

Snake Bites

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication

Snakes in the Grass

Day Trippin

Blue Water Cruising

FrankenColor Cruise

*North Indiana Color-
Tour Caravan*

Fall Tech Day

Holiday Party

New Members

Mr. Motorsports

Cruise Nights

Volume 26 Issue 3

Fall 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are on track to set another record number of MCVO members this year! To those of you who recommended/persuaded Viper owners to join, Thank You! Welcome all new members, please introduce yourselves at upcoming events.



Please keep an eye on the Calendar of Events on the MCVO website. There will be updates as new or other events become available. Our plan this year is to again provide the membership with as many opportunities to enjoy each other's company, share experiences and actually put a few miles on our Vipers. We welcome ideas and any help to continue making MCVO the best car club.

As most of the membership are aware, we have heavily subsidized events again this year to make up for the cancelled events of 2021. This allows us to provide them at no additional cost to the members. Some events, which have higher costs, will have a minimal registration fee.

Even though the COVID pandemic is slowly becoming manageable, we must continue to adhere to the current CDC guidelines to support the health and well-being of our members. Additionally we must honor the rules each venue has. If you have any concerns, please reach out to us and we will try to help.

If you have any suggestions, please contact us at the viper@mcvo.net email or call one of the board members. I look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming events.

Mike Sutton



Please note: in our last issue, the article about the Hagerty Photo Shoot.

-Correction-

Steve Urbanec was misidentified as Steve Urbanski. Sincere apology Steve!

Editor's Message

Spring is not far off, soon we will be able to grab the keys and go experience the reason we own these cars-

Driving them!

How time flies! This issue is late, I apologize. After five years I blew it and missed the deadline. Consequently the articles may seem older as they are from last fall. Cruise Nights coverage is small to keep the size down. Doing this saves a little bit on the printing\mailing costs and also it allows your directory to be included.

Your Executive Committee and Board of Directors has already put considerable time and thought into the 2022 driving season. While the pandemic has slowed it still presents safety concerns at club events. I believe most members are vaccinated, I know several have declined and still others, due to health conditions, get no protection from the vaccines.

For their sake please continue to do everything possible to keep yourself and others from becoming infected.



Ann Rappaport

snakebiteseditor@zoho.com

Club Calendar

April

7 - MCVO Club Meeting

20 - Cruise Night

23 - Spring Tech Day

May

5 - MCVO Club Meeting

7 - *Gingerman Track Day*

15 - *All Mopar Car Show & Swap Meet*

18 - Cruise Night

21 - National Museum of US Air Force

22 - Spring Brunch

June

2 - MCVO Club Meeting

11 - *CEMA car show*

9-12 - *Viper Rendezvous*

12 - Snakes Invade Shelby

15 - Cruise Night

19 - *High Octane*

25 - Mi. Avian Experience

Events in blue are Events of Interest (EOI)

Motor City Viper Owners

Snail Mail: P.O. Box 685,

South Lyon, MI. 48178

Email: viper@mcvo.net

Officers:

President - Mike Sutton

Vice President - Gary Rappaport

Treasurer - Rick Reuter

Secretary - Rose Klutz

Directors:

Apparel - Lori Emerling

Club Advisor - Bruce Heckman

Newsletter - Ann Rappaport

Membership - Marty Heitkamp

Motorsports - Paul McClorey

Photography - Susan Andring

Social - Diane Cipponeri

Technology - Gary Rappaport

Advisor & Coordinator

Caravan Cruise Advisor - Bob Swartz

Cruise Night Coordinator - Mike Cipponeri

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 welcomed.



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



*MCVO extends a warm welcome
to these new members:*



Steve Baumbach	Farmington	Mike Terrell	Royal Oak
Kevin Bradley	Grosse Pointe Farms	Lamarr Johnson	Canton
Kevin DeWitt	Holly	Dan Lewkowicz	Birmingham
Steve Dreyer	Holland	Bob Rollin	Brighton
Torbin Fuller	Novi	Dan Steele	Dundee
Josh Tait	Westland		

We come for the car, but stay for the people!

Meet Paul McClorey

As the new Motorsports Director my goal is to plan fun and interesting car-centered events! You will start to see things pop up in February, March and April for future planning purposes.

While many of us have met at our Viper Smoke Out event, I'd like to share a bit about myself. Alison and I have been married for 31 years, have 6 children and live in Howell.

I have raced the Michigan tracks and many east of the Mississippi, from Wisconsin to Florida and the Carolinas to Kansas

-I've Raced Regionally, achieving Regional Champion

-Also Nationally with SCCA in the '00's for 7 years with Multiple National Runoffs invitations and appearances.

