

The Official Newsletter of the Viper Club of America

VCA

NOTES

SNAKE INVADERS!

VIPER INVADES NIAGARA FALLS



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- Southwest/Midwest Zone Rendezvous Recap



MEET THE PREZ By Chris Marshall, National VCA President

Synergy (sin'ər jē) – noun; from the Greek *sunergia*, meaning “cooperation” and *sunergos* or “working together.” The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects.

Welcome to the latest issue of *VCA Notes*! Of course, this issue comes at a very important time for both the Viper car club and the Viper manufacturer. While we seemingly skipped an issue this summer, there were a LOT of things in limbo earlier this year. The last time I penned this article we were just moments away from what Herb Helbig and several others thought would be a new owner of the platform. Ah, what a difference a few months make.

Since then our beloved Chrysler has taken on new ownership with a couple new business partners, not the least of which is Fiat. That wonderful Italian automaker is not only the sixth largest in the world, but also owns a couple of legendary performance marquees in Ferrari and Maserati. Of course, any gear head worth his or her salt will tell you that a Ferrari isn't a Viper by any means, and vice-versa. Nor is Fiat like Chrysler in the way they have approached the U.S. and global marketplace. Yet the two companies have come together for what we hope will be a better marriage than that of the ill-fated DaimlerChrysler union.

That, my friends, is where synergy truly comes into play—and not just with the manufacturers, but also with the Viper Club and many others. We have already seen this synergy in play when Dodge announced that not only was the Viper platform no longer for sale, but that the Viper would continue to be built by Dodge for years to come. One need only look at Fiat's preservation and investment in the Ferrari and Maserati brands to see how that helped influence the Viper's future for the time being. There has already been speculation in the press about taking the venerable Viper V10 to new heights with a few Ferrari enhancements. A better synergy for the Viper is almost impossible to imagine.

However, it doesn't end there. In order to justify the Viper's future, the Viper Club of America must continue to enthusiastically support and promote the Viper brand. Originally supported by Chrysler as a marketing venue to sell other product lines, the VCA has grown to be financially independent and the strongest it has ever been. However, that synergy has not changed: We still have the strongest ties to a manufacturer of any car club on the planet. We can pick up the phone and call the highest levels of the company to help our members and fellow Viper owners. They attend and often contribute to VCA events, as well as help position the VCA in their own efforts—such as last year's world record at Nürburgring. In turn, they expect us to buy more Vipers and recommend Chrysler products when given the opportunity. Given the increasing quality and performance of today's Viper, it really isn't that much to expect.

Finally, there is that synergy that the VCA strives for with its members and sponsors. Your various officers at the regional, zone, and national levels work day in and day out to bring you information and events that we hope will further your Viper ownership experience. We work with reputable sponsors to bring you quality merchandise and additional member discounts. This publication, as well as *VIPER Magazine*, constantly uses member input to craft the final product that arrives in your mailbox every quarter.

Chrysler has formed a new, synergistic relationship with Fiat. Dodge and the VCA have renewed a similar relationship that has been successful for over a decade. And the VCA pledges to continue to do everything possible to make your Viper ownership experience the very best it can be. In turn, you can support the VCA by continuing to renew your memberships, purchasing raffle tickets, and taking advantage of the promotions we have secured from Chrysler and our other sponsors. Together we make one heck of a team. Synergy indeed.

Chris Marshall



The VCA Raffle Car: Bob Lutz's 1998 Dodge Viper GTS-R (GT2)



VOICES OF THE VIPER NATION

By Herb "Grailkeeper" Helbig — Chief Engineer, Viper (Retired)

I just left an absolutely great Viper get together at Ralph Gilles house and was headed home in the "GRALKPR" listening to Johnny Lang singing about the darker side and it got me to thinking. The party I attended was to celebrate the "Vipers Invade Niagara" adventure. The trip was the brainchild of Alex Ristanovic and the Illinois club but was joined by VCA members from as far away as Pennsylvania, Georgia and West Virginia. Once again I was overwhelmed by the great camaraderie and passionate outpouring of the club members who attended. As the Illinois folks say, "You come for the car, but stay for the people."

Great people anticipating a great time with high spirits all around was evident big time. I started to think about how we perpetuate this kind of activity and of course it all starts with our beloved Vipers. As mentioned in my

blog thread "Serious Business", we as the Viper Nation have to take it upon ourselves to make sure that Viper production continues into the future. Now for sure, there's plenty of responsibility to go around. The company has to do their part, including engineering, marketing, PR and an involved senior management, but without a strong customer voice, the equation is just not complete.

The gang at SRT, coupled with Ralph and his talented folks, are brimming with ideas for future Snakes. The Nation has to get the word out and help drum up interest that will result in new sales. By the way, that doesn't only mean finding fresh folks who have never owned a Viper. Trading in your current Snake for an updated one does the same thing and helps expand our Viper family. I talked to a couple today that traded in their '02 for an '08. John and Mary are thrilled with their new Viper and

drove it to Ralph's on its maiden voyage all the way from Illinois. They're going to Niagara and will drive home back to Wisconsin. Not bad for a first trip. They were having so much fun, you'd think it was illegal.

The great folks at CAAP, under Melissa Holobach's guidance, will continue to build great cars as long as everyone does their part to keep the orders flowing. I'm not a doom and gloom kind of guy, but I am a realist—36 years in the industry has that effect on you. I know that if orders dwindle, the plant will struggle, the Tier 1 suppliers will struggle, as will the Tier 2 and Tier 3, and on down the line. The farther down the line you go the chance for bankruptcy and closure goes up and it's very difficult in today's business climate to find and nurture new suppliers for low volume cars like the Viper.

Think of it this way . . . we are on the order of 5,000 strong in the VCA. If half of us figure out a way to sell just one car we immediately have filled out the next two years worth of production—not bad!

Make your voice heard. E-mail your thoughts on how important Viper is and ideas for the next generation to HJH3@chrysler.com and I will make sure your voice is heard. Good luck and happy driving. — GK

RENDEZVOUS RECAP

Here's a pictorial round-up of the Southwest and Midwest Zone Rendezvous events. Check out the Ohio and Colorado/Utah/Wyoming VCA Club News reports in this issue for more info on the ZR happenings.

Southwest Zone Rendezvous July 2–6, Breckenridge, Colo., 4th of July Weekend



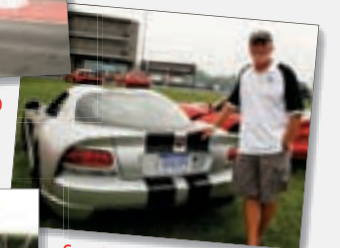
VCA members drive across the Royal Gorge Bridge during the Southwest Zone Rendezvous.



35 Vipers and 14 Prowlers cruised through Breckenridge, Colo., for the 4th of July parade.



Snakes slither out of the Viper pit to do battle on the drag strip.



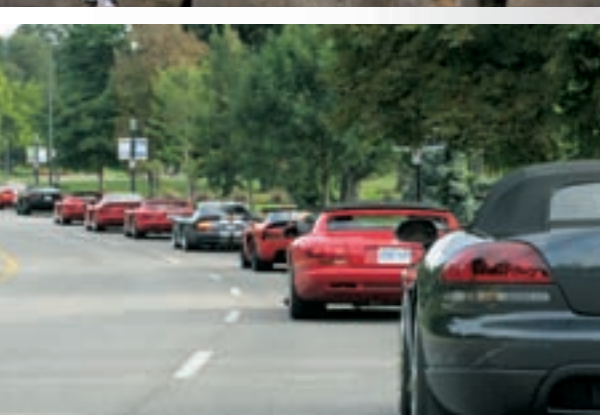
Special guest Herb "Grailkeeper" Helbig (note the plates on his Viper) attended the Midwest Zone Rendezvous.



The Viper Pit was packed with hungry VCA members



Midwest Zone Rendezvous August 7–9, Columbus, Ohio, Mopar Nationals



SNAKE INVADERS

For an amazing four days in September, the roar of Niagara Falls was drowned out by the roar of 122 Vipers, thanks to the 'Viper Invades Niagara Falls' event.

By Alex Ristanovic, IL VCA President

When thoughts of hosting the next "Viper Invades" event in Niagara Falls were still in their infancy in 2008, it was clear the event had the potential to turn into something big! And with more than 225 people and 140 total cars (122 of them Vipers), we made our presence known!

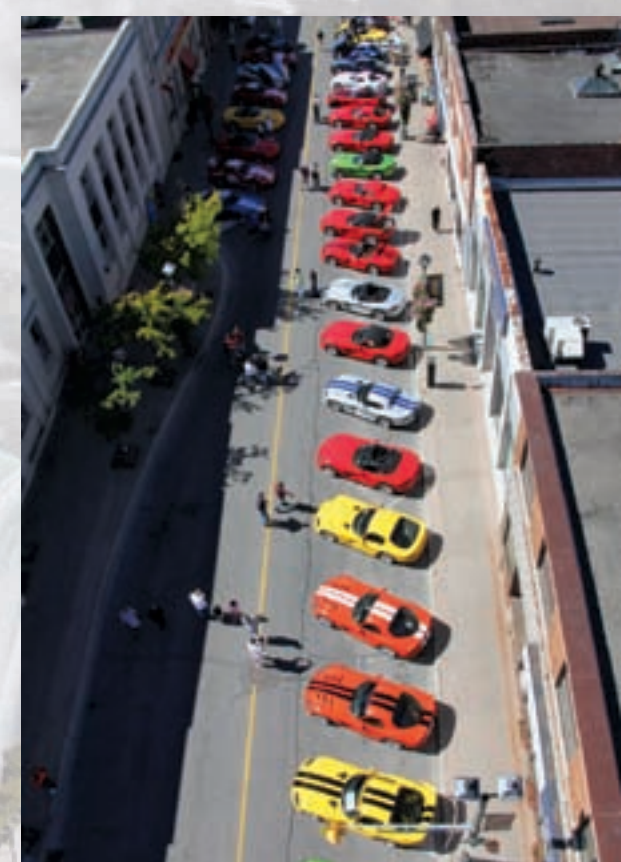
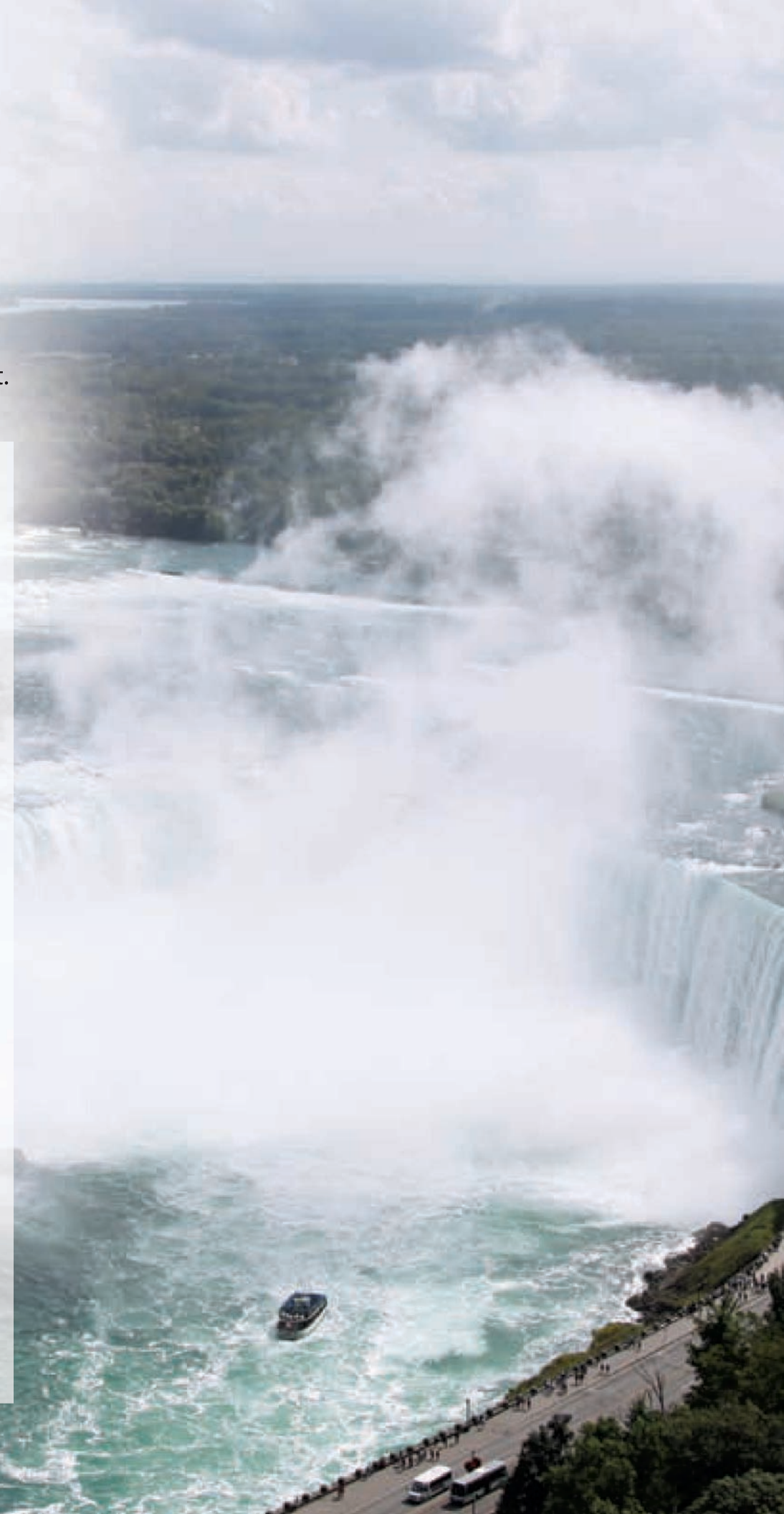
For many members, the trip began on Tuesday, Sept. 15, with several caravans of Vipers making their way to Detroit to take part in a special, free "pre-event" on Wednesday, created only for those who registered for the Niagara trip. Wednesday morning began by whisking everyone away on chartered buses for a special Chrysler car tour. Upon returning to the hotel, the 120 members and 55 Vipers were in the middle of a media blitz as news stations, web reporters, and radio shows were interviewing people and taking photos. The day wasn't over as the second part of our afternoon included a special lunch prepared at none other than Ralph and Doris Gilles' house! Tents were setup, lunch was catered, there was a free raffle, an auction, a PartsRack furniture reveal, a tour of the Gilles' home, special items on display, and many, many very well known VIPs in the Chrysler world! We even arranged for a plane to fly by and take aerial photos!

