

SNAKE BITES

Official Publication of the Motor City Viper Owner's
Spring 2023 Edition ~ Volume 28 Issue 1

Christmas Party Winter Party
Board Reports Spring Cruise Nights
Bench Racing Spring Tech Day
Conner Avenue Center Tour
Consumer Energy Plant Tour
Viper Racing Events





Snake Bites is published three times per year for members of the Motor City Region of the Viper Owners of America (VOA). Membership in VOA includes membership in the region known as the Motor City VIPER Owners (MCVO).

subscriptions

A subscription to Snake Bites is included in your VOA/MCVO club membership.

VOA membership

To join the Viper Owners of America, go to www.driveviper.com/join for a membership application, or call VOA headquarters at 888-778-1545. Viper ownership is required for both the Standard and Mamba membership levels. Dues are per calendar year and based on the chosen membership level. A new feature for 2023 is the Legacy membership. This new membership level was created for former Viper owners (those who no longer own their Viper) but still want to participate in club and regional activities.

MCVO membership

Membership in the Motor City Region is included with membership to VOA. Three optional membership levels within MCVO are Associate, National Affiliate, and Spirit of Viper. See the MCVO website for more information.

club mailing address

Motor City VIPER Owners
51622 Promenade Lane
New Baltimore, MI 48047

facebook page

Motor City Viper Owners

website

www.mcvo.net

general inquiries

viper@mcvo.net

club board meetings

Planning meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month, currently via Zoom. Everyone is welcomed to attend. Please email: viper@mcvo.net to get further details.

cover photos - front and back
Fall 2022 at the Bob Lutz Event

in this issue ...

President's Corner / VOA News
Member Welcome
MCVO Past Events
MCVO Upcoming Events

Interesting Scoops
Past Event Photo Pages

MCVO club / board of directors

executive committee

President	Mike Sutton
Vice-President	Marty Heitkamp
Secretary	Paul LaPlant
Treasurer	Mike Sutton

directors

Club Advisor	Rose Klutz
Membership	Marty Heitkamp
Merchandise	Paul LaPlant
Motorsports	Paul McClorey
Newsletter	Lori Emerling
Club Photographer	Susan Andring
Technology	Tom Beekman
Social Events Team	Brandy Adams, Susan Andring, Rose Klutz, Diane Cipponeri, Elaine Heitkamp

Need an easy way to contact any of the Board of Directors ? Use their [board title]@mcvo.com. Example: Have an idea for a Social Event? Send an email to socialteam@mcvo.net. All board member email links are on the club information page of the website.

During the driving season, there are often more events or possible changes to listed events. For the latest information, refer to the club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net You can also visit our Facebook page to keep up with member postings and great photos.

Please note: Activities may be posted on the Facebook page, but specific details for events will always be e-mailed directly to the membership.

Snake Bites is a publication of the Motor City Viper Owners organization. Snake Bites is available to the membership as a printed copy, as well as an electronic version on the club website. Editorial contributions are encouraged by the membership and/or other entities. Submission of articles, materials and/or photographs implies the right to edit and publish, all or in part. We are not responsible for return of unsolicited materials. The opinions and experience of the author of said articles, does not necessarily reflect club or former Viper corporate (Stellantis) opinion, recommendation or approval. Reproduction of the Snake Bites newsletter, either in part or whole from the printed copy or electronic version is prohibited without the expressed written consent of the MCVO Newsletter Editor and the MCVO Board of Directors. Advertising is available in Snake Bites - please send a request to newsletter@mcvo.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings MCVO Members !

We are on track to set another record number of MCVO members this year ! To those of you who recommended or persuaded Viper owners to join our organization, here is a big "thank you." We welcome all new members and look forward to getting to know you and your Viper, so please introduce yourselves at upcoming events.



We also welcome ideas and any help to continue making MCVO the best car club ever. Our plan again this year is to provide the membership with as many opportunities to enjoy each other's company, share experiences and put a few miles on our Vipers. As most of the membership is aware, we have heavily subsidized events for the past couple years, and will be doing the same again this year. This allows us to provide events at a very low cost to the members. Some events, which have higher costs, will have a minimal registration fee.

