

SnakeBites

Summer 2012

A Motor City Viper Owners Publication



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SnakeBites

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Motor City VIPER Owners SnakeBites

An MCVO Publication

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Motor City VIPER Owners

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Please contact viper@mcvo.net if you have a question or comment on club activities.

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Labor Day Weekend used to mean back to school and end of summer but not to most of us! Unless you have school age children, keep on rolling (or cruising)!

Did you see ALL the events MCVO had this summer?? I bet Maureen kept your email inbox busy. Regular cruise nights, “bonus” cruise nights, Auto Cross, Road Rally and barbecue, CEMA, Lawrence Tech, Grand Prix, Escanaba, VIPER race in Ohio, and I’m sure I missed a couple.

What have you been doing the last few months? Did you take your Viper somewhere fun? On vacation? We would love to hear about it. Drop us an email or tell us about it at an event and it can be in the next newsletter—don’t forget the pictures.

What do you think of the new Viper? There was a “hands off” display at CEMA which received a lot of attention. I had a front row seat since our Purple Viper was right next to it. One of the 2013s came to our monthly meeting so we got an even closer look. Lawrence Tech had an auto day and it was on display there with no ropes, no hands off but we did stop people from climbing in. At the our bonus cruise night Dick and Herb brought one and that caused crowds to gather—Ralph even stopped by that evening to say hello to MCVO and tweeted about it! It took an extremely long time for our food orders to arrive; finally the cook came over, apologized, and said it was because he was in the parking lot checking out our Vipers!

My favorite event this summer was the CEMA show which featured the Viper. Over 70 Vipers showed up and were on display. One of each generation was located on the porch of the museum, one of each year in the front circle, with the remaining in a corral. What a beautiful sight! It was also my favorite because that was the first time we showed our Viper and we won “Best Viper”! Yeah purple! Are you one of 108 Facebook users who “likes” the Motor City Viper Owner page? If not, join us. It’s a great place to find out what is happening, check out pictures of Viper and events, and leave comments.

Coming up, September cruise night, VOI12, Fall color cruise (back to Canada), probably a bonus cruise, and who knows what other fun events we will have?!!!!

Joanne and Ted Gray

Photo credits unless noted in the article: Cover by Ted Gray, Fun Run by Steve Nelson, Cruise nights by Maureen Hackney, Bob White, Ted Gray, Road Rally, AutoCross, Mid-Ohio, CEMA, Grand Prix, LTU, Mercedes-Benz Show by Ted Gray, Unique Experience by Jerry Carrico.

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- Upcoming Events -

October 2012

- 10th—Membership Meeting-Kerby’s Koney Island, Woodward & Square Lake
- 13th—Fall Color Cruise and Dinner
- 18th—Cruise Night #6
- 27th—Fall Tech Day

November 2012

- 11th—Bocce Ball
- 14th—Membership Meeting-Kerby’s Koney Island, Woodward & Square Lake

December 2012

- 1st—Holiday Party!

Dates/Events subject to change. Please check the MCVO website for up to date information. Event of interest not a MCVO Sponsored event*.

Membership in Viper Club of America (VCA) is \$115.00, which includes membership in the Motor City Vipers Owners (MCVO). This includes VCA membership cards, subscription to the Viper Magazine and VCA related discounts, subscription to MCVO SnakeBites and access to all MCVO related events.

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Well the Motor City Viper club has had some great events over the past few months, but August, September and even October will be action packed too. We have a great opportunity at Waterford coming up in September that you will want to attend. Thanks to all are members who have helped out in putting on the events, it's your support that keeps this car club going and being able to do the things we do. With Woodward behind us the next biggie is VOI-12. If you have never been to a VOI event, you want to make sure you take the opportunity to attend and participate in one. They are a blast and you're going to be in the company of like-minded people, sharing the love for the car but then staying for the friendships. This one is especially special as the club will be caravanning down and on the way will be the famous "Tail of the Dragon", definitely one of those bucket list items for a car person. It's almost like the "Ring" here in America.

We are looking for a good location and venue for our Fall TECH day, so if you have any ideas feel free to contact one of the board members/officers. As always, if any member has an idea for an event, feel free to contact us and we will see what we can do. The club now has its largest membership in some time, with 187, getting close to the 200 mark. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the future events and our cruise nights, the days are now getting shorter and our time of being able to drive our Vipers is too. The "W" word will be here before we know it, so make sure you get your fill of driving your Viper and attending some great events.

