



#### VIPER OWNERS ASSOCATION OF THE CAROLINAS

### NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Carolina's VOA Quarterly Newsletter!!! While the VOA forum is a great method of communication, we also wanted reach out to our members with a quarterly newsletter. We will share information about past and upcoming events to be sure ALL club members are in the loop!

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Tail of the Dragon - May 30th - June 1st By: Seth Green



The largest Carolinas club event of the year to date was the "Tail of the Dragon" event. The Carolinas region teamed up with multiple other regions to include Tennessee, Alabama, Ohio and Georgia to put on a spectacular event that included over 70 Vipers. With scenic drives, great food, wonderful accommodations and good company; it was an event that most will never forget.

Joel from the Tennessee region organized the schedule of events and the hotel room accommodations. The Greystone Lodge had multiple levels of covered parking for Vipers as well as a central location in the city of Gatlinburg. The hotel was a short

walking distance from breakfast locations and a favorite rooftop tiki bar that many of the club members visited after official club activities were over in the evening.

The Carolinas Region had a record breaking 18 cars and 31 members and guests attend from the region. Our Regional President, Brian Kennedy arranged for the group to link up at four separate meeting locations along the route to give members the opportunity to drive as a caravan to the hotel.

Most Carolinas VOA members had the opportunity to link up with the group by the time the caravan arrived to Asheville for lunch at Cracker Barrel. The group then proceeded onward to Gatlinburg in a "parade like" chain of Vipers that had every car and truck on the road taking videos and pictures as we accelerated past the average powered vehicles.



Above: View of the creek from the 2nd floor hotel

## Tail of the Dragon (continued)

After the caravan arrived at the Greystone Lodge and checked into their rooms, the group headed out to dinner at Doubletree Park Vista. The dinner was excellent with a great view of the city and mountains. The buffet dinner included a prime rib special just for us.

The following morning on Friday, May 30th, the group met outside the Lodge and lined up in the outside parking lot to stage for a drive along the Tail of the Dragon. Stretch (member from the AL/TN club) gave the driver's safety and route briefing, emphasizing once again to NEVER cross the double-yellow line. The group of approximately 50 Vipers took off all at once and headed for the North Carolina border at Deal's Gap.

The road was aptly named the "Tail of the Dragon" due to having over 300 turns in 11 miles. There were lots of switchbacks, decreasing radius turns, and other hazards along the road but for those who enjoy a little adrenaline rush—there is nothing better.

After completing the Tail of the Dragon, the group continued the scenic drive along the Cherahola Skyway to the small town of Tellico Plains. After refueling and lunch, the group drove along another scenic route back to the Greystone Lodge. The total distance driven was well over 100 miles of scenic countryside. Dinner on Friday evening was at the Crystelle Creek Grill where we met our National Club President, Maurice Lang. Maurice made the trip all the way out to the event from his home in California to document the Tail of the Dragon and include the event in the national newsletter. Crystelle Creek Grill was kind enough to allow us to park Vipers underneath their entrance awning opening up opportunities for some truly spectacular photos.

After most of the official club functions were over, most of the members in the Carolinas club headed out to a rooftop Tiki bar for several hours of quality time with good company.

The following morning on Saturday, May 31st the entire group of 50+ Vipers departed for Douglas Lake and the Ackley Party about 9:30 am. The Carolinas group generally drove together in a group along the way to the Ackley Party. Our group took the scenic route along RTE 209 nicknamed "The Rattler" due to is twisty turns along the way up to the town of Hot Springs. Several members of the group to include Seth, Mike, and Al drove along portions of the rattler together at speeds that tested the mechanical limits of the vehicle.

The Ackley Party took place at a lake house overlooking the water. The group of Vipers parked in the grass and every other available space. The club members had a great time relaxing by the lake, eating a wonderful catered meal and admiring the scenery (both Vipers and landscape). The entire group then departed directly back to the hotel to freshen up for the parade and dinner.

The cars staged in a staggered fashion in preparation for the parade. Every Viper in the nearby area came out to join in the parade. Gatlinburg Police cars escorted the Vipers through main street as the cars slowly drove through the city attracting the attention of all the people walking along the crowded city sidewalks. The parade ended at the Cherokee Grill at about 6:30. The group



Changing out rear brake pads at one of the waypoints along the way to Gatlinburg. Thanks to all who are well versed in Viper maintenance.



