

# NorCal **VIPER** News

Spring **2017** Edition



## Go Karting With A Professional Mystery Race Car Driver

Article by Rick Mathews Photos by Rick Mathews and Karen McDonald



On Saturday, February 25 the Nor Cal Viper Club and guests congregated at the Go Kart Racer facility in Burlingame to shake off the winter blues, get back to driving something fun and reunite with fellow club members. To entice our members to venture out into the winter weather the club asked professional race driver Memo Gidley to come play with us and he graciously agreed. Memo's name was kept a secret and no one but the host knew who was coming until Memo walked in the door. As many of you know, Memo was badly injured at the 24 Hours of Daytona three years ago and had recently.... (Continued on Page 3)

## 2017 NorCal Viper Club Calendar

<b>Feb. 25</b>	Indoor Go Karting with Mystery Pro Driver
<b>Marc 11-12*</b>	Viper Tracks 3 @ Bondurant School
<b>March 17</b>	Club Kickoff Party – Joe Sharino Band
<b>April 8</b>	Guns and Vipers III
<b>April 22</b>	Mountain to Beach Cruise
<b>April 30*</b>	Autocross @ Marina
<b>May 7</b>	Tequila Tasting and Pool Party
<b>May 14*</b>	Sonoma Speed SF
<b>May 20</b>	ACR Track Set Up for New Owners
<b>June 1-4#</b>	Tail of the Dragon, NC/TN
<b>June 3-4*</b>	Thunderhill 5 Mile for Beginners
<b>June 17</b>	Pirelli Tire Tech Session
<b>June 25</b>	South Valley Cruise and Poolside Fun
<b>July 16</b>	Hot BBQ and Hot Cars
<b>July 16#</b>	Tuscany & Motor Valley Tour
<b>July 22</b>	Lake Tulloch Escape
<b>August 4-6</b>	Mendocino Coast Getaway
<b>August ??#</b>	Viper 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniv./End of Production
<b>August 20</b>	TBD
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Culinary Cruise
<b>Sept. 16-17*</b>	Thunderhill 5 Mile
<b>Sept. 16-18#</b>	New England Lobster Roll
<b>Sept. 29-Oct 1</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blast – 3 Region Event
<b>October 3</b>	Wrap Up Rally at Normandin CJDR
<b>October 8*</b>	Autocross @ Sonoma
<b>October 19#</b>	Texas Viper Roundup

### # National VOA Bucket List Events

**\*Events Not Sponsored By Our Club but May Include a Club Sponsored Activity**

## Club Officers

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Club Website: <http://norcalviperclub.com>

Like and Follow Us On Facebook @

NorCal Viper Club

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## Go Karting With A Professional Mystery Race Car Driver (Cont'd)

been given clearance to drive again by his doctors after a number of surgeries, much rehab and even more time in the gym getting strong again.



the front while everyone tried their best to match his speed and skills. Needless to say, no one was up to the task. In the end Memo beat everyone with Glen McAdon taking second (first amongst the club



It was very clear to all of us that Memo has lost none of his competitiveness and precision driving skill during his layoff and hopefully we will see him in a top notch race car very soon. If you would like to avail yourself of Memo's expertise to help you hone your driving skills you can contact Memo @ 209-327-1016 or [gomemo@aol.com](mailto:gomemo@aol.com) . Memo is also a highly skilled sailor, having grown up sailing and holding a USCG 100 Ton Captains license, and offers sailing outings on his sailboat Basic Instinct. If you are interested in a sailing outing on the San Francisco Bay you can contact Memo on this subject @ 415-729-3849 or [gomemo@aol.com](mailto:gomemo@aol.com) .

Everyone in attendance got a morning practice session and then the group was divided into two groups based on lap times. Each group then got a qualifying session after which the karts were gridded based on qualifying results. After being gridded each group participated in a fifteen lap race with Memo starting at the back of the pack. In each session Memo quickly made his way to



drivers), third was guest Daryl Witbeck and rounding out the podium was Fred Kinder. In the end everyone left exhausted but happy to have had the opportunity knock some rust off and to race and test their driving prowess and skills against Memo.





