



Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Summer 2020 ~ Volume 25 Issue 2

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Well, needless to say, it's been a strange last 6-8 months. Dealing with an invisible enemy and a lack of consensus or consistency on how to do it has affected every aspect of our lives. Since March the monthly MCVO Board Meetings have had to be held as Zoom virtual meetings. Your Board has been working hard to adapt and present the membership with events to escape their houses and enjoy their reptile steeds. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to host large indoor gatherings like our traditional Spring Brunch, but we've tried to offer a variety of opportunities to get together, some past favorites and some entirely new. The intent has been to hold these activities in a socially responsible manner and we appreciate the cooperation of attendees.

To ensure that members get the full benefits of their dues we have subsidized the cost of this year's events, keeping the participation costs to a minimum. We continue to plan for the uncertainties coming up in the next 6-12 months. In addition, we spent funds, from cancelled events, to enhance other aspects for membership. The club now has a new timing system for motorized events and upgraded the features of our website. These expenditures should pay ongoing benefits in future years.

At this point it looks unlikely we will be able to hold our traditional Holiday Party and/or Winter Party. Likewise, the status of the National VOA's rescheduled NVE in Miami is still somewhat in flux. MCVO is planning a post-NVE event for attendees if it goes off as presently scheduled. We will be monitoring local and national conditions and looking to adapt as best we can.

By the time you are reading this we will be in the midst of the election process for new club officers whose term begins in January, 2021. I will not be running for office again (really, this time) in an effort to give others the opportunity to serve the club. It appears that we have some strong candidates and we need you to be sure to cast your vote.

If you are not one of the elected officers and would enjoy serving the club, please consider one of the appointed Director positions on the Board. Express your interest to any of the officers of the club to be considered.

As we enter the uncharted world of Winter 2020, please stay safe and prepare your trusted Viper for its winter nap. We want to see both of you next summer!

Bruce Heckman

Editor's Message

It's the height of Michigan driving season! We wait all winter to get out, join friends and make more MCVO memories.

Ah well, so much for that, right? I have driven a Viper once so far. While I'm grateful, it sure doesn't seem like much. What I did do was carry what seemed like a ton of dirt, compost, rocks and mulch. We finally finished the landscaping from the garage build and organizing the stuff which goes back into it. The other thing I did was to have rotor cuff surgery as a result of the former. Currently, shifting a Fiat 500 is possible with my left hand, but there's no way to safely shift a Viper that way. What an experience these past 6 months have been.

Did you know many of this years outside events were ideas from members? Lets keep finding ways to get together safely. I don't think a holiday party outside is going to happen, maybe one of you have an idea that involves a heated semi-empty warehouse with excellent ventilation? Listing all the events we had planned but knowing they will most likely be canceled is sad. Lots of time was put into each by a Board Member and I'm not encouraged next year will be back to a full schedule either.

I hope you, your loved ones and friends are doing as well as possible and are healthy. We've missed so many club events trying to stay safe that I had to ask for help with the photos in this issue. That's a first!



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Motor City Viper Owners

October

- 1 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 10 - Lutz do a Fall Color Tour
- 21 - Cruise Night

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 311,
Bloomfield Hills , MI. 48303

Email: viper@mcvo.net

November

- 5 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 7 - Fall Tech Day
- 14 - Bocce Ball *
- 18 - Cruise Night *
- 26 - Vipers on Parade Detroit *

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

December

- 3 - MCVO Club Meeting
- 5 - Holiday Party *

* Very unlikely we can have these events.

Important Information-

All events are subject to existing orders and directives from governmental bodies.

Events published here are not guaranteed.

Notification of event status will be sent via email and posted, when appropriate, on social media, as it draws near.

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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High Octane Cars & Coffee Part 1

Gary Rappaport



The Pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. Normally at this time of the year, our club calendar is full and members have to choose between numerous events.



This year we've had to cancel many events and this has been the first time that our members were able to come out and enjoy their cars and friendships. It started out as a chilly morning in the low 50's but as it progressed, with the sun, it started to warm up.