Jim Bielenda



Cruise to Bullfrogs – May 13

By Bob White

A chilly evening in May meant we gathered inside. There was a nice turn-out despite the chill. Twenty-one made it out to Bullfrogs for the evening.

As usual the front row in the parking lot was reserved and filled up quickly. Friends began sharing immediately.

What's memorable about this cruise night is what was put before us on the tables. I think this was the most diverse pallet yet for us! A few went the healthy route, while others enjoyed everything from the "Roadhouse Frog Legs", to the one pound "Monster" burger, to Mexican, and Pizza; well, you name it, we ate it that night.

Great friends, great food, great cruising in great cars; always makes for a great evening out.

Escanaba Fun Run

By Steve Nelson

The 13th Annual Krusin Klassics Fun Run was held on June 1st&2nd this year. The weather didn't cooperate as well as it could have...but weather has little effect on having a good time with friends. The weekend started off with our yearly motorcade to Riverside Auto where we are always well taken care of by Manager Dennis Wiltzius. Below is a picture of Dennis getting an autographed litho from Father Viper himself...Roy Sjoberg



(Steve Nelson, Roy Sjoberg, Dennis Wiltzius)

Our Timing for the parade this year was perfect the group drove to the park and started right back downtown for the ride. We cut out part of the parade this year and opted to get back to the fairgrounds ahead of the other hundreds of attendees.

Saturday dawned cool and cloudy, with moisture threatening. The Krusin Klassics people once again gave us primo parking even though we rumble out at 12:30 every year for the zoo.



A real woody. Hand crafted oak on 1936 Ford running gear. (local car)

Frank Berle mounted the dyno platform once again. His GEN IV green machine, with only a cat back exhaust added, snorted out 576 RWHP! One can only gather from these numbers that the GEN IV power plant may be a tad under rated J.



(Photo by Ron & Teri Wellington L to R: this writer, Teri Wellington, Sue Nelson, Jim Drobny, Sue&Ken Krupansky)

At 12:30 sharp, the snakes were well coiled and ready to strike out for Wallace, MI...home of the DeYoung Family Zoo. As is our custom, we were led into the very bowels of the creature's confines. It is here where our serpent's engines compete with Samson, the Barbary lion, for territorial control.

(Escanaba Fu Run Continued on page 4)





Sampson (Photo by Ron & Teri Wellington)



(Photo by Roy and Peg Sjoberg)

This year was a little more special given that our club had generously contributed to the zoo last fall as one of our charitable contributions. Zach Thompson's company, Competition Graphics, designed and made a special MCVO logo which we presented to Bud & Carrie. It will be mounted at the admission gate for all to see who venture within.



This year, a new attraction is the gator show. This is the part where Bud & Carrie both go into the gator pond, looking for air bubbles, grab the alligators by the tail and drag a couple out...all the while Carrie is giving us a very nice tutorial on alligators. None of us could really grasp the concept of getting in the water with these snaggle toothed, carnivorous, prehistoric DeYoung zoo denizens. The water was also frigidly cold Carrie reported. They do this daily the entire summer season.



After another thoroughly enjoyable time at this one of a kind zoo, we bid Sampson, the Barbary lion king good bye and headed for the curvy part of our ride: The 'River Road' down to Menominee. Keith Boye and his son led us through the scenic panorama of UP woods and water. We descended on Keith & Shelley's marina where we gave rest to our cars and took some liquid nourishment ourselves. As the time approached to head over to the Landing restaurant, it became apparent that Frank still had some activity to do...right where we were all parked.and history repeated itself.

Frank's marks from previous years are STILL in great evidence! We may seriously have to start a collection for him as there are now several sets of Michelins adding to the parking lot asphalt depth dimensions. Heck, he's probably saved the city some repaving dollars!

From here, we headed to the shores of Lake Michigan for our dinner.

The ride back along Lake Michigan is always a nice cap on the day's tour. As has happened on occasion in the past, the spirit took hold of a few cars...most particularly Frank...whose car was still full of venom from the morning's spectacular dyno run.

We gathered back at our hotel conference room and spent another couple hours spinning stories and tales. The Krusin Classics dyno guys stay here too and joined us.

The next morning, we walked across the street for a nice breakfast and then the party was over. Another successful Fun Run was had by all. However; Frank wasn't quite through with his activity. Below, he left this massive snake bite as he exited to his home nest in Traverse City. That is Frank right in front of his perfect stripes.



