

# *Snake Bites*

*A Motor City Viper Owners Publication*

Mopars at the Red Barns

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

EOI Snakes in the Hills

*Viper Smoke-Out*

Viper Corral Grand Prix

Snakes Invade Shelby Township

Woodward Dream Cruise Thursday

Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday

Harper Charity Cruise

Snakes in the Grass

Picnic at the Lutz Farm

Left Coast RIGHT ON

FrankenCIDERcruise

North Indiana Color Tour

Fall Tech Day at PMD

EOI Viper Rendezvous XIII

Picture Credit:

Tom Beekman

*Volume 27 Issue 2*

*Summer - Fall 2022*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello again all of you MCVO Viper enthusiasts! I'm almost through my term as MCVO President and I must say it has been interesting to say the least. I'm pleased to report MCVO ended the year (30 Sep) with 197 members, the most MCVO has ever had. This is an improvement over the 180 count last year. Thanks Membership Director, you've done a really impressive job. We've had quite a lot of activity this year and I hope you've had opportunities to participate in all or some of the events. The event coordinators worked very hard to make them all success stories and I thank all the coordinators for all of their efforts. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank our IT Director who made sure we were all informed of the events in a timely manner. Well – there's frost on the pumpkins and snowflakes in the air. Unfortunately, that means we need to start thinking about putting our awesome rides away for the season. However, before we actually close the storage doors, we may still have a few more occasions to use our Vipers. By the time you read this we'll have attended a Cruise-In (19 Oct), the Franken Cruise (22 Oct) and the Fall Tech Day (29 Oct) and the Veteran's Day Parade (11 Nov). The MCVO Cruise-In (16 Nov) and the Thanksgiving Day Parade (24 Nov) had to be cancelled. Our Holiday Party (3 Dec) may not present suitable Viper weather, but it's Michigan so who knows what tomorrow brings! We just might get lucky. If not, please attend the Holiday Party anyway – there's usually plenty of food and always great friends. Before you know it the new year will be here and an entirely new list of events will be planned – some returning favorites and some new adventures. I received a few suggestions for future events that look promising. If you have any thoughts or ideas, send them my way. Also, next year in September, VOA will be hosting NVE-5 in Colorado. You should have been reading about it in the promotional articles which I have been forwarding. It looks like a very well planned event. I have also forwarded an update from the VOA President so you can see how VOA has been progressing. If you have any questions regarding NVE-5 or VOA, let me know and I will attempt to get answers for you. I would like to thank everyone who supported me as President, worked with me to keep the club functioning and ask that you support the new incoming officials next year. Until I see you again, take care so we can enjoy more good times together



Rose Marie Klutz

*Please email me at:*

[j\\_m\\_k@att.net](mailto:j_m_k@att.net)

## Motor City Viper Owners

### Officers:

President - Rose Klutz

Vice President - Gary Rappaport

Treasurer - Rick Reuter

Secretary - TBD

Club Advisor - Bruce Heckman

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### Directors:

Merchandise - Paul LaPlant

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

## Club Calendar

### November

3 - MCVO Club Meeting

5 - Fall Tech Day

6 - Veteran's Day Parade

16 - Cruise Night -Canceled

### December

3 - Holiday Party

### 2023

### January

TBA

*Events in blue are  
Events of Interest*

## Editor's Message



I hope this finds you well and you've enjoyed the many events MCVO offered members in 2022. As some of you know I've been Newsletter Director for a very long time, 8 years if I'm not mistaken. That's 4 Presidents, 1 interim President, 2 Vice Presidents, 2 Club Advisors, 3 Treasurers, 3 Technology (I.T.) Directors, 3 Recording Secretaries, 7 Motorsports Directors, 3 Membership Directors, 3 Apparel Directors, 2 Club Photography Directors and 3 Social Directors! Whew! It's fair to say I've worked with many people successfully. But everything comes to an end which is the point of my message today.

I've decided to step down from this responsibility. I've benefited greatly from creating Snake Bites. I enjoyed the creative process of editing articles and pictures to make a cohesive, readable, informative and accurate record of MCVO's events. I will miss being so involved in the functions of the club, but I am looking forward to my extra free time!

Snake Bites is the first and now the only printed regional Viper Club newsletter left. Most regions no longer have a newsletter at all. **I hope one of you will step up so that Snake Bites doesn't die in 2023.** You can put your own "stamp" on this incredibly active club and *it's an at-home activity!* You will carry on a 28 year tradition and *in no small measure* you are helping MCVO remain a strong organization. A printed Snake Bites is, for some members, the only consistent benefit they get. This newsletter is the only record of the club's history and the people, your friends who have made MCVO one of the very best car clubs you can find.

As usual, check the club calendar on our web site for events as well as any updated general information. While there check out the club's gallery! It's updated with an article and photos usually within a day of each event. For specific event details reference one of the emails sent to your inbox. I look forward to seeing you at events, relaxing and socializing!

*Ann Rappaport*

***snakebiteseditor@zoho.com***

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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](http://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. Everyone is welcomed. Please email: [viper@mcvo.net](mailto:viper@mcvo.net) to get further details.



