



Norcal VIPER News

VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

Summer 2016

South Bay Winery Tour

Article and Photo by Shelly Shisler



May 22nd began with partly cloudy skies and mild temperatures, a lucky break as the day before was pouring rain. Eleven Vipers gathered in Milpitas for a spirited drive led by Roy Hallstein to the first venue via the back roads of Almaden Valley. Everyone arrived at Jason-Stephens Winery situated in a beautiful Morgan Hill valley just in time to enjoy a yummy box lunch prepared by Zanotto's Deli. We were treated to a selection of wines selected and poured by our lovely hostess Janessa. Janessa even accepted the offer to pose with Sanjar's Viper in the Vineyard for a few great shots that may see the next white calendar.

Our lunches consumed, we saddled up for the second leg of our Winery Discovery tour, with a jaunt across the valley to The Castillo Hillside Shire Winery. We were greeted by the owner, Jesse Castillo, who directed us to park on the grass hill below his stunning European-inspired home. We were lead through a meticulously landscaped property to a shaded patio, where we were treated to an array of French and Italian influenced wines. The proprietress, Roni Jo, serenaded us with a lovely French operatic song. After tasting the wines, we moved to the tasting room, modeled after an old-world English pub, and perused the art and jewelry created by the daughter of the family, Vievenne. The winemaker and son gave us information on the wines.

To wrap-up our event, we headed to Downtown Morgan hill where we enjoyed unique Mexican ice creams and sorbets like Tequila, Chicle (gum), among others at Las Delicias Ice Cream and Botanitas. Several club members extended the evening to include dinner at the Odeum restaurant in the quaint down town district. Our thanks go out to ours hosts, Karen and Roy Hallstein, and Shelly Shisler for planning this enjoyable day.

2016 NorCal Viper Club Calendar

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|-----------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 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

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Club Website: viperclubnorcal.com

Peets Coffee Tour, Cruise and Dinner Meeting

Article by Karen Hallstein, Barbara Drummer and Rick Mathews/Photos by Karen Hallstein and Rick Mathews



Twenty NorCal coffee enthusiasts toured Peet's Coffee and Tea Roastery on the Alameda on Sunday, June 12, 2016. If you love coffee, there is no better way to feed your obsession. To kick off the tour, we were given a Peet's history lesson and cup of Major Dickinson's coffee. We learned about Alfred Peet who, after immigrating to San Francisco, started the craft coffee revolution on April 1st, 1966. Appalled by the low-grade coffee brewed in America he introduced America to the world's finest beans sourced from all over the world, hand-roasted in small batches and served at his shop in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto.

Along with the serving of coffee came many requirements for touring a food production facility including not-so-fashionable blue hair nets, long pants, closed toed shoes. Peets also requires each visitor to sign an NDA, ensuring their trade secrets are protected. We complied willingly, of course. Beans are hand roasted to order so fresh-roasted beans can be delivered daily. The receiving warehouse is stacked floor-to-ceiling with beans from suppliers worldwide.

We viewed vats of beans progressing through the roasting and cooling process. We watched our roaster monitor the beans, smelling the beans for the perfect level of roasting, looking for the right color, listening for just the right crackling sound, and monitoring the temperature. The process is complete when he "cups" each batch. We learned that beans are roasted to order and then carefully tracked through shipping to ensure freshness. After we left the roasting house, we were invited to "cup" coffees. Three Peet's coffees were carefully brewed as we watched and waited. Then Juan, the tasting host, enlightened us about the characteristics of beans originating from three coffee producing regions in the world. When the "ding" of the timer announced the end of the three-minute brewing period, Juan led us through the very specialized and detailed tasting process.

Talent, experience, and pride exuded from each Peet's employee we met: Rick the roaster, Rachel the tour guide and others. Each host has a passion for Peet's coffees and teas, many of whom started in stores as baristas. Working at the Roastery is a dream job/promotion for Peet's employees, regardless of the position held. Roasters make a 10-year commitment that includes years of training and the requirement to sign a non-compete agreement. A Roaster recently retired and 70 Peet's employees applied for his position!