SPRING BRUNCH 2012

By: *Maureen Hackney*

Our 19th annual Spring Brunch was held at the beautiful Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville. For the first time in several years... it did not rain! We had 131 in attendance which was a record crowd for this event. The food was outstanding as always with fruits, pastries, eggs benedict, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, breakfast potatoes, waffles, chicken in a white sauce with Michigan cherries and bread pudding.

Our guest speaker was Graham Henckel, Model Responsible, Viper Engineering who gave an exciting presentation on the Design and Development of the Gen 5 SRT 2013. His love for the car is clearly evident in his presentation. We also had Mark Trostle as a guest speaker and he talked about the continuation of the iconic design with some additional enhancements. The legend lives on!!!!

For the first time in the history of the Spring Brunch we gave away two sets of tires. Michelin graciously donated a set of tires even though they are no longer making Viper tires. David Colletti joined us from Pirelli, the new provider of Viper tires and he presented a certificate to the winner of a set of Pirelli tires. There were two happy members, John Begian (Pirelli) and Frank Mason (Michelin) who took home the big prizes.

In addition to our many door prizes, we held an auction for two beautiful prints of the new 2013 SRT car and the high bidders were Dave and Kim Olson and Frank and Kim Berle. Kim Berle was the only person at the New York reveal event who got to sit in the car so the print was a must have! We also gave away two spoilers one in black and one in red. The third spoiler was white and we had everyone who attended the Brunch sign it. It will be used at a later date.

Following the auction, we gave away our centerpieces which this year were a Viper cooler, perfect for the trunk of a Viper. Anyone wishing to purchase one can do so with our apparel Director Sandi White. Our 2013 Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2013; mark your calendars now for another great event.



SUMMER CRUISE NIGHTS

By: *Maureen Hackney*

With the beautiful weather that we have had this summer, our cruise nights have been very popular. New this year were bonus cruise nights, added when the weather looked great and at new locations.

Tryst Bonus Night

Sam and Angelika Milana hosted this event at Tryst (the old Tin Fish Inn) in Fair Haven located right on the lake. It was 84 and sunny

waters with good friends, good food and lively conversations.



If anyone has any suggestions for a cruise night, please let us know. Our three bonus cruise nights so far this summer have been a big draw and we know there are many more great spots.

Cruise to O'Tooles – May 13

By *Ted Gray*

A very warm evening in June meant we could have a good turn out. About fifteen cars made it out to O'Tooles that evening.



We had a good view of Cass Lake out behind the cars. Although the ability of O'Tooles to handle out group everyone still have a good time. As always come for the car and stay for the people.



Lakeville Inn Bonus Cruise Night

Sam and Angelika Milana hosted this event at the Lakeville Inn in Leonard which is located at the end of Rochester Rd. It was another warm sunny evening and we were on the deck top overlooking the lake. (Do you see a theme here?) Twenty seven members gathered to enjoy the evening. We could look out into the parking lot and all of the Vipers were lined up drawing much attention. With a couple of additional surprises that evening, it was another successful event.



when 23 members cruised along the lake to gather for this impromptu evening. The house special was lake perch, the liquid refreshments cold and the view was beautiful. Sounds like the makings of a great Viper event!

Zukey Lake

Our July cruise night found us at one of our favorite spots Zukey Lake Tavern in Pinckney. It was a warm sunny evening as 15 members gathered on the rooftop. The rooftop is a beautiful spot to enjoy the views of the calm lake

Motor City Viper Owners – The Beginning

By Bob White

The fact that almost half of the Charter Members¹ of our club are STILL active members eighteen years after the club was formed, says a lot about the club. It was, and still is, a great idea!

Of course we have to start with the car itself. If it weren't for that bombshell at the auto show in 1989, and the frenzy that followed, there wouldn't be a club. The car made such an impact in the lives of its owners that they wanted to share their experiences with others. And their experiences were more extreme than the honks and thumbs up we get today. It was a time when the car was even more of a "Rock Star". One Journalist rightfully called the first Viper an all-American fantasy come true. It appeared on more magazine covers than any other car EVER. There was an immediate cult following.

If you're new to Vipers ask some of the early owners about the outrageous behavior of onlookers during those earlier years. They all have some interesting tales to share. And it's

mailboxes, give us the thumbs up and smile like we'd just liberated them from occupation forces". It was that kind of an atmosphere when MCVO was conceived.