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



Sarosh Adil	Auburn Hills, MI	Lambros Grousopoulos	Swartz Creek, MI
Marquis Bates	Holland, OH	Bob Varsanik	Rochester, MI
Adam Blaine	Burton, MI	Paul & Brenda Middlecoop	Canal Fulton, OH
Brent Canup	Milford, MI	Mark Pecikonis	Powell, OH
Rahul Chamarthi	Royal Oak, MI	Steve Schrimsher	Canton, MI
Wes Frasard	Gainesville, FL	Matt & Ginny Sherrow	Fenton, MI
Justin Furman	Howell, MI		

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

**September Cruise Night**

**Gary Rappaport**

Our September Cruise Night took us to Grand Tavern in Rochester Hills. Club Advisor and wise sage, Bruce Heckman, filled in as coordinator for the event. Mike Cipponeri located and made reservations for the event.



The weather in Michigan has been spectacular for the last couple weeks, but unfortunately as we approach fall, we knew it was only a matter of time. In fact, we had been experiencing 80-degree temps, and this was going to be the last day, with temps falling to the 50's and 60's, starting the next day. To complicate things, we had a weather advisory with rain thru the late morning. This may have spooked a few members since we had a low turnout of Vipers.

Still there was a nice diverse group with a few new members showing up to celebrate the waning days of summer. We had 20 people and 8 Vipers in attendance.

Our thanks to Bruce and his lovely wife, Joan, for helping to coordinate the event. We also want to thank Bruce for taking the time to snap a few photos.



## Fall Tech Day at PMD

### Gary Rappaport

We awoke to find the roads wet with some residual dew and sprinkles of rain, there was also a heavy fog and temps around 35 degrees. Many of the attendees decided it was wise to leave their clean classics at home.

We did have a few members who braved the elements and our “most hardy” award going to Bob Swartz for driving his Gen 1 topless to the event. We had a good turnout with 28 in attendance and 7 Vipers.

We were privileged to be one of the first public groups to hear about PMD’s new braking technology. The “Atomic-Forged” process is a patented nano-surface treatment proprietary to PureForge that creates a super tough surface suited for all brake applications. This treatment will extend rotor life up to 10x; extend pad life up to 5x; along with reducing brake fade & dust.

After the event, a subset of the group went to lunch at the Moose Preserve restaurant.

We want to thank our Motorsports Director, Paul McClorey, for setting up the event and getting up even earlier to pick up the MCVO-supplied refreshments. We want to thank Gordon Heidacker, along with his team, at PMD Garage, for taking the time out of their busy schedules to host our group. Lastly, our thanks to Ann Rappaport, for taking these great photos.



**National Museum of the  
United States Air Force**

**Bob Swartz**



Ten intrepid MCVO'ers were overwhelmed by the immensity of the AF Museum on June 4th, 2022. There were more things to see and read and do than there are words in a big dictionary!

From our arrival parking in a separate lot we were all together for our photo-op in front of bunch of planes and closest to our favorite; an A-10 "Wart Hog"!

Those things to do?. Simulator rides where you could select your own "mission" (I did WW I dog fight), space experience, and an aerobatic flight. And to see: all the retired presidential planes inside and out. Peek into the inner workings of the B-17 Memphis Belle - crew hatch, side gunners' positions, and through the nose bubble and ball turret Plexiglas.

We did a quick gathering for lunch then back to the four immense galleries and guided tours if you wished.

Displays of: Iron Curtain, Berlin Wall (a hefty chunk of it on hand with a Trabant parked alongside), seven ICBM rockets standing like a forest of aluminum (and nuclear destruction), More bombers of all sizes and types, U-2, SR-71, the Space Shuttle flight deck training module (ALL the Shuttle astronauts used this very device), an Air Force boat, fighters galore, helicopters, bombs, engines, uniforms, nose art, jacket art, plus a visiting exhibit of neon signs of every vintage and kind.

And I could go on and on (Berlin air lift, Stealth planes, uniforms, the plane flown by a Medal of Honor winner when he saved his downed buddy from enemy territory gathering 19 bullet holes in the plane for his efforts). So I'm sorry for so much but that's the NMUSAF for you.

Then 4 of us stayed the night and did a visit to Dayton's "Packard Museum". A local dealer who went bust and walked away from the place. Now a 'survivor' museum full of beautiful, luxurious Packards. (Oh, yeah. A local cruise through the home town of your event coordinator - me, Bob. With a quick stop at our family's farm before caravanning back for home.

AND a nice contribution to the Museum Foundation (which makes all this possible) from MCVO plus some 'top up' dollars I happened to see from group members. THANK YOU! All for a great cause because the Foundation builds the buildings, restores the artifacts, and runs the whole thing.

A splendid time was had by all.



## Viper Rendezvous XIII

**Paul McClorey**



My Pit Crew, Andy, and I loaded the trailer and took off for Hastings Nebraska for this year's Rendezvous and the new Viper Racing League's debut weekend. Approximately 15 hours later, we arrived. The Vipers came from everywhere around the country and Canada, too. Open trailers, enclosed trailers, motorhomes and big rigs, they all showed up.