As for upcoming events, you will receive timely notices regarding upcoming events and reminders to sign-up for events prior to cut-off dates. Remember, that during the driving season, there are often events added or possible changes to listed events, so keep an eye on the Calendar of Events on the MCVO website, as there will be updates as new events become available..

in terms of technology, we have a new technology director who has made some great changes to the website. I am sure once you visit the site, you will see it has changed dramatically! The theme and methods for gathering data have greatly improved, with a lot of behind-the-scenes automation. You will receive an email with the new password and some details. To those of you who have submitted their favorite picture to me, you will find them scrolling across the MCVO homepage. I still need to cycle through all the pictures received, so don't worry - they are not deleted. I'm just trying to keep them "fresh".

Even though it appears the COVID pandemic is slowly fading away, we must continue to adhere to the current CDC guidelines to support the health and well-being of our members. 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 reach out to one of the board members. We are here to serve you. I look forward to seeing each of you at upcoming events.

Regards,

Mike Sutton

president@mcvo.net

586-782-2225



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello fellow MCVO members !

I am extremely pleased to be back into the position as your Newsletter Editor after a good, long break from this position. I am looking forward to bringing you a fresh new look, with easy-to-read articles and great images of club events. We are still planning on publishing the newsletter three times per year and will try to load each edition with as many of our past activities as I can, plus any other interesting articles or photos.



As always, articles and photos of club events are welcomed for the newsletter. Anyone who attends a club-sponsored event, an event of interest, or your own gathering of Vipers attending an event are welcome to submit an article to share with the club. We will also welcome articles of interest to club members, and they can be added where publishing space allows.

When submitting photos, please keep in mind to send high resolution images so we get a better quality of photos in print. We are always looking for good "cover shots" for the newsletter – they need to be a vertical image and please try to take a larger picture (zoom out a little) so if the picture needs to be cropped a little, the image is still intact.

Lori Emerling

newsletter@mcvo.net

248-703-8902

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 2023. The 2023 VOA budget was presented, voted on and was approved by the VOA Board of Directors. This is very exciting news!

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

Regards,
Mike Sutton



The National Viper Event, NVE 5 is being held in Colorado Spring in September. As of this writing, it is nearly sold out. There are many members of MCVO attending, so if you are still thinking of attending – better get your reservations confirmed

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
JOIN US FOR A ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIPER HIGH
SEPT. 6-10, 2023
NVE5 planned and sponsored by the CO/MT/UT/WY regional club of VOA



Enjoy a Chuckwagon Dinner Show



Open Track & Autocross at PPIR



Scenic Drive to Cripple Creek



Explore Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



Visit the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Center



Drive to the Top of Pikes Peak

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of May 5th, MCVO currently has 177 members. We are on track to reach that 200-member mark sometime during the year. We have a good combination of Standard, Mamba, Affiliate and Associate membership levels within the group. But with that being said – it does not matter what level of membership someone has within MCVO – we are all here to have a great time with friends and their Vipers !!



As Mike said in his welcoming article, many thanks to everyone who has promoted MCVO to their friends and neighbors with Vipers – it is how we grow our membership. Let me know if you have a possible new member – I can reach out and provide information to them.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming club events. Make sure to check the club calendar on the website.

MCVO New Members WELCOME !

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark & Lori Collins | Twinsburg, Ohio | Steel Grey 2000 GTS |
| Andy Holt | Powell, Ohio | White 2014 GTS |
| Chuck Lawrence | Swartz Creek, MI | Orange Gen III SRT/10 |
| Shawn Nofziger | Williamston, MI | Blue |
| Michael Parisi | St, Claire Shores, MI | Emerald Green Gen 1 RT/10 |

Any questions regarding membership or any club operating documents/procedures, please let me know via the membership or vice-president links shown below.

Marty Heathamp
membership@mcvo.net or
vicepresident@mcvo.net

Photo taken by Cody Wagner at the Viper Reunion Days in Elkhart Lake, WI. Summer 2022



TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Our new Technology Director, Tom Beekman is off and running and making needed updates to the MCVO website. The response to the change has been overwhelming.



Hello MCVO Members –

On behalf of the board and myself, I'd like to invite you to make a pitstop at [MCVO.net](https://www.mcvo.net) to check out the new improvements and changes we've made to your club website! In 2023, we've updated the site theme, giving the site a modernized feel and look. This includes updating site security. We've also updated many pages to make browsing and finding information you need more fluid.

We've updated the [home page](#) with information to introduce ourselves to new potential members. We also updated the [Membership Information](#) page to make picking a VOA or MCVO membership much easier. The [Who's Attending](#) link in the Events area has also been updated to make finding your event even easier. Additionally, we have added some new tools to assist our board and event coordinators in collecting and distributing information easier.