Dan Wlodkowski ordered his car in early '92 and didn't get to actually see one until it appeared at the Mopar Nationals that fall. Like most buyers at that time he waited patiently for a year to take delivery, and then felt strongly about the need for a local club. He called Chrysler to see what was available and was connected to the Viper plant. There he spoke to Sandi White who told him the only customer focused effort was by Jay Herbert who was organizing the "International Viper Registry". In June of 1994 Dan and his friend Mike Morss, who by then had also taken delivery of his Viper, trailored their cars to Indianapolis where they joined four other Viper owners to participate in the Shelby Dodge Automobile Club's fourth National Convention. Along with pace laps on the speedway, they participated in a car show, a Brickyard 400 testing session and a full day driver's school at Putnam Park Road Course. During the event they all met with Jay Herbert and discussed the Viper Registry.

Registry could provide.

They heard that Chicago owners had organized a group that was focused on the performance and racing side of the car. But Mike and Dan were thinking about a more balanced club including cruising, and social activities. They got an early mailing list but since it was pretty small waited for a while until they had enough owners to get a decent response. When the time was right, they took the bull by the horns, arranged for a meeting location and invited all interested parties to join in the effort to organize a local owners group.

A couple of days before that first meeting, they got a call from Ron Smith, Dodge Marketing and John Thompson, of JR Thompson asking about the effort. They actually met with both of them the day before the first club meeting where Ron Smith and John Thompson offered to get involved and help. The effort began to pick up steam quickly!

The picture below is from the parking lot outside the Steak and Ale at Ann Arbor Road at I-275 where that first meeting took place on April 1, 1995. The snow squalls that day didn't discourage anyone from throwing a coat on and showing up. Some pages from the flip chart used at that meeting still exist.



Wed. Mar. 22, 1995
 Guidelines to Owners and Supporters of the Dodge Viper.
 This letter is being sent to announce the first meeting of the Viper Club of Michigan.
 Viper owners and their spouses or guests
 Saturday, April 1, 1995
 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Ann Arbor Rd. at I-275, Pk. (213)453-8500 (Use map)
 management has agreed to open early for our group
 We are looking for a meeting place. We have updated
 the old meeting place. Plymouth, Mich.
 organization of, and for, interest of
 between owners. The
 We are the
 of a '94 and

The purpose for the club is to provide a regional organization of, and for, owners of the Dodge Viper. This organization would facilitate interaction between owners, the exchange of information, and the coordination of special events for the group.

The Dodge Viper is a...
 exchange of information.
 This meeting is being...
 regional representatives of the...
 a '95 respectively (both red and...
 Morse (floating in) A phone call (313) ...
 address above at...
 Shortly after each meeting we will mail out the needs...
 prior to each meeting we will send out a reminder post card...
 We all try to provide a clearing house for "rats and buns" info for the...
 news stuff that would not necessarily make the editors cut at the Viper Qu...
 The "Viper Quarterly" magazine looks like...
 Chrysler (Dodge) to disseminate...
 deasy Magazine... and help coordinate national events that the Owners...
 create nationally... and help coordinate national events that the Owners...
 respond to the needs of a local membership. This would facilitate a greater day to day...
 involvement. It should be great fun!

April 1, 1995 meeting:
 Tentative agenda:
 1. Discuss structure of club
 2. Meeting frequency and location
 3. Member Viper days at Putnam Park Road Course
 4. Latest rumors on the second Owners Invitational
 5. Potential activities to attend today as a group

Do you know other owners or our contact?
 Do you have access to any technical expertise that would be of interest to Viper owners.
 Perhaps you are "in the know" and possibly could facilitate some of manufacturing
 or buying facilities or any other facility that could serve as a focal point for a club

I'm looking forward to seeing you there Saturday.
 Dan Wlodkowski

Mike Morss

In addition to outlining the club's structure and activities, officers and directors were selected: Mike Morss, President; Dan Wlodkowski, Vice President; Jim Bielenda, Secretary; Joyce Allen, Treasurer; Joe Klutz, Club Advisor and Mitch Wehrly, Bill Gill, Terry Moore and George Benko, Directors. Getting the club up and running took considerable work so Mike and Dan acted as a single leadership team during those early days. Since they worked out of the same office it was easy to coordinate things collectively. When the VCA was organized they both represented Michigan.

