for our Cruise Night. Unfortunately no one brought their Vipers, but we all had a great time socializing and swapping stories about putting our steeds to bed for the winter.

Several members commented that they liked the west side location for a change. Our thanks to Rick Jakacki for coordinating the event!



Fall Color Tour

Bob Swartz



Dave Dziekan & Kathy Bieniewicz had things perfectly planned. It was a great day, with good friends, new and long-time! There were 22 cars and 36 smiling faces who participated. The meet and greet was at the Big Boy and everything went smoothly. Okay, Bob's Gen I starter refused to kick in but Mike Sutton and Rich Maccani assisted as Pit Crew, mechanics, and potential life-boat. Finally bump starting and repeated fiddling got the green machine going and happily participating the rest of the event and home.



It was a sweet cruise up the St Clair river then overland to "Speaker Lone Oak Orchard". The roads were smooth, a real treat in Michigan, low traffic and some beautiful colors.



Darlene and the Lone Oak Orchard folks had the welcome mat out, actually it was a nice lawn with our name in lights out front! If that's not enough, they provided tasty fresh DONUTS, CIDER, HOT DOGS! and a HAY RIDE without limits! Some members picked apples off the trees as we passed – FRESH! Then shopping in their curio and apple showroom. MCVO treated members to a raffle of 15 fresh made from scratch pies by Lone Oak Orchard. Who doesn't like pie? Even when 6 of those prize pies were accidentally sold – oh my! Darlene and crew/family scurried to bake replacements; so those winners got SUPER fresh pies – priceless!



Then an easy as pie (can't resist a good pun) cruise to Watermark Restaurant on the Lake St Clair coast/canals. How did Dave get us though the traffic mess at Gratiot and M-19 so well? Magic! And a wonderful time was had by all! Thank you Dave and Kathy! Also thank you to Jason Pontello, Ron Stene, Alex Good and Paul McClorey for sharing their photos.





CPG Autocross

Sam Milana

The autocross is always a great event, even with a few hiccups, and a few late

afternoon sprinkles, it was still super fun. LOTS of smiles from drivers inside their cars. We had about 45 members, and their guests in attendance.

Also, a few cones stuck under Vipers as well, but you'd had to of looked closely for those!

Here are your class winners:

Gen 1 Bryan Aitken 71.047

Gen 2 Michael Sutton 66.222

Gen 2 with ABS Paul McClorey 69.392

Gen 3 Pat Combs 65.597

Gen 4 Corbin Hallberg 67.964

Gen 5 Jeff Lambert 64.507

Fastest Time of the Day Ralph Gilles 62.723

Rookie of the Year CORRECTION

Timothy Tim Schmitt 69.144,

runner up Mike Doljevic 71.563

Fastest Female Susan Andring 74.025

Most Cones Killed Raoul Eiseman

Congrats to all.

Big shout out to everyone that volunteered. It truly is a monumental task with a lot of behind the scenes people putting this together.





Snakes on Telegraph

Bruce Heckman

On September 13, 2019 the MCVO, Cobra and Shelby clubs were invited to celebrate the grand opening of the spectacular Southfield Dealers Body Shop of the Ken Garff Automotive Group on Telegraph in Southfield. Originally the response was overwhelming, but as the day approached the weather was dismally rainy.



Our host, Rick Sheldon, General Manager of the Body Shop, scrambled and opened up space inside a couple of their bays so that many could park inside. Others outside got caught in the deluge. The parking planned inside before the rain included 5 featured cars in the main showroom. Kudos to Bob Swartz and Lori/Sandy Emerling for displaying their Vipers, along with 2 Cobras and a very rare Marcos.



We had 22 MCVO members and 13 cars in attendance (about half of those who originally signed up). Approximately 70 attendees with other affiliations were there too. Everyone got a chance to tour the impressive body shop facilities housed in three buildings. There was music, white tablecloth food, refreshments (including beer and wine), giveaways and raffle prizes. Some of our members won expensive Apple Air Pods and Fitbit Versa's. If you ever need body work on your Viper, give the Southfield Dealers Body Shop consideration, they have experience with our cars.





