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Track Report – Viper Rendezvous V ***June 13-15, 2014***

If you've ever thought about tracking your Viper, you couldn't find a better place to start than the annual Viper Rendezvous at Motorsports Park in Hastings, Nebraska.

The fifth annual all-Viper event is extremely well organized by Ryan Furstenau who sets up the event; George Anderson, the track owner; Michael O'Neal, Guest Services Manager; Woodhouse Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram its major Sponsor and last but not least the highly professional track operations staff led by Dusty Kohl, Race Control, and all his corner workers. A big "Thank you, to you all."

The three day event emphasizes safety first, safety second and safety third. Speaking from personal experience (The Rendezvous was my first track event.) the in-car instructors who are provided to anyone in the Novice Group free of any extra charge are all very knowledgeable, friendly and darned good at their jobs. The track layout is fun and allows plenty of room for error with lots of runoff space.

The other participants, who are all driving Vipers of various levels and generations, are very friendly and helpful. You should definitely expect make some new friends between sessions.

Motorsports Park Hastings features a very nice, air conditioned clubhouse called the Guardrail Club which is open all day providing soft drinks and water and is also used as the instructional classroom, for the daily drivers' meetings, as well as lunches and dinners which are included in the full package.

During the Rendezvous there are open lapping sessions by experience level group to work on your skills; an optional, fun "two block" drag race competition on Saturday night plus, and on Sunday morning after a couple open lapping sessions, the "Viper Pursuit" where each driver picks a target time and the closest five laps to that time wins and it's all done before lunch time allowing for an early departure.

This year's St. Louis Viper Club participants were "Viper Dan" G. and Frank Palazzo. Dan just missed the podium in the drag races, finishing fourth but won third place in the Viper Pursuit. Frank finished first in the Viper Pursuit proving that you don't have to be the fastest just the most consistent to be the winner.

As added bonus this year, each participant was given ten FREE quarts of Pennzoil's newest Platinum Ultra Full Synthetic 0w-40 Motor Oil obtained through Chart Distribution Group a St. Louis oil distributorship owned by Frank Palazzo, St. Louis Viper Club Vice President. Interestingly, the 0w-40 was the viscosity recommended by Mr. Dick Winkles, head of powertrain for SRT, for all generations of Vipers and the oil SRT uses in their race cars except for longer endurance races where they prefer the slightly higher viscosity 5w-50.