This was an exclusive Viper only event and brought all gens including comp coupes and race cars to the track. Attendance was right about 65 cars. For those that did the Road America Event last year, MANY of the same people were there along with some new faces. Each day started with a driver's meeting and then we all broke out to run in our assigned groups.

Lunch was included and then back to more track time. The days were long but quite worthwhile. We mostly ran the full track but did have the opportunity to run the short track as well. Speaking of the track, as you can imagine, since it's in Nebraska, it's pretty flat but they just resurfaced it and it's pretty fast—once you learn it anyway. Everyone seemed to get faster each session on the track. Since I chose to do the test day prior to the event, all told I ran over 215 miles in my car on the track.

It was hot, sunny and fun—did I mention hot! We really had a great time. It was a great event with a lot of great people. The Furstenau Financial Team (The major sponsor and in charge of the event) did a great job with all the on and off-track activities as well as the lunches, banquet, and live and silent auctions. In all, the event raised \$22,000 for the Children's Hospital of Omaha.

Here's a link to the results: <https://www.viperrendezvous.com/track-results>



Photo Credits for the cars on the track go to Andy McClorey who clearly has an eye for capturing Vipers looking good!



## Cohoctah Cruise

### Bob Swartz

This Cruise Caravan had an interesting start as a prelude to a totally fantastic BBQ hosted by Paul & Alison McClorey. At Paul's suggestion Colasanti's Market in Milford provided a tasty, interesting, and eclectic offering of deli, meat, produce, and variety of enjoyables to start the day's event.

From there it was a smooth Cruise (after a little expected snag of long term construction) through Oakland and Livingston counties. Nice roads, woods, fields, and bucolic countryside were the order of the day. And with a nicely staged entry into the McClorey's beautiful farm homestead we arrived pleased and prepared for food, fun, and (most of all!) MCVO friendship.



Paul & Alison in action!

Rambo volunteered for clean up around the smokehouse.



Paul is our club's Motorsports Director. A position he's well qualified for!





## Annual Viper Smoke-Out

### Gary Rappaport

The date for the Smoke-Out is chosen months in advance, and with Michigan weather, it's always a crapshoot. For our 4th Annual Viper Smoke-Out, you couldn't ask for a more perfect day. The sun was shining, barely a cloud in the sky, low humidity, with temps in the high-70's. I truly believe that this is one of our most anticipated and consistently attended event.



Our hosts, Paul, Alison and their son Andy, open up their beautiful home and grounds, in Cohoctah, to the club, for a day of great food, Vipers and good friends. Once the registration has ended, they begin that week with multiple shopping trips to purchase all the various meats, fishes and provisions. Then they begin preparing their home and grounds for the 60+ people that signed up. They start the side dishes a little in advance and Paul gets the smokehouse ready. The morning of the event, Paul started the smoking process at 6am!



As cars arrived, the Vipers were parked in a sweeping panorama with the help of Paul LaPlant and Brandy Adams, for a group photo, with the club banner in the background. We had a fantastic turnout of approximately 55 people and 32 Vipers!



There was a huge selection of smoked entrees to choose from: salmon, brisket, ribs, chicken, brats, along with wide variety of cold salads, baked beans, cheesy potatoes, and cornbread. If you left hungry, it was your own fault. At the end of the meal, there was multiple desserts and an ice cream cart!

As you can see from the pictures, there was more than enough to eat, and everyone went away satisfied. As usual Rambo was on patrol ensuring all of the endless juices, which flowed off the cooking racks and onto the ground, was kept cleaned up!



We cannot thank our hosts enough, Paul, Alison, and Andy for all the care and work they put into this event! There was also a group of unsung heroes working behind the scenes, helping in the kitchen. They were Frank & Kim Berle; Ann Rappaport; and even Alison's mom came over to help out! We also want to thank Bob Swartz for planning the meet and cruise. Bob always comes thru for us and will make multiple runs in advance to make sure the route and roads are acceptable for Vipers!

## Viper Corral at the Grand Prix

### Paul McClorey

On Friday June 3rd a small group of devoted race fans braved an early morning rendezvous and were rewarded with a picture perfect day of weather and sports car racing at the Belle Isle Indy Grand Prix.

We arrived together on Jefferson Ave in front of Harbor Town around 7 AM. There was a brief meet and greet, passes for the car corral on the island were disbursed and then we caravanned down Jefferson and across the Douglas MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle and our designated parking area. We were literally next to the main entrance and went right in. Everyone seemed to go their own way but through the day it was nice to run across each other and talk about what we liked and how the day was going.

Since it was “Free Prix Day” access was open to most of the grandstands and the paddock so with good walking shoes, we were able to get great views of the cars on track and got to mingle with the teams in the paddock. Andy, my 12 year old son, had a great time collecting the “hero” cards put out by the various drivers.