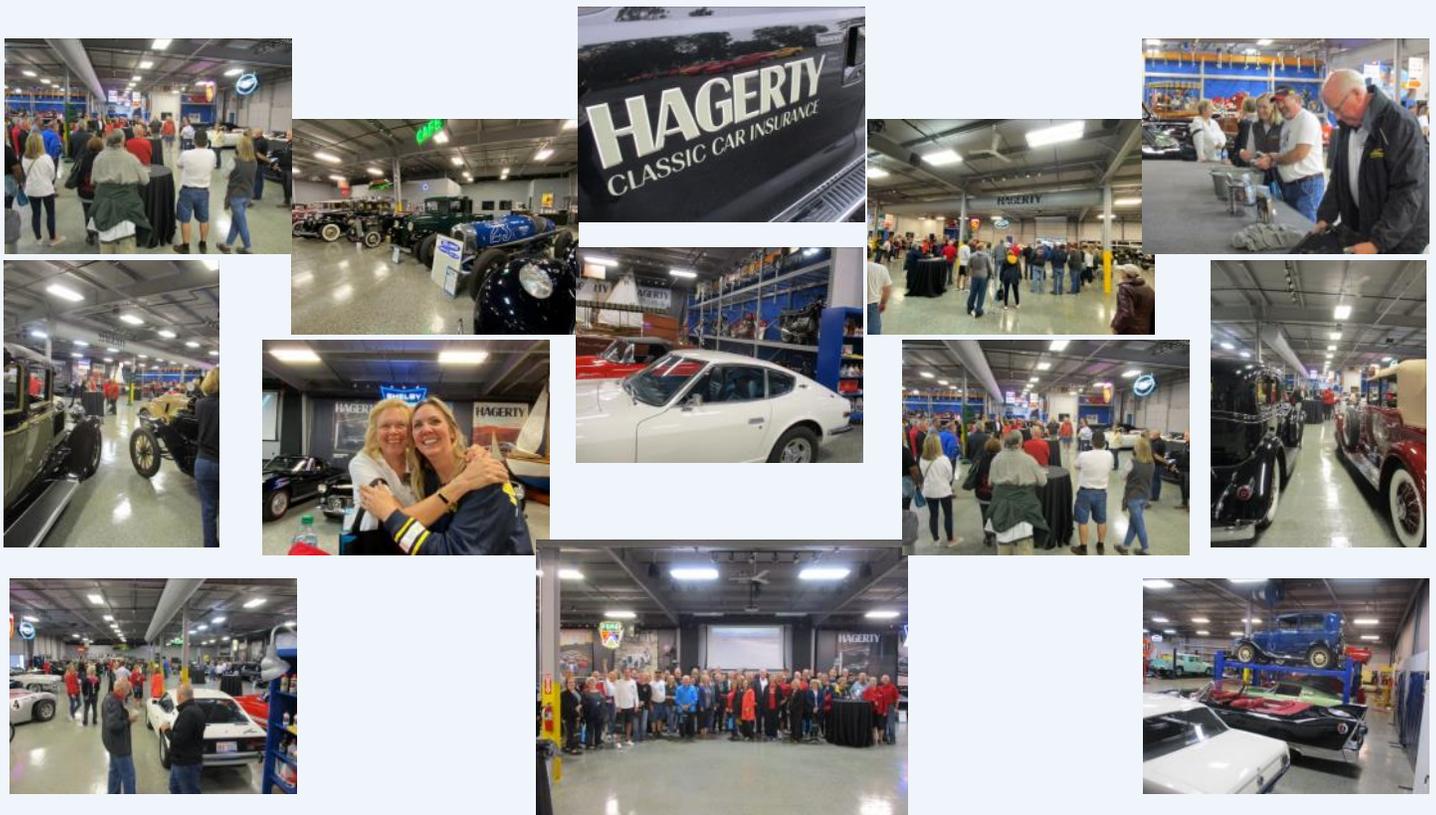
2019 Wine Tour

Diane Cipponeri



I'm not exactly sure what year our last wine tour was held. However, I am so glad that it has been taken out of the MCVO archives and put back on the calendar of events again! We had no less than 33 cars attend the event this fall. I know that was the best showing of members and their Vipers ever for this event!

