

# THE CAR CLUB



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## Going Hyper Over a Viper

"Dear Alive!

"I've always had a passion for sports cars. I went through my share of Corvettes, Jaguars, etc. My wife and I took a liking to the exotic shape, design and power of the Dodge Vipers from 1992 to 1995 (generation ones).

We started a local search for a '92-'95 Viper RT/10. We wanted a red or black one. Those years, Vipers [bad] side-exhaust, 400 horsepower and 430 pound-feet of torque. In 2004 we found a one-owner, '94 black Viper with only 8,900 miles. I purchased it from a retired stuntman out of Calabasas.

"I finally found the ultimate sports car. It will always stay in a safe place in our special garage."

— **Matt Valentine, DWP, Retired**



On a May evening in Simi Valley, I took the controls of a car my friend's wife hadn't even had the privilege of driving. I put the car into third gear, producing a speed that would knock old ladies over, definitely not a speed that my lowered trucks have ever thought about reaching. That brand-new 2001 Dodge Viper I was driving was bright yellow and looked like it was doing more than 100 mph, even though it was standing still. I promise I didn't get close to the 180 mph mark that the speedometer said it could reach.

The first Dodge Viper drove off the line in December 1991 and swept through the car scene, due mostly to its gigantic engine. It came equipped with an aluminum V-10 engine that allowed the car to reach 1 lateral g in corners. I don't know a Prius that can do that!

Matt and Marylou Valentine have a passion for Dodge Vipers. The generation-one Viper that they found and fixed up might also be the most collectable because of their low production numbers and the fact they started the whole Viper name and line. Matt and Marylou finally found their 1994 Viper RT/10 in Calabasas in 2004 and bought it. Matt then created a list of what had to be done to get it up to par.

Burgess Auto Body in Lancaster was first on the list to be commissioned in fixing the outer

beauty of the curvaceous car. The car was sprayed jet black, and then silver metallic racing stripes were placed on the center of the car from bumper to bumper. After the paint had time to dry and the buffing pads were clean, the car was ready for the second step.

Chroming parts on cars has become a big expense and can make the budget skyrocket. But they felt it was appropriate to chrome the rims. Originally the rims came powder coated gray, which I think many people disagreed with. But Matt took care of it by hiring an artist to paint the centerpiece Viper logos, and Matt replaced all tires with the factory-recommended rubber.

Having a good-looking car is one thing, but if it doesn't run right, then why even own it? You can only admire it for so long before wanting to drive it. Matt had weak head gaskets replaced; the generation-one Vipers were notorious for this problem. After getting the motor back from Michigan, the Viper no longer leaked oil all over the Valentine's garage floor.

The Valentines feel they have found the ultimate sports car and enjoy driving it as much as possible. With many miles of pavement in Southern California, I am sure they won't have a problem finding some on which to lay some rubber down.



**PROUD OF YOUR WHEELS? SEND IN A PHOTO!**

Send in a photo of you and your car, and we might publish it!

Send us your information, too – name, title and City department, a phone number (we won't print it) and a paragraph or two about why you love your car, what kind of car and year it is, and maybe some fun details of how you got it, how you restored it, etc.

Send it all to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



### THE CLUB

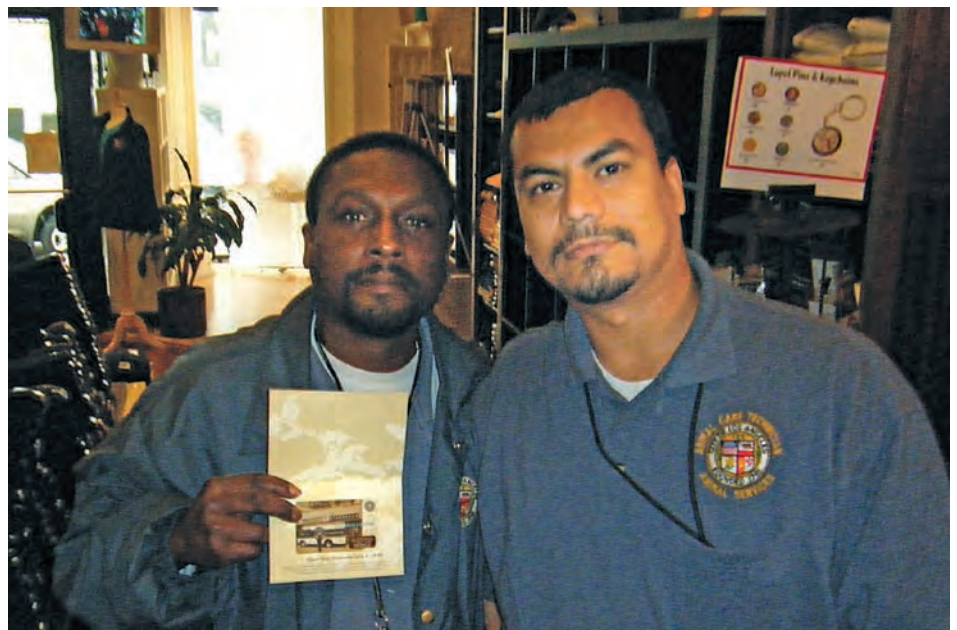


## Have You Referred a Friend?

When you refer a friend to become a Club Member, you get a \$15 Starbucks card!

For more information on the Refer a Friend program: Call (800) 464-0452, contact your Club Counselor or email: [info@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:info@cityemployeesclub.com)

That's the reward that Marcus White (left, pictured below) received when he referred Ramon Rincon to become a Club Member! Marcus works for Animal Services, with 15 years of City service. Good going, Marcus!



Marcus White (left) received a \$15 Starbucks card for referring new Club member Ramon Rincon (right).



**HOT CLUB OFFER!!**

## Dodgers Ticket Deals

VERSUS	DATE	SPECIAL NIGHT
Seattle	Fri: 6/26	(Fireworks Night)
Houston	Fri: 7/17	(Firefighter Appreciation Night)
Florida	Fri: 7/24	(Fireworks Night)
Atlanta	Fri: 8/7	(Fireworks Night)
St Louis	Mon: 8/17	(Fireworks Night)
Pittsburgh	Tues: 9/15	(Fleece Blanket Giveaway Night)
San Francisco	Fri: 9/18	(Fireworks Night)
Colorado	Sun: 10/4	(Fan Appreciation Night)

All tickets are FIELD LEVEL and are normally \$50

**Club Price \$32**

(Available sections 45,47,49)

This offer is only good through the Club and there's a limited amount available so act now!

To take advantage of this great deal, call the Ticket Guy on the Ticket Hotline today!

**(888) 777-1744**

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