If you’ve never been to an event such as this, there is much to see and do off the track also. GM, the major sponsor, has a huge display featuring new vehicles, activities, and some interactive games as well. Many, many vendors line the area and there are lots of activities for the kids and places for the adults to take a break and enjoy a cold beverage and/or grab a bite to eat. While this year didn’t allow us to have our own MCVO car corral, the groundwork was laid for next year. In case you haven’t heard, next year, the race moves back to downtown city streets. It should still be the first weekend in June and we will be planning ahead. *Please do the same and mark your calendars.* It’s sure to be a great time next year. Hope to see you there.

I’d like to add a special thanks to DeJuan Taylor for his help in getting me to the right person to make this happen!



## Snakes Invade Shelby Township

**Gary Rappaport**

This was our second year of Snakes Invade where we were hosted by Godfather Bistro and Cigar Bar. What made this a little different was that this year we reached out to the Great Lakes Cobra Club, so that we could have many snakes invading.

This summer in Michigan has had its fair share of rain, and watching the weather forecast, in advance had many of us pretty nervous. The percentages for rain, were all over the map, including the day of the event. As it turned out, it was a perfect sunny day, with temps in the low 80's, and the snakes came out to play.

We had approximately 37 in attendance, with 18 Vipers and 4 Cobras. It was a spectacular sight, with area residents, coming in to view our gathering.

Our thanks to all those that took a chance and braved what could have been a rainy day. Also, our many thanks to Brandon and his staff for making us feel welcome. Brandon is already talking about us coming back next year. We're also looking forward to it and hope our Cobra friends will join us.

Lastly, our thanks to Ann Rappaport for taking these great photos.



## Woodward Dream Cruise Thursday

### Diane Cipponeri

If you missed this event this year, you might want the date marked on your calendar for next year! MCVO has two events for the Dream Cruise weekend. Along with the actual cruise, MCVO has a get-together on the Thursday before the official Dream Cruise Saturday. This is a sample of what you would experience on the actual cruise day. This year our event was held on Thursday, August 18th.

What a beautiful evening it was watching all the unique cars driving and or speeding down the main route on Woodward Avenue. There were so many different options to choose from in what you chose to do. One could just sit and watch the parade of hot rods, muscle cars, vintage production vehicles and hand-built cars drive past or get in your Viper and join the mass of cars cruising down the parade route. You could come eat, join your Viper family for some socializing and then go cruising. If you had enough of cruising and fighting the traffic then come on back and enjoy more food and more conversation! There was plenty of food! This also gave our members the opportunity to meet new MCVO members and start new friendships.

Our Club enjoyed a front row seat in viewing all the cars with our chairs set up on the lawn next to Woodward Avenue. This event is held every year. But this year we had a different type of dinner served. Chef Raymone catered and cooked an onsite BBQ for us. We were served freshly cooked burgers, hot dogs and chicken breasts. However, that's not all. Our meal included all the summertime favorites of a BBQ. Which included potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, tossed salad, chips, relish tray, fruit salad and dessert. It was actually a gourmet picnic dinner.



Aproximately 100 members and 60 cars attended our Thursday event. We had a great turn out with great members and of course great cars. This was our second year at this location. Hopefully we will be able to secure **this** location for next year too. Looking forward to doing this all over again at next year's Dream Cruise in 2023!





## Woodward Dream Cruise Saturday

**Marty Heitkamp**



It was already hot and humid Saturday morning when MCVO members began arriving at the parking lot on Woodward Avenue for our annual Dream Cruise Saturday event. Even with the threat of severe afternoon storms we still had over 65 Vipers and 123 people show up. The action on Woodward was entertaining and when we got hungry, good food was available from the Grillz-on-Wheelz food truck. With the help of several MCVO members the check in process was quick and easy. Kudos to those that helped out! When the storms finally arrived around 5PM, most Vipers had already left the event and were safely tucked away for the evening. Can't wait for 2023!



**Harper Charity Cruise**

**Gary Rappaport**

For over two decades, there has been a charity cruise on Harper Avenue, in St. Clair Shores. The cruise runs from Old Eight Mile to Bayside Street on Harper. This year the Cruise was on August 31st.

One of our Facebook friends, Mark Hovis, and Tom, the owner of Gaudino's Restaurant, graciously offered MCVO Viper parking during the cruise. They have beautiful lawn area in front of the restaurant and could fit our Vipers comfortably. The weather was perfect, and you couldn't ask for a more perfect day. The temp was in the low 80's, sunny without a cloud in the sky and a light breeze.

Unfortunately, a storm had ripped thru their area a few days before and they were still without power and unable to serve food. Tom being a gracious host, set out a nice spread of Italian breads, meats and cheeses. I think they loved having us there, as much as, we enjoyed viewing the cruise from their restaurant. Tom was truly sorry we couldn't try his food and offered to have us back next year.

The Harper Cruise is a favorite to many since it's a low-key event and there is no median, so you can see all the cars easily from your seats. We had a nice turnout for a Wednesday event with 8 Vipers and 13 in attendance.

Our sincere thanks to all who came out to represent MCVO for a first-time event at Gaudino's, along with the owner, Tom, and Mark Hovis, for setting this up.



