



Norcal VIPER News

VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION
Fall 2016

17th Annual Hot Danville Nights

Article and Photographs by Rick Mathews

For the 17th time on Thursday, August 11 the NorCal Viper Club participated in the Hot Danville Nights car show along with hundreds of fellow car enthusiasts. Our fellow club members came to show their cars to the residents of the East Bay, walk the streets of Danville and see all of the custom cars that had assembled, enjoy the fellowship of our fellow Viper owners and consume Barbara Drummer's Arnold Palmers. After the show we all caravanned to the home of Rick Mathews for dinner under the stars and more great fellowship.



2016 NorCal Viper Club Calendar

Feb. 27-28	Club Election
March 1	Dinner Mtg. @ Pedro's, Santa Clara
April 5	Dinner Mtg. @ Georgio's, Milpitas
April 23-24	Thunderhill Track Event*
May 11-15	NVE2, New Orleans
May 22	South Bay Wine Cruise
June 4-5	Thunderhill Track Event*
June 12	Peets Coffee Tour (AM)
June 12	Cruise & Dinner, Pleasanton (PM)
July 16	Tech Talk & Pool Party @ Andy Hoepfner's
July 31	Hot Cars & BBQ @ Drummers
Aug. 11	Hot Danville Nights
Aug. 16	Dinner Meeting/Peninsula TBD
Aug. 19	Pacific Grove Rotary Concours*
Aug. 27	Whiskey Tour, Alameda
Sept. 10	Autocross @ Marina*
Sept. 16-18	Vipers, Vineyards & Vistas, Cent. Coast
Oct. 4	Dinner Mtg. @ Normandin CJDR
Nov. 19	Holiday Party
Nov. 25	Laguna Seca Track Day*

Club Calendar: <http://viperclubnorcal.com/events/>

*These Events Are Not Club Sponsored but May Include a Club Sponsored Dinner

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Club Website: viperclubnorcal.com

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Vipers, Vineyards and Vistas

Article and Photographs by Jim Bray

On a play hooky Friday, members of the NorCal VOA headed for a rendezvous in Morgan Hill before caravanning south to San Simeon to meet up with VOA members from the Central and Southern regions.



After a brief discussion, we decided to drive down Highway 101 then cut over to Highway 1 for the scenic drive down the coast. Having passed the small sign for the Ventana restaurant, we didn't miss the large sign for the Nepenthe restaurant where we stopped for lunch.

A firefighter with a large map was stationed in the parking lot to inform visitors of the current status of the Soberanes fire, which wasn't visible from the restaurant. During lunch, with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, we watched helicopters scooping water from the ocean to drop on the fire.

As our 10 Viper caravan continued south we noticed that all of the parks and campgrounds were closed. Many were used as camps and staging areas for the fire fighters. Traffic was heavy enough so we could only enjoy an occasional speed burst along the winding road.

Arriving at the Best Western Plus, rooms had fireplaces and many had ocean views. After unloading the cars we drove five miles south to Cambria for dinner at the Indigo Moon. One of our new members Seth joined us after driving down from Monterey in his purple Hellcat. After a wonderful meal and great visit with friends we headed back to the hotel to rest up for our active Saturday.

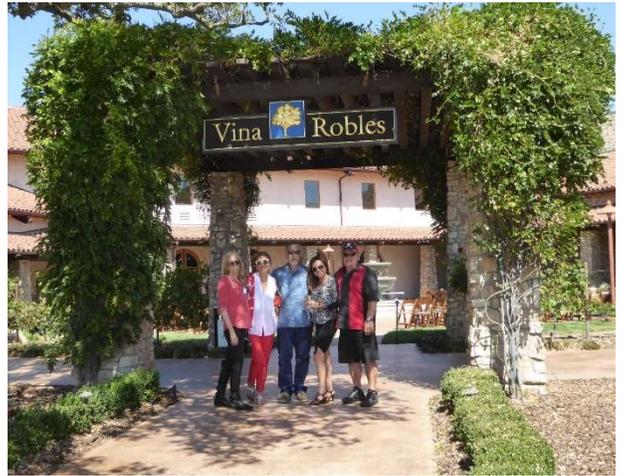
We awoke to a cool foggy morning along the coast. After a drivers meeting and staging 30 Vipers of all colors and stripes, the caravan rolled down the highway to Highway 46 led by Tom, the President of the Central Region, in his new snakeskin green ACR. The sky cleared and temperature warmed as we drove through the bucolic hills and dales of the central California county side. It reminded us of why we do this. It's just plain fun to drive curvy country roads on a beautiful day with a group of Vipers!



At Justin Winery, we parked our snakes and noticed a very appropriate sign that read: "Caution Venomous Snakes in Area". After posing for our group picture in front of the winery, we were ushered into a large, cool aging room with stacks of oak barrels and tunnels extending into the hillside. We tasted five wines, a couple of whites and three reds with names like Justification, Isosceles and Savant. Accompanying the tasting were platters of cheese, bread and dried meats like salami.

