

January 30,
2012



Gateway Viper Club ***E-News***

President's Message

We started off the year with our annual club meeting at Duffy's Grill. We had a great crowd on hand to discuss and plan some events for 2012. I appreciated all the feedback from the members about what you want to see YOUR club do in the new year. If you were not able to attend the meeting, and want to see an event on the calendar we've done in the past, or have an idea for a new event please let me know. Congratulations to Gateway Member Sherry McGinnis who won the free membership award drawing on her Venom Membership.

We've got two events planned in February. The Kneemueller's will be hosting the annual Super Bowl Party at their home on Feb 5th at 4:30pm, and we're going to get a private tour of the St. Louis Car Museum on Feb 18th at 11am. After the tour of the museum, we'll cruise somewhere for lunch. In March we will plan to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cottleville. Last year was our first year attending this event, and thousands came out and lined the street for the parade and the Viper was a huge crowd pleaser. In April we're going to plan a trip to the NYC Auto Show for the highly anticipated debut of the Gen V Viper. We have a very unique opportunity to see the car on April 4th on the press day, 2 days before the general public is allowed to view it. You will be receiving an invite to this event in February by mail. You will need to RSVP quickly if you plan to attend as this event will fill up fast. The invite will also include an invite to a Dodge Viper party in SoHo that evening. The final details and costs are still being worked out and don't forget to watch your mail for the invite.

For this month's "Get to know the Members" section, I had the pleasure of interviewing Steve Wedel who founded our beloved Gateway Viper Club in 1995. Steve has not only served our club on the local level, but also served one term as National Secretary and National President of the Viper Club of America! Thanks Steve for all you've done and continue to do for the club.

Michael Kneemueller



Get To Know The Members



Steve Wedel

What is your current city of residence? Town & Country, MO

When did you become a Viper owner? 1995

What made you decide to buy a Viper? I noticed that Corvette owners were constantly being called "sissys" while hardly anyone likes a Porsche owner. It was thus clear to me that Viper ownership would be a good choice. Actually, I have been a Mopar guy my entire life and thus owning a Viper was a natural!

How many Vipers have you owned? Lynn and I have owned 5 Vipers over the years and late last year our good friends and new Gateway members John and Christine Bouchamp purchased our original Hennessey 550 RT/10.

When not racing your car, what do you do (hobbies/family/job, etc)? I am a Certified Financial Planner and the founding partner of Four Seasons Wealth Management and this is my 29th year helping business owners and individuals protect their assets. Lynn and I are now empty nesters as Lisa and Megan are both out of college and fully employed!! Technically we are not empty nesters since we have 2 Yorkies, Rex and Lucy, My hobbies mostly center around watching what performance upgrades Mike Perkins is doing to his fleet of Vipers! Lynn and I enjoy traveling and being with our family and friends.

Events

Feb 5 Super Bowl Party

Feb 18 St. Louis Car Museum

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade

April 4 New York Auto Show

April 14-15 Putnam Park

We have several "track rats" here in the Gateway Club. Some are even instructors at some of the racing events you can attend. If you've been interested in tracking your car in a safe environment, please contact our Gateway Director of Competition, Dan Govero at glsland@goverolandservices.net



Viper Motorsports

Winer Project

by Gateway Member Marty Raneri

For those who would like to install a factory navigation radio system in their 2003 through 2010 Viper, I have just the guy. I recently installed a RB1 factory Mopar Navigation System radio purchased off EBay for a fraction of the cost (these are \$1600 units if purchased new)! It is a direct (plug and play) replacement for the current RBQ (6 disc CD) model radio that most all Vipers come equipped with. It fits the upper dash bezel with no trimming or cutting necessary. I performed the swap myself and if everything goes right it will take less than an hour. The best thing about these radios is that if your car has a satellite radio system already they are compatible, just plug the satellite receiver into the new radio and it plays right through. Any member that would like to talk to me feel free to have them contact me 314-941-9060.

For those interested his name Tony Rudenko he is based out of Florida email address is trundeko@yhoo.com

While changing the radio it was discovered that the environmental boot was torn. There are two shift lever boots in the Gen III and Gen IV Vipers, the Gen I and Gen II may have the same amount, not sure. One boot is the pleather (plastic/leather) boot that's in the cabin and other boot is seals off the elements. It is made of thin rubber and the heat destroys it. So, while I had the interior was apart I changed the boot it cost around \$40.00. It is pop riveted in place which makes it a little more difficult to remove but I recommend changing it, because it does seal out the elements (water, dust, dirt, and heat).

The next and final issue. I noticed that the coated surface on the plastic lower bezel was starting to peel. So I thought I would get some interior plastic paint and change the colors of the upper and lower bezels. Not so easy! I sanded the pieces to aid adhesion and used a adhesion enhancer and it lifted all of the factory coating. All of the factory coating needed to be removed all the way to the black plastic sanded and repainted. The results are fantastic but it took considerable amount of time to do it correctly.

Membership Information

www.dodgeviperclub.com

and don't forget to visit our club store on the home page



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