Got a great picture of your car that you would like to see on the website? You can submit your favorite photo of your car to be displayed on our homepage by emailing it to president@mcvo.net! Photos will randomly change and be updated often.

One of the more exciting changes for myself was to move our online [Membership Directory](#) from a PDF to a database secured within the website itself. This new table format will allow you to search and sort all members easily and quickly. Want to see which members live in your town? Just type your city name in the search area, and it'll show you exact matches. It also allows our Membership Director to update all records online and in real-time, displaying changes immediately.

An e-mail was sent in early April, asking all members to check out the new Membership Directory and verify your information is correct and up to date. The printed membership directory is done, but please check your information & update if needed. Address: https://www.mcvo.net/membership_directory. Instructions for making updates to the directory are on the top of the page – one for VOA changes, and another for MCVO changes – click on the [HERE](#) button and a form will open for MCVO members to fill out / submit changes.

Effective April 1, 2023, there is a [NEW PASSWORD](#) for MCVO members on [mcvo.net](https://www.mcvo.net). The new password was provided in a members-only email. Please do **not** share this password with any other persons. If someone asks you for the password, please direct them to send an email to technology@mcvo.net.

When I took over this position in January of 2023, I was a little taken back by the amount of work involved, but I have been working with the board to build new tools to streamline many of our processes. I'd like to send a quick shoutout to my predecessors, Jason Pontello and Gary Rappaport. Jason worked to establish the website and many MCVO tools, and Gary continued to put time into the website making sure we got our information in an organized and timely manner.

I look forward to seeing you all this season!

Tom Beekman

IT Director (aka web guy)
technology@mcvo.net

CLUB ADVISOR REPORT

Hello club members –

I am the new club advisor for the 2023 season. If you have any questions or need information related to the club operations – past, present or future, please send me a note. Looking forward to a great year !!

Rose Klutz

clubadvisor@mcvo.net



Forgot to Mention ...

By Diane Cipponeri



Somehow, an important page from our last newsletter was left out, and the following Board Members who have served this club for many years were not recognized within the article of those who were. Although these members have decided to do other things with the BOD for the upcoming year, they are still active leaders of your club and involved in the planning of many of your upcoming activities. I thought they should also be recognized for past service and get the same thank- you as others.

Rose Klutz

When we found ourselves without a president, our longtime member, Rose Klutz, took on the role as President of MCVO. Rose already had a position on the board as club secretary, but she stepped up and did a great job in handling all the issues and responsibilities for the remaining term in 2022. I know I'm forgetting some things, but I know for sure that Rose served MCVO with the utmost respect for the Club's activities and oversaw that subsidy monies were spent appropriately. MCVO sends out a big Thank You to Rose!

Lori Emerling

We can't forget Lori! She worked long and hard in handling the club wearables for so many years, that I can't remember which year she started! I have since found out that she had taken on the wearables position almost six years ago and provided excellent quality merchandise and service to the club in that position. It takes a crazy number of hours to keep all the orders, styles, sizes, colors, and costs in line for that job. Lori was responsible for choosing and ordering your MCVO merchandise along with selling and delivering it to the members. COVID did a number on many things, least to say to the issues with getting our last few orders. She did not quit the job as wearables director as some were led to believe, she just needed a change and chose to do another job in the club. Thanks for your many years of involvement and commitment to our Club. We know you'll be back!

Diane Cipponeri

I'm not leaving the club ... I'm just leaving the positions that I have held for a very long time. I have been involved with Viper since 1989 when Roy Sjoberg named me 'Mother Viper'! I bet nobody could love the Viper more than me. I have really enjoyed my jobs and I know I will miss them tremendously. Thank you for letting me serve on the board for all these years. But wait and see what the new Social Directors have in store for you! Editor's Note: No one knows or can fully appreciate how many hours that Diane has put into this club – along with her heart and soul. Thank you, Diane – you are a treasure within this club !

Mike Cipponeri

Did you ever wonder just how all those cruise nights come to be? It is all because of a member named Mike Cipponeri who diligently found a different place, every month, for our Club to meet and have dinner with many of our members. That is still not an easy job. But what job is easy? Mike tried to schedule one restaurant on the east side and the next month schedule dinner on the west side, so all members could attend easily. Mike's other job was to drive Diane all around the state to purchase whatever she needed for the Club's social activities. I don't think he'll miss that job!

Mike Sutton

As for Mike, he had a very hard decision to make about his job. He made the best decision he could for the prosperity of MCVO for the few remaining months left of the term. When I first wrote this article, I had said - I'm sure that he too will be back – and we now know that the club wanted him back He does a great job in the leadership and doing what is the best for our Club in remaining to be the best chapter of the VOA.