That night, Vipers began pouring into Niagara. Special accommodations were made at the Hilton hotel, which included Jacuzzi suites overlooking the Falls. Thursday, Sept. 17, kicked off a tour day which included a Niagara Falls 4-D experience, Behind the Falls tour, Maid of the Mist boat trip, Dave and Busters lunch, aerial cable car ride, whitewater walk, power plant tour, and Skylon Tower viewing. What a day! Everyone got their fix and "content" was the word of the day. That evening was also exciting as we rented out the Copacabana

restaurant and treated everyone to a Brazilian steakhouse experience. Friday was a big day as engines fired up and Vipers had a wonderful day of cruising the countryside. The massive line of Vipers drew many onlookers as we made several stops as part of the cruise day: the well known Chateau Des Charmes winery, Niagara on the Lake, Port Dalhousie, and an interesting visit at the ship locks. That evening another great dinner was arranged as everyone was treated to a great dining experience overlooking the Falls. The evening was highlighted as eyes turned back to the Falls for a fantastic fireworks display!

Saturday was a huge day as the city shut down one of its main streets for what was probably the most stunning Viper car show in club history, as we painted three blocks in wall-to-wall Vipers! Several stages were setup and bands played throughout the day. Viper Frisbees were handed out to onlookers as members interacted with visitors and hit the many restaurants, coffee shops, and stores. A 150-ft. crane was arranged and erected in three places to allow (brave) club photographers the rare opportunity to photograph the spectacle from very high above! The event was brought to a close in the afternoon and the rest of the day and Sunday were left open for members to do with as they wished!

This was a historic event which affected so many people, involved an entire city, and was greatly supported by our car maker. Big thanks to our biggest sponsors: Dodge, PartsRack, and Roanoke Motor Company. Other sponsors included Prefix, Details by D, Northern Trust Bank, OnTrack Insurance, and the IL VCA. The publicity before, during, and after this event was magnificent! And I can say for certain, Niagara Falls will never be the same!



LONG LIVE LAKE OF THE OZARKS

The "Lake of the Ozarks Weekend" might just be the longest-running annual event between VCA Regions.

By Steve Wedel, former National VCA President

The story of what is believed to be the longest-running annual event between two VCA Regions has humble beginnings. When I founded the "Missouri Region" of the VCA in 1995, then National VCA Vice President Steve Ferguson did a great job of helping me organize our new Region. Steve gave great guidance on how to find Viper owners and then convert them to new VCA members. I was given the entire state of Missouri as well as Southern Illinois as the geographic area that our region would operate from.

Our Southern Illinois owners found it very easy to attend our monthly events since St. Louis was an easy drive in their Snakes. However, as a year went by, it became more and more difficult for our region to serve our fellow members who lived in western Missouri, especially the Kansas City area. As a result, in 1996 I created the annual "Lake of the Ozarks Weekend" event intended to create a half way meeting point for the two main metropolitan communities of the state of Missouri.

The concept was and still is very simple. Both the St. Louis and Kansas City members would caravan on Saturday morning and arrive at the lake around noon. We would check into one of the numerous resorts that the lake offers, and proceed to have a fun-filled weekend of friendship, Viper cruises and great food! In addition, there are significant shopping opportunities as well as swimming, boating and of course go-kart racing! We even have a local marina that has given rides in their twin Viper engine racer—what a thrill that is! How could a combo of events like that ever fail? Well, it did not fail, and the event has been a huge success ever since. The "Lake of the Ozarks Weekend" certainly takes on the feel of a "mini- rendezvous," with members from numerous other states who have attended our event. We have had guests from states such as Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, etc.

In fact, last year we even had a member from the Colorado Region join us. OK, they were on a cross country trip and by chance they were

staying at our host resort, The Lodge of the Four Seasons! When they checked in and wrote down the make and model of their car they were promptly instructed where to park in the private and secured lot! They couldn't believe it when they pulled into the lot and saw the beautiful 60-plus Vipers waiting to greet them!

This annual event has greatly increased my list of Viper owners who I consider to be friends, and that can be said of all who attend! The venues and events have changed over the years but the simple concept to bring people together has not. Over the past few years, Club members Dave Naeger and Michael Kneemueller have done a great job of carrying on the tradition. This year the party began at a local lakeside establishment that has a perfect Viper road to get there. Winding through the striking and hilly forest lands of the Ozarks is an annual treat and one that everyone enjoys. Dinner was at the Wedel lake home (a big thanks to Lynn!) and breakfast the next day was at the lake home of Mike Perkins (a big thanks to Tina!). Our event is held on the weekend prior to Memorial Day, so start planning your road trip for 2010—we welcome you!

On a final note, years ago, as both the St. Louis and Kansas City membership numbers became so large, I found it impossible to serve both sides of the state. As a result I changed the name of our Missouri Region to Gateway and asked my good friend Bob Long if he would start the Kansas City Region. After a couple of drinks I convinced Bob to do so. Actually, Bob did a great job of getting the KC club up and running as a separate regional club from Gateway. This brings me to my final two questions: 1) Are there two other Regions that have had a longer running annual club event? 2) Is it possible that with the election of National VCA President Chris Marshall from the Kansas City Region, that the "Missouri Region" is the first Region to elect two National Presidents? Sort of looks that way to me. See you on the weekend of Saturday, May 22, 2010!



VIPERS CONVERGE ON THE WEDELS' LAKE HOME DURING THE "LAKE OF THE OZARKS" EVENT ▼▲



VCA MEMBERS TAKE A RIDE IN A BOAT POWERED BY VIPER ENGINES ▼▲



VIPERS GATHER AT A LOCAL WATERING HOLE DURING THE "LAKE OF THE OZARKS WEEKEND" EVENT ▼▲



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VCA Long Sleeve T-SHIRT

NOW AVAILABLE IN *WHITE* AT VCAGOODS.COM

VCAGoods.com, the official apparel and merchandise Web site of the Viper Club of America, is now offering exclusively to the VCA for purchase a new version of the VCA Long Sleeve T-Shirt in white.

Previously available only in black, this white mock turtleneck T-shirt is perfectly suited for displaying your passion for the Snake while enjoying your Viper in cooler weather. The VCA Long Sleeve T-Shirt is made of 100% heavy-weight cotton and features the full-color VCA logo on the front of the shirt. Available in sizes

S, M, L, XL and XXL. Look for a white version of the VCA Short Sleeve T-Shirt to be made available for purchase at a later date, in plenty of time for the spring and summer driving seasons.

You can also battle the chill of fall and winter with a variety of additional VCA apparel, including the VCA Microfiber Jacket, VCA Suede Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover, VCA Knitted Scarf and VCA Knit Hat. All products are available for purchase at www.vcagoods.com, with prompt and secure payment through Pay Pal.™



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For further info on the events listed here, refer to the contact info for each regional president in the Club News section.

ALABAMA/TENNESSEE

Oct 24-25 Fall Cruise, Gatlinburg
Dec Year End Party, TBD

ARIZONA

Oct 24 Sundown Cookout Dinner at Rawhide
Nov 21 Poker Run, Tour Queen Creek Olive Mill, Lunch
Dec 19 Holiday Party — Warren & Jeanette Goldfarb's Home

CALIFORNIA - CENTRAL

Nov 21 Northern California Holiday Party at Monterey Bay Aquarium
Dec 11 Central California Christmas Party

CALIFORNIA - NORTHERN

Nov 21 Holiday Party at the Monterey Bay Aquarium
Contact Terri Angen at rockyswire@aol.com or (408) 594-0439, or visit www.norcalviperclub.org

CALIFORNIA - SOUTHERN

Oct 24 Dave's Memorial Run to Willow Springs
Oct 31-Nov 1 West Coast Racing Event at Willow Springs
Nov 7 Viper Car Control Clinic at Auto Club Speedway
Nov 21-22 Speed Ventures Track Event at ACS, Fontana
Dec 5 Viper Club Christmas Party

CAROLINAS REGION

Contact: John Slaughter
E-mail: slaughter_j@hotmail.com

COLORADO/UTAH/WYOMING

Contact: Jim Johnson
E-mail: jjohnson@pinnacle-mortgage.com

FLORIDA - CENTRAL & NORTHERN

Oct 23-25 Daytona Beach Dream Cruise, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Oct 22-27 "Tail of the Dragon" Tennessee Road Trip
Nov 7 Club Meeting and Lunch, TBA
Nov 12-15 Exotic Car Road Course Event, Rolex 24 track, Daytona, Fla.
Dec 12-13 Viper Club Drag Racing Event, Valdosta, Ga.
Jan 9 Holiday Party, TBA

FLORIDA - SOUTH

Feb 21 First Annual King Viper Top Gun Run

GATEWAY/ST. LOUIS

Nov 7 Perkins Poker Run
Dec 5 Annual Gateway Club Holiday Party at the Wedels

GEORGIA

Nov 21-22 Chin Motorsports in Savannah, Ga.
Dec 12 Christmas Party at TBD

GERMANY

Contact: Max Erdmann
E-mail: viperpv10@aol.com

ILLINOIS

Oct TBD RT vs. IL VCA Autocross
Nov 19 Annual IL VCA Board Meeting

INDIANA/KENTUCKY

Nov 14 IN/KY VCA Meeting, Lincoln Square, Westfield, Ind.
Dec 12 IN/KY VCA Holiday Party, TBA

JAPAN

Contact: Tateshi Kiriyama
E-mail: viperhed@ccn2.aitai.ne.jp

KANSAS CITY

Oct 27 Monthly Meeting @ Cinzetti's in OP
Dec 12 Holiday Party @ Jack Stack BBQ

MID-SOUTH

Oct 24 Fall Foliage Tour, Hot Springs, Ark.
Dec 5 Christmas Party, Longview, Texas

MINNESOTA

Oct 22 Dessert Cruise

MOTOR CITY

Oct 17 Tech Breakfast and Fall Colors Cruise
Nov 7 Bocce Ball
Nov 12 Club Meeting
Dec 5 Holiday/Election Event

NEVADA

Oct 31 Las Vegas NHRA Nationals, LVMS Meet for Breakfast
Nov 4 SEMA Dinner
Nov 6-8 SRT Track Experience, LVMS
Nov 11 Monthly Meeting, Steve's Garage Mahal 185 N. Gibson Road, Henderson, Nev.
Nov 13-15 Road Trip! Sedona, Ariz., or Dana Point, Calif.
Dec 9 Monthly Meeting, Steve's Garage Mahal
Dec 29 Holiday Party

NEW ENGLAND

Nov TBD NY/CT vs. New England Kart Racing
Dec 5 Holiday and Awards Party!