50+ Vipers pre-staged in front of the Greystone Lodge in preparation for the "Tail of the Dragon."



It was great to meet Craig's daughter, Kiera. It wasn't just a weekend trip, it was an educational tour. Kiera is now familiar with western North Carolina as well as "License, Registration, and Proof of Insurance"

returned to hotel about 9:00 pm and a large portion of the club walked down the street to the rooftop Tiki bar that they had enjoyed the night prior. On Sunday June 1, most of the members woke up early, said their goodbyes and headed home, smiling the whole way.

## Tail of the Dragon (continued)



(Above) Snakes lined up for a short stop near Deals Gap on the way to the "Tail of the Dragon" on Friday afternoon.



(Above) Angel and Mike showing off their car themed shirts. "I Heart My Viper"



(Above) The beautiful view from the Ackley House where most of the club met after driving up 209 "The Rattler" on Saturday afternoon. A catered lunch was served underneath the gazebo and members ate at picnic tables or sat in the grass.



(Above) Seth attended the "Tail of the Dragon" just one day after having surgery on his right hand. He couldn't drive his car but had a blast hanging out with the club. Above, the girls copied the fashion trend to take a picture.

(Left) Dave and his wife Marcia having a great time. They almost didn't make it because there wasn't enough room for Dave's salon quality hair dryer in the trunk of the GTS.

### **Vipers Invade Wilmington Highlights!**

With summer finally here, the Wilmington Cars and Coffee event was a great success with fantastic weather and 18 cars in attendance! The morning started out with a caravan from the Raleigh area and a rest stop for all to meet and greet. Next the club was off to the Cars and Coffee event to see what car enthusiasts in Wilmington have to show and talk about.

Following Cars and Coffee was a fantastic lunch at a beautiful restaurant on the water. Brian made some great looking Viper Owners Association Donation Cans that allowed members to contribute to the cost of the lunch. The idea worked out great; the club members were very generous and everyone had a great time.

Following lunch was a visit to Jay's "Man Cave." Jay has a Final Edition 2002 GTS and an amazing collection of Corvettes. Stephanie invited her friend and viper legend, Tom Sessions to hang out for the day and give advice on Viper tech and maintenance.



(Above) Al getting a good look at SRT's newest and greatest color to date. Stryker Green!!!



(Above) Terri, Nina and Dougan showing off their Carolinas VOA T-shirts in the morning at Cars and Coffee.



(Above) Nina, Terri, Kristy, and Janelle hanging out and catching up while the guys look at the cars during a rest break on the way to Wilmington.



(Above) Stephanie and Dave at the Cars and Coffee event with the VOA Schedule of Events behind them. Stephanie is a local to the Wilmington area and invited Tom Sessions to hang out with the club. This was Dave's first event and he got up at 5am to drive from Winston Salem hang out with other Viper enthusiasts.

## **Vipers Invade Wilmington! (Continued)**

The day would not have been possible without the hard work of Brian, Jay, and Lance organizing the events. Again, a BIG THANKS to all of these guys. It was great to finally meet our newest members...Emmett & Cathy, and of course Al & Kristy. We also had a few guests on board including Frank, Don, Tim, and Cody. What a GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE!



(Above) The entire group enjoying lunch on the water. Notice the silver colored donation cans with the Stryker symbol. Thanks to everyone for being so generous with the donations allowing great events like this to be such a pleasure.

(Below) Group Photo!!! The whole group lined up in front of Paul's 92' RT/10, Jay's 02' FE GTS, and Brian's 14' Stryker Green SRT.



### Viper Homecoming (Detroit)!!!!

The Viper Homecoming was named NVE (National Viper Event) by the VOA and the intent is to have a NVE every other year in key motor enthusiast destinations throughout the United States. This year, NVE 1 was in Detroit at the birthplace of the Viper. Here the Viper heritage goes all the way back to 1989 when the Viper was only a concept dreamed up by Bob Lutz with inspiration by Carroll Shelby.

The anticipation of this weekend started two months early with the sign up and registration. The event was limited to 500 tickets sold due to the size of the hotel ballroom. Each attendee at the event had a 1:500 chance of winning a brand new Launch Edition Dodge Viper with Blue and White Stripes. The event registration window opened on May 4th at 3pm sharp. Most of us set alarms, timers, and reminders prior to the event registration window opening. The event nearly sold out in the first half hour with a mile long list of people on standby waiting for refunded tickets.