Plans were made for a local "non-glitzy" newsletter. George Benko agreed to work on the bylaws and getting the club incorporated. Given the enthusiasm of the group, that first meeting was a great success. The club was firmly established and quickly began providing the events members wanted.

(MCVO At the Beginning continued on the next page)

nice to see that kind of enthusiasm back for the Gen 5 car.

You have to smile when hearing some of those early reactions; stories like the one about the girl leaning over past her boyfriend in the pick-up truck and yelling out the window "I want to ride with you!" A VOII participant commenting about people's reaction during the caravan who would "come out to their

Although Mike and Dan became regional representatives, the Registry was simply a storehouse of information about Vipers. It didn't provide the rest of what Mike and Dan knew the owners needed. When they saw how much the Shelby guys were enjoying their cars because of SDAC club activities; the writing was on the wall. They wanted more than the

(MCVO At The Beginning continued from previous page)

At a board meeting later in April, the club's name was chosen and the requirement to own a Viper was added. From then on it would be the Motor City Viper Owners.

In addition to club meetings, that first year's schedule included a picnic on June 17, participation at the CEMA car show on June 24 where members had a chance to preview Chrysler's 1996 product lineup and run an autocross with Neons. In July they attended the Classic Car Invitational at MIS. In August it was the Annual "Helluva Cruise" in Pinckney, MI and the Mopar Nationals at Indianapolis Raceway Park. There were cruises to both Frankenmuth and Marshall in September, and a tour of local cider mills in early October. In mid-October there was a fifties style cruise on Woodward and the season wrapped up with a Christmas party in early December.

The club is still meeting the needs that were seen in the beginning and in much the same way. It has played a significant role in the lives of those who organized and lead the effort. Their time has all been given voluntarily and without the club we wouldn't be able to participate in many of the adventures it's provided.

Join me in saying thanks to Mike and Dan, and all those who helped launch the club, for their enthusiasm and determination, and a special thanks to Dan for providing the documents used in this article.

If you're wondering who those Charter Members were, click on "Club Info." on the MCVO Home Page to see the list.

2012 MVCO Road Rally

By Joanne Gray

We had wonderful weather two years in a row for our road rally/barbecue—hot and sunny IS wonderful, right? A great turnout with nearly 30 cars and 60 people or so at the barbecue.

We began at Competition Graphics with Zach providing the simple ground rules for the



rally. After the short meeting we began with everyone running around the parking lot looking for Batman or Tonto or Robin or something like that. Ted and I ended up being



last to leave because everyone had their picture taken by Ted as they were leaving. By the third stop we decided it would be much more fun to just drive the course without stopping and wracking our brains. It was fun to see all the Vipers zipping around the back roads; also

fun to see the cars turning around (was that the eventual winners we saw doing that?).

After a couple of hours we turned back to Venzano's to help Tony and Deb get ready for all the Vipers returning with their hungry and thirsty owners. While the food was being prepared and people were mingling and drinking, Zach compiled the results. The winners were Jim and John—congrats! Does that mean you will plan the road rally next



year?

The rally was video taped so we spent some time watching that while waiting for the main event—the auction of the first 2013 Viper at Barrett Jackson. We had a video feed through a computer so while it wasn't perfect we were still able to see that it netted \$300,000 for charity.

It was a great day for cars, friends, food, drink and just hanging out. I did hear something about the giant martini shaker being used into the night but maybe Tony can tell you more about that when you see him?



AUTOCROSS 2012

By Ted Gray

Sunday, July 22nd brought out nineteen club members for the annual MCVO Autocross at the Chrysler Proving Grounds. The day started out with a short welcome by the Director of the Proving Grounds Bob Jordan. After the brief comments Bob gave the group a surprise which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

III/IV stock, and Modified. Every driver was able to as many as eight runs in throughout the day. The results are shown below in the "Official" time sheet.

Thanks go to Zach for bringing the Dodge Trailer for support with the tables/chairs and especially the umbrellas even though the wind would not let us use them. Also thanks to Jesse and Maureen for running the event and to Frank our own MCVO cook.

The winners are shown below.