Thanks to the editor for suggesting my missed article was added to this newsletter.

Looking forward to a great and fun Viper year of events and activities !!

Diane Cipponeri

Former Social Director

2022 Christmas Celebration – December 3rd

By Diane Cipponeri, with added note by Susan Andring

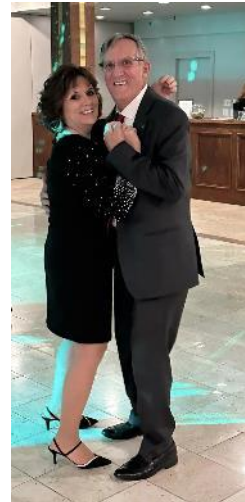
Our MCVO Christmas get-together was held at the Shelby Gardens Banquet Hall located in Utica, which was on the east side this year. We try to hold our events on both sides of the city, east and west, every other year. 42 of our members attended to support this event with plenty of food and fun for everyone. In fact, there was so much food, that we were able to donate the leftover food to a local church. They in return hand the food onto their food bank for the less unfortunate and homeless persons. So, the celebration was a two-fold event. And by the way, the food was delicious! The wide selection of food included roast sirloin and parmesan chicken, with many other great side dishes. After dinner, we were served a variety of desserts. Many of us enjoyed several !

There was no excuse not to be involved in the celebration. The DJ played a great selection of music to dance to, with traditional Christmas songs sprinkled in between some rock & roll, and funky stuff. Games were played where everyone had ample opportunities to win the many prizes. I can't remember how many bottles of Verdi were given out! Last, but not least, our annual 50/50 drawing made two of our MCVO members very happy, just in time for Christmas!

Poinsettias adorned each table and were taken home by the members. Of course, every member went home with a gift of candy and an ornament. At the end of the evening, everyone was able to choose a holiday gift from our gift table as a remembrance of this year's MCVO Christmas holiday.

In all, we had a great time celebrating with a great bunch of people, an excellent DJ, delicious food and a wonderful evening of friendship celebrating the Christmas Spirit!

It was a great time catching up with our Viper family at the Club Christmas Party at Shelby Gardens. The food was delicious, and the music got people up on the dance floor. Oh, and it was nice to get dressed up in our sparklies! Thank you, Diane Cipponeri for putting together another great event. So much goes on behind the scenes for our events and Diane always make them seem effortless. Susan



Winter Party @ Total Sports Complex – February 11th

By Susan Andring / Lori Emerling

46
Attendees

The MCVO Winter Party was held on February 11th at Total Sports Complex in Mt. Clemens this year, with 46 members in attendance. This event was a totally new venue, with a set of new games, and everyone who attended had a blast. Who would have thought that Viper-bingo and axe throwing would go great together?

And who would even venture to think that food at a sports complex would be any good..., but aahh - you would be wrong! The food at Total Sports was really delicious and served in generous amounts at the buffet – no one went home hungry. It was great to see many members help kick off the 2023 club events season !

The group was divided into two sessions – while one group was winning cash prizes at the bingo (oh, I mean the VIPER) tables, the other group was honing their skills with axe throwing. Thanks to Elaine Heitkamp for the use of her Bingo cards, her excellent Viper-bingo calling, and the great idea for the cash prizes. Several of us did very well at the Viper-bingo tables !

Many of us were a little leery of the idea of throwing axes. It surely seemed like this could go south at any time. But no, the hosts in the cages were excellent instructors and everyone got the hang of the game very quickly. It was actually much easier to throw the axes and hit the bulls-eyes than many thought. We did not capture pictures of everyone throwing, but the expressions on their faces during the event was great, as you can see by the pictures posted. Everyone agreed this could be a repeat event in the future. We had our normal 50/50 drawing at the event, the Viper-racing games, plus tickets to all attendees for the door prize drawing at the end.

Thanks everyone who came out and to Brandy, Rose, Elaine and Susan - our new Social Team – for knocking this one out of the park. The decorations were great, and everyone had a fantastic time.



Winter Party @
Total Sports Complex
"Axe Throwing"



BENCH RACING @ PMD Garage in Pontiac – March 1st

By Paul McClorey



So, what is Bench Racing ?? It was the middle of winter, and the idea was just to get together with our MCVO car buddies and compare notes on what we've been doing or what is upcoming, revolving around our cars. It didn't have to be "racing" per se, but simply car talk. Maybe somebody had been to a new track (or going to one soon), or maybe working on some awesome upgrades and can't wait to show off their ride in the Spring, or maybe someone else had found a great new driver education event that's upcoming, and so on.