On Friday, most of us caravanned up from the Detroit area meeting up with others at strategic points along the way. Our first official stop for the weekend was The Hagerty Garage in Traverse City. Hagerty was nice enough to graciously open up their beautiful car collection to us. Not only were we able to view their beautiful collection of cars, they served coffee, cider, doughnuts, veggies and more. We were given goodie bags filled with merchandise. They raffled off Hagerty books and welcomed us with open arms and were so happy that we came out and visited them. Great way to start the Wine Tour weekend after a long day on the road.



Next stop ... dinner at Boone's Long Lake Inn in Traverse City.

And what a dinner it was! The food was excellent and we received so many nice compliments on the taste and the amount of food we were given. Goody bags were handed out to all of our members. Each received a carry-all bag, a water cooler bag with water and hand sanitizers and a blanket with the Viper logo in the color of their car embroidered on it! After dinner back on the road to check-in at The Homestead Resort.

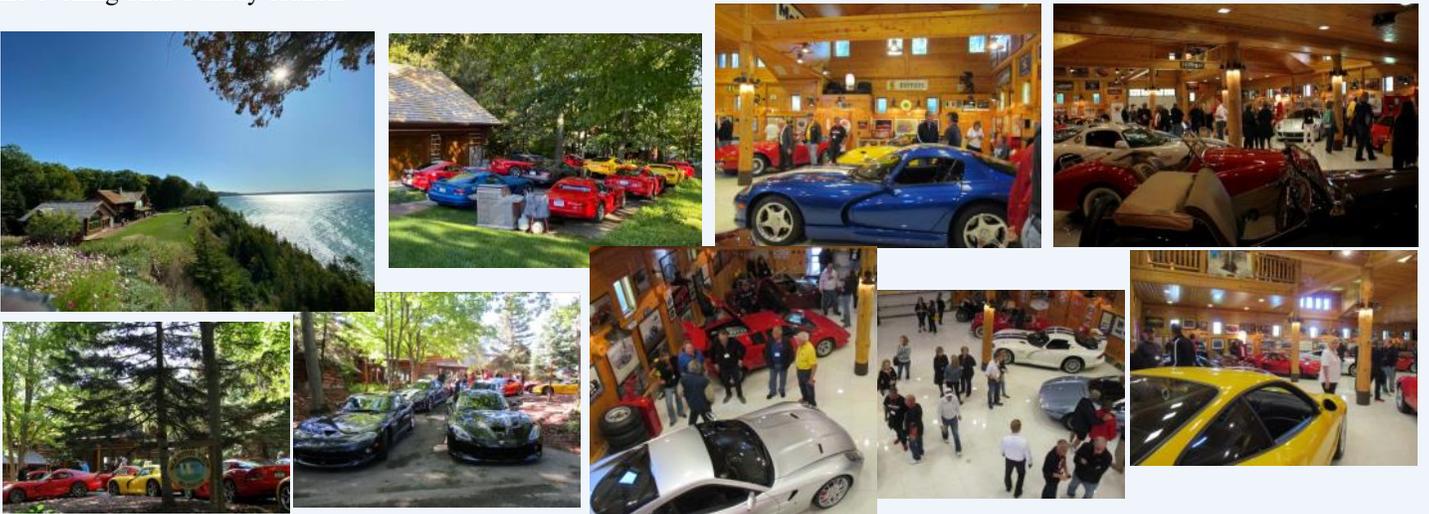


Our first driving day on Saturday consisted of visiting 3 wineries and of course sampling their wines. Dan McDavid led our caravan through the scenic Leelanau peninsula on our way to our winery destinations. The Blustone Winery, Leelanau Wine Cellars and the Boathouse Vineyards were our wineries of choice for this year's wine tour. It was such a beautiful day that we were able to walk around their vineyards while tasting their wines. Whether it was sitting around a fireplace or bayside or along the river, we enjoyed the fine wines and the ambience. We loved being able to purchase what we liked and bring our wine choices home with us.



