**WE ARE THE TARHEEL CHAPTER**

When a small group of BMW enthusiasts formed the Tarheel Chapter in 1974, their vision was ambitious – to be a drivers’ club serving BMW fans across the entire state of North Carolina.

From that first gathering of a few dozen BMW fans, the Tarheel Chapter has grown into a highly active, diverse and financially stable organization of almost three thousand members and associate members throughout North Carolina, adjoining parts of SW Virginia and all over our nation as well as Canada.

Managed by a Board that draws on the experience and talents of members from all walks of life, and organized into a number of regions served by dedicated Area Coordinators, the Chapter is set up, first and foremost, to ensure that the benefits of membership in the BMW CCA accrue to all members, regardless of their interests and motives in joining the Club.

A major factor in achieving this goal is our diverse activities program. Chapter-wide, it includes a highly successful, well-attended HPDS series, featuring three schools annually at our home track, the world-class 3.27-mile Virginia International Raceway (VIR); a series of popular driving tours along the Outer Banks and in the Smoky Mountains, which raise funds for charitable causes; numerous open houses hosted by BMW dealerships and independent shops; and special events such as the Annual Club Outing at the annual Club Race at VIR. And we are arguably one of the ‘racingest’ chapters in the Club, with close to one hundred licensed Club racers in our midst.

We have hosted some of the best-attended National events – Oktoberfest 2000 (jointly with Peachtree and Sandlapper Chapter) and Oktoberfest 2005 (a Tarheel-sponsored event) – and have supported a BMW CCA Regional event, the wildly popular Vintage gathering, Vintage at the Vineyard, since its inception. We also actively participate in the Club’s Street Survival program, annually hosting several young driver clinics at various locations throughout our state.

Our Annual Meetings-cum-Banquets take place at sites that rotate from year to year so as to put them within reach of members throughout our far-flung geography. Our ten Area Coordinators stay in constant touch with members at the local level, hosting monthly dinners and social gatherings at BMW dealerships.

To keep members abreast of all that’s going on, our newsletter, the *Tarheel* *FOOTNOTES,* has been published monthly without a break for the past thirty years. It reaches our membership in a hard copy version and via our website. Its success is in large part due to the loyal support of some twenty-plus advertisers, most of them either BMW dealerships or independent BMW shops whose owners and staff often join in our activities as sponsors and participants.

In short, we are proud to be the Tarheel Chapter. Or as the late great Yale Rachlin once said, we are truly a “warm and beautiful place” for BMW fans. Paul Hoecke

TARHEEL CHAPTER IN BRIEF

The chapter was started when a small group of BMW enthusiasts met on March 17, 1974. They were able to assemble the 15 signatures required to form a BMW CCA chapter, and the rest is history. The past 40 years have seen the Tarheel Chapter grow and develop into a highly active, diverse and financially stable state-wide organization, which today numbers 2,884 members in North Carolina, SW Virginia and even elsewhere in the US and Canada. An experienced and talented Board of Directors and 12 dedicated Area Coordinators spread over the state oversee the chapter.

Among those charter members were: Tom & Mary Fawcett, Alex Hobbs, David Kriegsman, Craig & Nancy Newby, Ron & Cher Silver, Stan Simm, Larry Silfin and Phil Williamson.

Prepared 1/30/14 for 40th Anniversary