We received two gifts: 1/2 pound of Peet's Columbia Luminosa coffee beans roasted by Rick while we were there and a two tablespoon coffee scoop engraved with Peat's logo. We are thrilled to participate in this event which coincided with Peet's 50th Anniversary. We wish them many more years of success!

After the tour Jim Bray led the group on a fun and spirited cruise through the East Bay Hills to our dinner meeting at Mexico Lindo restaurant in Pleasanton.

Part Three of the Nor Cal Viper Club outing was a dinner meeting at Mexico Lindo in Pleasanton that was organized by Debbie Ferarri. The fun evening included a social hour, dinner, an NVE2 presentation by Roy Hallstein, an NVE2 Track Day presentation by Todd Solomon, a warm club welcome to new member Wa Huong and a special recognition of Glen and Janis McAdon for their four years of service to the club as Club Secretary.



June 11 Board Meeting

On Saturday, June 11 your Board of Directors met for our quarterly meeting for the purpose of reviewing the club's finances, the calendar and other matters of importance to our membership.

President's Message:

We are half way through the year and our club activities are in full swing. We had a great Wine Cruise in South Bay, a Track event at Thunderhill, a very interesting tour of Peet's Coffee Plant followed by a cruise and our Bi-monthly Dinner, a very informative Tech Talk on Viper tires, and a fun Pool Party. All of these events are the result of time and efforts of many dedicated members, who are providing us with this wonderful Viper Ownership Experience. I thank all the hosts and our Event Director for this.

Last month, we got the exiting news from Dodge on the Limited Edition Vipers for 2017 which will also bring the production of our beloved car to an end. On one hand it's exciting to see all these new limited editions but on the other hand it's saddening to hear that there won't be any more Vipers. At least not for now!

As a businessman who believes in planning I think we need to start planning to have a strong club even after the production of the Viper ends, and there may not be any newer members. Even though the production will not end for another year or so, it's never too early to continue to support and promote the club.

Our cars by every measure are an iconic American car and with its recent performances, is one of the best sport cars in the world. As Viper enthusiast, we need to keep this club going strong and continue to find more Viper owners to join us and make us stronger.

So I ask you to attend more of our events and support our club. By showing off our unity and a large group of Vipers together, we can attract more Viper owners and will keep this club going for many more years to come.

I wish all of you a great summer and look forward to seeing you at the future events.

Sanjar

Event Registration Request

When registering for events you have several means of paying the club your registration fee. The club requests that if at all possible you use PayPal linked to a bank account to pay these fees. The reason for this is that the club incurs much higher fees when PayPal is not used or PayPal with a credit card is used. This may not seem like much money on a per transaction basis but over a year's time the higher fees add up to a fairly large amount. The club thanks you for helping us control costs by helping us with this simple cost saving request.

Dinner Meeting Recommendations

If you have a restaurant that you would like to see the club hold a dinner meeting at, please contact Barbara Drummer at bdrummer@sbcglobal.net. The venue needs to be able to efficiently handle a large group and have easily accessible (no front fascia scraping) and sufficient reserved parking for our Vipers.

The Lighter Side

"Gotta work on the loose nut behind the wheel before you start fixing bolts on the car". Unknown

Newman's first law: "It is useless to put on your brakes when you are upside down". Paul Newman

"I was doing fine until about mid corner when I ran out of talent". Unknown

New Member Profile – Wa Huang

Wa grew up in the Bay Area and has lived as far north as San Francisco and as far south as Campbell. He presently lives in the East Bay. Wa has an adorable four year old who keeps him occupied most days, and about once a month he gets to take his toys out to the race track at Laguna Seca or Sonoma Raceway. He found a fellow track mate, Lysie, who has shared all the joys of driving a proper race line with him.

Wa drives a black ACR which is his first American sports car and says it has been a blast to drive. He has driven just about all the Japanese and German sports cars out there and says it is nice to say how impressed he is with the ACR car at the limit, which he says “is so dang high”.



Wa says he looks forward to seeing everyone at the next NorCal Viper Club function. To the right is a picture of Wa’s and Lysie’s hot rods:

Hot New ACR Models Are On The Way