## Snakes in the Grass

### Gary Rappaport

This was our fifth annual Snakes in the Grass event at Canterbury Village. Not only is Canterbury a unique location but we partner with the Cobra and Shelby clubs. In addition, we were surrounded by a massive number of Corvettes, for their “Corvette Fest”.

You couldn't ask for a more perfect Michigan summer morning with temps in the high 70's to low 80's, with the sun shining and hardly a cloud in the sky. Even though it is a holiday weekend, we had a great turnout with 18 Vipers and 27 people.

The morning started for many with coffee, cider and donuts at Yates Cider Mill, followed by touring the cars on display and the quaint shops of Canterbury. Later, as we approached the lunch hour, some of our group headed down to the food truck for a tasty brat or burger on the grill.

Our thanks to the Cobra Club, Jeff Grice and George Acree, for coordinating one of our favorite events, and we look forward to our sixth annual meet-up



## MCVO at the Lutz Farm

*Jon Block's article was sent for consideration in the VOA Viper Quarterly magazine. Enjoy these condensed write-ups.*



Credit: Marc Rozman

### The Cruise **Bob Swartz**



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman

At 8:50am on 79 Vipers hit the road for a super scenic cruise through the Irish Hills of Michigan. We were on our way to visit and have lunch with none other than Bob Lutz; "The Man" and father of Viper. Weather was beautiful. Roads were great. We had instant fans waving and smiling as we passed. And those are things we love to do.

But here's the deal. It was a huge group with lots of things that could go wrong as you all probably know. But because it was a GROUP effort it went pretty smoothly. To get all the Vipers organized we formed groups by Viper Generation which were led by talented and resourceful Group Leaders: Paul McClorey - Gen II, Garry Tripp - Gen III, Dick Winkles (Mr 650hp) IV and Mike Sutton - Gen V. I got to lead Gen I group and I was one of the THREE Emerald Green Vipers there! BEST of all the every member on the drive helped by their cooperation and patience.



Credit: Marc Rozman

Jon Block had a slick parking plan which allowed us to pull in forward saving time and the lawn from our cars backing up all over it. Shortly after the first few cars parked in their Gen groups, everybody else just pulled in with the appropriate Gen; amazing! What a wonderful Viper Family. Really. We were out for a good time and we did have FUN.

Gary Rappaport ran the nuts and bolts of getting everything coordinated leading up to the event. Once there we took our directions from Jon Block so that the Lutz property was well taken care of. A group of members pitched in and ran things at the entry, Diane and Mike Cipponeri arranged a lovely lunch. All together it was a perfect day to own a Viper and belong to MCVO.



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman



## The Lutz Farm

### Gary Rappaport

Rarely, if ever, does a car club get to visit with one of the legends, who helped create their beloved vehicle, the Viper. Not only did our club get to “hang out” and lunch with Bob Lutz, in 2020, but thanks to Jon Block, we were invited back for 2022. Jon and his wife, Donna, are good friends with Bob and his wife, Terri.

After lunch, Bob shared his take on the history of Chrysler and the Viper, along with current events in the automotive world. Bob announced that he recently had Covid, and his voice was a little scratchy, but he was an excellent host, and never let it slow him down.

I can't think of any other car club that not only has the opportunity to spend time with a man of Bob's stature but have lunch with him at his home. Our club is truly pretty lucky to have members like Jon, who twice was able to arrange this invitation.



**“Bob Lutz, seldom wrong, never misunderstood.”**

**Jon Block & Ann Rappaport**

A beautiful sunny day awaited members of MCVO, who drove a smooth route through the countryside south and west of Ann Arbor and arrived at the mother-lode of our beloved Vipers, the Lutz Farm. Bob and Terri Lutz hosted the club for a second time at their home, letting us drive on the lovely manicured lawns and wander through a few of the garages, it’s something we all are endlessly appreciative of.

We all know that Bob Lutz created something fantastic out of thin air (that would be the Viper) but many don’t know the other high points of his career or that he continues to achieving to this day. Obviously, there’s too much to cover in detail here but an abbreviated list is impressive on its own!

After graduating high school in Switzerland, he went onto a plethora of things: Marine fighter pilot and after, selling vacuum cleaners door to door to work his way through college. Bob had much bigger goals in mind, he graduated college from UC Berkley, then was hired by GM to head of sales and marketing for GM Opel in Germany, then later as BMW as EVP, President of Ford of Europe and CEO of Exide Batteries and finally Vice Chairman, Global Product Design, GM. Bob touched on many different cars as well: Cadillac, new Corvette C8, Pontiac Solstice and the Chevrolet Volt.

But it was as President of Chrysler and his decision that a very small group of dedicated enthusiasts could create something remarkable, that’s the one we’re most thankful for. Behold the loudest, rawest, most over the top street legal roadster pretty much ever put into production, our most favorite of all cars, the Dodge Viper! Designed to get you to your destination fast, with either a massive smile on your face or a very expensive piece of paper from a local law enforcement officer and often both. Available in a selection of colors providing you wanted red and seriously who needs windows, a top, air conditioning or trunk space? They were not originally in the plans. A V10, 6 speed manual trans, wheels with tires and a frame, toss in a seat, connect an accelerator pedal, steering wheel and give us the keys! Hands down the Gen 1 was, and for many still is, most rewarding car to drive.