As usual Jim Bielenda with the help of a numbers of volunteers setup a challenging but fun course to drive. The cars were divided into four groups; GEN I stock, GEN II stock, GEN



Name	Number	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Run 4	Run 5	Run 6	Run 7	Run 8	Class
Graham Henckel	1	94.69	90.92	90.04	89.73	90.22	89.78	88.91	87.97	4/MOD
Ron Singer	2	105.00	104.68	104.91	DNR	104.26	103.97	103.60	DNR	ALONE
Zach Thompson	3	91.51	91.53	91.63	89.81	91.13	90.73	90.73	91.28	4/MOD
Mike Kelly	4	100.66	98.86	102.32	100.37	102.57	101.04	99.60	98.72	3/STOCK
John Begian	5	106.29	100.75	100.82	104.33	103.25	100.99	99.96	98.26	3/STOCK
Jeff Lambert	6	94.37	93.74	92.30	92.61	94.86	92.59	92.53	92.04	4/STOCK
Dan Gafencu	7A	113.71	108.42	105.82	104.20	107.94	113.71	113.23	113.95	3/STOCK
Flo Gafencu	7B	121.31	113.42	111.39	116.39	126.24	116.09	110.76	107.46	3/STOCK
Ed Swanson	6	DNF	120.99	119.98	117.43	DNR	DNR	DNR	DNR	3/STOCK
Ed Gatt/John Detri	9B	106.90	103.86	107.22	103.98	102.90	100.62	97.82	103.11	2/MOD
Gary Trip	10A	104.45	103.15	108.18	DNR	107.35	103.08	DNR	DNR	2/STOCK
Stephen Tripp	10B	101.01	98.82	104.70	DNR	101.48	100.79	99.50	DNR	2/STOCK
Nick Wisniewski	11	101.55	117.93	98.92	103.65	100.00	96.92	97.29	95.58	3/STOCK
Ron Bratke	12	101.36	100.73	96.17	94.41	98.34	96.98	93.25	93.77	4/MOD
Frank Berle	13	98.34	99.62	99.86	101.18	98.57	99.16	99.07	103.52	4/MOD
Sam Milana	14	115.60	113.00	106.07	105.04	102.14	104.49	DNR	DNR	1/STOCK
Bob White	15	112.82	108.52	102.56	102.90	101.82	101.98	102.04	101.31	2/STOCK
Jerry Carrico	16	102.38	102.59	100.97	112.88	106.14	102.48	101.35	100.53	2/STOCK
Joe Jonson	17A	101.73	102.16	100.46	99.26	101.22	98.87	98.34	104.69	2/MOD
Eric Ferderune	17B	101.69	99.26	103.78	98.98	99.70	97.57	97.26	98.38	2/MOD
Bob Schwartz	18	104.30	104.41	99.01	97.82	104.34	100.42	98.83	96.62	2/MOD
Mariann Litzinerski	19	130.22	121.80	123.27	119.07	122.11	120.16	119.16	116.55	2/STOCK

Yellow=Best Run
 Red=Disqualified Run
 DNR=Did Not Run
 DNF=Did Not Finish



Viper Returns to ALMS at Mid-Ohio By Ted Gray

The SRT Brand had invite SRT owners to the Mid-Ohio Road course for the first race of the 2013 SRT Viper GTS-R. About seventy-five Vipers along with a number of other SRT vehicles made to trip from many mid-western states for this event. SRT provided a car corral right in the middle of the race circuit along with paddock access and an autograph session with the drivers and crews.

For the first time in a good number of years Vipers were to be in a American LeMans race when they returned to the track at the Mid Ohio road course in Lexington, Ohio on August 3rd. There would be two Vipers entered for the first of at least three “tune-up” races this year in preparation for a full schedule of ALMS racing in 2013.

Kuno Wittmer and Dominik Farnbacher shared the driving responsibilities in the #91 Forza Motorsports SRT Viper GTS-R while Marc Goossens and Tommy Kendall were in the #93 Pennzoil Ultra SRT Viper GTS-R.



“Our first goal was to get through the race without any major problems,” said Gary Johnson, Road Racing Manger – SRT Motorsports. “We accomplished that. In fact, we were making progress throughout the race. The cars were getting better. Today’s race gives us an opportunity to know where the issues are and where we need to focus.”

Bill Riley of Riley Technologies, builder of the Viper GTS-Rs gave this assessment of the first race, “It wasn’t pretty but both cars finished,” said Riley. “We’ve got a lot to build on. We’re about two seconds off where we need to be and that showed in the race. Now we need to build on that and go from there. We were consistent but there are things we have to work on.