Back in our Vipers, zooming over some nice roller coaster back roads we arrived at Vina Robles in Paso Robles where it was a toasty 97 degrees. The courtyard of the winery, with a large bubbling fountain, was being decorated for a wedding. Fortunately, we had a nice air conditioned room for our tasting of seven wines followed by a nice lunch.

Club member Jim Harley from Cambria led the caravan back to town and welcoming 67 degree temperatures. Some folks went shopping while others headed back to the hotel to rest up for the evening banquet. The dinner was held in an adjacent building in a meeting room overlooking the ocean. We enjoyed cocktails and visiting for an hour before an excellent prime rib, scalloped potatoes, green beans and carrots and pasta dinner. Salmon and wild rice were also available.



Stuffed, we made our way to the beach and one of the outdoor fireplaces. Laughing, talking and drinking more wine by a roaring fire, we listened to the surf under the light of a full moon, and stayed until midnight.

Following a leisurely breakfast on a beautiful clear sunny Sunday morning we packed the Vipers and goodie bags. Some of our group went to tour San Simeon, some played on the beach while others drove home to beat the traffic. It was another fun and memorable Viper Club experience. Thank you Glen, Tom and Sanjar for organizing the event.

Hot Cars and Hot BBQ at the Drummer's

Article by Barb Drummer Photographs by Rick Mathews

Doug and Barb Drummer hosted the fourth annual Viper Club BBQ on July 31st. Dream'n Bout Que is their competition BBQ team. It was a beautiful Sunday that started with a car caravan led by Sanjar Chakamian. After meeting for coffee and pastries at Panera Bread, the group snaked around the hills of the South Bay, arriving at the Drummer's home around noon. "Our neighborhood is a close-knit group so word spread quickly about the Viper display adorning our house".



Kicking off the party was easy with Barb's special recipe of Arnold Palmers, an improved version of Bobby Flay's. It may become the official NorCal Viper Club drink! As the group sipped and snacked by the koi pond, the finishing touches were

quickly applied to the BBQ. They happened so quickly that Sedona barely had time to properly remind guests of their responsibility to throw her ball. Thanks to Jim Kermode for role modeling!

Preparations for the BBQ started six weeks earlier when Doug purchased 40 lbs. of brisket, aging it so the enzymes could soften the connective tissue. “Closer to the event date we added 36 lbs. of St Louis ribs and 10 lbs. of Andouille sausage. There were some leftovers...but not much”.

Smoking meats is an all-night affair between the BBQ master, the smoker and the meat. BBQ cuts are from the working part of the animal so they are very tough and require a “low and slow” cooking process. Meat prep started early on Saturday with trimming, brining, and applying the rub. Doug started smoking the briskets on Saturday night, tending the smoker through 4am Sunday when he pulled the brisket off the smoker, wrapped it, sauced it and put it back on to cook some more. The ribs only needed a few hours of smoking and the sausage was even simpler to prepare. Especially popular this year were the “burnt ends” from the point of the brisket which is quite fatty and benefits from a longer time on the smoker. “What a labor of love! We love sharing our home and our love of BBQ with our NorCal VOA friends. If you didn’t join us this year, perhaps you will next July. We truly hope you do”.



A Note about BBQ Competence

Do you feel your backyard cooking is worthy of recognition? Then compete in a Kansas City BBQ Society (KCBS) event as the Dream’ Bout Que team has for the last two years. You will be humbled! Our team placed poorly in the 2015 and 2016 Silicon Valley BBQ Championships. However, in October, we placed second at the Sparta-Q Rib Cook-off, a fundraiser for the San Jose State women’s softball team. The \$250 check paled in comparison to the announcement of our team name when only two awards were left.

Holiday Party

The annual club Holiday Party is on November 19th at the beautiful and centrally located San Mateo Marriott. Your Event Director and Club President have put a tremendous amount of time and energy into planning this event to meet your desires as expressed in the club survey. Please sign up quickly to show your support for their hard work and to have a great time. The party will include a champagne reception, a gourmet dinner and a DJ for after dinner dancing. Don’t miss this fun event!!



St. George Distillery Tour

Article by Michael Levy Photographs by Rick Mathews

It may not have seemed like there was much in common, traditional German food and a distillery tour. But on a July Saturday afternoon what they had in common was the Island of Alameda and our very own Viper Club.



Rather than a long spirited drive in the country, a line of Snakes slithered just off highway 880 in Oakland, over the Park Street bridge and into Alameda to the restaurant Speisekammer. Nearly 30 club members enjoyed authentic German cuisine which included wiener schnitzel sandwiches and German salad. Always a surprise or two awaits as we welcomed both old friends and new. We enjoyed catching up and discussing the latest Viper news and rumors about what is next for the Viper.

Then it was off for the main event. We caravanned across the island to St. George Distillery, a challenge in itself with city traffic. Originally founded in 1982 St. George Distillery makes its home on the old Alameda Naval Air Station in a reclaimed 65,000 square foot aircraft hangar.