Of course we drove through miles and miles of gorgeous back roads with the trees changing colors and showing off their beautiful fall foliage! We had a great cruising day. No accidents! No tickets! Only one story I have to tell. We were traveling thru the back roads, Mike & I were driving behind Paul and Alison McClorey. Suddenly, a deer came from out of nowhere, crossed the road by actually jumping over the middle of their Viper! Paul and Alison saw the deer in their rearview mirror but Mike & I saw it straight on! Talk about a Kodak moment! This had to be one of the closest things I have ever seen happen to a Viper and its owners. (I said Thank you! Don't worry.) I really do believe in flying reindeer now. I saw one.

The evening continued with a visit to see Dan and Sue McDavid's beautiful garage. They have added a few more cars to it since last time we visited. It keeps getting more and more exciting every time we visit. We were also able to climb the hill on his property and look out onto Lake Michigan and see the beautiful, sparkling water with the sun shining so brightly on it. We walked thru beautiful bountiful fields of gorgeous wildflowers popping up all around the walkway. What a site! It doesn't get any better than that. Following that it was off to dinner to The Little Traverse Inn in Maple City we went. We had a fabulous dinner and said good night to all for the evening until Sunday brunch.



Sunday came and we packed up to leave from The Homestead and caravanned to brunch at the VI Grille in Sutton's Bay. It was raining, but that didn't stop any of us. We had gifts to give out and had time to sit and talk with our Viper family. What a wonderful trip with a bunch of friends that share the same interest as all of us.



Don't forget ...
all because of a little red car!





Snakes Invade Shelby Township

Bruce Heckman



The day started out cloudy, but it opened up later on October 5th for a sunny open house car show at Direct Cars in Shelby Township. The specialty car dealership hosted 31 Vipers and over 46 of our members for this event catered by Buffalo Wild Wings.

Everyone enjoyed our host's sparkling facilities, the good food, drinks and complimentary cigars from the Godfather Bistro. The cluster of snakes drew crowds of passersby, including two Vipers who were not (currently) in our club. Several kids got a chance to pose in front of their favorite cars with ear-to-ear smiles.

It was a great Fall day! Our thanks to David Holder from Direct Cars for hosting our club. We're going to do it again in 2020.



Time to renew

For those of you that have already renewed for the 2020 season, thanks and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming MCVO events!

For those of you that haven't renewed yet, please consider this a friendly reminder to renew your membership.

Please renew by March 1th, to ensure you'll continue to receive the Snake Bites newsletter and be able to attend all the events that MCVO will be having in 2020.

If you need help in renewing your membership don't hesitate to contact me. Renew now; the driving season is right around the corner!

Marty Heitkamp

Lapeer Drag Way

Mike Sutton

Jason Howell, his wife Kathleen, Susan Andring and I were the only attendees. We met and had great conversations with other drivers in the pit area. They loved the Vipers.

Jason brought his beautiful 2016 GTC which on the third run ran a 11.9448 1/4 mile at 122.62 mph. My best run was also on my third run, 12.334 at 118 mph.

We did not compete in the “Viper only” elimination rounds since only 2 Vipers attended the event. Hopefully next time our group can entice more drivers. There were plenty of race cars though, since we waited approximately 30 minutes between runs.

I enjoyed planning the event and look forward to next year. I also took videos, while at the event. Links can be found on our club’s web site, under gallery. Scroll down to the Lapeer Drag Way pictures. Click the link and you’ll be taken to YouTube.



October Cruise at Rodger’s Roost

Gary Rappaport



Our October Cruise Night took us to a “first-time” restaurant for our group, Roger’s Roost. Thanks to Marty Heitkamp, who recommended the venue to our Cruise Night Director, Rick Jakacki. Rick always welcomes suggestions from our members, and is willing to try new establishments.