We had a great turnout with 32 people in attendance and 29 Vipers. The owners of High Octane Café love to have their lot full of Vipers. Last year we had one day dedicated to us and this year we'll have two. Our second event, Part 2, will be held on August 1. We look forward to seeing everyone there and maybe we can break our record



Cruise Alfresco

Bob Swartz



June 9th and we broke the curse of Covid19 isolation! YES!

17 intrepid MCVOer's did it in style and safely too. Hosted by gracious members Tim & Laura Schmitt on their lovely 5-acre "ranch".

The group was fantastic by doing all the safe practices to enjoy a beautiful day, in a beautiful place, and our beautiful cars too - for our first ever BYO-dinner Cruise.

What a joy it was to break the quarantine blues with our best cars and very best friends. Let's do this again sometime soon.



MCVO extends a warm welcome to these new members:

Miri Bibashani Macomb
Tony Edmonds Waterford
Kevin Gray Rossford
Scott Randolph Keego Harbor



During the ongoing pandemic lockdown and partial re-opening, Bob Swartz, has been a constant for us in MCVO. Bob has found creative ways for us to remain in contact and enjoy our Viper friends. From our Zoom virtual calls, to dinner gatherings, he has been leading the way for our members to stay in touch.

Our thanks to Bob Swartz for taking the time to coordinate these great events.



July Cruise Culver's 2

Bob Swartz

All the Cruises for MCVO that Rick Jakacki puts together for us is GREAT. This was no exception; and with some superlatives to boot! We had a whole parking lot to ourselves. As time passed several Culver's customers came to look at the cars.

We had a good turnout with 16 cars and 24 people, an enjoyable mix of new and long-time members. EZ to order carry out or drive thru dinner at our leisure with FREE, did I say FREE, ice cream delivered car side. Thank you very much.

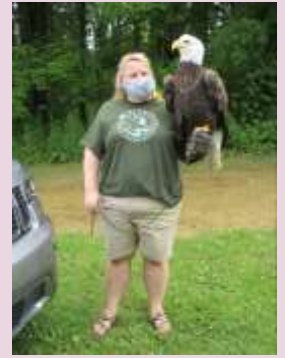
As best I could tell, a splendid time was had by all.

It sure was great to get "OUT". Everybody stayed safe while having a good time!





Michigan Avian Experience ~ Where Education Takes Flight
 Our Mission: Through education, appreciation, and better understanding,
 Michigan Avian Experience aims to create connections to the natural world
 foster a sense of respect and stewardship.



Michigan Avian Experience

Susan Andring

In the Fall of 2019, I had the chance to meet Francie Krawcke of the Michigan Avian Experience at Hawkfest held in Lake Erie Metropark. After her presentation with her beautiful Birds of Prey, I asked about creating a unique opportunity for the MCVO members and their families to take a road trip. Francie agreed, so we set the date for June 27th. They love visitors as they are educators as well.

I think everyone was anxious to get out and do something in their cars as the Covid-19 crisis was taking its toll. A road trip was long overdue by the end of June. Practically all of our events had been cancelled, but since this was going to be outdoors, we had a great turnout. So, on a gloomy Saturday morning, led by our Motorsports Director, Mike Sutton, 11 Vipers and 7 or 8 daily drivers set out to Brooklyn, Michigan to visit this 501C non-profit Raptor Rehabilitation and Rescue. It was a beautiful ride, partially through the Irish Hills. Once we got there, however, the sun came out!



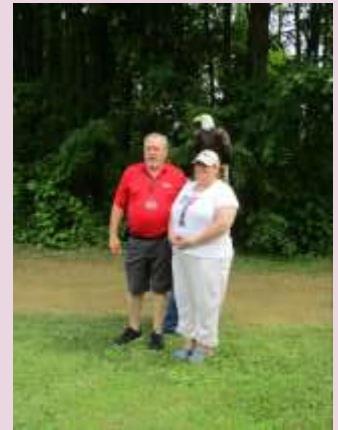
Francie's home and aviaries look like just another quiet country residence and she had a nice solid lawn for Viper parking. We were all free to wander the property. Sean and Laura Gavin's darling little girl, Madeline, had the best time hunting for critters; she found a pair of toads and a Praying Mantis. Francie took us around to introduce everyone to the birds while telling their stories on how they came to be in her care.