I'd love to see more opportunities for track events and/or autocross options for the club. We welcome and encourage ALL skill levels to get involved. Track days ARE NOT racing. You will not "trash" your car by participating as these are safe, instructed events for learning. The camaraderie within the club is great already and track days tend to really reinforce that. No special equipment required but a helmet helps.

Lots of info coming and hopefully there will be many opportunities to take advantage of.

See you soon

Paul



Snakes in the Grass

Gary Rappaport

This was our fourth annual Snakes in the Grass where we partner with the Cobra and Shelby clubs to celebrate our beautiful snakes at the quaint surroundings of Canterbury Village. We also got to share the village with a massive Corvette gathering.

Given that this was Michigan, and the first week of September, Mother Nature did not disappoint and gave us a wide variety of fall weather. At first it was a cool morning, followed by sunny skies, and a brief showers. Finally, it was a beautiful sunny day with temps in the mid-70's. The Canterbury shops are a picturesque settings for our cars. Members could enjoy site-seeing the beautiful cars while others would check out the unique shops. The cider and donuts at Yates Cider Mill are always a treat this time of year.

Members could enjoy site-seeing the beautiful cars while others would check out the unique shops. The cider and donuts at Yates Cider Mill are always a treat this time of year.

We had a nice turnout with 24 in attendance and 16 Vipers. There was a Cars and Coffee going on simultaneously at M1 Concourse and rumor had it there were about 20 Vipers there. We understand that summer is a short season and members will be pulled in multiple directions. The Village fired up the grill for a Bar BQ lunch and the hamburger was quite good. We also got to spend some time socializing with one of our newest members, Mark and Patricia Yousif.

Our thanks to our colleagues at the Cobra Club, Jeff Grice and George Acree, along with our Coordinator Bruce Heckman, for setting up the event. We also want to thank Mike Sutton for his help in parking our Vipers and keeping our limited space orderly!



The end of 2021 brought members to three nice restaurants for Cruise Nights. As usual everyone had a nice meal and a chance to spend time relaxing with friends. The weather turned and most cars were put away until spring. Thankfully a member or two didn't subscribe to this and even at the November cruise a Viper turned up!

September - Emie's

October - Grand Tavern

November - Joe Kools



From our Caravan Cruise Advisor a little background on a recent EOI

Caravanning to the EOI - North Indiana Color Tour, Elkhart, IN

Bob Swartz

This was a whole different MCVO Caravan thing. That became apparent as soon as we saw members and associates from all over the map signing up. West Michigan (“Westies”, they choose to call themselves), Ohio (Columbus even!), the diverse places around the Detroit Metro area and points in-between.

That’s a wonderful thing; but it’s a problem too because it doesn’t lend itself to meeting in one spot and forming a Caravan of Vipers to snake to our destination. Compounding this, some folks chose to arrive the day before and/or go home the day after. I needed a way to gather and communicate information.

A Personal Travel Tool (PPT) was created on the MCVO web site’s tab, “Who’s Attending” to capture and share every ones plans. The PPT was created by way of a questionnaire and most registrants participated.

As a result we had Viper Caravans from at least three locales. Additionally there was an enroute breakfast and dinner thrown in. All in all thanks to the Viper-Charged energy and enthusiasm shown by our members. Because everyone provided their preferred travel plans, nobody fell ‘off the map’.

Thank you Caravaner’s for making this first time Personnel Travel Tool work so well!

And thank you, Gary Rappaport for all the IT work creating this. Also Paul LaPlant and Lisa Tufts for organizing their respective branches of the Caravans.



VOA Update



The new VOA Executive Committee created three committees (Finance, Operations and Membership) to assist with getting the ship “turned around”. The Regional Presidents and other regional members are working hard with the VOA to find ways to ensure a strong future.

Financially, they are supporting the VOA Operations on membership dues alone. The current VOA membership level will support everything required for 2022. The 2022 VOA budget was presented, voted on and was approved by the VOA Board of Directors. This is very exciting news!

It appears that 2023 will be a better VOA for all of us!

Mike Sutton

FrankenColor Cruise

Gary Rappaport

Michigan weather in fall is always unpredictable. We had been having some beautiful and very warm days prior to our event. Unfortunately, the night before, we received a lot of rain and the weather turned very cold. Our members were greeted with wet roads and temperatures hovering around low 40's, that morning. The Fall cruise to Frankenmuth has been one of our more popular events and we felt it was time to go again since we hadn't been there since 2018.