Roger’s Roost was very festive and went all out with their Halloween decorations. They also had a wide variety of food choices and over 30 craft beers on tap.

Unfortunately, fall has taken a definite turn to the colder side in Michigan, with a “high” that day of about 50 degrees and rain throughout the day. We had a smaller turnout than normal with 18 in attendance. We actually had 2 brave souls who brought their Vipers: Marty/Elaine Heitkamp and one of our newer members, Tim Schmitt.

For those of us that did attend, we had a great time seeing our fellow members and catching up, since the Wine Tour.





Fall Tech Day

Gary Rappaport

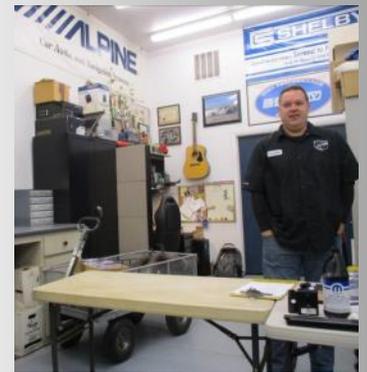


Our Motorsports Director was working on a new venue, when at the last minute, they were unable to host our group. Wil and Carrie Thorne graciously opened up their phenomenal garage to host our Tech Day. This is no ordinary garage. A couple of our members have had their cars serviced by Wil, but most of us were unaware of his expertise and experience with Vipers. This was also the first time that many of our members had visited his garage. Wil lives a considerable distance from the majority of members, but we still had 22 in attendance and 2 Vipers. Refreshments were provided by MCVO and Wil/Carrie.



The session started with Wil showing cut-up oil filters from numerous brand names, along with the Viper-specific filter. In each case the Viper filter was far superior. Wil proceeded to show a wide variety of failed components, that he had replaced for customers, alongside the new part. In many cases the defect was only found by Wil's diligent inspection.





Wil then covered tips for proper winter storage and then time/mileage intervals that the service manual recommends for fluid and consumable item replacements. I think each of us was a little guilty in thinking “if it wasn’t broke, why fix it”.

Since the Viper is no longer being produced, Wil has been acquiring the unique service tools and some rare parts, so that local Viper owners can feel comfortable knowing that someone will be able to help them in the future. It is becoming harder and harder to find a reputable Viper technician or capable dealerships in our area. Wil is filling this niche and those that have taken their cars to him have all spoken highly of his work ethic.



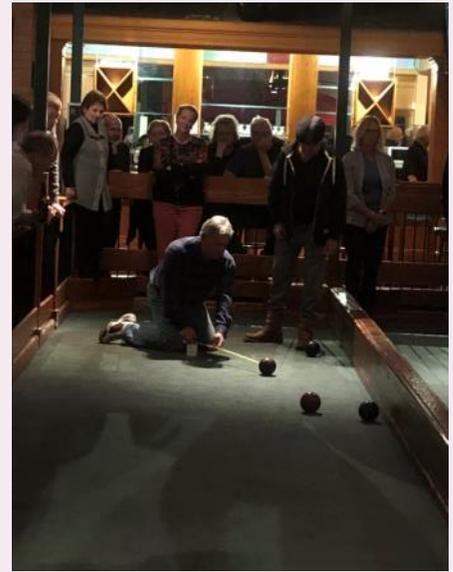
The session ended with a hands-on demonstration on Wil’s Gen 2 coupe. I heard many comments from members at the end, and everyone was very impressed with the session and what they took away from the event.



Our many thanks to Mike Sutton for planning this event and Wil/Carrie for opening their home to us.