We met an American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl (my personal favorite), Red Tailed Hawk and a Broad-Winged Hawk. All of these raptors are permanently injured and can't be released back into the wild. They NEVER keep a bird if it can be released. Francie also flies the Bald Eagle over Eastern Michigan University football games as the National Anthem is played. Even birds that can still fly, may not be able to survive in the wild due to their unique situation.

After seeing the birds, we all gathered and the Bald Eagle was brought out for individual photos. Sarah, another volunteer, was so sweet as she would duck down behind each person while holding up the Eagle so she wasn't in the photos. Occasionally you may see a random arm sticking out with an Eagle on it!



After a full program, it was lunch time and many members wanted to stop to eat together "like before". Restaurants had just been allowed to reopen but were limited to groups of 10 or less. To compound this, none would hold tables for us. At that point most of the members had left, which left a small group of us. We went to the Beach Bar & Grille in Clark Lake at Francie and Sarah's recommendation. It turned out to be a great place for lunch and was our first time dining out since March. We did get caught in the rain on the way home but it was so worth it for the great day we had with our Viper family.

Francie and Sarah couldn't have been more accommodating to our group, and are genuinely two of the nicest ladies you'll ever meet. They operate by donations alone and were very appreciative with the contributions received that day from our generous members. I highly recommend a visit to the Michigan Avian Experience! Their website is at www.miavianexperience.org



2nd Annual
Viper Smoke Out
Alison McClorey

On Saturday, July 11, we were delighted to host the 2nd Annual Viper Smoke Out at our farm in Cohoctah. The day's activities commenced with a cruise in from Waterford. Along the way, the drivers made a stop at Spicer Orchard in Hartland to enjoy some local fruit, wine and cider.

The cruise continued on the many scenic roads in our area ending at our home. Upon arriving all of the Vipers parked in the field next to the big red barn, under the American flag...it was quite a beautiful site with 24 Vipers in total.

While Paul and his crew put the finishing touches on a delicious meal of smoked meats and fish prepared in the 1800's smokehouse, a few brave souls tried their hand at some fun relay games. The meal was consumed al fresco with everyone bringing their own chairs in order to social distance and wearing masks while not eating. The fun was not diminished in the least by following safety protocols. Everyone enjoyed trying the food from smoked brisket and salmon to pulled pork, chicken and even a shrimp boil. If anyone left hungry, it was their own fault! The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all.



Susan Andring lead the group with a relay race game of "moving" water from one bucket to another with a frisbee. It's more difficult that it sounds. Our winning team was awarded prizes, at the winner's platform. There were also a errant water balloon or two, tossed into the crowds





Cohoctah BBQ and Cruise

Gary Rappaport

We had some scorching hot days with no rain, then the night prior to our event, the weather service was calling for Flash Flood Warnings and we saw a massive downpour. But on the morning of the event, the sun came out and we had one of the most beautiful days you could want for a Bar B Q and cruise.

Bob Swartz planned a meet-up, then a beautiful scenic cruise to Spicer Orchard but was unfortunately unable to attend. Mike Sutton and his team of Darrin Ledsinger and Tom Beekman sprung into action to coordinate the cruise. You couldn't ask for a more perfect drive thru the country side. After the orchard, we took another short scenic drive to Paul and Alison's home.

Paul, Alison and their children opened their home to our group and we truly appreciate the hard work they put into this event. If you think about what it would take to shop, prepare and feed a group this size, it's mind boggling. Paul briefly explained about the origins of the smokehouse and the modifications he made. He literally started around 5:30-6am that morning to smoke the meats and fish. In addition to the brisket, and ribs, there were 3 different styles of salmon, all smoked to perfection. At the end of the meal, Alison was serving a delicious chocolate cake to our very satisfied and satiated group.

We again want to thank our hosts, Paul and Alison (along with their fantastic kids) for all the hard work they put into this event and how much fun we all had.



A special Thank You for Mike, Darrin, Tom, Gary, and Bruce. You bailed me out of my job for the Cohoctah Caravan Cruise at the very last minute. And nobody hesitated for a second when I asked. What a GREAT bunch of buddies in MCVO! Bob



This event has a new name, look for **Viper Smoke Out** on next year's calendar of events!