There are gains to make with the car. We’ll keep chipping away on it. I think we’ll get about half of the gap taken care of pretty quickly.”

Not only were both cars running at the finish, the performance improved throughout the two-hour, 45-minute timed event. As an added bonus, one of the Viper GTS-Rs had a top-10 finish. Kuno Wittmer and Dominik Farnbacher finished 10th in the No. 91 while Marc Goossens and Tommy Kendall were 12th in the No. 93 Pennzoil Ultra SRT Viper GTS-R.



CEMA Show at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum By Ted Gray

This years CEMA Show was a celebration of the American Two Seater Sports Car and featuring the 20th Anniversary of the Dodge Viper. Also was a special event for the Dedication of the Viper Café Exhibit in the lower level of the museum.



There were over 250 cars entered for judging at the show. Included in the 250 was seventy-five Vipers. A featured display on the “porch” include not only the 2013 SRT Viper but one of each of the first four generations of Dodge Vipers.



Once the judging was completed for all categories one Viper from MCVO won the “Best Viper” of the show. None other then Joanne Gray’s Viper Violet with the Plum Crazy Venzano Viper Interior took the award. Pictured below, accepting her award from Lori Emerling, President, CEMA, is Joanne.



Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle

By Ted Gray

If there is ever again an invitation to attend an event such as the Detroit Grand Prix and the SRT Brand extends the invitation there is no question we will be taking advantage of it again. The value that was provided by SRT was



exceptional. Each person received two grandstand tickets for all three days, parking on Belle Isle in the SRT car corral, a \$25 food voucher for two for each day, and access to the paddock for all events.



The weekend included races for the IZOD Indy cars, Indy Lights, Grand-AM Rolex Series, for the first time ever on Belle Isle, and the Pirelli World Challenge Championship Series.



Lawrence Technical University

By Ted Gray

Most Viper owners like to show their cars to others and answer questions about the car. MCVO has been offered unique opportunities for its members to do just that. Once such opportunity was at LTU for the kickoff of the 25th Anniversary of Eyes on Design. This was a conference for automotive executive and a unique fashion show put on by design students of LTU. Seven MCVO members brought their Vipers for display along with new 2013 SRT Viper plus a few Mustangs.



The fashion show was one to see. The long gowns were made of recyclable materials. The one on the left below was made of Kroger plastic grocery bags. Hard to believe but it did look like an elegant evening gown.



This was one of those opportunities that the club offers from time to time that ends up being more than expected. Not only were the Vipers the absolute center of attention we also had great food and drinks after the conference and fashion show concluded.



2012 Mercedes-Benz Research & Development NA Annual Dream Cruise Car Show

By Ted Gray

MCVO presented another opportunity for club members to show off their Vipers. Unfortunately this was a very late invitation for a show at the MB Facility in Redford. MB was hoping to get a number of Viper for display. Being retired and not having anything to do that day I decided I would take the Viper Violet car to this show. After all they were going to provide lunch and cold drinks on what looked to be another hot Detroit summer day.



The people at the MB facility were thrilled that they were going to have a Viper for display among the few classics and vintage Mercedes that came to the show. So they gave me the best space to park. Every MB employee who came out of the building had to walk right passed the purple Viper. Many of the MB employees were former Chrysler employees which made for good conversation besides answering many questions about Vipers for those who have not been close to a Viper.

Judging for the show was done by secret ballot and the MB employees as well as everyone who showed a car were eligible to vote.

The results are illustrated in these photos.

I would recommend this show to other Viper owners. It was especially fun and the MB folks were very appreciative that there was a Viper in the show.



Another Opportunity to Participate in a Unique One of a Kind Event

By Jerry Carrico

A message came into the MCVO email account with the sender saying he was in need of a “presentable early model Viper.” Normally, I would have ignored one of these notes thinking a politician wanted a car to ride in for a parade or something like that. Not to mention someone asking for an “early generation Viper” generally has a red side pipe car in mind, and I have a graphite gen II; but for some reason, I followed up on the inquiry.

I sent an email explaining that I have a gen II roadster, same body style as the “early model years” but no side pipes like the first Vipers. I immediately received a response back explaining that the car was needed for an event honoring none other than Bob Lutz. He was speaking at a black tie event hosted by the French American Chamber of Commerce, which was honoring him at a gala held at the Orchard Lake Country Club. The plan was to surprise Bob by having one of each car, that he was instrumental in the development of, on display. The cars were to be placed in a semicircle on the lawn off the club veranda to surprise Bob when he arrives for a private cocktail hour prior to the main event. No politicians, check. Some one on one time with the ultimate car guy, check. Cocktail hour, check. “Yeah, we’ll be there.”