Bocce Ball
Diane Cipponeri



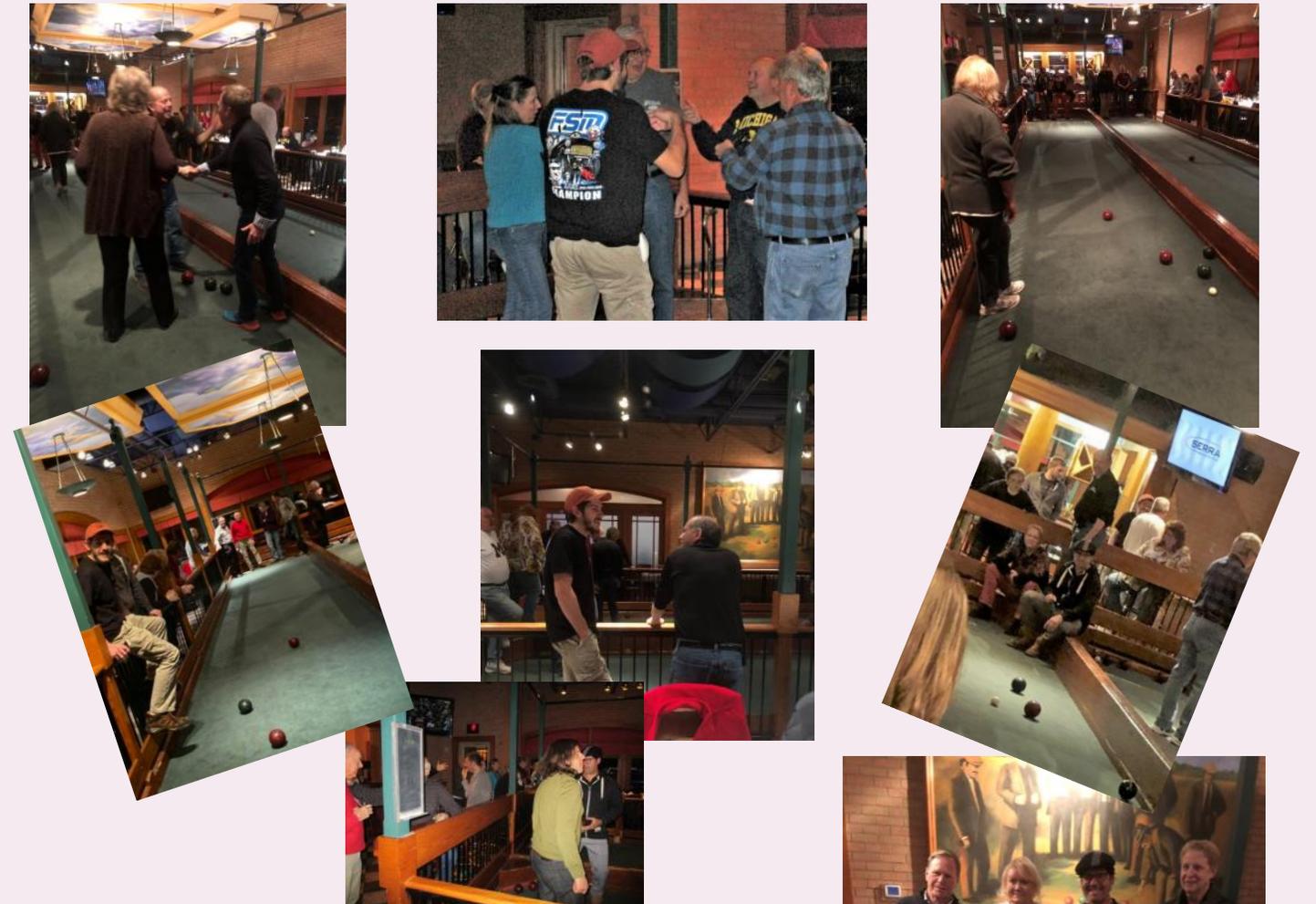
When November comes around, the MCVO knows its Bocce Ball time! So not to disappoint our members we held another session at Penna’s Banquet Center in Sterling Heights. Outside it was cold and dark, but inside friends gathered and pretty soon there was laughter and conversations while a few libations were enjoyed. There were even a few serious players out on the lanes practicing their roll!