NEW JERSEY

Contact: Tom Roeller
E-mail: troeller@rolstar.com

NEW MEXICO

Oct 24 Jimmy Evans BBQ in Farmington, N.M.
Nov 14 Toys for Tots Charity
Dec 5 Christmas Party, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Jan TBD Planning Meeting TBA

NEW YORK/CONNECTICUT

Oct 25 Fall Foliage Cruise (Skeeter)
Dec 12 NY/CT Christmas/Holiday Party and Awards

OHIO

TBD TOURS: Conner Ave Assembly Plant, Walter P Chrysler Museum, Meadowbrook Hall
TBD VCA Ohio Holiday Party, Dublin Marriott, Dublin, Ohio
Going forward all events will be sent to VCA Ohio members through the EVITE e-mail system. This allows us and you to track who is coming to what event. Information like maps, times, contact numbers, etc. will be in each EVITE e-mail. Check www.viperclubohio.org for news and updates on Club activities. For questions on upcoming events, call the VCA Ohio Region Hotline (937) 470-8306.

OKLAHOMA/KANSAS

Oct 24 Petty's Pitstop — Annual Viper Party with special classic music, 5 p.m., 12001 South Douglas in Guthrie
Oct 31-Nov 1 Hallett Open Track Day, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit 59901 East 55 Road, Jennings, Okla., 74038
Contact: (918) 583-1134
Nov 7-8 Hallett Gold Rush, Hallett Motor Racing Circuit
Nov 14 Petty's Pitstop — Monthly Cruise-In, 5 p.m.
TBD Holiday Extravaganza

ONTARIO

Contact: Nabil Arafat
E-mail: narafat@cogeco.ca

OREGON

Dec 5 Holiday Party

QUÉBEC

Contact: Andras Kovacs
E-mail: andkovacs@viperacr.com

SWITZERLAND

Nov Final Club Meeting of Year

TEXAS – HOUSTON

Nov 7 Home Depot Community Day
Nov TBD Pot Luck Dinner
Dec TBD Holiday Party

TEXAS – NORTH CENTRAL

Nov 14 Meeting at Top Golf in Dallas
Dec 12 Annual Christmas Party, at the home of David and Maryanne Brown

TEXAS – SOUTH CENTRAL

Contact: Ryan Fox
E-mail: ryanfox@austin.rr.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Contact: Paul Lacey
E-mail: paul@pccare.co.uk

VIRGINIA/MARYLAND

Oct 24 Northern Virginia Cow Country Cruise
Nov 1 Western Maryland Fall Cruise
Dec 1 Merry Hiss-Mas Party

WASHINGTON

Nov 14 Holiday Party (tentatively scheduled)

WEST VIRGINIA/PENNSYLVANIA

Contact: Carmen Gullage
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NEW ENGLAND NORTHEAST ZONE



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Well, what can I say, but WOW! What an excellent summer of Vipering it has been, from the 17 Viper spring opener to the 30 Viper Clam Bake, it has been an excellent year. The North East Exotic Car Show also was another success, raising another \$5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Hampshire. We also raffled off a 50 High Def Ultra Thin TV. Congrats go out to Robert Cloutier, the winner of the TV. Hey Robert, I am coming over for the Super Bowl! George Batajen got to check out the prototype of the Devon GTX Supercar (with Scott Devon of course). It's built on the Viper chassis and made of all carbon fiber. Well, this is our election year, so we will have new officers for next season. I will be throwing my hat in the ring and running for the next term of Director at Large or Zone Director, whichever position the National team feels I should run for.

Well, we still have more time and a lot more events before we have to put our Snakes to sleep, so check out the Club events section as to what is going on. I'm outta here! Peace!

NEW JERSEY NORTHEAST ZONE



TOM ROELLER

Whippany, NJ 07981
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By the time this is published the NJ Club will have ended another GREAT summer of driving, racing and spending time with our Viper friends. I remember as a young man my parents telling me that time goes by faster as you get older. Where did the summer go? It seems like yesterday we were planning the Memorial Day Weekend NE Zone Rendezvous at Pocono Raceway, which was a tremendous success; our second annual Charity Golf Outing, where we raised \$3,000 for the Two Kids Foundation; the Somerville cruise night in June; and the Charity Car Show in August.

And this year the Club co-hosted a track day with the NY Club at the New Jersey Motorsports Park. If you missed that one, we'll be going back again next year. I want to take the time to thank our Club officers for their hard work and our members for showing their support. We look forward to another great season and we'll be planning next year's calendar real soon.

NEW YORK/CONNECTICUT NORTHEAST ZONE



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Our very own Charlie Tedesco, NY/CT Vice President:

"The creation of our 1st Annual NY/CT Viper Fuel Rally started when I had the idea back in fall 2008, when the going green consciousness started infecting the nation like wildfire. I said this infection isn't going to infect me or my Viper, but what if I wanted to conserve as much fuel as possible? Heck, what if I wanted to drive like there's no tomorrow and burn fuel like an astronaut? I raised the question, 'What could be the best and worst possible MPG that can be extracted from my '99 Silver R/T10? Then I considered how interesting the results would be if we had a group of different Gen Vipers and ran the same course together. I ran the Viper Fuel Rally idea past our NY/CT directors in February, and as bizarre as the concept sounded to them they decided it may be fun for a few members and let me run with it. I'm glad they did. Here was the plan:

"All ten Vipers started at a Sunoco gas station and set their odometers to zero. They fueled to top-off and then headed out at the same time. Some were obviously going faster than others, but those that would speed off would drop back every now and again. The gas guzzler style of drivers would be racing each other on many occasions, but for the most part stayed with the whole group. A few of the drivers were strictly going for economy, while a few of the drivers were going strictly for burning tons of fuel, and a few in the middle of the pack like me (averaging 15 MPG) were hard on the gas only a few times. We all traveled the same route and covered the same 72-mile distance. Our destination was a Valero gas station where we refueled to top-off again. I then wrote down the refill amount of fuel for each car. I also took an average of everyone's odometer readings at the end of the rally, which was how I determined the 72 miles covered. I was then able to calculate the amount of fuel consumed and determine the MPG for each car. Everyone's cooperation paid off and produced some great results. At the restaurant we presented awards for the two drivers that had the best and worst fuel economy. I can't wait 'till next year and the chance for a larger turnout now that it's underway."

Now from our NY/CT Event Coordinator, John, aka ViperUSA

"It's so much fun, it should be illegal. That's the only way I can explain how I feel to own a Viper. Anything this fun usually is. I am very lucky in many ways. First, I would like to thank Adrian for being a great president. He is always the most positive and giving member and is the epitome of a great leader in many ways, always putting the members first. Family? Yes, my brother "Alpha" saw how much fun my wife Debbie and I were having that he also bought a '04 Vert. The only thing is, I am faster! LOL. As time marches on, I realize how lucky I am to be only 40 minutes from Chuck Tator, aka Tator's Dodge. I realize that every one in this "Viper" family knows what a special person Chuck is. Well, if you were as lucky as me, you would also know he is even much more to the Club, his customers, his community, friends and family. I cannot say the word "Viper" without thinking "Chuck."

The NY/CT Club can only be described in one word . . . AWESOME. The members are every thing a member should be, and Deb and I are very thankful. Now, being the NY/CT Event Coordinator, I can hopefully add a new and different spark to add to everyone's love of the Club."

Also a word from NY/CT member Michael Kotler, aka MKTaxMan

"I was asked to give my feelings about the Club and the members. This is very easy. I can sum it up in one word . . . awesome. I joined the club last year after purchasing my 2008 convertible. The first event I went on was the Hampton cruise in June. Everyone made me feel like I was part of a family. It actually brought tears to my eyes when we were cruising. The combination of being able to own the Viper and feeling like I am part of an extended family is not only priceless but beyond words. I think what sets us apart from other clubs is that we really have fun. No one is stuffy or pretentious and I feel that I have made many new lifelong friends. We seem to lose all sense of maturity when we press that start button and hear the car come alive. Everyone realizes that we all have busy lives and obligations, but it is great

to know that when we all get together, we all share a slice of fun, laughter, and sheer excitement that is unrivaled by anything else."

Finally, a word from me, Adrian. The New York/Connecticut Viper Club season is slowly coming to an end. With just a few months left before winter, soon it will be time for the Snakes to go into hibernation. This has been a very active season. To date, we've enjoyed over 25 events, and there's more to come! The NY/CT members are the most amazing group of people with whom I've ever worked! This is your Club. I thank all of you who have helped and supported me. It's an honor to be your president.

QUÉBEC NORTHEAST ZONE



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What a thrilling summer we had with the Québec Club! We had an event nearly every two weeks. I didn't even have time to update the Club's photo album on our Web site. Photos will come soon with the first snow fall.

In June we spent a night at the Auberge Lac William near Thedford-Mines. This event was organized by Hugo Grenier. Thanks to Hugo we had the opportunity to visit a huge private car collection belonging to a local family. That collection had more than 200 cars dating from 1920 to 1999. We had a lot of difficulty to get access to the collection. Hugo worked with the family during several months to get access to their very private warehouse. The quality of the cars was astonishing. They looked better than when they came out of the factory.

Québec Club became a major driving event promoter in the Montreal area. This summer we had five driving schools organized by the Viper Club attracting more than 140 drivers! The tracks where we run are Calabogie, Mont-Tremblant and Mirabel. Thanks to our association with other local clubs we were able to fill up nearly all events. We have now a very good instructor base. Stephane Fournier (ACR 2000) from the Québec Police Academy is our chief instructor. Robert Berthiaume (ACR 2002), who is very passionate about the track, has just joined the instructors group. Robert is an exceptional driver and we hope he will stay with the Club for a long time. Our safety record was 100 percent perfect until the event in Calabogie took place in August. That track is very tough on all cars—the slightest mistake is always fatal. The Calabogie event was a real demolition derby. Next year when we return to Calabogie, we will take special measures to ensure that all drivers return at home with their cars.

In the middle of August we spent a weekend in the beautiful region of Riviere de Loup. Daniel and Monique Beaulieu organized a discovery rally in the region. We had the opportunity to visit the hidden treasure of the region. Again this year NASCAR came to Montreal and to celebrate the event we held cocktails and a dinner at the W Starwood hotel in Montreal. Thanks to Mario Veronneau this event was a huge success, as usual. Québec Club can count on several very devoted and extremely generous members.