Our tour began with a discussion of some of the products St. George produces: award winning Vodka, Liquors, Absinthe and Scotch. The latter of which is always in short supply and is quickly sold out. Tons of pears were on the floor in large agricultural shipping boxes accompanying us as they awaited to soon become the pears in pear brandy. The tour guide explained the process, care and thought that goes into each batch of the spirits they make. We saw the state of art copper stills that produced a variety of products and flavors. The tour ended in their spacious tasting room where we got to taste the fruits of their labor. Each of us were given a choice of six selections of selected product, all tasty and flavorful.



"We decided to do something different and memorable," explained event organizers Michael and Heloise Levy, "and we wanted something unique and new for a summer Saturday afternoon."

The afternoon ended with a photo shoot of many of the cars in the parking lot with the Viper up against the iconic San Francisco skyline as a backdrop. A picture perfect conclusion to a perfect afternoon.

President's Message

We are almost getting to the end of the Viper driving season. I know some of you (as Rich Bontempi reminded me) believe that Viper season never ends and we should drive our beloved cars year around. I applaud your enthusiasm and hope we get plenty of good weather so we can do that. As I write this, it's raining and my 1996 RT/10 is not a good candidate for driving in the rain as the top and windows are anything but leak proof!

Speaking of my old car, I finally decided to order a new Gen V before it's all over. I started with a TA 2.0 but quickly changed my order to an ACR. Unfortunately, due to some issues at Dodge there were some delays in confirming my order as well as many others.

Dodge unexpectedly closed the ordering for the new ACRs in late September and closed ordering for all Vipers in early October. This wasn't followed by any statement to why, which furthered fueled rumors on the VOA forums. Apparently, a dealer in North Carolina has been ordering a lot of Vipers for stock over the last two months and that may have created a supply chain issue for Dodge.

Dodge finally released a statement on October 10th, stating that they are "currently studying just how many more Vipers can be built." They also added "ordering is still closed for all Viper models and will be re-opened, but the timing on when that will happen is still to be determined."

I also reached out to Dodge officials and were told that they just needed to take a pause and figure out all their part inventories and their suppliers commitment before they can confirm the existing orders and restart a limited production. My sense is once they restart production, they will build less than 100 of all types and not many ACRs.

Paul Normandin of Normandin Dodge, who has been a big supporter of our Club, has been working feverishly on my order and finally was able to confirm just a few days ago that it will be built. So if any of you still wants a 2017 model, stay in touch with Paul and I hope you don't miss that short window of ordering!

I also want to update you on our last major event of the year, our Holiday Party. Your Board and specially your Event Director has worked very hard to plan a Holiday Party that everyone can enjoy. We listened to your suggestions (through our survey) and tried to meet all of your needs. We came up with a location that's more centrally located to all members, the event is in a hotel so people can stay and don't have to drive after the party, it provides a very nice dinner with a bar facility for after party hangout, with a cost that most people felt comfortable with, and was affordable with rising entertainment costs in Silicon Valley.

Since this type of event need to be planned and paid for well in advance, we have made a large commitment and hope to bring many of you to the party, make this event successful and reach our financial break-even. If we don't get at least 60 people, then the club will suffer a financial loss.

So sign up and come party with your Viper friends and support your club.

Sanjar

Tech Talk and Pool Party

Article by Scarlett Reed Photographs by Michael Levy

July 16 was one of those perfect summer days that we have all come to expect. Andy Hoepfner and Scarlett Reed hosted a taco bar/pool party for our Viper friends at their home in the east foothills of San Jose. They decided to let Chipotle cook our meats, and Scarlett prepped the rest of the ingredients for scrumptious tacos. They were joined by 23 NorCal Viper Club members for fun in the sun, there were many conversations going - upstairs, poolside and tableside. Everyone went back for a second round of tacos about 4pm, and some of the members stayed until sunset for more quality time. Big thanks to Todd for the sangria, Mike for the great images, and Barbara for all of your work handling the timeline and getting the word out. "We had a super time and would do it again"!



Marina Autocross

Article by Andy Hoepfner Photographs by Randy Davis

Marina Auto-X (What is Auto-X anyway?)
When you see a bunch of car enthusiasts in a parking lot driving around a coned off area as fast as they possibly can, fully concentrated on the next turn, tires squealing with a grin on the face that will stick for hours, that's what Auto-X is all about.



On September 10th a group of Vipers, a Challenger and Hellcat got together to run our first Auto-X with Santa Clara Corvettes in

Marina. We met at 10:00am for a spirited drive down 101 to arrive to perfect weather in Marina. The course was designed to be challenging with fast, straightaways for speed, slaloms and quite a few twists and turns but not too tight - nothing that our group couldn't handle.

The Corvette competition was friendly and as a joke, side bets were made on who would beat me - in the end Randy came close. Everyone had a great time, but I think we unleashed a total fan in Noemi, who not only drove Randy's Viper for the first time that day, but also ran a really respectable time at this event. I hope everyone had a great time and we will do it again!

Board of Directors Meeting

On September 22 your Board of Directors met to discuss all facets of club business. The topics discussed included the club's finances, past and future events, club vendor sponsorships, the upcoming Holiday Party, and membership to name a few.