The Carolinas VOA had a great turnout with Brian and Janelle, Paul and Joanne, John and Mika, Seth and Bob, Stephanie, Eli, Angel, Chris, and Janni all making it to the event. Brian, Seth, John, Stephanie, and Angel all chose to drive their Vipers to Detroit adding approximately 2,000 miles to the odometer and having a great time doing it!



(Above) The drive from Raleigh to Detroit was a blast with almost 1,000 miles from start to finish. One interesting learning point is that the older 1996 GTS gets better gas mileage than the new 2014 SRT. The GTS consistently got 22 mpg on the highway with the 3.07 rear end gearset.

(Above) Eli, Angel, Seth, and Brian all stopped in Dayton Ohio to pick up credentials and spend the night in order to link up with 70 other Viper owners on the way to Detroit the next morning. It was an unforgettable experience to be part of a 70 car caravan ripping down the interstate from Ohio to Michgan.

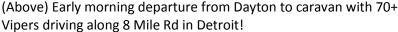
(Below) The Walter P. Chrysler Museum was a key event on the second night. Brian was in charge of organizing the display parking in front of the museum where the whole group of 500 Viper owners stood together for photos. The back row of cars included every generation of Viper plus the newest edition to the SRT lineup—the SRT Hellcat!



# Viper Homecoming (Detroit)!!!! (Continued)

On Friday morning the 70+ caravan of Vipers drove directly to the Connor Avenue Assembly Plant where every Viper has been hand assembled since 1996. The assembly plant was on a temporary halt in production so the VOA members could see future Vipers in various stages of assembly. Included in the assembly plant was a gift shop full of SRT and Viper merchandise as well as a collection of famous Vipers in history to include the first mule car produced in early 1990.





(Upper Right) Eli posing in-front of the Connor Avenue Assembly plant, waiting in anticipation to see way was beyond the double doors.

(Right) Vipers on the assembly line in various states of assembly. Some were nothing more than a chassis, some were drivable cars.







(Above) VIPER PARKING ONLY!!! It is a rare opportunity to not be able to find parking anywhere because the entire parking lot is completely full of Vipers!





(Above) The first Viper test mule was powered by a Chrysler 5.9L cast iron V8 weighing approximately the same as the all aluminum Viper V10 engine.

### Viper Homecoming (Detroit)!!!! (Continued)

Saturday morning began with the vehicle inspection at Chelsea Proving Grounds where all the new Vipers are tested for performance and durability. The testing area includes a circle track, road course and everyone's favorite... the 2 mile oval. People were split up into groups to go to three different areas: 1. High speed oval; 2. Gen V Viper test drive; 3. Autocross course. After spending the day at Chelsea Proving grounds, the entire group returned to the hotel where we were picked up by a caravan of busses to transport all 500 people to a river boat named the "Detroit Princess." The boat was a great experience to allow groups to intermingle and sight-see along the river at the same time.



(Upper Left) Vipers driving around the 2 mile oval. At 120mph the oval is a zero turn track with the outermost lane at nearly 30 degree slope.

(Middle Left) Cockpit view going around the turn)

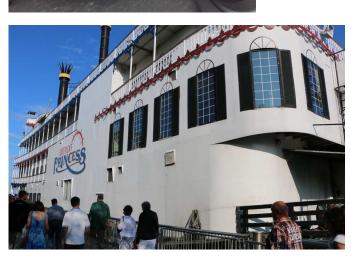
(Lower Left) Instrument cluster with the speedometer showing a little greater that 140mph. Some members reached speeds greater than 160mph!!!

(Upper Right) Enterance sign into Chelsea Proving Grounds

(Right) Angel's convertible SRT 10 waiting for events to take place at the track.







(Above) Boarding the "Detroit Princess." The Carolina's VOA was able to sit as a group in front of the corner window.



(Above) Brian, Janelle, Paul, and Joanne caught in a candid moment on the boat deck.