This year two guys have spoiled us in a way that we will remember them all of our life. These two guys will become legends in the years coming. In August, Daniel and Angel Devaux organized a gorgeous party in their beautiful castle in Candiac. More than 40 couples accepted their invitation. The street was packed with Vipers all over. It wasn't easy to park all the cars. We were spoiled with hospitality

by Angel and Daniel. The food was extravagant and a famous wine advisor was serving us first-class wines. The pool party was on from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m., with continuous food and wine service and a lot of music that the town's police service lowered down several times. Angel and Daniel, thanks a lot for your warm hospitality!

Marc Dubuc, an outgoing member of our Club, decided to marry his long-standing girl friend Nathalie. The marriage took place early in September. Marc is an extremely friendly guy with a lot of car friends and unique connections. To give a car touch to his marriage he borrowed 15 exotic cars from a car collector friend (Lamborghini, Ferraris, Vipers and other race cars) that he loaned to his friends and family members for the weekend. To be honest, you have to have a lot of trust to loan out 15 very rare and high end cars to friends. The marriage was better than any Hollywood movie. It started with a huge exotic car ride from Rosemere to St.-Come with over 35 cars. A helicopter was filming the entire action. It was just beyond imagination, the cars that several members could drive, like a club where cars changed owners for the weekend. What a fantastic idea! The marriage cake? I only remember the cars! Nathalie and Marc, thanks a lot for your friendship!

VIRGINIA/MARYLAND NORTHEAST ZONE



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Our annual Crab Feast this past June was another success. This year we had 46 Vipers in attendance. We had several members from other regions join us once again this year. I would like to thank Gus Strakes, his wife Kathleen, and their family for all their help organizing and running this event.

At the end of June, we participated in the Mopar-palooza Car Show in Manassas, Va. Kelly Cobean and Ken Lally played integral parts in setting up this event. This event was then followed by the All-Chrysler Nationals in Carlisle, Pa., in the beginning of July. I would like to thank Carmen and the rest of the WV/PA members and officers for all their hard work in setting up this event. Carlos and Judy Ugaz hosted their annual lunch and Damon's Grill to close out the month of July.

We kicked August off a little different and had a mid-morning cruise followed by brunch and the Charles Town Races and Slots in West Virginia on a Sunday morning. We had quite a few Snakes in attendance and plan on redoing this event in the fall. Kelly Cobean also helped organize a lunch in Bel Air, Md., for late August. During Labor Day weekend we had a luncheon at Longhorn Steakhouse in Frederick, Md., followed by a scenic drive to the Jimmie Cone Cruise-in in Mt. Airy. As of this writing, members are making final preparations for the Vipers Invade Niagara trip. Members who are not attending this event will hopefully attend our annual Horsepower Challenge in Richmond, Va., which raises money for the Children's Miracle Network.

By the time you are reading this, the leaves will have fallen off the trees, the weather will have gotten cooler and our days shorter. This often indicates the end of driving season is near. Don't put your Snake away just yet; we have two fall cruises, one of which is an overnight cruise encompassing around 450 miles along the mountain range in between Virginia and West Virginia. The latter is our one day Western Maryland Scenic Drive. We will end our year with our annual Merry Hiss-mas Party on Saturday, December 12.

PENNSYLVANIA/W. VIRGINIA NORTHEAST ZONE



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As the summer draws to a close in Pennsylvania one can't help but feel sad that soon we will have to put our Vipers away for another endless winter and say goodbye to some of our Viper family until next year. But enough of the doom and gloom, what a great summer we enjoyed!

Our summer kicked off with our first annual "Snakes Alive" event on June 13 at Blocker's Harley-Davidson in Lehigh, Pa. Club member Denny Blocker has been hosting a Cobra Car Show at his dealership for several years, and this year with the help of Club VP Mike Kuchavik they created a combined Viper/Cobra car show and dubbed it "Snakes Alive." The event was a huge success in spite of a less than desirable weather forecast. Our goal was to attract 15 Vipers for the first year, and even with the ominous clouds, 21 Vipers made their way to Denny's magnificent facility. Along with the great turnout of cars, there was music, food and lots of new friends. After the show, Mike had mapped out a great cruise to end the day, but unfortunately inclement weather forced a last minute cancellation. However, we did end the day with a great meal at Trainer's Inn and the usual camaraderie.

On July 11 the annual All-Chrysler Nationals took place in Carlisle, Pa. This is a big draw for the Club and this year the Club received credit for 49 vehicles registered. Every year we strive to take home a trophy in the "Carlisle Productions Club Challenge," but this year we fell short by one vehicle—the Mopar Club took home third-place with 50 vehicles. This three-day event is always one of the highlights of the season, and this year was no different; new friends were made, old ones reunited, and everyone had a good time. We also were fortunate enough to have a special guest attend this year. Straight from Detroit, Herb Helbig, the "Grailkeeper" himself, drove in on Friday night in his gorgeous VOI.10 Viper to spend the weekend with us. Herb shared lots of Viper stories and gave us his take on what the future will be for Viper. Herb shared with us a side of the Viper history that few have had the opportunity to experience. His visit was truly the highlight of the weekend. Attendance was down a little due to the threat of bad weather, but even with light attendance there were ten states, nine regions, and one foreign country represented.



JUST A FEW OF THE 49 VEHICLES REGISTERED BY THE WV/PA VCA CLUB FOR THE ALL-CHRYSLER NATIONALS IN CARLISLE, PA., HELD IN JULY, ARE SHOWN ABOVE.

After several requests for the club to start having some events on Sundays for folks that have other commitments on Saturdays, we

decided to experiment by planning a midday cruise on Sunday, August 23. We met at Cabela's in Hamburg, Pa., where we spent about an hour-and-a-half checking out the unbelievable displays and doing some shopping before we headed out through the beautiful Lehigh Valley to Flagstaff, where the view of the town of Jim Thorpe is incredible. From there we proceeded on to Penn's Peak for another incredible view of Eastern PA and lunch at the Roadie's Restaurant at the peak of the mountain. The day turned out to be a great success and I am sure we will plan many more Sunday trips next year.

September 12 we had our annual Flight 93 Tribute Cruise to Shanksville, Pa. This is always a moving experience to visit the site where true heroes gave their lives to prevent the terrorists from reaching their planned destination, which many speculate was the White House or our nation's Capitol. Members made the trip from both ends of the state to meet for lunch at the Jean Bonnet Tavern before proceeding to the crash site. Club member Bob Zubrickie, who could not make the trip, donated a plaque for us to sign and leave at the site to commemorate our visit. Thanks to Rege and Donna Kort for making the arrangements at the site and the restaurant for our visit.

As I wrap up the fall notes, we are preparing to join up with the Illinois Club for their "Vipers Invade Niagara" event, which promises to be an event to remember, with at least 100 cars and 200 people planned to attend. The Pennsylvania Club is planning to turn out in force with roughly 10 percent of the total event attendance. We look forward to seeing you all very soon and please drive safe. — Carmen and Vanessa.

ALABAMA/TENNESSEE SOUTHEAST ZONE



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I can't believe summer is already over (but fortunately, not the driving season). Let me recap what we've done this last couple of months. In June we had our biggest event turnout ever, even bigger than last year. Our mountain cruise in Gatlinburg was HUGE. After a vote to do the Tail of the Dragon again (fifth year in a row), I posted the info on our regional forum on the VCA Web site. Within minutes, I had a call from the GA VCA president Chad Fritz inquiring if they could tag along. Before we knew it, we had members from seven states committed (even one from Utah), for a total of 43 cars! This year was just a little different though. We had the honor and privilege to have VCA founder, NorCal president and Viper Buyers Guide author Maurice Q. Liang join us for the whole weekend . . . WOW!

After the Dragon run, we went to our hotel in Pigeon Forge to check in and let the heart rate get back to normal, then to dinner at the Alamo Steakhouse. We cruised up the Smoky Mountains to the highest point in Tennessee, Clingman's Dome, for pics and socializing. Later that evening, we literally brought the strip in Gatlinburg to a standstill, once again. We also had dinner in Gatlinburg, where we gave away about 30 gifts and awards for various achievements. Maurice was putting together an article for VM on this event. Of course, I don't know if he had enough photos. He only took about 1,800 that weekend. But, if you know Maurice, then you also know that's typical.

The following month we were invited to join the GA VCA at Tony and Sharon Armour's mountaintop home. We ate, swam, talked about Vipers, ate, cruised, ate, went to a private muscle car museum and had dinner in Chattanooga. Breakfast the next morning at Cracker Barrel, then off to a private farm that had camels, longhorn cattle, emus, llamas and ostriches (ostrichi?). For September we had an event in Destin, Fla., for some of our southernmost and Florida

members. Weather was great, food was great, which included lunch at Angelina's Italian and dinner at Lucky Snapper, and the drive was awesome along the coast. The company wasn't too bad either. In October we planned on joining Ivan and the South Florida region for a fall foliage cruise (you guessed it) in east Tennessee. Plans for the year-end Christmas Party are still in the works.

Membership update: more than I've seen in five years. Keep on ROCKIN', ya'll!

CAROLINAS SOUTHEAST ZONE



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Since our last update, our big event was the Vipers at the Biltmore! This was a tremendously successful event, with over 35 Vipers in attendance, including a contingent from Viper Club of Ontario. The weather was great, the Biltmore was fabulous, and everyone who attended had an enjoyable time with the scenic cruises, touring the Biltmore, and the photo shoots of the Vipers in front of the famous Biltmore home. We have also had some smaller events, local cruises, attending the Charlotte Auto Fair, etc.

Upcoming events include the Southeast Zone Rendezvous in Savannah, Ga., in conjunction with Viper Days, which should be a great event, as well as local car shows and cruises with information to come soon. We encourage all members to forward along information about events in their area, so we can get the word out to fellow members who may be interested in attending. Also, this fall will be election time again, so for anyone interested in being a club officer, now's your chance!

CENTRAL/NORTHERN FLORIDA SOUTHEAST ZONE



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Central and North Florida held a Viper Car Show in July at the "Garage Bar" in Sanford, Fla. We had 28 Vipers make the show. Gary Lashinsky's '98 GTS-R (GT2) won Best of Show, Laurence Albrecht's 1200 hp Twin Turbo RT10 Viper won Best Modified Viper and Buck Walsh's '98 GTS won Best Stock Viper. We have a very active fall with a lot of racing and social events planned. The next event will be the Zone Rendezvous in Savannah, Ga. After that we are hooking up with Ivan Ho and the South Florida club to head up to Tennessee for some fall leaves and mountain driving. We have a chance in November to run against Italian super cars at Daytona on the Rolex course. In December, the Georgia Club and Central and North Florida are putting on a two-day drag racing event for any and all VCA members around the country. The event will have something for every level driver and every Viper from stock to extreme mods. We are expecting 80-100 Vipers to show up for this event. Please contact us for more info.

GEORGIA SOUTHEAST ZONE



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Even though 2009 is quickly slipping away from us, the GA VCA is still going full steam! Gotta love a state where you can drive your Viper year round! By the time you read this, the GA VCA will have participated in three big events in a span of three weeks!

These events include us showing our cars in the Motorsports Nationals show at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, followed by the great opportunity to attend a Viper Days down at Roebbling Road near Savannah, Ga.! The week after that, we will be circling the NASCAR track at Atlanta Motor Speedway in the name of raising money for the fight against breast cancer! You are certainly missing out if you are not participating in the GA VCA! Bring your Snake to an event and you'll see exactly how much fun you can be having and meet the great members who make up the GA VCA! We are working on having a possible cookout in October while the weather is still comfortable. Details will be emailed to all GA VCA members and posted on the GA VCA forum as they are confirmed.