For the racers, it's kind of like telling fish stories; the more time that passes the bigger the fish was, or the faster the car was. This was planned to be a very informal and casual event, not a public speaking event and no set agenda. If the winter was getting to you ... this ended up being a great event.

And since the weather did play a part in this event, we had to reschedule this to March 1st as our inaugural Bench Racing Event, held at the PMD garage in Pontiac. As usual, our hosts, Gordon and Shawn, were wonderful and very accommodating. We all enjoyed each other's company, milling about the PMD garage and observing their current projects. Stories were told and we all shared our plans for the 2023 Viper driving season.

We had salad and breadsticks from the Highland House in Highland, and pizzas from Hungry Howie's. There was very little left over and everyone left with a smile. The turnout was 19 people including such legends as Dick Winkles, Herb Helbig, and Charlie Brown III. This turned out to be a very nice event and we'll plan to do this again in the Fall and /or Winter.



CONNER CENTER Tour – April 21st

BY Marty Heitkamp



The Conner Avenue Assembly Plant, infamous for building the Dodge Viper prior to its demise in 2017, has recently been taken out of mothball status and converted into the Conner Center. The 77,000 sq. foot former assembly plant is now the home of the Stellantis (Chrysler) car collections. Many of the nearly 400 concept and historic Chrysler vehicles currently on display came from the Walter P. Chrysler Museum that closed its doors in 2016. The Conner Center was just recently opened to the public for special occasions and for car clubs to tour. Previously, it was only open for FCA (now Stellantis) events.

MCVO had been trying to get admittance to the facility for several years and finally an opportunity was offered, which we jumped at. Unfortunately, it was limited in how many people could attend, and our sign-up email filled that roster within hours. 62 lucky MCVO members and their guests toured the Conner Center to view a portion of the Chrysler historical collection that is housed there. Although none of the displays from the Chrysler Museum were there, the stars of the show were the cars and a Viper diving simulator. Most all members took a spirited run in the simulator.

Since no photography was allowed everyone that attended had to rely on their own internal camera to capture the memories. From the comments I heard as leaving, everyone had a great time.



Photo Credit: Patrick O'Hara



SPRING TECH DAY @ Prefix - April 22nd

By Paul McClorey

26
Attendees

Our Spring Tech day went very well, after a last-minute change of venue and save by Scot and Dick at Prefix. Days before the planned event, we were notified by the owner of Wolf Lab Engineering that they would not be able to host the MCVO club due to unforeseen issues they were dealing with at the time.

So, it was a bit nerve wracking for me, but Scot immediately went to work for us and adjusted his busy schedule to accommodate MCVO and the members who were looking forward to an annual spring gathering. He and Dick came in on Saturday morning, gave us a short talk about the latest projects they are working on, and then gave us a tour of their new facility in Rochester Hills. They even provided donuts for our eager crowd. The new facility is large and impressive, and it appears to be nearly full – looks like they will be needing more space soon.

No pictures were allowed within the facility, but I believe everyone was impressed with the projects, the technology, and the expanded capabilities they offer their clients. If you went to Prefix the last time they hosted us, you would certainly be at least surprised at how they've grown.

There were many familiar faces and some new ones as well. I believe we had about 25 people +/- in attendance. Afterwards, a small group of us went to lunch at Griffin Claw Brewery in Rochester Hills. Joe Klutz was able to get their management to let us in a bit early, as we were there prior to their posted opening time. While it wasn't a great weather day for Viper driving, we all enjoyed the great company and nice lunch.

EOI = Event of Interest

Lingenfelter Charity Car Show in Brighton – April 22

By Bob Schwarz

15
Attendees

On April 22nd, 15 MCVO members visited the Lingenfelter Collection in Brighton for their annual Charity Open House. This one-of-a-kind car collection has over 200 cars - many are very exotic, all flashy as fire-crackers and many souped-up to the max. The event only happens once a year and it had been 7 years since MCVO attended as a group! There was no fee to attend this event, but donations were accepted to the American Cancer Society, and everyone appeared to be very generous in that respect.

We were well-advised to arrive early (at least 10 minutes before doors open) to beat the crowd, and since parking is at a premium to consider bringing your "daily driver." I guess the drizzly rain didn't dampen any one else's car-stalking energy, as it seemed like there were thousands of other folks in attendance to view this fantastic collection of vehicles. Special mention that Matt and Lisa Tufts, members from Muskegon, drove their VIPER all the way to be with us and do the tour.