Bob’s amazing achievements haven’t slowed down, lately he has been making models of WWII aircraft and a few 1950-era F1 race cars...out of paper, no kit or plans, just from photos. His last fighter had a dashboard 5/8” wide, with 17 round gauges, propellers, wheels, suspension, flaps, all to scale (less than 12” long) and perfectly painted. For insight take a piece of Xerox paper and try to make a compound curve, not an easy thing to do! But Bob, who is fluent in 6 languages, who can operate a CNC machine, and regularly drive well up into triple digits, can.

At the event Bob was the most gracious host, signing autographs on everything and talking to all at length. MCVO presented Bob with 2 packages of cookies in the shape of race cars and then Bob shared stories about the development of the Viper, and how the Germans from Daimler, wanted the “Dodge Wiper.”

80 Vipers, and 127 people had the opportunity to meet and speak with Bob Lutz, an inspiration to us all, and the most incredible person. Bob...thank you for our Vipers, and all of the other “gotta have” vehicles that you developed for enthusiasts around the world.

Viper 100% American design and built in Detroit, competitive with and has bested some of the most expensive production and non-production cars on tracks around the world. It’s impact that will never fade.





Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman



Credit: Marc Rozman

Big thank you to Marc Rozman for taking so many beautiful pictures and for sharing them with Bob and Terri Lutz.

## An Afternoon with Bob and Terri Lutz

### Ann Rappaport

For the second time Jon convinced Bob Lutz to host us again for a day of all things Viper. We lucked out with a beautiful Michigan day, perfect temps and sunny. Gary and I didn't go on Bob Swartz's pre-event cruise as Gary had offered to help Diane with set up for the pizza lunch. Our daughter, Leanna, was visiting for the weekend and she jumped in helping set up and also with check in of the cars as members drove onto the property. Bob Swartz had put considerable thought into how to have each group be able to pull in off the main road quickly and not block traffic. As usual he did an excellent job planning and executing the tasks.

From my observations and in talking with Terri, it seems we've grown on Bob! He was very casual and relaxed, never in a hurry and made time for any one who wanted to shake his hand, have a picture taken or sign a car part. He smoked his cigars quite happily while enjoying our members, the food (which turned out to be chicken dinner) and seeing the collection of Vipers spread out on his property in the distant field.

If you think about it, it would be pretty rewarding; all the different cars, colors, gens, body styles and some with wings. Knowing that it was all because of your insight, hard work, and some mighty big ... nope I will not print that!



Credit: Gary Rappaport



Credit: Marc Rozman

## Left Coast RIGHT ON

### **Bob Swartz**

Left Coast RIGHT ON treated 12+ MCVO folks in their 7 cars to a great weekend in Grand Rapids Sept 23 - 25. A wonderful time was had by all. Most important, everybody just flowed from one fun thing to another with lots of socializing in between. It was 12+ because member, Darryl Wilson was able to join us for dinner Friday at Great Woods Lounge.

But first: A huge THANKS to Matt & Lisa Tufts who were our local scouts/advisors/fixers and bailed me out so often the Grand River almost hit flood stage. Plus Rose and Joe Klutz who supported and encouraged me to take a leap at scheduling Leo's Seafood for an upscale, delicious meal FREE thanks to registrations and a generous MCVO subsidy.

Now in their own words here's what it was like:

Fun backroads Viper Caravan with deer along the way -- Yummy lunch in the cute little town of Hastings

Art Prize: -- Awesome! -- Amazing walk through all the exhibits -- Huge Eagle

unbelievable King Tut's tomb and snake carvings -- a walking, 8-foot tall Tree Person

Leo's Seafood was "the best I've had in years" great selections; I was stuffed & happy

talking fancy cars with a down on his luck possibly inebriated guy (my guess) on the DASH free shuttle bus --

Downtown Market, goodies everywhere -- Comedy Club at The BOB *with a self-serve tapper wall!*

Founders the food, the beer! -- wine tasting at House of Wine -- always love Mojo's

The Great Escape Room (4 of us), we failed, patient died but already looked like a dummy anyway

**meeting and making new friends** -- So very sad "you" didn't make it!

We partied, ate, browsed, and played all day, every day. We were all pooped by the time we stopped.

Thank you for letting us have this great time. We were enjoying at true Viper Speed & Style throughout.



## MOPARS at the Red Barns at The Gilmore Museum WOW!

### **Bob Swartz**

A return trip towards the end of July saw us visiting the pretty amazing Gilmore Museum. After driving through some of Michigan's "nice for cruising roads" you essentially end up in a corn field. Or so you might think! The Gilmore really is out in farming country, but once you pull onto the grounds that changes quickly. Marble flooring, beautiful woodwork and climate controlled buildings await you. The Gilmore has what they refer to as partner museums on the grounds. Any one of the seven museums is an adventure in automobile history. Toss in the amazing hood ornaments building or the peddle cars or the bicycle buildings and there's a few things to interest anyone.