SOUTH FLORIDA SOUTHEAST ZONE



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Talk about an amazing time? By the time you read this, we have mostly likely gone on our Vipers to the Smokies trip and have met up with a huge group of members from the South Florida Region, Central North Florida, Georgia, Carolinas and Tennessee/Alabama! Talk about a great run. It doesn't get better than this, especially with the changing of the leaves. It was really nice to put this whole trip together with the help of members Dave Ivler and Blair Retchin. We hope to make this an annual trip.

What else is happening in South Florida? How about an event that the whole entire Viper Nation is invited to? Our 1st Annual King Viper Top Gun Run will take place on February 21 and will incorporate a full-out competition to see who has the fastest Viper in the whole U.S. in the standing mile. PLUS, on February 22 we will have a track day at Homestead Motorsports Speedway. Get on this famed world-class track, the same track they hold the finals for NASCAR. More experienced drivers will be allowed to go on Turns 3 & 4, which is half the track, or full bank at full throttle. You won't have a better time than this weekend planned especially for all Viper owners.

Besides that, we've been having a great time here in South Florida. Please check our Web site for updates and photos of the event as well. I look forward to seeing all of you very soon for our First Annual Viper Top Gun Run!

GATEWAY (ST. LOUIS) MIDWEST ZONE



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The month of July started off with a bang when Club members Jeff and Karen hosted a 4th of July party at a park near their home. The following weekend we had a nice cruise across the river to have lunch at Wang Gang Asian in Edwardsville, Ill. The owner is a huge Viper fan and provided lunch and really took care of us. After lunch we headed to Bobby's Famous Frozen Custard for some of the best ice cream in the Midwest. It was really nice of Mike Perkins to let some of the local kids climb all over his car with ice cream on their hands and faces! Oh, wait, that part was just Mike's nightmare, and thankfully he woke up with no sticky fingerprints on his car!

The cooler temperatures this summer had attendance up at the many track events around the area. The SCCA Performance Driving Experience hosted a few events at Gateway IR, and it was great to see some new members out there. NARRA also had very good participation from our members across the county. At the end of August, we found ourselves at Ray's home for his traditional rockin' pool party. The food was great, as everyone brought a dish, and Bob and Geri provided the mango "octane boost" as the liquid refreshment of choice.

Before the summer ends we still have three great events to go. We've once again been asked to slither down the streets of Manchester for their annual Homecoming Parade. We'll also be heading south on some fun twisty roads to Crown Valley Winery in Ste. Genevieve, Mo., for wine tasting and some live music. The last weekend in September will find us over at Gateway IR for the Monster Mopar Weekend. This will feature many classic Mopar vehicles on display and at the drag strip.

Our members have shown their generosity for the kids again as member Steve Wedel is working with RideMakerz for an event at Children's Hospital in St. Louis. We were able to raise over \$1,000 to purchase cars so the children can make their own Build-A-Viper. We will also have local media there to cover the event. At the end of October we're off to Springfield, Mo., for the Premier Motorcars event. This event was a blast last year and we had over 50 Vipers attend from several different states. In early November we're going to do a Poker Run and the Wedels will host the Holiday Party in December. More details to follow at www.dodgeviperclub.com. If you are a Gateway member and are not receiving e-mails from me, please contact me so I can add you to our e-mail list for frequent updates and details on events.

ILLINOIS MIDWEST ZONE



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Our 15th anniversary year continues to make history in a LOT of ways! We planned to add a few twists and get people more involved. We'll, we've surely succeeded!

Since the last VCA Notes, the IL region was involved in the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) Celebrity Fund Raiser. Every year we help

out this great charity doing various things involving the car. This year we parked our cars in a display at the entrance of the club house, had a great dinner, participated in the auction, and had the joy of watching a great comedy skit by Tom Dreesen. Our racing year has been on an absolute high. With over 20 FULL season drivers in addition to the rest of the attendees, some events had over 40-plus drivers! We recently had our Longest Day Competition, which included both autocross and road course driving all in one weekend. We ran the road course at the Autobahn Country Club and our autocross at the Pontiac Caterpillar Plant. In the end, our Longest Day winner was ... Andy Ferguson! Congrats Andy!

The popular Mopar Car Show in Roanoke was held in July. Even though it's quite a drive, 20-plus Vipers came out to show their cars and support our dealer of choice—Roanoke Motor Company! It was a perfect day with sunshine and 80 degree weather. We also had our annual dyno day, held at club veteran Ron Adee's shop. The numbers that the cars always put down are impressive. But the Gen IV cars are just astonishing. We also had our summer cruise, which set a record for the longest one-day cruise in history. Literally all day and half the night, if you did the whole thing. We started at RideMakerz and built our own model Vipers (and a few other cars). We cruised to the west and hit the Amboy Train Depot Museum. Then we had our first ever drive-in movie night. The Vipers created quite the display as they dominated the center section of the outdoor theatre for not one but two movies. The day (I should say night) ended after midnight!

And speaking of another record this year, our longest standing goal was finally met! In the history of the IL Viper Club we've never managed to get 50 Vipers at a club meeting. Especially with declining membership over the years and a tough economy, you wouldn't think we'd have a shot. But this is our year for everything! At the September meeting, we hit 51 cars! How does that happen? Wow guys, amazing dedication! Thank you to the entire Club for making that happen ... a special goodie is in the works for all those who brought cars that night to help commemorate the achievement. But ... did I hear someone say 55?

Looking ahead, we have more IL Club racing as both the Triple Crown and Triple-cross have their season finales. Our fall cruise is fully planned. And the LAST meeting of 2009 is in October (sigh). But there is one last record for us to set this year. At the end of September, one of the largest single-region hosted events will be taking place as "Vipers Invade Niagara Falls" takes place (see story starting on page 4).

People are coming from all over the U.S. and even as far as Europe. This will be a massive event where we take over the town of Niagara. The city is excited and rolling out the red carpet. Media coverage has already begun. A helicopter will even do a fly by of our car show to take pictures and video. It will be the largest Viper gathering in Canada's history. Hope you were there! We arranged one heck of a getaway!

Our anniversary year is continuing to be one to remember. But, it's almost over—the cooler weather is coming! Get out there, enjoy life, and get involved! Check the Web site frequently for updates on coming events as well as recaps, pictures, and videos of past events at www.illinoisvipers.com. Don't forget to check the IL VCA hotline for any up to the second changes before an event: (630) 415-3642!

INDIANA/KENTUCKY MIDWEST ZONE



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A quick review of this year so far, since my last article in the Summer 2009 VCA Notes issue. This has been one of the best driving years in a long time. The weather has been the best ever. As I write this we are getting ready for the fall cruise this weekend. This will be one of two fall cruises we will have this year. We have had an event every weekend this year. We also have had a great turnout on every weekend event. The best thing so far this year, we have had no less than 17 Vipers at each of our monthly meetings.

Our VINO in the Valley Dinner was cancelled on June 6 because of the cold and wet weather. The temp was only 46 degrees and raining. We enjoy VINO in the Valley because it is a great restaurant out in the country with live entertainment. The theme this year was going to be "spouse and significant other appreciation night." Is that spouse of yours getting tired of four-hour cruises with lunch at Burger King? Why not treat her (or him) right and join us for dinner and live entertainment at a great new restaurant located near Ellsworth, Wis. We had trouble rescheduling this back on the calendar. Maybe late fall we can try again to get reservations.

On June 12 we had Vipers Along Superior's Shore. Mike and Roxanne put many hours into planning this trip for us. This was a fantastic trip. We stopped at Archer Racing on the way up. We spent time with John Archer as he showed us around the race shop. We had 11 Vipers that took the trip along Superior's North Shore culminating in Grand Marais. We spent the night in Two Harbors. We completed the beautiful cruise along Superior's shoreline on MN 61 to Grand Marais with a stop at Gooseberry Falls and the Split Rock Lighthouse along the way, for a little culture. We arrived into Grand Marais early Saturday afternoon for a car show on the lake's shoreline. Later that evening we went to dinner, stopping at the Trail Center Lodge, which is the halfway point on the way to the trails end of the Gunflint Trail in the Superior National Forest. This is true wilderness. The scenery was unbelievable. We still talk about this trip at every meeting. Mike and Roxanne are working on next year's trip right now.

We went to Scharf Viper Parts on June 27–28 in Eagle River, Wis. This was so much fun for everyone that we are making this a yearly event. Every Viper at Paul's had a story. Paul, his family and his father were there to greet us. Thanks to Paul's wife Chelle for preparing all the food. We had at least 15 Vipers there. If you need used parts for your Viper be sure to call Paul Scharf. He is sure to have the part you need. Some of the guys went to Brainerd Raceway for the July 4th weekend. I went up and did a few ride-alongs with the guys. What a great time that was. James and John had more fun than any of us. They both have been bitten with the Track Rat bug. They both found a new hobby.

We went to the 21st Annual Pan-O-Prog Cruise Night on July 10. This was the annual Lakeville Pan-O-Prog Cruise. Tens of thousand of spectators lined the streets along with a few friendly officers of the law to view our gorgeous set of wheels. Special guests: Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders. Not to mention over 500 cars in the parade. We were well represented here. We had everything from Archie's Copperhead to Don's 2009 Blue White stripe ACR. Then after the parade we were invited over to Ron and Barb's house for pizza and conversation. On July 11 we had the Centuria, Wis., car show. Every type of car was there, from a '33 Highway to a Pontiac Blackbird. Have you ever had the chance to see a Pontiac Blackbird? How about #19 of 19? It was there. I never knew this car existed on the planet. We even had Keith's 2009 Viper set up for racing at this event. The people sure enjoyed the Vipers' presence.

On July 18 we had our Progressive Dinner at three of our members' homes. Our first stop was at Mike and Roxanne's home for some great appetizers, then on to Archie and Kathy's home for a chef-prepared dinner, then Pat and Colleen's home for some of the best desserts. This is one of the most attended events that we have had so far this year. This is such a great event, where our members give back to the club by opening their homes to the MN Viper Club members. We all appreciate there generosity. The Dessert Cruise is held on the fourth Thursday of every month. This cruise has been a huge success this year. The Dessert Cruise was done in the past by Mike. It has been absent for a long time. It looks like we will continue with this next year. We meet at Oak City and cruise to a different dessert location every month.

On July 17–19 we went to the Car Craft Nationals at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. Okay, the burnout competition is my favorite. When was the last time you saw a burnout with red smoke? I still need to find out how that was done. Keith is still waiting to hear on his results. It appears that he won. We will have to see what happens after further review from the Car Craft people. On July 23 we went to Excelsior, Minn., for our Dessert Cruise. This is where back in 1964 the Rolling Stones played a concert. Do you remember the song "You Can't Always Get What You Want"? That song title came from the drug store just down the street from the concert when Mick wanted a cherry coke. The store didn't have cherry cokes and Mr. Jimmy, standing in line behind Jagger, commented, "Well, you can't always get what you want." July 25 we went to Crystal Caves in Wisconsin. We had eight Vipers go for a great drive just to get there. Do you know the difference between a stalactite and a stalagmite? We do now. This was a very nice cruise.

On August 1 we went on the Leinenkugel Brewery Tour. We met Jake Leinenkugel. Jake goes out into the parking lot and checks out all 18 of the Vipers. Jake really got a kick out of our Vipers. August 7 we had the White Bear Dodge Dealer Car Show. We had 14 Vipers show up. It was nice to see everybody having a great time together. We always make this a yearly event. There were not as many cool cars as in the past due to a light rain shower for the first 10 minutes of the show.