The buildings were big and just loaded with cars the Lingenfelter organization has modified, hopped up, customized, restored, resto-modified, tweaked, and loved over. Although the cars were mostly Corvettes and other GM cars of interest, my favorites were the two Tornados, plus various supercars, race cars, and exotics.

To cap the day off, we went to the nearby Cozy Inn to enjoy good food and great friendship. Many tales were told, and laughs were shared all around. That's the MCVO way !!



Consumer Energy Power Plant Tour – April 15th
The Dan E. Karn Generating Station in Essexville



By Bob Swartz

BIG ... like really BIG !!! That’s the best way I can describe this electric-spewing beast we entered. I guess we can assume the 742,000,000 horsepower (equivalent of 524 Megawatts) output dwarfs our mighty Vipers.

On April 15th, the 22 brave MCVO members and guests marched forth into the beast. Station Manager, Sean Kelly gave us a warm welcome and an excellent presentation. He was peppered with many interesting questions, many about the technical operations and the marketing – related to the “grid” (called MISO) - where the generating station sells its output. All were revelations to us and all quite forthright and clear.

Upon entering the facility, we had another surprise. The power plant seemed so clean; at least when you consider that coal is involved in its operations ! But cleanliness means safety and safety means the best operation for an industry that must be completely reliable to its consumers.

One of our group made an interesting observation, “all of the electricity comes from two generators.” Yes, those generators were big (see the pics), but compared to all the other systems (air handling, coal movement, water boilers, steam lines, exhaust, cooling, etc.) needed to keep the generators humming - they seem kind of small. We were all a bit flabbergasted by the complexity of the process of making electrons. Not so much the simple diagrams we might have seen in school ... you remember, fuel into heat into steam into electricity. Editor’s note: Bob might lose you in the next paragraph with techno-talk ...

Nope – the process to get the fuel (the coal) ready to burn is very complex. It is turned into a fine powder (coal dust) via three stages of big, noisy pulverizers. The coal dust is blown into a hot stream of combustion air and the dust is ignited in the boilers which then turn water to steam, at 1,000-degrees F and 2,400 psi. Whoa – then the steam pushes the turbines at exactly 3,600 rpm which yields 267 megawatts of power from each generator into the grid. Next stop – our air conditioners, TVs, electric blankets, microwaves, and now ... vehicle chargers, etc.

The whole process is orchestrated from one control room full of monitors and control panels, with one key operator in the center of a circular cluster of monitors, plus two additional employees keeping tabs on different monitors and read-outs surrounding half the room. The process isn’t as simple as those diagrams anymore!

Parts of the Karn stations are on the way to being decommissioned later this summer, and Karn 1 and 2 were shut down while we were there. The station will only be used for peak demand, and then only as long as the coal on hand lasts. Consumers Energy is heading to “greener” sources; primarily wind power at this point. With parts of the station shut down, our tour guides were able to get us closer to the process , and we could hear much better. Many thanks to Sean and Tashia Walraven for taking the time to share their expertise with our group. It was an enjoyable learning experience.

Following the tour, we made our way to the Riverfront Grille at the downtown Bay City DoubleTree hotel. Delicious food, fantastic friends, plus the bonus of a Great Lakes freighter gliding up the Saginaw River and right past our windows. Dare I say a perfect ending to a perfect day? Yes, it was.



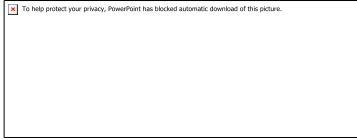
To help protect your privacy, PowerPoint has blocked automatic download of this picture.



Tour at the Dan E. Karn Generating Station in Essexville



PAST EVENTS



Susan Andring,
Cruise Night
Coordinator

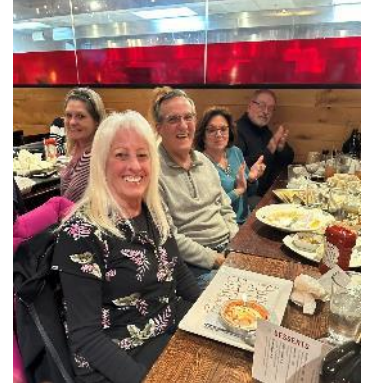


JANUARY Cruise Night @ Granite City, Troy - January 18th

BY Susan Andring

25
Attendees

First MCVO cruise night of the year - 25 of us! And we have a birthday girl, Gail Urbanec!