This year there were absolutely no carbs, not one “wink-wink”, served in our dinner consisting of pizza, fettuccine alfredo, garlic bread, rolls, antipasto salad and spaghetti with meat sauce. We all look forward to coming out and enjoying “Italian night”!



We really went into overtime this year. We've been running past our quitting time the last few years. Members really enjoy this event and players take their participation seriously. This year we had "real" Italian bocce ball players sharing tips and their insight as well as how the correct way to play bocce goes! (Mike and myself aren't allowed to play anymore!)



The Coupes team, consisting of Rose Klutz, Greg Priestap, Carolyn Mason and Tonino Zaccagnini, are the 2019 Bocce Ball Champs! They went home with their coveted solid gold trophies and a large container of Saunders dark chocolate covered caramels.

Come out and join us at one of the off-season events. Chances are you'll end up spending the time with your MCVO friends, make new friends and do something that may be new to you like Bocce Ball!





Snakes In the Hills

Bob Swartz

Meet up and trip down: Pleasant, uneventful trip so far. Raisin River Battlefield National Park was most welcoming, great hosts!

Highlights: No rain in sight! :) Street sweeper passed and dusted all cars by road (MY CAR!) Bathrooms well kept. Important. Several folks delayed to see National Parks Service movie Re: *War of 1812 battles*. Really? My schedule, shot to hell early. Ugh

On the road: Finally! Good entry to I-75 even though it's down by one lane for construction. Busted semi-truck blocking 1 of 2 remaining lanes, more schedule delay, 1st gas stop and I'm trying to get catered lunch postponed due to delays, no gas or pottie for me, can't get hold of food driver. Lunch salvaged! Turns out I think the driver is mute! No voice phone! City BBQ, Blanchard bridge! Photos! Almost on schedule. Parker bridge. More pics! Beautiful! Local with a drone said he'd send me a video; let's hope.

White Shutter winery, tasty! Hospitable! Bought some. Not so fortunate experience for Rick & Marianne's car - troops rallied around - trip continues with help from rental car for the trip's true soldiers. Everybody got to see "my" bridge; "Swartz Bridge"; really; I'm so happy. My beautiful schedule is now totally destroyed; so skip the last bridge. It was the lest memorable anyway. Smooth sailing, mostly, on back roads to the Columbus beltway - then - chaos - every car for itself! Arrive ON TIME at our hotels. I got a 'welcome to your hotel' complimentary beer at check in! I needed that! Thank you, Brew Dog. Thank you MCVO friends and spirits!

Friday evening: Gathered at Brew Dog; HELLO OH-VOA folks, let the beers and the brewery tours begin. Right down with the tanks, pipes and valves. The room was really warm to help the goodies ferment and we learn about the process. Buffet of ribs, pizza, salad, and chicken wings; cash bar - all, overlooking the brewery.



A little more beer with a small auction and we bid goodnight. Most of the MCVO folks WALK back to their Best Western hotel while 6 of us slept in the brewery; really!

Saturday AM: Off to tour, shop and see Hocking Hills. The divided 4-lane road wasn't so twisty like had they said; boring. Turn off, drive 0.1 mile and Holy XXXX! This is TWISTY! Beautiful, scenic, iconic, fast, hilly! I can't see the road or anything over the hood! Stop, puff puff, at Ash Cave. Ancients cooking fire ashes were 4' deep built up over millennia; Awesome room.



We're off again - whoosh! Lunch at Olde Dutch Restaurant: Pies! Chicken! Cake! Home Cookin'! Pie and Ice cream! Did I emphasize PIES? Slithering through the Hills again - to The "Apple House": cider, apple slushies, small town comfy! Snaking again to - our individual photos at "Written Rock". Executed with military precision by "Sergeants": Mike, Susan, Mark, & Mike. Prints courtesy OH-VOA; thank you! ZOOM to Jack Pine Studio: art glass blowing demo. Interesting, entertaining, hot stuff, shopping 4 glass art. And we're off to coil up by our hotel homes and dinner.