August 22 we went to a drive-in theater. This was a great time had by all. There were three movies. The first movie was District 9. Listening to District 9 with the sound system in your Viper was something you need to experience. What a fun time. Not a bug to be found. Thanks again to the dry summer—no mosquitoes. This will become a yearly event. The Dessert Cruise on August 27 was a trip to Grand Old Creamery on Grand Avenue in St. Paul, then over to Minnehaha Falls. The park service has night illumination of the Falls. Thanks to the recent rain the night before, the water was roaring over the falls. This was a very nice sight to see. On August 29 we went to Pro Kart to see who could turn in the fastest lap time. Mitch won, with the fastest lap in our Club. I had the second fastest lap time. I can never catch that Mitch. Then off to Hooters for a victory lunch. The people at the Kart Track and Hooters sure get a kick out of our Vipers. There was a time when we had more guys in the parking lot of the Kart track looking at our Vipers then were inside racing. What a great day for all of us.



MINNESOTA VCA MEMBER MITCH (TO COME) WON THE FASTEST LAP AWARD DURING THE CLUB'S VISIT TO PRO KART IN AUGUST.

On September 5 we went to the Minnesota State Fair. Russ is one of our north-of-the-border members on holidays and is arriving from O'Canada. This was a chance for those that haven't had a chance to meet Russ from his last visit a year ago to get to know him. This gave us an opportunity to freshen up on our Canadian speak, eh? We toured everything at the Minnesota State Fair from 1 to 5 p.m. We all had a fun time there. Everybody got a turn to pick something they wanted to do, and then we would go as a group to each request. This was very fun.

On September 12 we had the Viper Only Car Show at the White Bear Dodge dealer. We had an amazing 24 Vipers show up. It was nice to see everybody having a great time together. We are going to make this a yearly event also. White Bear Dodge sure enjoyed having us there. We sure enjoyed being there. We had the first row closest to the highway. People would come in and look at all the different color Vipers. One customer's comment was, "You don't see this many Vipers together everyday." We had every type of Viper from a beautiful winged GTS Viper to a Very Orange 2009 Viper with only 1,400 miles on it. Plenty of pictures were getting taken that day of our Vipers. September 17 we had the monthly meeting at Oak City. We had 20 Vipers show up and 38 people for dinner. This is always a great time for people to catch up with each other over dinner.

We are a very active Club, with a short driving season. I want to thank all our members for making the Minnesota Viper Club such a GREAT Club.

MOTOR CITY MIDWEST ZONE



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It seems like summer just got here and you can already feel the chill in the autumn air. In June MCVO enjoyed the annual CEMA car show at the W.P. Chrysler museum. Mid-June we had our monthly cruise to a new location called "It's a Matter of Taste." The turnout was lighter than usual, but the weather was damper than usual. MCVO and the Illinois Club joined forces to do a track day at GingerMan. Once again the Michigan weather was not very accommodating. Everyone got some track time in before the skies opened up again.

The July monthly cruise night found us at our most popular cruise spot on Zukey Lake. Everyone enjoys sitting out on the deck, looking at the lake and lively conversations. Also in July we did our annual autocross at CPG. This year we added an extra run class simply called "Fun Run." This class was a chance for members to participate in an autocross without feeling the pressures of competition. We had 53 members sign up, so we are sure that the Fun Run will continue to be a popular part of future autocross events. At the end of July we did a "Cruise for a Cause" car show hosted by MCVO member Bob Swartz with the proceeds benefitting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

August in Michigan to anyone that can spell "car" means Woodward Dream Cruise. The Dream Cruise is technically the "World's Largest Car Event." However, it starts revving up at least two weeks before the actual event. Anytime you get forty thousand classic cars and 1.5 million people together it is a huge event. MCVO had 97 in attendance at this year's Club gathering; as in the past we had VCA members from other states attending the event. If you like cars, the Woodward Dream Cruise is a must to see. The official cruise date is the third Saturday in August, but as I said earlier it is a multiple-day event.

In September we did our annual wine tour up in the Leelanau Peninsula. I have only attended the last eight of nine wine tours, but I have to believe that this year was the best weather we have ever had. The team, led by Rob and Jill Butry, did an excellent job at mixing cruises, lunches, brunches, dinners and gatherings around the fire. There is nothing more stunning than seeing a long line of Vipers cruising through the tree-lined, twisting and curving roads of the Leelanau Peninsula.

The future has us visiting Arrow Racing, CAAP, and playing Bocce Ball at our Holiday/Election party in December. For additional information on our upcoming events and our past events, visit our Web site: www.mcvo.net. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events. And remember ... drive hard but safe.

OHIO MIDWEST ZONE



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WHEW! What a busy year. Chrysler. Cerberus. Bankruptcy. Fiat. Viper or no Viper. All we needed was J.R. Ewing and Alexis Carrington and we would have had a soap opera—"Auburn Hills." The highlight this season was VCA Ohio hosting its first Midwest Zone Rendezvous. Vipers from Ontario/Canada, Minnesota, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky slithered into Columbus, Ohio for the three-day event.

Make sure to keep in touch with our Web site, www.viperclubohio.org, for updates on events. If you have any questions about an event or if you would like to host an event please e-mail me at daytonprowler@yahoo.com or call (937) 470-8306. Members should have received their latest issue of Fangs/VCA Ohio Newsletter, "BACK IN BUSINESS." Please take time and enjoy all of the articles and pictures. If you don't recognize some of the pictures, then you probably need to get more involved in YOUR Club. As I've said before, it's your Club. You get out of it what you put into it.

Finally, to all the VCA members and the people at Fiat, a very big THANK YOU! Now it's back to Italy. Remember the little company we used to own, Lamborghini, that helped us cast the first Gen 1 Viper engine blocks? The recent roller coaster ride of "Viper or no Viper" is now over. We welcome our new brothers—Fiat, Lancia, Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, and Abarth (Fiat's SRT). I think Fiat "gets it." The Viper is not just a car, it's a lifestyle. FIAT! VIPER! Ciao.

ONTARIO MIDWEST ZONE



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We started the summer with a charity event, "Sick Kids Hospital," in Burlington, followed by another charity event also for Sick Kids, in Brampton. In April the club sponsored a driver schooling day with instructors for all members, with good turn out of about 22 Vipers.

The outcome of this event was very encouraging with positive comments from the experience.

We travelled to the Pocono Race Track to join the Jersey boys VCA in their annual Rendezvous—great time at the socials. We also hooked up with the Carolinas VCA at the Biltmore. It was a beautiful drive—they're a mighty helpful bunch of guys. Then the monthly dinners for the social crowds were organized by our directors and there were plenty of them. We joined the IL Club for the "Vipers Invades Niagara Falls" event. Approximately 130 Vipers from all the VCA Clubs attended this event. Our Club had 27 Vipers show up for the Car Show. The fall cruise is another example of our directors' continuous efforts to provide our members the best experience possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members and encourage them to come out and join in. If you live far away, invite us to your neck of the woods and we will come. Our membership, as of this write-up, is 110 members and growing. We are no longer a small league club—we're in the majors now.

COLORADO/UTAH/WYOMING SOUTHWEST ZONE



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Wow! What a fantastic Colorado Viper summer. Memorial Day Weekend was in New Mexico. Thanks to the New Mexico Club for being our host in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, N.M., over the weekend. Altogether, there were 34 Vipers, 20 from Colorado. We enjoyed the Unser Racing Museum, the Albuquerque Aquarium and Botanical Gardens, the Sandia Tram and High Finance Restaurant at the top. On Sunday we drove the High Road to Taos and enjoyed spectacular food the entire weekend. Mopar Thunder Mountain at Bandimere Speedway was on May 31. About 15 drivers enjoyed drag racing, food, fun and trophies.

The Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Byway witnessed several Viper owners enjoying the sites on June 7. Sites included Buffalo Bills Grave, Lookout Mountain Nature Center & Preserve, Boettcher Mansion, Evergreen Lake, Keys on the Green Restaurant and Dinosaur Ridge, where our tour guide was exceptional. Next was the Hub Car Wash & Diner, Bishop's Castle & Belvedere's for Dinner. Thanks to Woody and Cindee Wood for a spectacular day in a gorgeous part of Colorado on June 21. We met at the Hub Car Wash and Diner near Garden of the Gods for breakfast, then on to Bishop's Castle, a unique medieval castle in cowboy country, complete with swords and dragons. We drove back to Canon City via Skyline Drive and to Belvedere's for dinner before driving back home.

Then it was the 4th of July Zone Rendezvous in Breckenridge, Colo. Thanks to Wayne Randall, event coordinator, for this awesome event. Thanks also to Chris and Linda Grady for arranging for lunch, rides, a spectacular car show and a drive across the bridge at the Royal Gorge. Marsha and Jay Popp treated us to an amazing breakfast at their Moose Manor hideaway. Mel and Tony Atkinson were our hosts for the barbecue at their beautiful home along with Wayne Randall, Penny Banks, JC and Anastasia Velasco. The Denver Corvette Association sponsored the autocross and Wayne Randall provided a great barbecue lunch. Thousands of parade watchers enjoyed 35 Vipers and 14 Prowlers on the 4th. Viper owners enjoyed the show 'n' shine car show, alpine slide (although a bit wet),

fireworks and fabulous dinners. Vipers and their owners showed up from Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin.

The Autocross winners, who received crystal-etched Viper trophies donated by Jon Brobst of PartsRack, were Matt Huett Fastest GTS), Rich Clements, (Fastest RT10), John Jacobs (Fastest SRT10), and Mel Atkinson (Fastest SRT10 ACR Female). Two free Viper Days weekend certificates valued at \$595 each were awarded to the two Vipers qualifying for the SRT National Autocross from the Southwest Zone. They are Matt Huett and Rich Clements.

July 24–26 was the Steamboat Springs, Colo., get away. For 23 Viper enthusiasts, this was a fun-filled weekend at the Steamboat Grand Hotel, Strawberry Park Hot Springs, Steamboat Lake on a couple of pontoons, 8th Street Steakhouse, where we grilled our own steaks, and lots and lots of photo shoots, gorgeous scenery, alpine slide rides and, of course, great food. Roy and Fran Reed treated us all to breakfast and several car collections on August 15. Thanks to Roy and Fran for a wonderful, car-filled, beautiful summer Saturday. We had a fabulous breakfast at their house, enjoyed their car collections at three different places, then the Vacarelli car collection in Brighton, lunch at Applebee's, and the Sunflower Nationals in Keensburg. If you like cars, this was the place to be, and at least 50–60 of us were there.

We had our Yellowstone National Park event on Sept. 3–7. Many, many thanks to Claudia and Dick Hall of Sheridan, Wyo. As 15 Vipers converged onto I-90 on the way to Sheridan, Dick, with friend Scott, took pictures from his private plane. Then we went into Sheridan for refreshments at Claudia and Dick's beautiful ranch. They had also arranged for a special dinner and tour of the Historic Sheridan Inn. On Friday, Dick and Claudia and friends Scott and Susan took us over the Bighorn Mountains and down into Cody, where several enjoyed the Buffalo Bill Museum. Then we drove the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway and through Yellowstone's North East Entrance. While in Yellowstone, we stayed at the "lost in time" Lake Yellowstone Hotel and drove to and hiked at some of the best sites, all the while turning heads and stealing pictures from the geysers and buffalo. Then, several of us drove through Teton National Park and took advantage of some GREAT photo ops on the way to Jackson Hole. After spending a fun evening in Jackson Hole, we returned to reality.

On September 20 we had our Fall Colors drive and lunch, and even a baby shower! We drove scenic routes to Breckenridge for lunch and then to Keystone and Bill and Sonya Dunston's fabulous, award-winning, \$3 million dollar, Summit County Parade of Homes show home for cake, hiking, fun, and even a baby shower for our newest member. This beautiful home backs up to the Snake River, plus a biking/hiking trail. Thank you to Bill and Sonya Dunston for opening up their house for all to enjoy. Thanks to Paula and Jessie Hull and Mary June for planning the baby shower.

