



## Holiday Party At The Monterey Bay Aquarium

Article by Sanjar Chakamian/Photos by Maurice Liang



Holiday parties are a once-a-year occasion to get dressed-up and spend an elegant evening with good friends. For this reason, the Monterey Bay Aquarium was selected for the third time as the venue for our holiday party. Those of you who have attended in years past know that it is a very beautiful setting worthy of a good party.

We had a block of hotel room in the beautiful Intercontinental Hotel within a few steps from the Aquarium for those who wanted to stay and make a nice weekend get-away. As it turned out, we had 52 guests at the party and 34 who stayed at the hotel. This definitely made the after party much easier and lively!



Guests started arriving around six o'clock for the cocktail hour and were greeted to the Kelp Forest wing where the large shark tank is. We had a large screen in the background which a slideshow of previous event's pictures and a lot of Viper pictures was running on it. It created a nice backdrop where many were finding their own pictures from past events going back to 2005 and how young they looked!

After the cocktail hour, we were treated to a strolling gourmet buffet dinner. It included three main dishes, including a Rib Eye carving station, several salads, side dishes and another buffet table for desserts. Many commented how good the food was, but I also heard that it wasn't up to par with previous years. I know **Gary Pallavicini** (who was sitting next to me) and I enjoyed the food and went for seconds! I also want to thank **Don Wexler** who brought two bottles of "Vicious Viper" hot sauce which we opened and tried. It was viciously hot sauce and a few enjoyed it a lot!

While people were finishing up their deserts, we started our announcements, the gift exchange and the auctioning of the centerpieces. This year we planned an ornament exchange and everyone brought one wrapped ornament to exchange with others. All the ladies picked a box and everyone opened them at once. There were lots of oohs and aahs as each couple saw their new ornament, including a few Viper ornaments.

On a personal note, while I was emceeding the event, I was surprised by **Debbie Ferrari** who came up and thanked me for stepping up into the role of President of the Club and presented me with a \$200 gift certificate on behalf of all the attendees. I am very grateful for your nice gift and appreciative of your support.

And finally we auctioned off the centerpieces. This year's centerpieces were made by **Sanjar and Sheri Chakamian** which were fully decorated Vipers in an "under the sea" theme sitting on top of a hand painted box. Each centerpiece had a silent auction during the evening followed by one last live auction bid. The live auction was fun and furious and raised about \$1,000 for the club. Special thanks to **Karen Hallstein** for her high bids on a couple of the centerpieces and to **Brad (our National Club Treasurer) and Connie Homen**, our guests from Central Region, who had the highest bid on another centerpiece.



The dinner party ended about 10:30 PM but that was not the end of the evening! Everybody converged in the bar of the Intercontinental Hotel for the after party. The hotel had planned a special drink for our club named "Viper Venom." After a few tastes, we agreed that it wasn't as venomous as we were hoping for and everyone switched to their favorites. The flight of four champagnes with strawberries seemed popular, especially with **Hana Krulova!**



The party kept on going until about 1:00 AM in the bar and some people started to get hungry again. **Phil Eiselin** and **Fred Kinder** decided to order food but we were asked to leave the bar so they could close it, and the hotel staff nicely ushered us into the Library for the continuation of our party, which went on for another hour or so.

The next day, Monterey provided us with a gorgeous sunny day. Club members got into groups and planned their own brunch at various locations and had a very enjoyable after-the-party day. The entire event was a great way to wrap up another year of Viper activities and get into the holiday spirit.

Special thanks to **Paul Normandin** for making a contribution of \$500 to our event as well as **George Nunes** for donating his tickets to the event. And thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success!"

## 2016 NorCal Viper Club Calendar

We are working hard to create a calendar of events full of the things you want to do. As you recall, we surveyed everyone last year and have a pretty good idea of what people want and how they want it. We hope more of you sponsor events and share with the rest of the club the things that interest you.

Below is a tentative calendar of events. We will add more and finalize it during our Board Meeting and will publish it by our first bi-monthly dinner.

