



Norcal **VIPER** News

VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION
Spring 2016

March 1 Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting

Article and Pictures by Rick Mathews



On March 1, 2016 the NorCal Viper Club met at Pedro's in Santa Clara for our first bi-monthly meeting of the year. 30 Club members and their snakes joined together for fellowship, a great Mexican dinner, presentation of 2015 club participation awards and the announcement of the results of the club's recent election of new Club officers. Last year's event sponsors were awarded a commemorative plaque as a thank you for their hard work on behalf of the club. Thank you to new Events Director, Barbara Drummer, for organizing a fun event.



Your Club Bylaws Have Been Updated

Go to the Club website at: <http://vipclubnorcal.com/the-club/> to review the newly updated Club bylaws.

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. 2	Dinner Mtg. @ Peninsula (TBD)
Aug. 6-7	Autocross @ Marina*
Aug. 11	Hot Danville Nights
Aug. 13	Viper/Hellcat Bad Boyzz Garage
Aug. 27	Whiskey Tour, Alameda
Sept. 16-18	Vipers, Vineyards & Vistas, Cent. Coast
Oct. 4	Dinner Mtg. @ Normandin CJDR
Oct. 15	Movie Date Night
Oct. 23	Pirelli Tech Session
Nov. 5	Gold Country/Fall Color Cruise
Nov. 25	Laguna Seca Track Event*
Dec. 3	Holiday Party (TBD)

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

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

Club Officers

Sanjar Chakamian

President

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Jim Bray

Secretary

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Aaron Lukianow

Treasurer and Membership

Director

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Barbara Drummer

Events Director

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Rick Mathews

Communication Director

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Club Website: viperclubnorcal.com

Suggestions: rbm8@sbcglobal.net

Thank You Glen (and Janis) McAdon



The Norcal Viper Club wants to thank Glen (and Janis) McAdon, outgoing Club Secretary, for his years of service to the club. Glen served two consecutive 2-year terms as Club Secretary. During that time, he provided a great deal of guidance for the club and worked very hard to meet the needs of the Club members. During their 12 year Club membership, Glen and Janis have hosted many very well run events and have been a consistent source of support for the club. The last event that Glen and Janis organized was the national Bucket List #4 - Tahoe Tour last fall which was well received by many local members as well as other region's members. We hope to continue to see

both Glen and Janis at many club events in the future. Thanks for a job well done.

April 5 Bi Monthly Dinner Meeting

Article and Photos by Rick Mathews



On April 5 the NorCal Viper Club held its second dinner meeting of the year at Georgio's in Milpitas. 25 Viper Owners and 13 of their Vipers enjoyed a night of fellowship, fun and good food along with a great and informative track day presentation by Club members, Todd Solomon and Andy Hoepfner, that covered track days and autocross. Thank you to Todd and Andy for an excellent presentation and to Barbara Drummer for planning a fun evening.



NorCal Viper Club Election Results

In late February the club conducted its bi-annual officer election. Sanjar Chakamian was elected and continues on as President, Jim Bray was elected Secretary, Aaron Lukianow was elected and continues on as Treasurer as well as Membership Coordinator, Barbara Drummer was elected Events Director and Rick Mathews was elected Communication Director. Your new board met for the first time in March and has many great plans to make this a great year for the NorCal Viper Club. We hope you will give your new board and the Club lots of support by participating in many of the events that you can see detailed in the calendar section of this newsletter on page 2 and by constructively communicating your wishes to the new board. Have a great Viper year!!

Presidents Message

As you read this, our Club has gone through another phase of its evolution and revolution. We successfully went through another election process and expanded our Board to five members to better serve you and the Club. At this time, I would like to thank Glen McAdon, as our outgoing Secretary, for his four years of service and contribution to this Club. Thank you Glen and Janis!

The new Board met in early March to work on plans to continue our improvement process in providing all members with an excellent Viper ownership experience. We want to put more focus on increasing our membership which currently stands at 94. Over the years, some of our members have sold their Vipers or their lives have changed and they are no longer in our Club. We need to change that, and have set a goal of getting to 110 members by end of 2016. As the number of members decreased, so did our membership dues and income from various events. We need to do a better job of organizing events so more people want to attend and increase the income of the Club. Our goal is to keep the Club profitable and ask all of you to help with this by attending more of your favorite events and other fund raising programs.

And our last goal is to bring the fun and camaraderie back to our Club. With the successful sales of Gen V, especially the TA and ACR, we have several new members (and many potential new members) which we need to welcome and make feel a part of the Viper family. I count on all of you to help us to do this and have great fun together.

My immediate plan is to pull my Viper out of the garage and get it ready for this season of Viperding with all of you. I hope you do the same and join me in the many fun events we have planned for you.