Pepsi Night at Bandimere Speedway was on October 9. Thanks to Steve Long for sponsoring this event, with drag racing at it's best. The Colorado School of Mines Homecoming Parade was on October 10. The town of Golden delighted to the sounds and sights of Vipers in the parade. We always get great reviews.

HOUSTON SOUTHWEST ZONE



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Hello there from the Houston Viper Club. We have been doing lots of great things down here in Texas and growing everyday. In fact, we just had elections and the following are our new Board Members/Officers: Ivan Wood, President/Treasurer; Troy Harless, Vice President/Secretary; William "Speedy" Gonzalez; Andy Tanguay; Richard Sewell; Michael Gerdts; Tim Palmer; and Billy Stagner.

Our new board members are planning on getting together soon to plan out the event calendar for 2010. We plan on putting together at least one event a month with a possible two events here and there next year. Last month alone we had 10 new members join our group. We now have a regular following of around 30 members that come to just about every event we plan, plus we have many more that show up to other events planned around the Houston car community.

In July we had a free Dyno Day offered to our Club members from Nick and the Fast Lane folks in the Cypress area. We had around 15 cars show up for that. Fast Lane loaded our cars up and let them run. Highest horsepower was around 1100 hp by Tim Palmer. We cooked up some fajitas and sausage for the crew and had a great time. In August, Viper Days made the circuit back to Texas at TWS in College Station. We had roughly 10-12 cars participate from the Houston area. And each and every one of us LOVED the experience. I personally love track days, so it was worthwhile sitting in the Texas heat—well worth it.

In September we met at Dave & Busters in Houston for dinner and drinks and also to elect our new Board Members. We had around 30 people show up including three new members who loved the experience and plan on being at the next event. In October we planned an overnight cruise to Canyon Lake near Austin. We planned on taking a back roads cruise to Canyon Lake while stopping to do a little site seeing or shopping. We will grab some dinner and stay the night, and then we'll take a different set of back roads home to mix it up a little.

November has a few things for us to take part in. On November 7, Home Depot is planning a Community Day for kids at one of their stores in the Houston Area. At this event, they will have tons of cars, motorcycles and events for the kids. We are also planning on a Pot Luck Dinner at one of our local club member's home in November. And, of course, December has us getting together for our Holiday Party. Details are still being worked out for that as far as when and where but it always ends up being one great event. We are looking forward to 2010 and all the great new events happening. That's all from Houston. Over and out!

KANSAS CITY SOUTHWEST ZONE



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It's been another great summer in the Kansas City Viper Club—what recession? Since my last writing the KC Club has participated in the "Wings Over Whiteman" air/car show at nearby Whiteman Air Force Base, driven in the Heartland Park NARRA and Woodhouse Track Experience, and enjoyed some great cruises, BBQs (gotta love Kurt Miller's meat) and car shows. With the great Viper weather we have enjoyed in KC this summer, the events have been awesome! And, that's not all, as we have saved the best for last!

On October 16–18 the KC Viper Club plans to once again sponsor the Third Annual Premier Event. This event was fabulous last year and involved Vipers and VCA members from some ten states. Believe it

or not, this year is shaping up to be even better! In fact, we had so much fun last year that we decided to expand the event this year by another day. We will head to Branson on an "exciting" drive, staying on Branson's new "Landing," with a special KC reception, then head to Springfield and Premier the next day for a BBQ, Car Show, and meeting with our friends at RideMakerz. Then we will head back to Branson for dinner and a comedy show, then breakfast the next morning (with a special presentation by Herb Helbig) before heading back to KC! Dizzy yet? Assuming the weather holds, this will be the event of the year for the KC club! Special thanks to Tim and Dawn Wollesen for all of their efforts in putting this together!

The KC Club's annual Holiday Party and Charity Auction will be on December 12. While Premier is quickly becoming KC's not-to-miss event, the Holiday Party has traditionally been the club's biggest and best attended event, without exception. This year we will be holding the event at Jack Stack BBQ. Though we have enjoyed the past few years at Bacchanalia, we believe this change of venue will be well received by the Club members. Please plan to join us! Details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Finally, congratulations to Jerry ("Batman") Dobson, KC's VP, on the acquisition of his new Black Viper ACR! The first in KC—very nice! As happy as we all are for Jerry, it is a shame to think that the car will never be driven over 65 mph! Looking forward to 2010 and news from Detroit regarding our Viper's future!

MID-SOUTH SOUTHWEST ZONE



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As I mentioned in the last issue of VCA Notes, the Mid-South has not had any scheduled events since June; however, several members have taken advantage of various Zone Rendezvous Events that were happening across the country. By the time you read this we will be having or will have just had our biggest and longest running event, the Fall Foliage Tour based out of Hot Springs, Ark., the weekend of October 24. This event always draws a large crowd as we all take in the scenic Arkansas back roads. Of course, some of that scenery has been known to pass by our windows at a fairly brisk pace, so we don't always get ample time to enjoy the view. However, we always take the time to enjoy each other's company.

December has us moving the Christmas Party over to Longview, Texas. Members Jim and Patti Luttrell have volunteered to host the party this year and to give Dolph and Kim Williams a much deserved break. The party will be in the Luttrell's "Party Barn" so be sure and join us for all the fun on December 5.

It's been another great year for the Mid-South. In spite of the economy our membership continues to grow and we are getting more and more new members to show up for events. If you're a Mid-South member and have yet to make an event, please come see what you're missing. You just don't realize that you have a whole new group of friends out there waiting to meet you.

NEW MEXICO SOUTHWEST ZONE



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Summer sunsets, sounds of our Viper engines roaring, fire roasted green chilis—"Let's grill and go." The New Mexico Viper Club meets for great food, cruises, and car shows. We combined the NM Mopar Muscle Club and NM Viper Club at a car show where everyone was given an award for their participation. In July we came together for a great summer party BBQ at Jim Baughman's residence. The big announcement was that Jim and Renee got married. The summer evenings were filled with more cruising to the Owl Cafe, where the green chili cheese hamburgers are a specialty there. Many car clubs showed up and so did our NM Viper Club.

In September our events include the Concours Du Soleil Gala at Jerry Roehl's Mansion, which supports the Community Endowments Charity. Two tickets to the Gala event worth \$300 were given out for free by our VP Jan Hogstrom. The winner was Jack Vigil. The next day was a spectacular collection of over 100 cars at the mansion. The NM Viper Club will enter their cars and display their Vipers that afternoon.

At the end of September we planned to show our Vipers at the NM State Fair. In the afternoon, the streets are cleared for our Vipers to make their grand exit out of the fairgrounds with a personal police and sheriff's escort. Lights and sirens will be going to let you know even at 5 mph the Viper is surely an impressive sports car.

Here are some NM Viper Club bragging rights. Benny Martinez and Colby Hoffman are going to enter the Texas mile. We'll have to see if they bring back the 200 mph t-shirts. Good luck, guys. In October, we have a really exciting event planned. It's the One Horsepower Event and a Sandia Fun Run Cruise. We will arrive at the Sandia Mountains and start on a horseback ride. After that we meet at the base of the Sandia Mountains. We start our Viper cruise up curvy roads to the top of the Sandia Crest. So it's from one horsepower to over 500 hp. At the end of October we have a cruise up to Farmington, N.M., to visit Jimmy Evans at his SparRib BBQ restaurant.

In November we have the Toys for Tots Charity, then it's a spectacular Christmas party. Each member that comes to the party will receive a bottle of wine from the NM Viper president's personal winery along with a Viper key chain. We will have one-of-a-kind Viper garage art for auction, along with dinner gift certificates, Mac Tools items, Dearholt auto care items, Viper neon sign garage art, and Viper wall clocks. There will be a wonderful dinner with good company and all the Viper stories of the past year. This year we will have our Christmas party at Tim Sims' home, which has a view of the sunset. The rest is good memories. Next year, look out—we have a sizzling menu of events.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS SOUTHWEST ZONE



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The North Texas Viper Club will have a very active end of the year. Our upcoming events are almost as exciting as driving a Viper for the first time! On October 10 we planned our regular monthly meeting at Pappa's BBQ on Northwest Highway in Dallas. Then we will gather up and head out to the Galaxy Drive-In Movie Theater in Ennis. You can check out the venue at www.galaxydriveintheatre.com. We really looked forward to this new event and hoped the weather would cooperate and be a little "cooler."

November 14 we will have our meeting at Top Golf, 8787 Park Lane, in Dallas. We will meet there at 7 p.m. and have a quick meeting, then our event goes from 8–11 p.m. The event cost is \$30 per person to participate. You can check out the venue at www.topgolf.com.

com. December 12 is our annual Christmas Party hosted this year at the home of David and Maryanne Brown. Once again we will have our silent auction to raise money for a charity and our club. Some of the charities that have benefited in years past: Children's Cancer Fund Dallas, SPCA and Capitan Hopes Kids. We are already soliciting donations from members, sponsors and local businesses for this successful fundraising event. If you wish to help out with a donation please contact us. Our information can be found on our Web site, www.northtexasviperclub.com.

OKLAHOMA SOUTHWEST ZONE



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All I can say is that this was the most SUPER summer yet! I must brag about the GREAT showing that our Snakes made at the Vipers and Vettes Car Show held at the Annual Eskimo Joe's Birthday Bash in Stillwater, Okla. We beat the pants off them! Members Scott and Karen Manwell, Jack Talley, Marvin and Karen Petty, Jason Cunningham, Ken Wells and Carolyn Bullard, Tyler Manwell, plus Aaron Sattre, made us proud. Aaron joined us from Tulsa and won Joe's award for "Crowd Favorite" with his cool '06 Coupe, which is Red with Silver stripes. Well done, Aaron!

Thanks to OSU – Oklahoma City for having us out to their Precision Driving Track. We really appreciate them. It is always amazing what you can learn about your car's performance. Having a safe place in which to feel the torque and learn more about driving is essential! Members Marvin and Karen Petty have outdone themselves with their annual Car Show in addition to their monthly Cruise-Ins at Petty's Pitstop! We did a lot of Cruise-Ins this summer and it was so great to reminisce and look at everyone's great cars! Thanks to Ken, who always keeps us in the loop for autocrosses and lots of fun activities. This year, we have participated in multiple events at Hallett Motorsports Park as well as the SRT Driving Experience, which are also awesome places to learn more about Vipers. In addition, some Oklahoma members participated in several regional events, which were all very enjoyable! I know firsthand how much work it takes. KUDOS for many jobs well-done, kids!

No doubt the highlight was helping others. Our Club participated in many charity events this summer. We took our Snakes to help out for the Wounded Warrior Benefit Car Show. We also had Vipers at the MDA Telethon for Jerry's Kids. Yep, we're the Viper Club from the Heartland and our members really have hearts as big as all outdoors! It makes me proud to be involved! With the cooler weather, our driving days may be restricted somehow, but we are looking forward to continuing Cruise-Ins as long as possible and finishing up the year with another memorable Holiday Extravaganza in December, thanks to our Christmas Party Chairman Robert Pemberton!

SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS SOUTHWEST ZONE



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ARIZONA WESTERN ZONE



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In May, the Arizona Club gathered for our annual cruise to Sedona. We always have a good turnout for this event and this year was no exception. Taking the scenic back route through the breathtaking 11-mile Oak Creek Canyon, we stopped at the canyon overlook for a photo opportunity. We could not linger long, causing a traffic jam of admiring onlookers and picture takers. We continued to the Sedona Airport Restaurant for an excellent lunch. The sky grew stormy as the group split up, some to continue a scenic drive home, others shopping and some looking for inspiration at Sedona's famed vortex locations.