**February 2nd** - Bi-monthly Dinner Meeting at Auto Vino

**April 5th** - Bi-monthly Dinner Meeting (location TBD)

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – South Bay Wine Cruise

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** - 15th - NVE2, New Orleans

**June 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** – Track Event with Hooked on Driving\*

**June 7<sup>th</sup>** - Bi-monthly Dinner Meeting (location TBD)

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** - Tech Talk/Party at Todd & Andy

**July 31<sup>st</sup>** - BBQ with the Drummers

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Bi-monthly Dinner Meeting (location TBD)

**August 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>** - Track event with NorCal Shelby Club\*

**August 11th** - Hot Danville Nights

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** – Viper/Hellcat Day at Bad Boyzz Garage

**September 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** – NorCal, Central, SoCal Getaway

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** – Bi-monthly Dinner Meeting (location TBD)

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Track event with NorCal Shelby Club (92db)\*

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Holiday Party

\*These events are not sponsored by our Club but may have a sponsored dinner event for the club members.

## Club Officers



### President

**Sanjar Chakamian**

[schakamian@gmail.com](mailto:schakamian@gmail.com)



### Secretary

**Glen McAdon**

[gmcadon@comcast.net](mailto:gmcadon@comcast.net)



### Treasurer

**Aaron Lukianow**

[alukianow@comcast.net](mailto:alukianow@comcast.net)

## President's Message

By Sanjar Chakamian

I personally don't start the year with a New Year's Resolution, since most of the time people will give up on them in the first two months. I always try to look at my accomplishments from the previous year and identify areas where I can improve in the coming year. Applying the same methodology to our Club, we can be very proud of many things we accomplished in 2015 and work on improving a few areas in 2016.

We had 22 different events in 2015. These events resulted in 600 registrants, which averages about 27 members per event. There were several outstanding events to remember. My favorites were the Yosemite Cruise with the overnight stay, the RidemakerZ Build A Viper at Oakland Children's Hospital, and the Holiday Party. We also had the biggest turn out in recent years for our October Bi-monthly Dinner at Normandin Dodge.

In addition, 21 new members joined the Club in 2015, bringing our total to 113 - tying us with SoCal region as the second largest club in the nation!

With the introduction of the new ACR, we had several members who either traded their old Vipers for a new ACR or just added an ACR to their snake pit. I think we are going to see a lot more ACRs in 2016 as it's becoming the king of the track by shattering all the records. We also figured out and added more track events for our track enthusiast.

There is always room for improvement, though. As a club, in 2016, we can improve how the club manages itself, identify ways to increase our membership, get more of the current members involved in the Club, and enhance the overall experience of our events. The good news is that this is the Election year. You get a chance to pick your new Board and ask them to work hard on these areas and make the club better for you. I have already sent a separate email with more details about our election process which I hope you have reviewed.

This is the time that you can make a difference by stepping up and running for any of the Board positions, or at least nominate someone. I know you care about this club and your involvement will make a difference.

So, let's continue our progress in making our club better and please let me know if you are interested in running for any of the positions in the club. Happy 2016!

## Support Your Local Club Newsletter/E-Delivery

Your club officers and the newsletter editor have been working hard to create the new look for our club newsletter that you see here, we hope you like it. If you have comments or have content (articles, pictures or items of interest) that you would like to see published please send them to Rick Mathews, Newsletter Editor at [rjm8@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjm8@sbcglobal.net) and we will review them and do our best to get them published in a future newsletter.

We are also starting an e-delivery list for those who wish to get their newsletter in digital form. If you wish to receive your newsletter digitally along with the current printed version, please let Rick Mathews know at the above email address. We also plan to archive all newsletters on the club website.

## VOA National Bucket List Event #4 – Tahoe Tour

Article by Event Hosts Glen & Janis McAdon/Photos by Maurice Liang



After long months of planning it was time for the Lake Tahoe Bucket list #4 event! We had 66 guests and 35 Vipers from 4 regions arrive at Lake Tahoe's South Shore on Friday. We started with a welcome dinner Friday night at the Hard Rock Hotel. Before dinner we handed out swag bags which included a pair of event logoed beer and wine glasses along with a commemorative coin we had made for the event. Thanks to **Sean Roe at Roe Racing, Jon B at Partsrack, Adam's Polishes, Meguiar's Polishes, and Lucas Oil** for donating the free

goodies that we gave away after dinner! Thanks to **Toddy Gomez and his Bad Boyzz Garage** for the display of high performance Viper parts for us to check out Friday night.

