

# VIPER

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR DODGE VIPER ENTHUSIASTS



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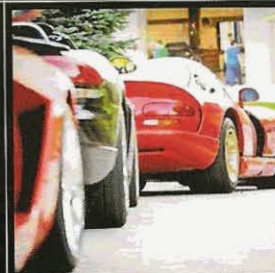
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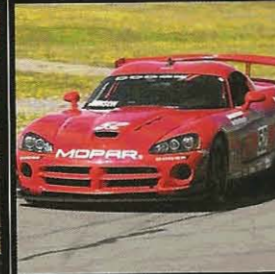
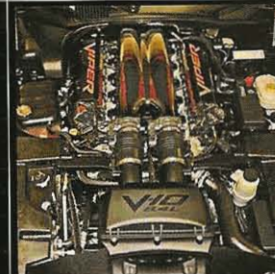
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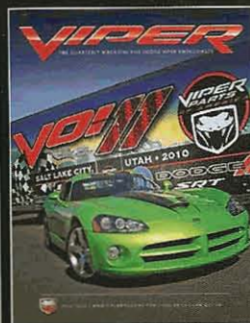
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## COVER STORY 10

Photo by Maurice Q. Liang



OWNER: TED HUGHES, NEBRASKA



Story by Amber Fricke

# Hissssing in the HEARTLAND

Fifteen Snakes attended the first annual  
**Viper Rendezvous at Motorsport Park**  
in Hastings, Neb. on June 11–13, 2010.

**P**icture the middle of the country. What do you see? Cornfields? Alfalfa? Grain bins? Thunderstorms? Vipers? Did you say Vipers? In the middle of the country? If you pictured all of the above, including Vipers, then you might have experienced one of the best open track opportunities in the country. If you pictured all but the Vipers, then you missed out on a phenomenal experience.

June 11–13, 2010, was set for the first annual Viper Rendezvous at Motorsport Park in Hastings, Neb. Fifteen Vipers arrived for the inaugural event hailing from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska. The weekend had it all—four generations of Vipers, roadsters, coupes, an ACR-X, a Competition Coupe, open track time, driving instruction, go-cart racing, a lap time competition

with a Chevy Cobalt, and a few track laps in a school bus.

The 2.15-mile, 14-corner track was designed by Alan Wilson and construction was completed in 2006. The facilities include a clubhouse for driver meetings, dinner parties, and socializing. Track junkies also have the option to purchase one of the on-track garages/condos which makes your track experience even more



OWNERS: RYAN AND CORY FURSTENAU, NEBRASKA



OWNER: RONNE KOOSER, MISSOURI



OWNERS: TONY AND MELANIE ATKINSON, COLORADO

exciting. Future track plans are in the works to add a drag strip.

The on-track events were exciting with a record lap time being recorded by Ted Hughes in his ACR-X with a lap of just over 1:29. Ted also owns a 2008 ACR with which he had previously held the best lap time of 1:33.5. The other Vipers included a mix of experienced to novice drivers.

Viper owners spent most of the weekend learning how to drive their Snakes around the track with the best racing line with faster laps as the weekend progressed. Even if a driver didn't post the quickest lap time in a Viper, they all had a second

chance to beat the other drivers with a spirited "King of the hill, one lap timed shootout." Each driver was given the opportunity to post their best one lap time in a Chevy Cobalt. Natha Waldbaum, the track instructor, must have had too much time on the track as she posted the quickest one lap time.

Not to be outdone by their instructor, the track was then opened up for some spirited wheel-to-wheel go-cart racing. Eight-to-10 drivers jockeyed for position to win their respective go-cart heat race. The students got the better of Natha in this one as she did not finish in the top spot.

The "king of the hill" and go-carts still weren't enough to satisfy all of the Viper participants, so the bravest ones then piled into a school bus with track manager, George Anderson, for a few laps around the track. Yes, you read correctly, a school bus, custom fitted with couches, recliners, and a chrome smoke stack that is aptly named the *Bacardi Bus*.

The consummate host, George, made sure that everything was taken care of. He even personally made it possible to store all of the Vipers and their respective support vehicles and trailers inside and protected from the thunderstorms that hit the area on



OWNER: ROGER WERMESKERCH, NEBRASKA



OWNERS: RICH AND MARCY CLEMENTS, COLORADO

Friday and Saturday nights. One of the storage facilities just happened to be a local "cold storage facility." The next morning those lucky Viper owners had their first experience of scraping frost off of their windshields (most were only equipped with a credit card or CD case for frost removal).

The event was capped off with a presentation of a Viper/Sneaky Pete flag to George. It will be displayed proudly in the Guardrail Club clubhouse and rumor has it that it will displace one of the existing Corvette flags. Even if it doesn't, the flag is definitely the largest sports car flag in the clubhouse.

The weekend owes its success to **Ryan Furstenau**, a Proactive Wealth Manager and Viper owner of almost two years. He originally approached the track manager, George Anderson, back in November about having a Viper only track event. **Vipers had never before rumbled into Motorsport Park in Hastings.** George was excited to have Ryan recruit a slew of Viper owners from the region to the first annual Viper weekend. When Ryan isn't exercising his passion for Vipers and racing on the track, his passion is helping his clients race toward their financial and life goals at his firm Furstenau Financial Management.

Finally, to put the icing on the cake, **Bill Pemberton and Mark Jorgensen at Woodhouse Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and Woodhouse Motorsports even came out to support the weekend.** Their on-track instruction provided many pointers to the Viper owners.

The next Viper Rendezvous will take place on June 10-12, 2011; so, if you missed this year, you will have a second chance for a great track weekend in 2011. Contact George for up to date information at [racemph.com](http://racemph.com) or call (402) 461-8031. See you there! 🍷