Sanjar Chakamian

Viper Tracks II – The Biggest Viper Track Event in the World

Article and Pictures by Todd Solomon



The second annual Viper Tracks was held at Chuckwalla Valley Raceway, where 70 Vipers gathered deep in the Southern California desert. This all-Viper driver education and open tracking event had the support of many of our key suppliers. What really made the event was having Dodge come out in full force. A fleet of beautiful Vipers and Hellcats rolled in piloted by Viper Engineering heroes Erich Heuschele, Tom O'Dell and team. And they brought their track weapon, Chris Winkler, the man responsible for shattering 12 of the 13 track records held by the new ACR Extreme. Snake owners enjoyed classroom instruction, autocross, tech sessions, and having the SRT engineers wander from car to car and answer any questions they may have.

I thought I'd let some of the NorCal VOA participants describe the day in their own words...

"The thing you need to know about Chuckwalla is, it isn't in the middle of Nowhere. After you get to Nowhere, you get off the highway and drive 5 miles further into the desert. And, with 17 turns in 2.5 miles you may wonder why you bothered. Then you go on track and the Viper's prodigious lateral grip starts melding all those fussy little turns into great big, high speed, high load sweepers. A whole lot of fun unless you're a tire! After a few laps you also begin to suspect the track designer had a thing for Gen 2 Vipers, with nearly every corner exit round 3,000 RPM in 3rd gear and every straight terminating right at the rev limiter in 3rd. You do recall how a Viper pulls in 3rd gear? It's then you realize traveling 5 miles outside of Nowhere is worth the trip."

-Jim Kermode

"To me, VT2 was a great blend of track time with a driver/manufacturer reunion. Learning a new track and getting up to speed is always rewarding, and the chance to catch up with friends from SoCal and Dodge/SRT (Erich Heuschele, Tom O'Dell, John "Hammer" Palazzolo) added extra dimension to the event.

"The track-worthiness of the Gen Vs has impressed me in each iteration of the car, and now the Gen V ACR just blows me away. Dodge has taken every key element of my Gen IV ACR and made substantive improvements; the new ACR is a thoughtful wishlist with every box checked. I honestly believe that there will never again be a production car quite like it."

-Rich Erickson

"Going off track in sand was not a bad experience but I wonder if I will ever get all the sand from my car. The clean-up is the worst. The counter clockwise track direction seemed much easier."



-Denis Van Dera

"Last year, VT1-Buttonwillow was an unforgettable weekend - I learned so much about my newly-acquired 96 GTS in just two days (after 17 years of dreaming!). I signed up for VT2-Chuckwalla immediately after it was announced because I knew it would be kicked up a notch. Having "the" SRT folks come down from Detroit

and really engage with the owners, and the performance driving instructors on track with the Gen V's was a very special, personal touch! Events like this really make you realize how connected and accessible the people are in our Viper community. Even my lovely wife, Louisa, had a great time spectating and meeting everyone at the track and the festivities on both days. Just under a year and a half ago I knew I was buying my dream car and a track beast, but the friends and learning that come along with it is an intangible bonus I never expected. It's no surprise that us Viper owners get the most thrill out of our cars."

-Vineet Varma

Welcome New Members

Since our last newsletter we have four new members to welcome to our club. Everyone needs to be on the lookout at future events for the following new members and be sure to give a warm NorCal Viper Club welcome when you see these or any other new members.

Dominique Karg has a shimmering new 2016 Stryker Orange ACR. Dominique lives in San Jose and we hope to see him and his ACR become an active club participant in 2016

Vivek Kumar drives a shiny 2015 Black T/A. Vivek also lives in San Jose and we hope he and his T/A join in and become active Club members.

Wa Huong owns a beautiful 2016 Black ACR. Wa lives in Union City and we hope to see him and his new Black ACR at a club event soon.

Kelan Dennis has acquired 1994 Emerald Green RT/10. Kelan lives in Antioch and we hope he puts his top down and cruises to an event soon.

Be on the lookout for these new members!!

NorCal Viper Club Sponsorships

As was reported in the last newsletter and also is mentioned by Club President Sanjar Chakamian in this newsletter the club needs to improve its revenues. We hope that all members will feel the new energy being created by your new board and get more involved by dusting off your Vipers and coming out to participate in many of the great events planned for this year. Refer to the Club calendar on page 2 for the current list of great events that have been planned for you.

One new idea we have to help with improving revenue is to create club sponsorships with businesses that stand to directly benefit from doing business with Viper owners and with members who would like to advertise their products or services to their fellow Club members. These sponsorships would include an ad in each upcoming newsletter, an ad on our Club website as well as other recognition opportunities throughout the year. If you would like to investigate one of these opportunities for your business, please contact Rick Mathews at 925-708-5207 or email him at rbm8@sbcglobal.net.

Social Media

We are posting photos and a synopsis of each event to our Club Facebook page. If you haven't already, be sure to like the NorCal Viper Club Facebook page so that you can see all of the fun things your club is doing

Great Moments In Viper Hissssstory

In 1996 the Viper GTS-R program established Viper's reputation as not only a world class sports car but also as the dominant GT racing car of its time. This was the final year of Viper participation in international road racing and the team went out at the very top. They won the 24 Hours of Le Mans for the third straight time and also took the overall win at the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona. Pretty impressive!!