Saturday morning after a quick cruise towards North Shore, we took a tour of the Thunderbird Lodge built by George Whittell, a reclusive millionaire in the 1920's. The Lodge was George's "little get away" and is right on the lake with its own boat launch for the Thunderbird yacht powered by two V-16 Allison aircraft engines. The tour included underground secret rooms and a cave that led to the yacht. After the Thunderbird Lodge Tour everyone was on their own to check out the Lake Tahoe area and have lunch before cruising back to the hotel.

During the planning stages of this event we heard a lot about the new 2016 ACR. I emailed Maurice to ask who I should talk to at FCA about getting the new ACR to Lake Tahoe for this event. That got the ball rolling and led us to **Scott Brown at FCA PR** who made sure we got to see the Beast in person. The car had very limited availability but we finally got access Saturday afternoon for walk around at the Hard Rock.

Saturday evening, we enjoyed dinner and dancing on the MS Dixie II paddleboat. We started with dinner then at sunset we arrived in Emerald Bay. Then we were off to the dance floor where everyone danced to oldies music by a live band. **Jim and Cathy Bray** were the first on the dance floor and stayed there for the entire set before all the girls took over.

Sunday morning, we met at Cave Rock for a group photo in front of the lake. Local member **Don Wexler** then led us on a scenic drive over Kingsbury Grade and along some back roads over to Emerald Bay. After that everyone said good bye until next time. Thank you to all that made the trip to Lake Tahoe so memorable.

## The Lighter Side

Driving instructor to student; "Don't try to impress me, you won't. Don't try to scare me, I already am".

## October Dinner Meeting at Normandin CJDR

Article by Sanjar Chakamian/Pictures by Rick Mathews



The last Bi-monthly Dinner of the year was on October 6<sup>th</sup> and was very special. **Paul Normandin** of Normandin Dodge had offered his beautiful showroom as the venue for our dinner event and we were surrounded with Dodge/SRT cars. We also had the biggest turn out in recent years with 53 paid registrants which made parking a challenge for Paul. With everyone's help, we were able to get 17 Vipers in front of the dealership for a beautiful group photo.



The meeting started with a great buffet dinner and was followed by the usual announcements and raffle prizes drawing. We had a few new members as well as some of the old timers who hadn't been to a dinner meeting in some time. Special thanks to **Elmer Gonzalez** who drove 2.5 hours in Bay Area traffic to get to the meeting, that's total dedication. We were also treated to a special event when our new member, **Rick Bawden**, picked up his new black TA 2.0. He already had his car number on the car and was ready to hit the track. We welcome Rick and hope to see him in many events this year.

Thanks to all of you who attended and made our dinner meeting a success. Mark your calendar for the first bi-monthly dinner of 2016 on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Details to follow.

## A Note To Sanjar From National President, Maurice Liang

"2015 proved to be a challenging year for the NorCal Viper club, with a sudden change in leadership. As national president, I want to thank Sanjar Chakamian for stepping up and taking the reins at a crucial time. Sanjar dealt with a difficult situation in a mature, professional manner, and has persevered to get our club back on track. I encourage everyone to support Sanjar as he plans a calendar of fun events for 2016".

## Ridemakerz Build-a-Viper Charity Event at Children's Hospital

Sharing Viper joy with sick kids. Article and Pictures by Maurice Liang



A dozen Vipers and around 40 VOA NorCal members headed to the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland in October, bringing with them 110 brightly colored RidemakerZ toy Vipers to share some Viper joy with the patients. For a brief time, all their troubles melted away, and there was a smile on their face as they chose their favorite color Viper toy and customized it to be their own.

This is the third time our club has hosted a RidemakerZ Build-A-Viper event at this hospital. Our connection with Children's Hospital goes back to 2001, when club members **Terri and Rocky Angen** lost their 23 year-old son, Brian, in a tragic boating accident. After establishing the Brian Angen Memorial Foundation, Terri went searching for a good cause to support. Terri explains, "When Brian was very young, he had to get a prosthetic eye. His ocularist, Steve Young, suggested we support the Children's Hospital Oakland because they do so many good things for kids."

