



# VIRGINIA FUEL

Est. 1998

A Local Chapter of



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The Metallica Club is the official fan club established by the band in late 1993. After seeing several unofficial groups come and go over the years, the band decided to personally develop and oversee a fan club worthy of their name. Tony Smith, the band's longtime friend and tour manager, ran the organization until early 2000, when Vickie Strate took over as president. Members enjoy many special benefits, including exclusive contests, merchandise, magazines, and information. The best seats for every show the band plays are routinely set aside for Metallica Club members. Past prizes for competitions have included all-expenses-paid trips to the band's recording studio, as well as an entire week on the road as a member of the band's road crew. To learn more about the fan club, visit the band's official website, [www.metallica.com](http://www.metallica.com).

#### LOCAL CHAPTERS

A local chapter is a group of Metallica Club members brought together by someone interested in extending the fan club experience on the local level. Any Metallica Club member is free to start up a local chapter in their area; the only requirement to be recognized as an official local chapter is that their group consist of three or more fan club members. A wide variety of local chapters exist around the world, some more active than others. Local chapters often offer a more personal fan club experience, with frequently-held get-togethers, newsletters, etc.

#### HISTORY

*Virginia Fuel* was established in early 1998 by Paul Judd, in an effort to bring together Metallica Club members who lived in the state of Virginia. The membership steadily grew as the band rolled through the mid-Atlantic region during their '98 summer tour. Paul and Eric Nielsen met at the Nissan Pavilion show in June, and agreed to co-host some joint events between *Fuel* and the now defunct *Chapter of the Mad*, which Eric had been running for several years.

With the shutdown of *Mad* at the end of 1999, Paul invited Eric to jump on board with *Fuel* for the new millennium, along with one of *Fuel*'s more active members, Nyk Englander. At the beginning of May 2000, Paul returned to his home state of New Mexico, leaving the chapter in good hands with Nyk and Eric. At the start of 2001, Nyk had to step down due to time constraints, so the chapter's long-time social coordinator, Joanna Corwin, was moved into his spot. Together, Eric and Joanna are eager to continue building Virginia's largest local chapter into one of the world's best.

#### MEMBER BENEFITS

*Fuel* membership is free, but members enjoy a wide range of benefits including, but not limited to:

- Frequent competitions with special prizes
- Regularly published online newsletter, *Electronic Fuel Injection*
- Exclusive t-shirts and sweatshirts designed by Metallica artist Mark DeVito and others
- The chance to make friends in the area and around the world
- Frequent *Fuel* parties, cookouts, jams, etc
- Access to Members Only area of website
- Tape-trading network
- Personal attention to fan club-related problems
- Carpool to area shows



#### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

**Joanna Corwin** [joec@virginiafuel.com](mailto:joec@virginiafuel.com)

Having been a member of *Fuel* since its inception, Joanna served a brief stint as social director for the chapter, and then was moved up to chapter head when Nyk Englander decided to step down. As part of her new role, Joe C continues to do a great job arranging social events, etc for the chapter. She has a very outgoing personality and loves keeping in touch with chapter members on a regular basis. Joanna is from the northern Virginia area.

**Eric Nielsen** [eric@virginiafuel.com](mailto:eric@virginiafuel.com)

After shutting down the worldwide *Chapter of the Mad* at the end of 1999, Eric was brought on board to focus his resources on a more localized region of Club members. Eric has been fortunate to build a close working relationship with the Metallica Club staff over the years, including serving on the roadcrew during the recent Millennium and Summer Sanitarium tours. Residing in Newport News, Eric gives the chapter a strong foothold in the large Hampton Roads region of the state.

**Paul Judd** Original *Fuel* Founder

Since founding *Fuel*, Paul put an enormous amount of energy into spreading the chapter's name throughout the Commonwealth. Paul's history as a fan goes back to the early club days. Although he has since returned to his home state of New Mexico, he keeps in close touch with his old friends in *Fuel*.