FEBRUARY Cruise Night @ Aspen Restaurant, Macomb - February 15th

By Susan Andring

Our February Cruise Night took us to the east side at Aspen Restaurant in Macomb. 24 members in attendance. There were some old familiar faces that we haven't seen for awhile, Tim & Donna Sutherland and Dave Dziekan!

We had just one server for the group, and she took good care of us. I can tell you that the Faygo Ice Cream float was yummy and the Mackinac Bridge desert that Dave and Peggy Giancola ordered looked sinful!

Next month we go back to the west, WEST side to Howell for those of you that live out yonder and can't make it to some of our cruise nights because of the distance. We are going to try to move our cruise nights around a bit more this year. Viper season is right around the next curve!



24
Attendees



MARCH Cruise Night @ Cleary's Pub, Howell – March 15th

BY Susan Andring

28
Attendees

The March cruise night was held at a new location - Cleary's Pub in Howell. We had a great turn-out with 28 members in attendance! It was great to see many faces that have not been able to attend other cruise nights, especially those members that live on the outskirts, that we don't usually see on our 3rd Wednesday of the month. The food was very good and the company was event better! Thanks for coming out, everyone!



APRIL Cruise Night @ Carabba's, Sterling Heights – April 19th

BY Susan Andring

21
Attendees

Great cruise night at Carabba's Italian Grill !! Only 4 Vipers showed up, but it is still early in the season. 21 MCVO members attended the cruise night, and we had good food, great conversation and the best part - spending time with terrific friends – it all made for a great night. And, ... our Texas Tony made it up for a nice surprise visit !!



VIPER RACING LEAGUE, Sebring, Florida - January 2023

By Paul McClorey



I participated in the latest Viper Racing League (VRL) event at Sebring in Florida back on January 18-22. Alison, Andy and I made the long-tow down to Sebring, FL and along the way discovered Bucee's. If you're not familiar, when you see one, you definitely need to stop. It is somewhat a combination truck stop for passenger vehicles (NO Truckers allowed) and a Meijer's. Most have over 100 pumps with tons of room for maneuvering trailers and such. Fresh food, fresh coffee, the cleanest bathrooms you've ever been in at a road stop, and so much more. Anyways, I digress.

The weekend was great, although the Viper turnout was lower than the previous events. Everyone had a great time and, of course, the track did not disappoint. It's really so much fun driving a world-renowned track and working on improving every lap. While I've raced at Sebring previously a few times, it was the first time in the Viper and all went well. Except, the Florida sun made me realize that I should start wearing a hat more often. LOL.

The car show brought in some local vipers and even Ron and Chris Stene stopped by for a visit. We had a chance to catch up with them and enjoy some time together. MCVO has some deep roots and many branches. Anyways, the trip back to Michigan was uneventful and Bucee's made for nice fuel stops.

Next stop for the VRL is Road America in June.

Any suggestions or questions for me, please send an email !

Paul McClorey
motorsports@mcvo.net

photo credits to Alison McClorey for my car and MotorImages.com (used with permission) for the Viper group images.



VIPER RACING LEAGUE – Indianapolis Motor Speedway October 2022

21
Attendees

By Paul McClorey

October 6th-9th saw many of your MCVO friends make the trek to the hallowed ground of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a great weekend of camaraderie, on-track racing, and high-performance driver education.

The Viper Racing League had us set for another great weekend, very similar to that of Road America last year. The partnership with the SRO group seemed to work well again and we all got plenty of track time. On-track racing and time trials were back, along with the car show in the paddock, a reserved suite along the front straight for viewing, and a banquet to wrap it all up. The additional driver education portion was new and MCVO members were there to take part in that as well. Since it was October at Indy, it was very cool and windy weather, but a good time was had by all.

For those that may not be aware, Indy is not just the “Indy 500” 2.5-mile track. There is also a roughly 2.4-mile road course using portions of the Indy 500 track and the rest winding through the infield. It is truly a treat and privilege to be able to run at such a prestigious track. Indianapolis Motor Speedway is a first-class operation from start to finish and they certainly didn't disappoint.