Kids came out in wheel chairs and checked out the real Vipers before heading down the "buffet line" to pick out their Viper toy and accessories. For those that couldn't come outside, the hospital assistants and parents came to pick up a toy and deliver them. Club members **Donita and Robert Granado** scrubbed up and donned protective clothing so they could enter the immune-system-compromised area to help those kids build some cars. The kids weren't the only ones enjoying the show. Doctors, nurses, and hospital staff all came out to check out the cars. Many of them, including the hospital's president, **Dr. Bertram Lubin**, took selfies with the cars.

Our thanks to everyone who sponsored toys for the kids. Though this wasn't a fundraiser, we not only sponsored 110 toys for the kids, we also raised an additional \$2450 in cash to donate to the Child Life Services department of the hospital for them to buy additional supplies for the kids. Special thanks to the Gold Sponsors who sponsored 10 cars each. **Andy Hoepfner**, a Gold Sponsor, said, "This was so much more than the usual writing a check. Seeing the kids come out of their hospital routine, having fun and enjoying a day that they will probably never forget, was one of the most gratifying car club experiences I've had."

Our thanks to **RidemakerZ**, for supplying the toys and accessories at a substantial discount, to **Sam Goldfarb** for creating and donating the sponsor decals for the toys, and the hospital staff for all their help, especially **Sara Devaney, Manager, Child Life Services, and Tina Evans, Director, Community Campaigns**. Without their support, we couldn't have done this. Sara says, "Over time, they'll forget the pain, and the suffering, and what they'll remember are days like this. Thank you so much for brightening their day!"

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors; **Chris Dinota, Phil Eiselin (Sonoma County Harley), Andy Hoepfner (Data Serfs), Steve Lenzner, Paul Normandin (Normandin CJDR) and Joe and Marie Sanguinetti**.

Thank you to our sponsors; **Casey Angen, Rocky Angen, Terri Angen, Jeffrey Barnes, Jim Bray, John Brobst, Sanjar Chakamian, Sheri Chakamian, Jack Cohen, David Colletti, Brian Cowan, Steve Dingle, Carlos Eijansantos, Barry Erickson, Rich Erickson, Amy Gonzalez, Elmer Gonzalez, Donita Granado, Robert Granado, Kellie Herndon, Jim Kermod, John and Sue Kitching, Hana Krulova, Michael Levy, Maurice Liang, Rick Mathews & Karen McDonald, Glen and Janis McAdon, John McDonald, Nikki McDonald, Afsaneh Moradian, Shahab Moradian, Russ Oasis, Ian Osgood, Jasmie Penn, Joanne Penn, John Penn, Scarlett Reed, Lee Walters, Norma Wellington, Robert Wellinton, Donald Wexler and June Wexler**.

## Drinks With Ralph In The City

Article and Pictures by Maurice Liang



Club members braved holiday traffic and parking in San Francisco for the opportunity to chat with FCA Design Vice President, **Ralph Gilles, and his wife Doris**, when they were in town in December. Ralph gave his thoughts on the future of car design, and his thoughts on Viper. Some club members hung out until the wee hours of the morning and had breakfast with Ralph and Doris.

## Great Moments In Viper Hissssstory

Twenty years ago the first 1,166 GTS's were produced in any color you wanted as long as it was blue. Also the first GTS-R racecars took to the track at the Daytona 24 Hours and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. At Le Mans all three entries finished the race and one finished in the top ten overall.

## Viper Tracks - Laguna Seca- First Track Day in the Extreme ACR

Article and Pictures by Todd Solomon



While most of you were still enjoying your Thanksgiving turkey, May, the kids and I piled into the truck and hauled the ACR to Laguna Seca. Fellow Viper pilots Darius, Loyde, Scott, Andy, Jim, Denis, Noel, and Mike also converged on Black Friday for a rare 105 dB day at this storied track, then went on to enjoy a feast at Tarp's Roadhouse. What a day!