Our Cruiser maestro, Bob Swartz and our new Motorsports Director, Paul McClorey, were able to bring together a fantastic event in short order after we heard many ask if we were going to have a fall cruise. Our soggy, cold day started at Great Lakes Crossing and from there we cruised to Past Tense Cider Mill. Their delicious pies were awarded to every member car that attended, courtesy of MCVO. After a brief stay of shopping, cider and donuts, we cruised to Frankenmuth. By this time the sun was beginning to peek out, making for a gorgeous ride thru the countryside. A few late arrivals met us at Frankenmuth and by that time we were 39 attendees and 15 Vipers strong.



We dined in the world famous Bavarian Inn restaurant, and everyone seemed to enjoy their meals. After our lunch, our members said their goodbyes and went off to explore the city.

We want to thank our coordinators, Bob Swartz and Paul McClorey for putting together a fantastic event for our club. Also a quick shout out to the management at Past Tense and Bavarian Inn for working to make our day enjoyable.



Want to learn new driving skills or improve on existing ones?

If anyone is looking for specific class time, check out the Mid-Ohio School (www.midohio.com). They have lots of great courses for teenagers and beyond. You can even use their cars (encouraged). The performance driving courses are a great way to get some hands on learning and knowledge of car dynamics and car control in a controlled setting while at one of the Nation's premier tracks. Great instructors and reasonable rates. They simply have lots to offer.

Last thing: A little secret about Mid-Ohio School. Every year around Thanksgiving they have a sale on future classes. It is well worth the effort to call or keep checking the website so you don't miss it. Then you can use your voucher for classes in the Spring/Summer. Makes a great Christmas gift for yourself, or someone you may like as much or more than yourself. You can always email me with any questions. Happy to "steer" you in the right direction.

Paul McClorey

The MCVO 2020 Holiday Party

Diane Cipponeri

Our MCVO Holiday Party returned and was held at the Italian American Cultural Center! It was our first evening event there and the facility was decorated beautifully. A huge tree was in the lobby, such a welcoming sight. It was truly a pleasure to see all the women dressed in their 'After Five' dresses and all the men looking so debonair in their tuxedos and suits. Wow, we sure didn't look like our usual selves in our usual jeans and Viper apparel.



We had a great turnout with 78 in attendance and one stalwart member, Dave Buchesky, even drove there in his Gen 2 Viper. Yes you read that right! December in Michigan doesn't normally grant Viper weather. Dave took advantage of the milder temps and the lack of ice and snow. It was great seeing members, who we hadn't seen in quite a long time and catching up on our latest adventures.



Mike and I are members and hosted the party. Board members, club members along with the staff of the Cultural Center worked to show everyone a great time. An open bar was included, even with the super discounted price paid for the evening. Everyone enjoyed the adult beverages and as usual, did so in moderation. We feasted on numerous entrees, salad and side dishes and everything was delicious. The meal was topped off with a sampling of sweets.



Our DJ added a nice mix of holiday music along with some easy dancing music. After our meal, I gave out numerous gifts to the members by way of unique and creative games. One of the games required everyone to get up on the dance floor, and dance until the music stopped. At that time, they had to "pre-decide" whether the coin toss would be heads or tails and indicate that via thumbs up or down. Eventually only one person remained on the floor after numerous tosses and was declared the winner.



As usual thank you to all the members who lent a hand helping with the endless tasks these big events require. Sharing the holiday with our MCVO family, some of whom we've known for 25+ years, is wonderful.

I, for one, truly enjoyed the evening. What a way to start off the holiday season with memories of such a fantastic event!





Fall Tech Day Carrie & Wil Thorne



As the leaves began to fall and we tucked our Vipers in for the long winter season, it was time for Fall Tech Day. Held at Snakebite Speed & Sound in early November, this is the second Fall Tech Day we've hosted. The crowd was impressive with 38 club members in attendance. I want Tech Day be productive for the members, enjoyable and that we all walk away with a better understanding of these cars that we all love and share.



I recently expanded the shop considerably, it now includes a camera based imaging alignment rack. After not having any luck getting Vipers aligned anywhere and then finding out that dealerships couldn't even get a Viper onto their alignment rack even with stacking up wood like Jenga, I had an Alignment Lift installed in the shop. This one is actually installed into the floor specifically so the lowered and race suspension on the Vipers don't require additional ramps. It's something you won't see in alignment shops or even Dodge dealerships.