On Saturday, we had a break in the schedule due to the SRO running their 8-hour race. We saw the start of that and then went on a side trip to Dallara, where the Indy car chassis are made – it was right down the street from the Speedway. They have nice historical exhibits, a video presentation, and a guided tour through the non-private areas of the complex. Many areas were off-limits for picture taking, but I think you will enjoy the ones we were allowed to take in the shipping areas. It was very informative, interesting, and fun. In all we had 21 participants, with Herb Helbig among them. Many of us had extended this event's invitation to many of our Viper friends outside MCVO. Again, all enjoyed their time there and it was nice to enjoy this event as a big Viper family.

Photo taken by Cody Wagner
at the Indianapolis Speedway,
October 2022



Upcoming Motorsport Events

June 2,3,4: Detroit Grand Prix.

June 9,10,11: Porsche Club—Rally Sport Region HPDE at Grattan. This is a true HPDE with instructors for all levels. I **Strongly** encourage anyone serious about improving their driving to go to this event for as many days as they can stand. Vipers and other makes are welcome. In fact, Charlie Brown III is the registrar. Give him a ring with any questions.

June 9,10,11 (not a typo): VRL at Road America. More info at <https://theviperracingleague.com/>

June 19: Viper Track day at Gingerman hosted by Illinois Vipers

July 8: MCVO Smokeout.

July 31: Viper Track day at Gingerman hosted by Illinois Vipers

Sept TBD: CPG Autocross. Hoping we can make this happen.

Oct 13,14,15: VRL at Watkins Glen. More info at <https://theviperracingleague.com/>

Nov TBD: Fall Tech Day. Please give me a date and I will work towards it.

From Bob S.: Waterford Track Days schedule.

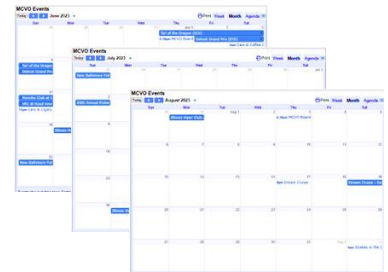
<https://mailchi.mp/waterfordhills/waterford-hills-2018-open-track-season-schedule-15119985?e=8cfb5d7055>

General Track/Autocross Days: There are so many out there that it's impossible to cover them all. <https://hpdejunkie.com/> is a great resource for track days and driver education. The same applies to autocross events so here is one link that may be helpful <https://parkinglotracing.org/autocross-calendar/mi-2022/>

**As with all events – things may change !
Please confirm with me if you have any questions or information regarding to any of these events, or want to confirm it is really happening !!**

Make sure to send an email to: motorsports@mcvo.net.

See y'all soon - Paul



During the driving season, there are often more events or possible changes to listed events. For the latest information, refer to the club calendar in the MCVO website, at www.mcvo.net You can also visit our Facebook page to keep up with member postings and great photos.

*Please note: Activities may be posted on the Facebook page, but **specific details for events will always be e-mailed directly to the membership.***

Club Events & Events of Interest

For the latest information, please refer to the [club calendar in the MCVO website](#), at www.mcvo.net

Any questions regarding an event – please send an email to :

viper@mcvo.net
or
president@mcvo.net

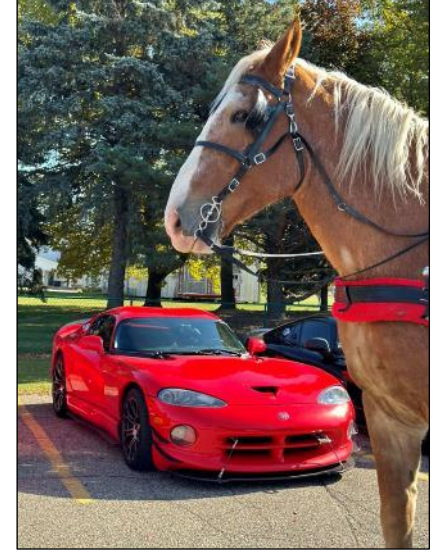
RANDOM SHOTS & FB POSTS



John Huszti
December 27, 2022
I received my clipboard from the 2022 Elkhart Viper Gathering today. Thank you Ray Sweers and all the Positron family involved in this memorable event.



Tony Smith
January 14
You can take the man out of Detroit, but you can't take the Detroit out of the man. #newplate



Shawn Nofziger
March 12
Hi everyone. Just moved to the Lansing area from Atlanta, where I was in the Georgia Chapter. Can't wait to meet you all. Anyone in the area?



Photo Credits :

Susan Andring

Tony Smith

Cody Wagner

Marty Heitkamp

Bob Swartz

Lori Emerling

Alison McClorey

Patrick O'Hara

Tom Beekman



Spring Brunch @ Meadowbrook Country Club - May 2017