People's comments: 'could we slow it down a bit too sightsee?' 'Wow. I hope we even step up the pace. It's FUN!'

Saturday evening: hurrying to dinner with my buddies via a gas stop; but I can't get away: one guy asks endless questions, a woman with her son take lots of photos;

THEN a cop pulls up and he wants to talk, forEVER! He said," I saw lots of these Vipers at the Best Western across the street. So why do you guys stay at a "dump" like that?" LOL! I tell him I'm sleeping in the Dog House brewery to which I get the blank "cop" stare. I 'escape', finally. Bruce busted the store rules and got us a group of tables: good for O'Charley's restaurant and Bruce I hope all the tips were good; even for our OSU fanatic fan waitress (but a real sweetheart).

Sunday Morning: I screwed up yesterday. The waitress informs me I didn't know to ask for my complimentary breakfast Mimosa. What's a Mimosa, I ask? She poured a tulip glass about 1/2 to 2/3 full of Hazy Jane beer then topped it with OJ – it's actually very good! Shake the hydroxyl alcohol groups (-OH) out of my system.

We're off: "stryking" out to Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve; deepest 'hollow' in Ohio. Pleasant! Walk, tour, observe, talk with friends. We proceeded, thankfully without sidwinding, to see the beautiful and the most unique sight of the trip: horses named - Sneaky Pete, Fang, and Styker. They each had a Viper logo hand painted on their sides; you just gotta see the pics of those!! Rode in a van to Mike & Brenda Fargo's place in the Hills; gravel roads ya-all. Quaint, beautiful, quiet, peaceful, to 'die for' shop/garage/barn/entertainment building set up for a royal Den of Vipers banquet! And dine we did in style; deliciousness all the way. Neat stuff being auctioned too! A 4-wheeler ride down, way DOWN to their getaway's getaway cottage, "The Point" at the base of *their own* gorge. Sorry, I ran out of superlatives and all those already used weren't good enough to describe what we enjoyed at the bottom of a 105-step stairway down to heaven. Thank you, Mike and Brenda, for this grand finale to a great weekend. You did so much to provide for all us unworthy MCVO and OH-VOA folks! We bid each other a safe and fond farewell.



Epilog: what a great way this was to get to know other members, whether long-term, new, or returning in our MCVO region as well as new friends in the OH-VOA region. It really takes a weekend and makes the weekend. Also, to work with a whole new group of Viperholics in Ohio is a treat. Thank you Rusty, Mark, Terry, and especially Mike and Brenda as well as my MCVO buddies Diane, Mike, Wil, Susan, and Mike. It was GREAT in every way.



Holiday Party

Rose Klutz



The MCVO Holiday Party was held in the beautifully decorated Fountain Room of the historic Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

At registration tickets were provided for gifts. After a pleasant interlude, chimes announced dinner. A sumptuous buffet was uncovered and all attendees favorably remarked at the wonderful presentation. Dinner was capped by a delicious dessert table filled with holiday designed cupcakes, cookies and candy canes. All this was accompanied by tasteful background music provided by a DJ contracted by Diane Cipponeri.



After dinner, ticket numbers were called by Joe Klutz for prizes – water bottles decorated with seasonal tops and beautiful center pieces provided by Diane and Mike Cipponeri. All present were thanked for attending and invited to continue to enjoy mingling and fellowship.



The music tempo was increased and the dance floor soon filled. To the surprise and enjoyment of the crowd, the DJ projected the MCVO logo on the walls. Smiles, cheers and appreciative applause followed.

Music requests were honored by the DJ and various tempos were to be heard. Libations continued to flow and dancing did not cease until well past midnight. All attendees expressed great satisfaction at the conclusion of another wonderful MCVO event.



Photo Credits:

Alex Good

Donna Sutherland

Sam Milana

Ann Rappaport

Gary Rappaport

Mike Sutton

Susan Andring

Cari Lambert

Bruce Heckman

Jason Pontello

Ron Stene

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