## Viper Homecoming (Detroit)!!!! (Continued)

The last day of scheduled events for the Viper homecoming was Sunday where all the members arrived at Prefix (the company that paints the Viper) at the same time to do a grand unveiling of the new "Medusa" (covered in a later section). After the unveiling, the company took VOA members on a guided tour through the facility to show all the details on how the Viper is painted with the highest quality hand painting procedure in the entire automotive industry. Every Viper panel is painted by hand and sanded between each coat of paint with a dual action sander. The company employs over 80 workers and are able to produce up to 6 sets of body panels each day. After prefix was a trip to the German city of Frankenmuth, followed by a dinner in the hotel ballroom. During the dinner in the hotel ballroom, our National President, Maurice Lang presented a promotion video for NVE 2 in New Orleans 2016. The drawling for the Viper was fed live to the ballroom from the courthouse in London, Ohio due to legal issues with having a drawling/raffle in the state of Michigan. At the very end of the dinner, a bunch of Viper related merchandise was auctioned off and Ralph Giles visited us all as he returned from Arizona and the SRT races.



(Above) Vipers parked outside Prefix on Sunday morning before the unveiling of the Medusa.

(Upper Right) The lunch spot in the charming German town of Frankenmuth. (Right) The door prize given out to each table at the Sunday night dinner.







(Above) The newest member of the SRT lineup—Challenger Hellcat!



(Above) The dinner party were the drawling/raffle for the new Viper took place.



(Above) One of the auction items—original concept sketches for the Gen V Viper.

### **Meet Fellow Carolina VOA Members**

### Rick Hart "Snake Handler" Hometown: Chesapeake, VA

As a lifelong "MOPAR" fanatic my collection of project cars and finished restored cars needed some new friends. As others started showing up at the local car club events with new Challengers and Chargers to our local club events, "Tidewater Mopar Club" it was time to rethink my car future. Old Muscle Cars are cool but lets face it they don't handle or travel well. Then I started looking into Vipers.

The original Dodge Viper came out and I really liked the efforts that Dodge was putting forth. While I couldn't just go out and buy one I just kept watching them

making improvements as time passed. Then the 96-97 Blue / White stripe GTS-Coupe showed up. I was immediately hooked! I had to have one so I began watching all car related sites until finally finding a 7500 mile 1997 car in Raleigh, NC. with light body damage. I trailered it home, made the repairs (completing it over five years) and still have it today. It currently has about 26,500 miles now and I still love it.

In May of 2014 I was asked by a friend if I wanted another Viper and I said no but I like a good deal. He said to come look at

this red 2003 we have on our lot....It's a convertible! I'm not a fan of convertibles but I went to look anyway. After seeing the white stripes, a wing and a hard top, it immediately got my attention. Like most car guys I could not leave well enough alone. With the original wheels having some curb rash I decided to buy another set and had them powder coated satin black. Other than the obvious changes it is stock.

Now I'm keeping an eye out for a Green ACR. My wife Cheryl says I have too many irons in the fire. See it never ends for car guys and the Viper has certainly got it's fangs in me......Wish Me Luck!



## Tim Spittle

### Hometown: Asheville, NC

"I've been in Law Enforcement for 18yrs, live just north of Asheville and have always loved fast cars. My brother Roger and I race with NASA SE in the spec Miata division, been doing that about a year and love it. He is actually who got me



into Vipers, he bought the one I have now in 07' and I have loved the car since. I finally got him to come off of it in Dec. of this year. I look forward to meeting everyone and the camaraderie of the VOA, can't wait to attend the events. Nothing like the feel of Gen II, and....nothing to save you when you "run out of talent hallway through the corner" (Buddy Baker).

### The Carolinas VOA thanks our sponsors...



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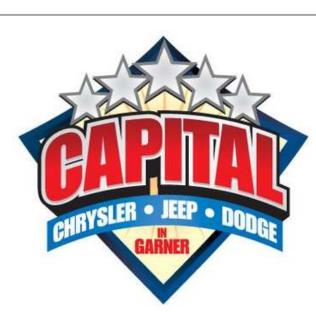


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Carolina Viper Club members can contact **Mike Reeves**. Mike is the sales manager at Capital Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Garner. Mike is also a Viper owner, and a member of the Carolinas Viper Club.