When we got on track, the ambient was 40 F! Last time I tracked at this temperature, I literally spun my GTS 3 times. It was the most frustrating track day I had ever had. I was expecting the same, but that wasn't the case! I just kept sneaking up, trying to find the limits.

Second session was still in the 40s but I decided to keep pushing harder. I could not believe the grip that this ACR has! Not only grip, the confidence-inspiring balance, predictability, zero-drama. So much so in fact, I decided to go hammer down. By lap 3, I was in the 1:35s and still not pushing hard. On lap 5 I had a clean race track, no traffic and turned a 1:34.2. I didn't expect to be in the 1:34s at all, certainly not in my second session in the car, at these cold temps.



Final session of the day, probably about 50 degrees F ambient. By this time, Darius had joined us on track in his Extreme ACR. I tried to chase Darius and learn from him. Because of heavy traffic, I only got a couple of clean laps but managed a 1:34.1. Darius turned a best of 1:32.3! Much respect for his mad skills. And I was thrilled as well, nearly breaking into the 1:33s with a bone-stock car. This car will make you look good!

I've had the pleasure of tracking a number of very fast cars, and I am not exaggerating when I say that the ACR is the ultimate track beast. I would put it up against any car at any price. It's the balance, the predictability, the absolute absence of any drama on track. The grip in the low speed corners as well as high, I have NEVER driven a streetable R-compound like these Kumhos. And those brakes! CCBs FTW! I was hitting 139 MPH before braking at the very last minute for the turn-two hairpin. Over and over. Never a hint of fade.

After an amazing day, we told war stories over dinner, then enjoyed the rest of the weekend exploring Monterey, Carmel, and Pacific Coast Highway. It was an exceptional weekend getaway to bring the family on.

## Financial Statement

By Sanjar Chakamian

Here is the 2015 Profit and Loss statement for our Club, as prepared by our Treasurer, Aaron Lukianow. Generally, a club like ours should strive to at least break-even or make a small profit. We had a net loss of \$5,584 which we have plans to improve. Like all businesses, we need to increase revenue, from the events and more new members, and lower expenses of the events and overhead.

Our Charity event at the Children’s Hospital made about \$2,400 which we gave all of it willingly to the hospital, but also reduced our profitability. We had a few events that lost money including one of the Viper cruises due to an unforeseen issue with a vendor, and the Holiday Party which was over committed. In general, all the events combined broke even. We also had a large overhead item related to a National Presidents Meeting that contributed to this loss. On the positive side, we started our newsletter again at a reduced cost of about \$2,000 and web site changes that were made earlier proved to be a positive contributor to our overhead expenses.

We collected \$7,260 for the dues from the National Club but they did not cover all of our overhead. In the future, we need to improve our events profitability to better cover more of our overhead and work on lowering our expenses. As I am becoming more familiar with the Club’s business, I see a few areas for improvement and look forward to work with the Board and all of you to improve them.

Our account balance as of the end of year was \$11,895 so we are financially sound. We like to retain this balance for when we need to prepay deposits for larger events.

A more detailed version of this statement will be presented in our Annual Board Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

I welcome your ideas on how to improve this aspect of our Club.

<b>NorCal Viper Club Profit &amp; Loss Statement</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Club Dinner Meeting	\$5,007.09
Event Income	\$29,057.25
Membership Dues from VOA	\$7,260
Other Income	\$10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$41,334.34</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Club Dinner Meeting Expenses	\$5,376.57
Event Expenses	\$29,110.47
Awards/Raffle	\$1,418.23
PayPal Fees	\$996.86
ProPay Fees	\$293.61
Other Bank Fees	\$7.91
Total Bank Fees	\$1,298.38
National Presidents Meeting	\$2,783.10
Special Board Meetings	\$688.86
Total Board Meetings	\$3,471.96
Overhead Expenses	
Constant Contact System	\$661.50
Donations	\$2,450.00
Franchise Tax Board Fees	\$81.15
MagCloud Printing	\$138.00
Office Equipment	\$43.04
Postage & Printing of	\$182.04
Newsletter	
Office Supplies	\$780.85
Tax Preparation Fee	\$500.00
Web Site	\$1406.15
Total Overhead Expenses	\$12,431.30
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$46,918.34</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$5,584.00</b>