# Guns and Vipers III

Article by Jim Bray Photos by Maurice Liang and Jim Bray

Several years ago Club member Ken Ratica suggested a Club event at a shooting range. We decided that it would be a different kind of event for the Club so Cathy and I offered to hold it on private property where we could shoot a wide variety of guns. The goal was to offer Club members a chance to learn about and shoot six different pistols and six different rifles in a safe environment. Rich Bontempi, a former sheriff's officer, agreed to be the Range Master and other gun knowledgeable Club members and friends agreed to help to make this event possible.

So on April 9, 2017 the Norcal Viper Club held its



pistols: .22, 380, 9mm, .357, .45 auto and .44 Magnum and 6 rifles: .22, AR-15, .308, 30-30, AR-10, and a Riot Shotgun. We had paper targets, balloons and even water melons donated by De Martini Orchard in Los Altos to shoot at. A nice Panera box lunch, snacks and drinks were also provided.

One of the highlights of the event was that members Mark & Dulce once again brought their sniper rifles for members to try. A raffle was held to determine who would get a chance to shoot them. Fortunately, all who wanted to shoot the Big Guns had the opportunity to do so. The most popular was the Barrett M107, a 50 BMG caliber gun that



third and final Guns & Viper event. April did bring showers and fortunately all team members were able to accommodate a date change from Saturday to Sunday. This time the event was held in early spring instead of fall when it's hot, dry and brown. Club members who were able to make the date change were treated to a beautiful spring day with water flowing in the creek, green hills and many patches of colorful wild flowers.

After a fun drive - if you don't get car sick - through winding back roads we arrived at the property and were ferried to the shooting area where a safety briefing was held. Club members had the opportunity to shoot 6







shoots a \$7.00 bullet. The other option was a .338 Lapua Magnum. Alan said “shooting the 50 cal has been high on my bucket list for sometime”. Fred added “In my wildest dreams I never thought I would be behind the scope of a 50 Caliber rifle, pulling the trigger for a target 500 yards away – simply an over the top experience”.

When everyone finished trying all the guns they wanted to shoot, members then learned to shoot skeet. Hitting a moving clay pigeon isn't as easy as it looks. The range was then opened for members to shoot the guns that they brought, still under the supervision of the

Range Master.

In addition to those mentioned above, I want to thank everyone who made this event possible. The Range Master: Rich B., Table Captains: Rich E., Mike and Dave T., and everyone else who contributed to the event: Randy, Maurice, Dave M., Ben, Cathy and Jaime.

After cleaning up the area we headed out to a great steak dinner along another stretch of scenic back roads, passing herds of cattle, some horses and elk. We are thankful for another safe and fun Guns & Vipers event, a beautiful day and that everyone had a good time.





# Mountains to Beach Cruise

Article by Jim Kermode Photos by Rick Mathews

NorCal's recent rains made route planning a bit challenging but did wonders for the scenery on our Mountains to Beach Cruise. We began by assembling in a San Rafael parking lot but were quickly gathered up and on our way into bucolic, Marin County cheese country; lush green fields filled with Holsteins. We paused briefly in Nicasio for a little sightseeing.

We continued north through the outskirts of Petaluma then twisted our way west through rolling hills under blue

California skies. We arrived just before Noon at The Dog House in Bodega Bay, where club members Gina and Carla Kermode had arranged for reserved parking.

Lunch was typical hamburger stand fare, hot dogs, burgers, fries, sodas and shakes, which we enjoyed on the patio while watching the kite-surfers on Bodega Bay.



After lunch we all headed south on the narrow, twisty and mostly lonely Highway 1. This led to an enjoyable, spirited drive, until we were all stopped by the Highway Patrol in Marshall. Seems there was a tree down, blocking Highway 1. All south-bound traffic was being diverted inland. A bit of panic ensued as we wondered whether the inland route was Viper friendly. Then, the officer looked up and said "I see you have some friends



with you. Let me see what I can do.” Shortly thereafter, our group of Vipers proceeded south with a police escort so we could resume our route just as soon as the Marin County Fire Department cleared away the tree.

It took the crew about 15 minutes to clear the way for our cruise. At Olema, we headed inland for some more foothills and mountain roads. Unfortunately, we met with another short delay as the busy Marin County Fire Department was retrieving a car which went over the embankment.

Fortunately, we finished with an uneventful drive into San Anselmo for a little post-drive dessert. Or did we? It seems part of our group succumbed to Rick Mathews’ overpowering charisma. As Rick broke off to head home, they followed him! A few hardy folks followed their drive instructions or navigation systems, which is how about half the group was able to reach the finish where we enjoyed a little frozen yoghurt and recounted our eventful but enjoyable drive.