HUNDREDS of MOPARS big and small, modern and vintage. That sums it up well. A MOPAR festival of epic proportions. And the best, of course, were the 6 MCVO cars with their 10 pilots and co-pilots: Brandy & Paul, Mariann & Bob, Jeff & Harper, Zack, Tom & Jim, and Bob. We just didn't have enough time nor energy for some 200 cars in the field, plus the 400 or more in the Gilmore Car Museum's collection. Yes, they do have red historic barns on the property too.

A bit or rain (really a torrent at times) caught Paul & Brandy enroute but the rest of us and the show itself was dry and pleasant. Easy Caravanning Cruising from Motown and various points was added pleasure. I just can't wait till next year. If you can't either, it's worth the trip for just the Museum or one of their many events and activities. Another best of all was that MCVO provided free admission to all who attended going above and beyond to do so. Thank you MCVO!

## FrankenCIDERcruise

### Bob Swartz

DOH-nuts? did somebody say DOOO-nuts? - KEEP CALM & EAT A DONUT!

Add some Cider, do a color cruise and hangin' with Viper buddies at Porter's Orchard, cruise to Frankenmuth, have Bavarian Inn's Fried Chicken or something else from their large menu and more hangin' with MCVO buddies. Perfect Viper day! 58 members in 30 cars had a great day. Each took home a 6-pack mix of donuts and a jug of cider as an added bonus.



Of course, what else is there besides the hedonistic pleasure of our cars, our friendships, our fun, DRIVING our VIPERS, partaking of good food, and enjoying them all together. I just wish my doctors would realize that when they tell me I need a more healthy lifestyle to feel better. Well? So I feel lots better when I do all those things. Now where's that Rx for Donuts!

PS though this day was no exception it still amazes me how helpful and cooperative MCVO folks are. Every time I asked, 'could you do this?' Or 'could you help here?' I got a friendly "OK". Tom, Marty, Steve, Dick, Lisa, Mike, John H, Rose and others I can't remember all of you just now. My copilot/navigator/radio operator/hostess/daughter-in-law Toni! Add the folks that just pitched in and did what was obvious, awesome!! Like the way you all unwound the 'cluster' in the parking space; it was just no big deal. You da best!!! Thank you.





**North Indiana Color Tour**

**Bob Swartz**

*“Viper Gathering 2022” hosted by Ray Sweers*

**A Recipe for Viper Fun:**



1 Gracious Host (that would be Ray)

7 each MCVO Vipers

12 MCVO people, fresh and clever ones from East, West, and even Ohio!

45+ other cars and trucks, each with Viper Power

100 or so, friendly people

“Tons” of yummy food

Live music

Plant tour (stroll, really)

6+ Nifty Goodies, courtesy of Ray (a surprise addition is due to be delivered to us)

Beautiful colors

Lazy, relaxed tour

0 rush

Mix evenly for a wonderful time that was had by all.

And top it off with:

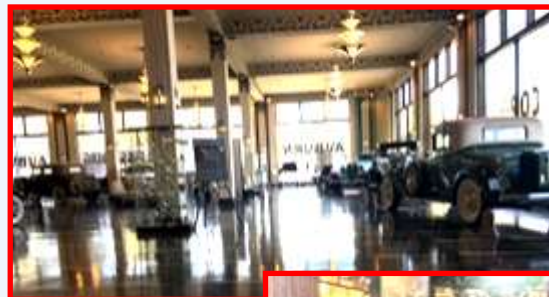
Travel when you want with optional overnight stay. (Your Personal Travel Tool at work.)

Sprinkle in a visit to the Auburn Cord Dusenberg Museum in Auburn, IN. Coordinated by Paul LaPlant & Brandy Adams (AWESOME, be bummed if you didn't go!)

Such a sweet concoction you won't find outside of Viper Nation.

We all loved it

THANK YOU RAY for your generous and lavish and fun Viper Gathering 2022 !!!!



A couple more things!

Ann Rappaport

See you soon!



2023 will bring some changes to the MCVO Board. Before I leave I want to acknowledge four members who went above and beyond for the club.

I failed to say this quite a long time ago: thank you Bruce Heckman. MCVO flourished under your leadership, skill and abilities. Your managerial skills and insight allowed Board members to function in a professional manner which is key to meeting member's expectations. Bruce's influence is why the club did so well. On top of that I think it's fair to say we all had fun working to make events successful.

While I'm at it, Rick Reuter you have been an amazing Treasurer for MCVO. I don't believe members grasp the level of skill and insight you applied to the club's budget and monies. Rick knew exactly where the club was financially down to the penny. He was wicked accurate and gave us tremendous insight into member participation at events. Rick ensured we stayed on budget for the year and that subsidy monies were spent appropriately.

*MCVO was incredibly fortunate that these two were on our Board for so long. A sincere thank you.*



Someone else, who is owed a thank you, is Bob Swartz. Did you know Bob is the reason we had day trips when Covid started and he also planned most of our weekend trips? Bob volunteered because he saw a way to make MCVO better and got busy. Sadly, Bob has announced his semi-retirement.