As the April event drew near, we received additional information; we were to arrive at the event a half hour before the 6:00 pm scheduled arrival of Mr. Lutz. We were directed how to get our cars out on the lawn and to park next to



a display board describing each of our cars. We were also told that Jean Jennings, President and Editor-in-Chief of Automobile Magazine, was going to attend with a photographer and may do an article about the evening.

My wife, Lai Ha, and I arrived at the country club at the prescribed hour wearing our Sunday best, and we were directed out to the lawn. I have to admit, as I carefully drove across the manicured lawn, the thought of dumping the clutch and doing a big donut across the club lawn did cross my mind – for a moment. In addition to our Viper parked on the lawn with us was an Opel Cadet, Chrysler LHS, Corvette ZR1, Camaro convertible, several late model Cadillac’s and, of course, a Volt.

When Mr. Lutz arrived, he smiled a broad smile as he saw a resume of his life work in front of him. I was later told that he said he has done many of these types of events before but never have they gathered examples of all “his”



cars in one place before. We were all asked to stand by our car, and he made his way to each of the owners for photos and spend a few moments with each of us.

When Bob approached us, he said “ohhhh Viper! These are great cars, I’m glad they got an early one. Did you see the new one?”

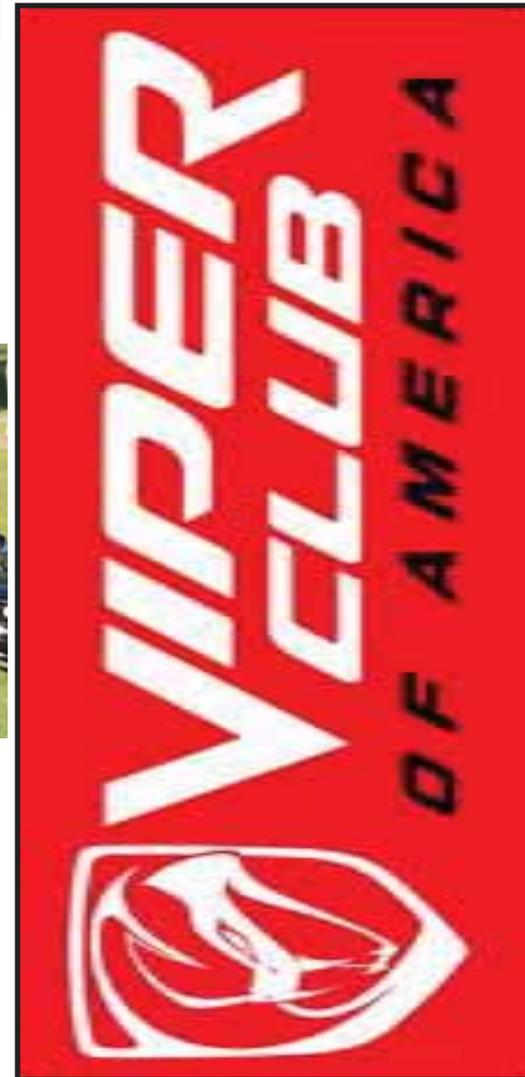


They’re going back to this style. I’ll never forget how we came up with the name. We modeled the car off the Cobra. We asked Ford if we can have that name but, of course, they said FU, so we were on the plane one night home after a long day. We had just decided to do the car, and we were having cocktails throwing out snake names when someone said Viper. We said that’s it! It’ll be Viper.” Bob thanked us for bringing our car, he posed for several pictures with us and he signed the

poster board they had made for us.

As the main event started, we mingled with other car owners, and members from the French American Chamber of Commerce (did I mention my wife is Chinese and I’m Irish?). We found ourselves talking with one of Bob’s assistants from days gone by and enjoyed the many stories she had to tell.

In addition to this event, our Viper was invited by CEMA to be a feature car in front of the Walter P Chrysler Museum representing ’02 model year at this summer’s annual car show which featured two seaters. In our years of Viper ownership, the car has been our ticket to do many things we wouldn’t otherwise have had the opportunity to do and the Viper is the ticket to move you to the front of the line.





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