New Car Sales Manager Capital Chrysler Jeep Dodge Garner, NC

Email: mreeves@capitalcjd.com

Phone: **919-582-0202** 







## Introducing the "Medusa"

Grand unveiling was during the Viper Homecoming Weekend



Prefix is the independent company that hand paints all Vipers going down the assembly line at the Connor Avenue Assembly plant. Prefix receives the body panels to their painting facility where they put each set of body panels through a time and labor intensive hand painting process that yields flawless results. The paint on the Generation V Viper is so perfect that it is regarded in the automotive industry as being the highest quality paint of any vehicle including all foreign and exotics. Prefix actually goes through the painstaking process of masking off the stripes while painting the remainder of the body so that there is no appearance of a raised surface where the stripe edge ends. Each

body panel is hand sanded by 80 employees working 8 hour days in order to produce approximately 6 sets of Viper panels each day.

Friday afternoon of the VOA homecoming weekend, members were informed that all groups should arrive at Prefix at the same time instead of their scheduled staggered arrival time. The room was packed with people, there was a wall of part bins stacked three high and a huge American flag hanging in the background. There was a single podium staggered just to the left of the American flag where the owner of the company addressed all the Viper owners and guests. He described the Viper's history with Prefix and his patriotism and how he is proud to be an American, supporting the American dream. When he was nearly finished with his introduction, there was a moment of silence then sud-





denly the whole room was

taken by the unmistakable sound of a Generation V Viper V10 coming to life. The car's headlights turned on and it drove out from underneath the American flag and into a sectioned off space in front of the podium where the car was introduced as the "Medusa." The name gets its inspiration from Greek Mythology. Medusa was described as having the face of a hideous human female with living venomous snakes in place of hair. Gazing directly into her eyes would turn onlookers to stone.

After the grand introduction, VOA members and guests were able to look at the new creation at their leisure and checking out the quality of construc-

tion on their own. The new soft top is actually a throwback from the past because it is the same canvas top as the Gen IV Viper convertible. Prefix did however make their own trunk lid specifically for the Medusa and a trunk box that is modified to fit a folded up canvas top.

There will be an initial run of only 10 Medusa Vipers to see how much interest there will be in sales. The modifications

seem to be very high quality with most new parts and panels made out of carbon fiber and the paint being the same high quality as the rest of the car. The cost of the Medusa modification will be approximately \$35,000 on top of the initial purchase price of a brand new SRT. Prefix will only modify brand new vehicles purchased through them but the \$140,000 cost will be worth it to some to own such a rare piece of Viper history.

Other modifications will include the Medusa side badging, painted X braces and coil overs to match the exterior of the car, and custom made floor mats. Prefix doesn't touch the engine, but it doesn't need to. Most will already be happy with the 640 horsepower produced from the factory stock 8.4 liter V10.



### 2014 Carolinas VOA Tentative Event Schedule

February 22nd—Carolinas VOA Dyno Day at Mayhem Motorsports, Raleigh, NC - (<a href="http://www.mayhemmotorsports.net/">http://www.mayhemmotorsports.net/</a>)
Blow the dust off your Vipers folks! We're kicking off our first event of the year at Mayhem Motorsports in Raleigh, NC. On Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 10:00am - 4:00pm, we will have exclusive access to their Dyno for 6 full hours of unlimited runs!

#### March - Exact date TBD - Carolina VOA Club Luncheons!

The club will provide FREE luncheons to Carolina VOA members throughout North & South Carolina at various locations. We are in touch with area "directors" for restaurant and date selections. More info will follow very soon.

#### March 22nd – "Get Your Motor Running" - Brian's Garage, Raleigh, NC

Stop in for fluid changes on your Viper, or just hang out! We will have access to two lifts and the necessary equipment to change out your oil, diff, and clutch fluid! FREE lunch will also be provided to members. The only thing you will need to bring is your choice of motor oil. We plan to have oil filters and all other fluids on hand and available for purchase.

#### April 12th – Mopars at the Rock - Rockingham, NC (http://www.moparsattherock.com/)

Let's take that club participation award again this year!!! Bring your Viper out to experience this annual car show, drag strip, and swap meet exclusive to MOPARS!!!

#### May 3rd - Vipers Invade Wilmington, NC

We will visit the Wilmington C&C, enjoy lunch, take a scenic cruise, and then visit a local Viper owner from Wilmington who has graciously offered us to visit and hang out and socialize at his "man cave".