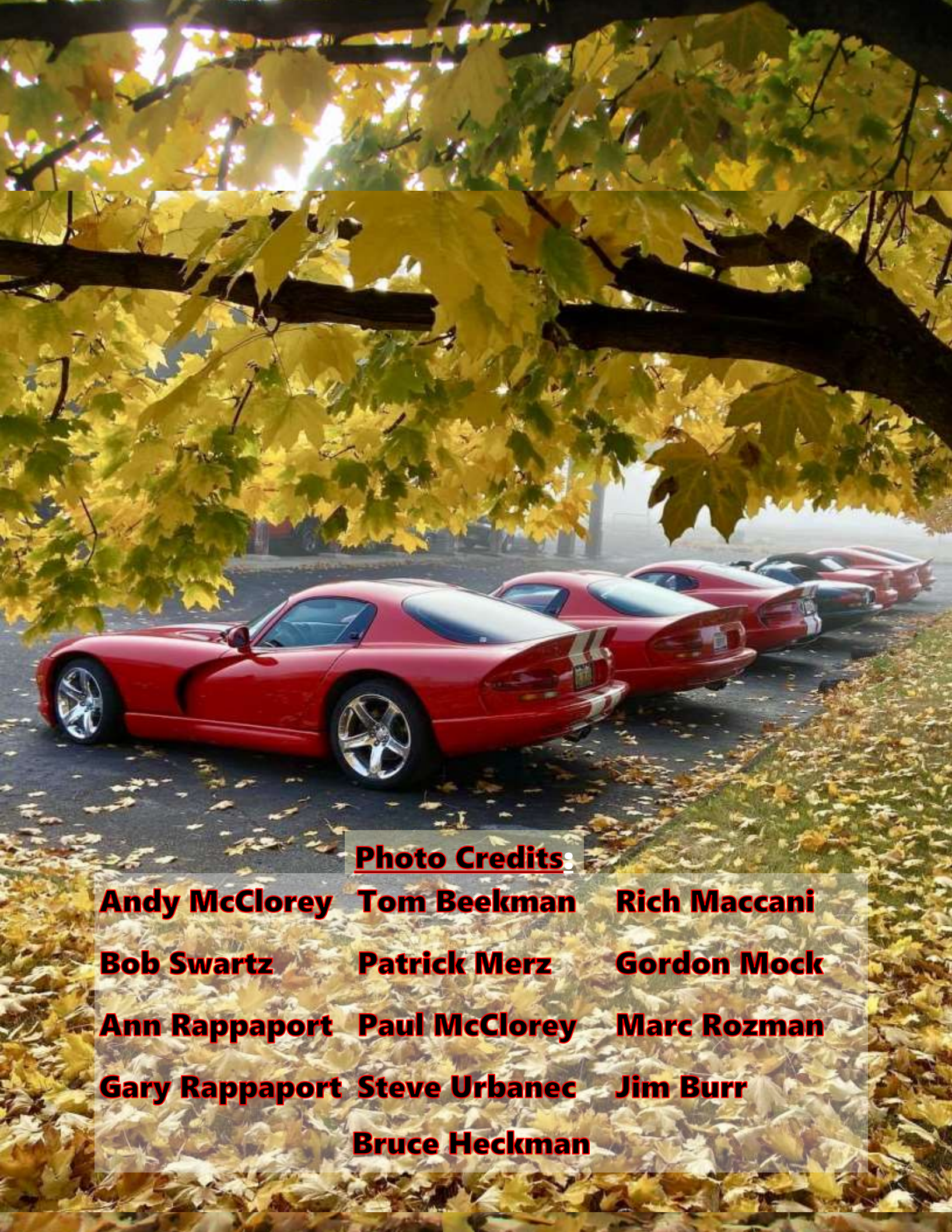
There's another person leaving the Board to thank, my husband Gary. He was Recording Secretary then moved over to V.P. and also I.T. Director. Additionally, he helped with Snake Bites sorting through thousands of photos, making many of the printer and post office runs and he helped Marty with mailing the directories. Every MCVO email you received was written by Gary. He worked with every event coordinator, as well as every Board member. He was often one of the first to arrive at an event to help and last to leave. Gary maintained the content on our website; if you sent an email to [Viper@MCVO.net](mailto:Viper@MCVO.net), Gary was who answered. He was part of the By-Laws committee and also monitored the club's Facebook page by checking every post ensuring they were appropriate.

I'm sure I'm forgetting things, but it's fair to say Gary has served MCVO respectfully, honestly and with professionalism. He was often asked to be President but he enjoyed what he did and had no interest in higher office.



When we joined the club we had no idea we'd get so involved! It's been rewarding helping MCVO continue being an excellent Viper Club and providing quality events.

We hope MCVO has a bright future for many years to come.



**Photo Credits:**

**Andy McClorey**

**Tom Beekman**

**Rich Maccani**

**Bob Swartz**

**Patrick Merz**

**Gordon Mock**

**Ann Rappaport**

**Paul McClorey**

**Marc Rozman**

**Gary Rappaport**

**Steve Urbanec**

**Jim Burr**

**Bruce Heckman**