Ann's MCVO splash shield was ready for the water balloons!





Hidden Gems of Pontiac

Jon Block

Our “Gems of Pontiac” day started at the private, never-open-to-the-public, collection of Larry Smith, founder and former owner of Autometric Collision. Although Larry’s collection is split between here and Scottsdale, we were able to see what a real collector, driving enthusiast, automotive historian, skilled mechanic, body man, and painter, can accomplish. Larry’s cars were, in his words, simply “Cars that I like!” He showed us his 1935 Hoffman, with a water-cooled X-8 engine. There is only 1 made, and little is known about it. Then his 1937 Graham, which was from new sent to Switzerland to the coachworks of Worbluffen. Again, another 1 of 1, with the original supercharger intact. Looking for some speed (aren’t we always?) then some Corvette’s, Porsche’s, and Shelby’s were in ample supply! And then the spectacular 1936 Stout Scarab, shown last year (and winning) at the Monaco Concours d’Elegance. There were 5 made, and they sold for 5 times the cost of a Cadillac. With doors of cast magnesium, and a shape like nothing else, it was just another example of rarity, Art Deco design, and technology that is found through Larry’s extraordinary cars. His interest remains varied, as he told us that his first car to collect was a Triumph TR3 (also in the collection).





We then took a short drive to the PMD Garage, where Gordon Heidacker, a former Chrysler executive with ties to Team Viper, told us about their Viper capabilities! They had 50 Viper engine blocks inside, and are in the process of acquiring all of the existing Viper parts stock from Chrysler, for a full-service one stop shop for all Viper owners, for both stock originality and performance engine build!

Our last stop was at LBI Limited, a national sales organization of fine collector and sports cars, and where else could one go to find 4 Vipers for sale...but not average ones, low mileage, a GTS, and at the top of the heap, the Team Oreca Viper that won the 24 Hours of Le Mans! Don't we hope that one stays in the Detroit area! A fun day for MCVO members!



June Culver's Cruise

Bob Swartz

12 glistening Vipers and 17 cheerful members finally got a chance to meet at an actual PUBLIC restaurant! That's a mighty common event of the past but a tremendous break from the sequestered life we now have to live.

And like our outing at Tim Schmitt's home we enjoyed a real car cruise among our cars!

Culver's of Waterford offered us the choices of eating in the dining room, on the patio, curb side pick up or drive up window service, all while following safety guidelines. Friendly, welcoming and accommodating, thank you Cassie and Brent for your helpful considerations.

The day was beautiful; warm, nice breeze, lots of sun, and the best of friends with our Vipers.



Welcome back Viper Life!
We love you.

Event of Interest (EOI)

GingerMan Raceway

Mike Sutton

May 16th started out with some overcast skies but it quickly turned into a beautiful day with temps in the mid 70's.

GingerMan track day was arranged by "Trackilicious" aka Eric Ghoukasian. He was excited to see the Vipers and very helpful to all of us. A big thank you goes out to Eric from MCVO!

Ralph Gilles, Jason McHenry, Bradley Wey, and I brought our Vipers to test the track. Ralph was the only veteran, made evident by the flash of his Gunmetal Viper as he passed the Pits! The rest of us were in the Novice class but soon found our way to fast laps. Finding the perfect line definitely took a few laps. The two "everyone pit" black flags were due to a spin out/stall and oil spill and within 50 minutes both were resolved.

The track was in great shape, the weather was perfect and my Viper was handling well. The best part was the company of our Viper family, which really made the day for me.



Snakes Invade Shelby Township

Gary Rappaport

The weather had been all over the map, for the month of June. The night prior to our event, it was cold and it was predicted it wouldn't warm up much during the following day. The event started at 2pm, and with the later start, the sun warmed the lot and everyone seemed to enjoy being outside with their Viper friends.

We had been in various forms of lockdown, due to the virus, so this was one of the first events, where we could drive our cars, and mingle with good friends.