#### May 30th – June 1st – Tail of the Dragon, Gatlinburg, TN (http://www.tailofthedragon.com/)

Please mark your calendars for one of the ultimate events of the year! We are making plans to join our Viper Club friends from Alabama / Tennessee for the annual Tail of the Dragon cruise. We had over 50 Vipers in attendance last year!!! The Tail of the Dragon is considered by many as one of the world's foremost motorcycling and sports car roads. Anyone looking for an exciting drive will enjoy this stretch of US129 with 318 curves in 11 miles! This will be a 2 or 3 day weekend event that will include other activities so please mark your calendars!

June 6th and 7th - NARRA (formerly Viper Days) – Virginia International Raceway – Alton, VA (<a href="http://narraonline.com/">http://narraonline.com/</a>)
NARRA is within reach! Anyone that wishes to attend or signup for driving instruction, please see the NARRA website for additional information.

#### July 18th - 20th - Viper Owners Association National Homecoming Event, Detroit, MI

Chrysler is opening the doors to the Viper plant and their other facilities to us. In addition, National has A LOT of great activities planned for this weekend as well. This is a spouse friendly event too and you won't want to miss what they have in store. Itinerary will be released soon, so mark your calendars!

#### August 15th -17th - Mopars at the Beach, Myrtle Beach, SC - (http://www.moparsatthebeach.com)

Once again, Mopar Week kicks off for the third year with events in and around the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina. Some of the locations of Mopar Week events will be Hard Rock Cafe, Hooters NMB, the Carolina Tavern, Myrtle Beach Speedway, Wheels of Yesteryear, Inlet Square Mall and other places in and around the Grand Stand area. Members are more than welcome to attend the entire Mopar Week, but the main event is on Saturday so we will focus on getting a block of rooms for Friday-Sunday.

#### September - 12th -14th - Vipers slither to Biltmore!!! - Asheville, NC (http://www.biltmore.com/)

We've had a lot of members request a repeat of this event for 2014, so we're going to deliver! The Carolina's VOA region will be hosting a grand Viper event at Biltmore! Biltmore is the largest privately owned home in the United States with over 178,000 square feet and 250 rooms! Mark your calendar now as this will be an exciting 2-3 day event you won't want to miss.

## **2014 Carolinas VOA Tentative Event Schedule (continued)**

#### Oct. 11th -12th - Carolina Motorsports Park - (http://www.carolinamotorsportspark.com/)

The Florida region has invited us to join them at Carolina Motorsports Park for a 2-day track event. More info to come.

#### November – Carolinas VOA Annual Holiday Party

Location and exact date TBD

We also have a few surprises in store for this year! As always, we welcome your input. This is YOUR club so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us regarding any comments, ideas, suggestions, etc. I hope you are looking forward to this year as much as we are! Your Carolinas VOA Team, Brian, Mike, Craig, Patrick, & Chris

### **Miscellaneous Announcements**

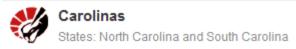
#### Have you visited the new VOA forums lately?

The VOA online forums has a dedicated area for the NC/SC Viper Club. So be sure to visit our forum in order to

keep updated. We also post many photos of recent events and it is also a great place to get to know everyone.

Just go to <a href="http://www.driveviper.com/forums">http://www.driveviper.com/forums</a> and scroll down below the VOA Regional Forums section. Click on "Southeast" and you will reach our North & South Carolina section! If it is your first time visiting, feel free to introduce yourself in our new "Carolinas Check-In" thread! You will need to register in order to post messages, but it is very easy....and free.





#### We're always looking for ideas!

We are always looking for feedback from our members. PLEASE feel free to e-mail Brian, Mike, Craig, Patrick or Chris if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas for the club. If you would like to be involved with planning or executing an event for VOA members, please let us know. We will help in any way we can and get the word out to membership!

### Your Carolina's Officers



**President:**Brian Kennedy

E-mail: brian@carolinasviperclub.com

Phone: 724-822-9625



Treasurer:

Craig Jonson

E-mail: cjonson@att.net Phone: 919-846-3785



### **Vice President:**

Mike Reeves

E-mail: mreeves1@nc.rr.com

Phone: 919-639-5334



**Secretary:** 

Patrick Brown

E-mail: patrick@carolinasviperclub.com

Phone: 828-238-6106



Webmaster:

Chris Mendler

E-mail: chris.mendler@gmail.com

Phone: 919-434-1023