Minimizing our heat exposure, in June the Club once again mounted an attack on the bowling lanes (if you could have seen some of our techniques, you would understand this description). In July we gathered at the Pebble Creek Tuscany Falls Country Club in Goodyear for a Mystery Dinner. The dinner was excellent; the sleuthing, not quite on the same level, as the investigators were unable to identify the murderer. Mike Smith redeemed himself by accurately identifying the actual murder weapon (both Mike and Laurie Smith were on a roll, as they also took home the top awards in the June bowling event!). In August we made another escape to the high country, visiting the mountain home of Mark and Sandy Alger in Flagstaff. We thank Mark for taking a weekend off from the Viper Racing League to host this event for us. It was a great turnout, excellent BBQ and a fun-filled day for all in the mountain pines.

By the time this gets to print, we will have had a Tech Day with a visit to the Dyno Comp facility and the new home of Protective Film Solutions. The last weekend of September finds the Arizona Club joining the festivities in Pinetop-Lakeside for the annual Fall Festival and "Run to the Pines" car show, a full weekend of events with breakfast and dinner at two of our members' homes.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WESTERN ZONE



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Yosemite Valley was invaded by 30 Central California Viper Club members this September. With over 8,000 horsepower driving down the winding road it caught the attention of everyone along the entrance to Yosemite Valley. Many of our members also enjoyed the week's festivities in Monterey and Pebble Beach during the Concours week. This has become an entire week of car enjoyment. There is something different happening each day of the week, with the two headliners being the Quail Motorsports Concours and the Pebble Beach Concours.

Many members of our region will be joining the Northern California Region at the Monterey Bay Aquarium for a holiday party on November 21. We will conclude our year's festivities at our Christmas Party on December at San Joaquin Country Club.

NEVADA WESTERN ZONE



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This summer has been really packed with activity. We have beaten the heat on Mt. Charleston, learned some Nevada history on the Nevada Southern Railway Historic Train Ride and been a part of the 1st Annual Barrett Jackson Road Rally down the Las Vegas Strip on the day before their auction started at Mandalay Bay.

We have also had a Fall Getaway at Spring Mountain Motorsports Club courtesy of Club members Michael von Quilich, Steve Dana and Len Krick. Members came from Nevada, Arizona and Southern California. We started out with a great BBQ at the von Quilich's, had a great racing weekend, and ended it on a gourmet meal at Tommasino's, Tom Saitta's new restaurant in Pahrump. What a great time! Special thanks to the von Quilich's for the time and planning that went into this event.

The SRT Track Experience will be at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway November 6-8. This is always a great time to drive some very special cars. Thanks to everyone who has been coming to meetings and outings. It's great to see more participation in Club activities. The Nevada Region monthly Snake gathering location has changed and is held at Steve Dana's Garage Mahal (it's really Steve's office, but it's a garage palace!) at 185 N. Gibson Rd., Henderson, Nev., 89014. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., so bring your car and get reacquainted with old friends and meet new ones. If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions about activities, please attend our monthly meetings, contact me at (702) 528-1414 or e-mail me at MarkoRADRACING@aol.com. On a side note, if you do send an e-mail, please be sure to include your first and last name and phone number. Many times it is faster for me to get back to you by phone. This will make it easier for everyone. Thanks.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WESTERN ZONE



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We kicked off the summer Viper season with a new twist to our monthly dinner meeting. Club members are always saying they like hanging out with their cars at the meeting, so we hosted a "CarBQ" in the parking lot, so we could dine amongst our cars! We're always looking for new adventures to share with club members, and this summer was no exception.

Club member Charlie Goodman was chairman of the first Marin Concours, so several Club members came to check out this exquisite car show north of the Golden Gate Bridge. In May, Jim Bray introduced Club members to the world's largest collection of military vehicles at the Tanks and Snakes event. Charter member Dick DeLuna invited club members to tour his second "Toy Box." Dick finished his dream garage a few years ago, and found he still had more cars and memorabilia, so he built an "overflow" garage. To give some of our members who live north of the San Francisco Bay

area something to do, Glen McAdon hosted two drives up into the mountains of Calaveras and the Sierras.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VCA MEMBERS ENJOY A VISIT TO DICK DELUNA'S TOY BOX.

August is always a busy car month, and this year was no exception. We started with a Progressive Dinner, where each of the three courses of the meal were hosted at a different club members' home. This gave us a chance to work up an appetite between courses by driving our Vipers! Our hosts Pam and Jose Picazo, Debbie Ferrari and Denis Van Dera, and Jim and Cathy Bray outdid themselves with their hospitality and food. Burt Gallegus and Jack Cohen hosted the 11th annual Vipers 'N Rods show at the annual Danville Hot Summer Nights. This event continues to be popular with Club members, as we hang out in our Viper corral along the main street and check out all the street rods, classic cars, and muscle cars that come to the show. Jack and Burt chose to donate the proceeds to our charity, the Brian Angen Memorial Foundation. Then it was off to Infineon Raceway to cheer on Samuel H. Binette in his Viper drift machine. Club members had a bird's eye view of the staging area as well as the entire course, and the Angens provided hospitality with their motor home. The following day, we stayed to watch the Indy Car races, too.

After the fallout of the auto industry, we have a new Dodge dealer in town. Normandin Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge hosted our September monthly dinner meeting to give Club members a chance to tour their facility and meet the sales, parts, and service staff. The Normandin family has been in business for over 100 years, so we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with them. Our annual holiday party is scheduled for November 21 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. It's an elegant and fun affair, so if you're thinking of taking a vacation to the California coast, come join us! Details are on our Web site.

OREGON WESTERN ZONE



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Well, the summer is over and the snow will be on the way, which means it's time to put the Vipers away in the Northwest, truly a sad occasion. We were not able to do much in the way of events as the economy has had a way of affecting everyone. However, the 14-car turnout for the annual Crossley BBQ was great. Surf and turf was on the menu, and as usual, no one left hungry. The whole event, from the drive over to the fun had with friends, was fantastic. We want to thank all those who attended. It is a Club favorite and we look forward to next year's.

I was invited to drive laps at the Doernbecher Dash this year, and had a great time doing so with two other Viper Club members, Jon Brobst and Doris Rose. This race is a personal favorite of mine. In my racing days, I would race my Formula Mazda, and then during lunch give rides to the children from Doernbecher Hospital. It has always left a lasting impression on me. It has been several years since I had participated in this race, and am extremely grateful to have been invited to give rides this year. It is always humbling to see such happy faces on children that may not have much to smile about because of their illness. I am only too happy to give them this moment of joy.

Our next event is the Holiday party at the Century Hotel, where we will unveil the 2010 Club ornament and calendar. Many thanks to those that submitted photos for the calendar project. The race will be tight this year for Member of the Year—who knows what will happen. Until the next event, thank you.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WESTERN ZONE



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We held our third annual "Dyno" Day at DC Performance in July. Thanks to all the nice folks at DC Performance for hosting the So Cal Club. Also in July, Scott Hirko put together a run to the "Super Car Sunday" car show held in Agora Hills. Our annual Viper Club Family Picnic was held at Laguna Hills Regional Park in August. Once again, the Gen III and IV drivers out pulled the Gen I and II drivers in our annual "tug o' war" contest.

On September 12, Steph and Glenn Izard opened their home to the Club and set up the Ventura Run. We ran through the local hills and lunched at Bodie's restaurant in Ojai. The 40-plus Vipers in attendance that day made for a big "Snake train". On September 27 we planned a group breakfast and visit to the Coronado Festival of Speed in San Diego. Viper owner David Andrews will be driving in the race that weekend. Good luck, David.

In October, Club member Michael von Quilich will host a group of about 20 So Cal Viper Club members at Spring Mountain Raceway in Nevada. We'll introduce the name "Sidewinders" for our So Cal track group at this outing. Want to become a Viper Club "Sidewinder"? Come out to the track and learn to better handle your car. On November 7 we'll hold our second annual Car Control Clinic at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. Last year's event sold out early and is again limited to 50 cars. Sign up early please! Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 5. For more info on Club events, check our Web site at: www.socialviper.com.

WASHINGTON WESTERN ZONE



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This summer we cruised to the 12th annual BBQ at Paul Ronald's house. We had great weather and turnout. Attending were some of the usual club members plus new members and some folks that were interested in finding out more about our cars so they may

purchase one. As always, a good time was had by all.

For the second year in a row we were invited to join the Northwest chapter of the LX car club (300s, Chargers, Challengers, and Magnums) for a day cruise to Mount St. Helens. This event had attendees from as far away as Canada and California. Total turnout was around 90 cars. Our convoy reached two miles in length, although you couldn't see all the cars because of the twisty roads. So we decided to reverse course at the top so every one could pass and see each other. Photos and videos are available on http://lxforums.com/board/index.php Regional Forums, Northwest section.

Please visit our Web site at: http://www.wavca.org/ for the latest club info, or feel free to e-mail me.

WESTERN CANADA WESTERN ZONE



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The Western Canada Region had several well-attended events this past summer. Our membership has grown significantly over the past year. We now have 67 members in our region and it was nice to see many new members come out to our events. My thanks go out to all of the members who planned these events. Because of all of your hard work and dedication we had one of the best Viper seasons ever! Hopefully next year will see even more functions for us to attend. I encourage any of you to plan an event. It is never too early to start planning, so if you have an idea please let me know.

With winter just around the corner many of us will be parking our Vipers for a few months. I hope you all have a good winter and I look forward to seeing you at our next event in the spring.

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This summer we cruised to the 12th annual BBQ at Paul Ronald's house. We had great weather and turnout. Attending were some of the usual club members plus new members and some folks that were interested in finding out more about our cars so they may

SWITZERLAND EUROPEAN ZONE



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After a perfect start to our 2009 Viper season in April, 22 members again met on June 20 for the annual social event. Karin and Jorg Meister from Basel prepared an interesting trip with a foundation that gives handicapped people a two-hour ride. After this beautiful trip all the crowd, drivers and guests joined the Swiss national circus to enjoy their show. Everybody was very satisfied about this marvelous day and the rest of the participants finished the day with a wonderful dinner and a lot of interesting discussions.

Only three Swiss members joined at the first July weekend event of our friendly co-club, Viper Club Deutschland, which was organizing a driving experience day in Boxberg, the official home of the test track of Bosch. What a great experience to stop the Viper from high speed (100 mph) to zero under full pressure and change the line at the same time. It was really a very helpful experience to get know the car better under extreme situations. Also, the water drifts were very useful. At the end, of course, all Viper enthusiasts (even those not official VCA members) enjoyed a perfect evening with great food and some drinks (the Viper is able to form a great family all over the world!).

At the end of July, VCAS organized a similar event in Betzholz at the TCS Driving Center. 12 members enjoyed burning their old tires on the handling track and getting experience on slippery grounds. As usual in our Club, the first weekend of September was taken for our annual three-day trip. As 11 years ago, we made approximately the same trip into the Wallis (where the Matterhorn is). A crowd of 20 Vipers (unfortunately, we lost one Viper by accident in the rain; everyone was okay, thankfully) and 38 members spent a superb weekend with great food and perfect weather in the Alps between Switzerland, France and Italy, with stunning vineyard cruises.

Motivated by our enthusiastic friend Philippe Meyer, we changed programs on Sunday and visited a village back deep in a valley, where crossing on the street was hardly possible (the street was only about three meters wide) and where the mountain on the left went 85 degrees downwards and on the right side 85 degrees up. I must agree—a Jeep Wrangler would have been the better option for this excursion. But never mind, everybody was fascinated by this extreme experience, and all cars came back safe for the regular schedule.

The end of our events in 2009 will be in November for our final meeting. For those who are interested, feel free to visit our Web site at www.viperclub.ch where a lot of pictures are shown in the gallery section. Happy Viperling!

UNITED KINGDOM EUROPEAN ZONE



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A newsletter for the enjoyment of VCA members.
Please send all proposed articles, advertisements and classifieds to:

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