We had a great turnout with 33 in attendance and 27 Vipers. We had a few new faces and one father/son, who happened to be driving by in their very recently purchased, low mileage Gen 2 ACR. As usual our members were very inclusive and swarmed their beautiful car. Literally, later that evening they joined our club. We want to take a moment and welcome Miri Bibashani.

Our thanks to our host David Holder of Direct Cars. David welcomed us for a second year, and provided pizza/soft drinks for our attendees.



High Octane August Cars & Coffee Part 2

Gary Rappaport

If you recall, at the end of May, we had Viper Day Part 1. The owners of High Octane so enjoyed having our Vipers last year, that they proposed 2 separate Viper days this year. We did not disappoint for either outing.

Our second gathering, was held on August 1, and we couldn't have picked a better morning. Our summer has been spectacular this year. The sky was a little overcast, but temps were in the high 70's, low 80's.

Vipers starting arriving before 8am and continued all the way thru the event. We had a fantastic turnout with over 36 people in attendance and 34 Vipers. We pretty much filled their lot, and cars were stacked all over. It was an impressive sight.

We want to thank the owner of High Octane Bakery, Tom Llewellyn, for hosting our cars and providing us with their free tasty coffee and donuts, for the cruisers.



Battery Jump Starter

Rick Jakacki

With winter just around the corner this is good time to talk about battery troubles. I have the Antigravity XP-10 Micro-Start Heavy Duty and recommend it if you're in the market for one. It has started several Vipers and Corvettes over the summer and is still holding a charge. At the Tedson August Dinner Cruise a member's new ACR Viper was unresponsive, this was hooked up and vehicle was happily on its way. I keep it in a backpack, along with a very nice OEM pump, in the trunk.



Like most products, you get what you pay for. This is not inexpensive compared to lesser portable jump starters on the market. But this product has worked tremendously for me this past year. When buying something to use in an emergency I greatly appreciate knowing my equipment will preform well and can be relied on.

It has a multi-mode LED flashlight and multiple USB charging options for electronics and Antigravity says it will jump V8s up to 7.3-liters.



And the Snakes Arrived!!

Bob Swartz

In July we were contacted by LaFontaine inviting the club to show our cars. A chance to go for a drive and check out cars? Count us in please! We cruised in as a group to the Fenton dealership location arriving at 5pm sharp on August 6th and don't you doubt that we turned a lot of heads and made good V-10 music.

It was a great finale to a nice, comfortable cruise in the country side and a good start for us to enjoy the show. Lots of variety in addition to our Vipers. Muscle, Hot Rods, Oldies, Barn Finds, Modern - all were there in abundance.



Plus the free food truck; we love that!

Some prizes.

Good DJ music.

Fine friends and new folks to meet.

And beautiful weather for a cruise and show.

I think we had it all.



Thank you to the LaFontaine family and dealership for this excellent FREE event of interest.

Tedson Industries

Gary Rappaport

On August 12th, our Cruise Night Director, Rick Jakacki, treated us to a very special evening. Rick teamed up with our host, Steve Marek, of Tedson Industries, to show us their state of the art 25,000 foot facility.

From small fasteners to full-scale vehicle builds, Tedson Industries can create it all. Their vast experience allows them to turn your vision into reality. We even got to see Rick's classic truck being updated with a hand-built headliner.

Founded in 1985, Tedson Industries, Inc. has been a staple of the machining and prototype world for over 35 years. They have vast experience in the fields of automotive concept & advanced product development, marine, industrial, visual imaging, sports & leisure, and aircraft—just to name a few. Tedson Industries, also has design capabilities and consistently seeks new challenges.

We had a fantastic turnout with 40 people and 23 Vipers in attendance. It was a perfect summer evening for the event, where MCVO provided the attendees with beverages and dinner. Our thanks to Bob Swartz for coordinating the dinner, and Rich Maccani's "delivery" service. Our sincerest thanks go out to Steve (Marek) and his Shop Manager, Steve Legas, for taking the time to open his shop to our club.

I'm told that some of our members headed off to Woodward after the event, for their own mini-cruise.



Photo Credits:

Mike Doljevic

Steve Urbanec

Ann Rappaport

Gary Rappaport

Jason Pontello

Jon Block

Bruce Heckman

Jordon Buscemi

Dave Holder