What better time to discuss the subject of alignment requirements, the equipment and terminology. Did I mention I also fit into the new space specialized Viper tools, hard to get parts and of course the actual cars themselves while they wait for repairs or upgrades?

The day began with our MCVO president Mike Sutton giving members an update on the current VOA financial status, and MCVO's strong financial status and future plans.



I began with some winterization tips, do's & don'ts and things to definitely check before storing your vehicle, for example always changing your oil. The main presentation started with 4 wheel alignment basics and an explanation of terms for discussing alignment geometry, after that was a summary of the extensive procedure to align our Vipers.



Next we focused on the difficulties that are common when getting your Viper alignment done and how without specific tools and talent it can be impossible to get good results. I was able to make use of all of my 72 slides while answering questions along the way. Members inquired how Vipers differ from other cars when being aligned. I also shared some of the many needed specialized Viper alignment tools used to measure Vipers and inspect them before and during a 4-wheel alignment.

Questions and answers followed the main presentation and everyone, myself included, gained knowledge which we can use directly when servicing our cars. Not only do Carrie and I enjoy having the club out to our home and business it also gives me a chance to share my "toys" with a room full of people who appreciate my enthusiasm on the subject of Viper and my shop's capabilities.



Cruise to Port Huron

Jon Block

A spectacular day, bright blue sky and cool temps awaited the 31 Vipers registered for a day in Port Huron. The caravan from I-94 and M-59 was a success due in part to great organization, walkie-talkies on channel 10, and President Mike Sutton leading the pack!



We had a reserved parking lot at Freighters Restaurant & Tap Room, courtesy of the Blue Water Convention & Visitors Bureau which is directly next to the Saint Clair River and the Blue Water Bridge. Lunch was delicious at Freighters, after which we caravanned to Desmond Marine to park for our cruise on the Huron Lady II.



We saw sights on the Saint Clair River including the Bean Dock (which soybeans used to be shipped commercially) and a passing freighter even tooted their horn. We then headed out into Lake Huron, where all noticed decidedly larger waves!

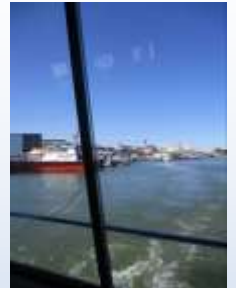
The Huron Lady II Captain enjoyed the MCVO crowd, especially as a Chrysler employee he had worked in the Viper Plant for 5 years, what a small world!

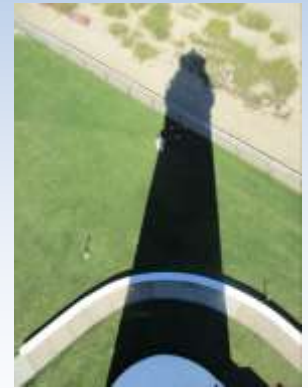
With such a beautiful sunny day a few attendees took a turn re-enacting DiCaprio's line from Titanic "I'm the king of the world!". In the end most of us just smiled for the camera.

Honorable mention go to Jason, Diane, and Mike

Congratulations for best re-enactment goes to

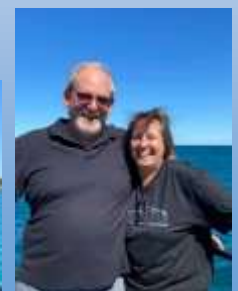
Cori Reuter!





After the Cruise, we headed to the famous Port Huron Lighthouse, the oldest, 1812, and first lighthouse on the Great Lakes. The tour guide told us that the Storm of 1913 had waves hitting the lighthouse 40' high! Most of everything along the coast was destroyed, including all boats out on the lake which were either washed to the shore or sunk.

Fast forward to the present and the weather Gods almost repeated the event, isn't timing everything? Just 4 days after our cruise a huge storm hit Lake Huron/ Port Huron area, with 15' waves and winds up to 98 mph. Damage abounded, but MCVO lucked out and all had an opportunity to see some amazing things in Port Huron! Unique in all of the Great Lakes, with Lake Huron, the Saint Clair River, and fascinating history...we had a great time sharing a meal, touring on the water and climbing 209 year old stairs in Port Huron.



A photograph of a car show. A long line of sports cars, including Ferraris and Lamborghinis in various colors like red, yellow, and black, is parked in front of a colorful, multi-story building with a prominent gable. Large trees are visible in the background. People are seen walking around and looking at the cars.

Photo Credits

Ann Rappaport

Bob Swartz

Susan Andring

Gary Rappaport

Mike Cipponeri

Jason Pontello

Jon Block

Steve Urbanec

Patrick Merz