## Kick Off Party with the Joe Sharino Band

Article by Jim Bray

On March 17 members of the Nor Cal Viper Club visited Club Auto Sport for a St. Patrick’s Day dance party and had the opportunity to dance to the music of the award winning Joe Sharino band.



# Presidents Message

Our Viper season has begun and is in full force. We already have had a Go-karting event, 3<sup>rd</sup> Guns & Vipers, and a great picturesque cruise and lunch in the hills of Marin and Sonoma Counties and along Hwy. 1. We have had approximately 30 members and their guests attend each of these events and we look forward to seeing more of you in our future events.

Besides many great events that we have planned for you, we have two major weekend events that you don't want to miss. For the weekend of August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, we are going to spend the weekend in Mendocino County and visit several attractions in that area including a private dinner in a winery, visiting Ridgewood Ranch the home of Seabiscuit, and riding on the Skunk Train to a BBQ dinner.

For the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>, we are having our multi-region bash with SoCal and CenCal Viper Clubs. Last year we had a similar event in San Simeone and Paso Robles which was fun and brought our three clubs closer together. This year, I have invited them to come up to our area and spend some time with us in South Santa Clara County areas where we have good backroads and great wineries. Let's come out in full force and show them our great hospitality.

Information about these two events will be coming out very soon as you need to make your hotel reservations, and we can get a good headcount so we can finalize all the commitments to all the venues. These require a lot of planning and negotiation and we appreciate if you register as early as possible.

In other news, I just got back from a meeting with all the VOA Presidents and the National VOA team where we were planning NVE3. As you may have heard, it will be in Las Vegas on May 2-6, 2018. We will have the entire Las Vegas Motor Speedway with three separate tracks, the oval, an autocross, and a 2.8-mile road course. It's going to be fantastic and I can't wait to sign up and caravan with a bunch of you to Las Vegas!

And lastly, if you haven't visited our new website, please check it out at [www.norcalviperclub.com](http://www.norcalviperclub.com). All of our events are listed there with a link to the registration page.

I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming events and I can show you my new ride!

Sanjar

## Follow Your Club On Facebook @ Nor Cal Viper Club

It has come to our attention that some of our members do not know that your club has a Facebook page. Please like our page and follow us at NorCal Viper Club.

## Board of Directors Meeting

On Saturday, April 1 your Board of Directors met at Normandin CJDR to discuss all topics related to the successful operation of your club. Thank you to Paul Normandin for making his facility available to our club for this important meeting.



# 2016 Club Financial Recap

Here is the 2016 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 profit of \$135 for the year after all the events income and expenses.

We had two charges totaling about \$2,000 from 2015 which did not clear until early 2016 which put us in a hole at the beginning of the year. Despite this, we managed to show a small profit.

Our Club Dinner Meetings and the events had a net loss of \$1,649.60. The major loss came from our Holiday Party where we did not get enough attendees to break even and incurred the loss. We have decided to not have a Holiday Party this year and are trying to figure out how to do this without causing the club a financial burden. We have also decided to publish our newsletter in an e-format only and have taken over the management of our website both of which will save the club about \$1,600 per year.

Our account balance as of the end of year was \$11,886 so we are financially sound. The Board has approved to retain at least \$10,000 in the bank balance for when we need to prepay deposits for larger events.

I welcome your ideas on how to further improve our finances.

NorCal Viper Club Profit & Loss Statement	
<b>Income</b>	
Club Dinner Meeting	\$4,208.17
Event Income	\$13,245.21
Membership Dues from VOA	\$6,475
Other Income	\$10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,938.38</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Club Dinner Meeting Expenses	\$3,323.4
Event Expenses	\$15,779.58
Awards	\$243.99
Total Bank Fees (PayPal, ProPay)	\$492.93
Board Meetings	\$285.04
Overhead Expenses:	
Constant Contact System	\$501.00
MagCloud Printing (2015 Calendars)	\$1,323.42
NorCal News	\$731.80
Postage & Printing of Newsletter	\$182.04
Office Supplies	\$29.78
Tax Preparation Fee	\$375.00
Web Site	\$716.85
Total Overhead Expenses	\$3,941.04
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,802.79</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$135.59</b>