



June/July 2013

---

## Chapter Team

[Josh Burnheimer](#)

[Debbie Day](#)

[Greg Fansler](#)

[Patty Foutz](#)

[Kelly Griffin](#)

[Jack Hutcheson](#)

[Jordan McCauley](#)

[Ginny Ritenour](#)

[Betty Lee Robertson](#)

---

## Don't Forget

You are REQUIRED to have a Virginia Tech PID (vt.edu email address) to access the Chapter Forms database.

---

The Chapter Newsletter is a communications tool between the Virginia Tech Alumni Association and its chapters.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to your chapter liaison. If you have problems viewing the newsletter, please contact [Ginny Ritenour](#), Chapter Program Coordinator.

## Dear Chapter Volunteers,

Our fall [Chapter Officers Forum](#) is quickly approaching and we are looking forward to welcoming our volunteers back on campus. We have an exciting schedule planned focusing on Broadening Alumni Engagement, as well as our annual chapter awards dinner banquet. The event is taking place on September 5 through 7; the complete schedule and more information may be found on our [website](#).

As I mentioned last month, be sure to review the new [Chapter Awards Requirements Checklist](#) while planning activities for the coming year. This simple, one page document should be your guide for determining what projects you will complete and events you will host throughout the year. Please contact your chapter liaison if you have questions or concerns about meeting any of the requirements.

We have a new and exciting event coming this summer at the [Virginia International Raceway](#) in Alton, VA (near Danville). "Virginia Tech Day" at the VIR will include an exclusive Virginia Tech Alumni Association Headquarters Pavilion, a tailgate competition, go-kart races, skeet shooting, and more. The race takes place Saturday and Sunday, August 10 & 11, with alumni events throughout the day on Saturday. More details may be found on page 2.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Deborah A. Day

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations



## Make plans to join us for the 2013 Chapter Officers Forum!

Make your plans now to join us in Blacksburg this fall for the [2013 Chapter Officers Forum!](#)

Exclusively for our alumni chapter officers, this year's program will focus on "Broadening Alumni Engagement" and will include best practices for chapter programming, a chance to interact with scholarship students, networking with other officers, and a special opportunity to provide input into the Presidential search process.

Some highlights of this year's schedule include:

- A tour of the new Virginia Tech Center for the Arts facility;
- 2013 Admissions Update with Undergraduate Admissions;
- Best Practices Session where we'll share ideas for engaging broader audiences at our chapter events;
- Our annual Awards Reception and Banquet;
- A community service breakfast with this year's freshman scholarship recipients;
- Watching the Hokies take on the Western Carolina Catamounts!

Please note that our lodging reservation deadline with the Inn at Virginia Tech is **Friday, August 2**. We will no longer be able to hold rooms after that date, so [register now!](#)

We look forward to seeing you back on campus!



*National Capital Region Chapter officers hangin' out with HokieBird at the 2011 Chapter Officers Forum*



## Tickets available for VT Day at VIRginia International Raceway

Join fellow Danville, Halifax, Roanoke Valley, Southside, Charlotte, and NC Triad Chapters; VT Ware Lab; the Motorcycle Club at Virginia Tech; and the Car Club at Virginia Tech at VIRginia International Raceway for Virginia Tech Day!

This series is for grassroots race teams and for [Chumps](#) like you that have always wanted to go road racing without all the hassle. Come out and watch as Joe Average and almost-race-ready cars (\$500 or less) compete in a 24-hour race at historic VIR in Alton, VA.

To view a complete schedule, refer to the [two-page flyer](#) attached to the end of this newsletter.

*We have sets of two tickets available for FREE* to chapters who are interested in sending alumni or friends to the race. Please notify Ginny Ritenour at [ginnyrit@vt.edu](mailto:ginnyrit@vt.edu) as soon as possible to secure your tickets.

Additional advance tickets may be purchased online at [VIRnow.com](http://VIRnow.com). Use promo code CCVT2013 to get a 2-day ticket for only \$10 (Hurry! Offer expires August 1). Proceeds support alumni chapter scholarships.

Join VT alumni for a fun-filled day to watch the races, see the beautiful VIR scenery, and enjoy an appearance by the HokieBird! Tailgating and coolers are welcome and encouraged.

## Chapter Event Highlight: Shanghai Alumni Social

This summer, a group of students from Pamplin College of Business took part in a Study Abroad program throughout China. Led by faculty members Michael Kender, Professor of Practice (Finance) and Devi Gnyawali, Pamplin Professor of Management, the 6-week program took students to Guilin for basic Mandarin courses, then on to Beijing and Shanghai to visit two of the leading business centers in China.

While in Shanghai, alumni Robert Fried '09 and Abigail Whalen '07 co-hosted a networking social for local alumni living in the area to meet each other and the visiting students and faculty. A growing number of Virginia Tech alumni live in Shanghai as it is home to many U.S. company headquarters, including General Electric, Dow Chemical, and Kraft Foods. Nick Chapin '99 is an entrepreneur who has had his own architectural firm in Shanghai for the past 10 years.

Guilin is the location of the Chinese Language Institute, where 20-30 Virginia Tech students pass through each year to complete Pamplin business courses and earn credits in foreign language.

The alumni enjoyed meeting the traveling students and faculty and are working towards organizing more Shanghai, Guilin, and Beijing events.



*Virginia Tech alumni and Pamplin College of Business students gather in Shanghai, China*

## Chapter Volunteer Highlight: Ron Thompson '71, Tideneck Chapter

The Tideneck Chapter has undergone several periods of turnover in leadership in recent years, primarily as a result of the declining local economy and its impact on the changing careers of local alumni.

Ron Thompson '71, who is "officially" the Scholarship Chair for the Tideneck Chapter, recognized the chapter's obligation to continue to raise money and run a scholarship program throughout the changes in leadership. Prior to Jim Cox '72 taking the helm in the fall of 2012, Ron worked almost single-handedly to conduct the necessary business of the chapter far beyond his assigned duties.

From 2010 to 2012, he filed annual reports, initiated a range of social activities, and conducted fundraising events. He organized and executed the HokieBird Fights Hunger canned food drive and personally distributed several boxes of collected food to three designated food pantries in Westmoreland, Richmond and King & Queen Counties.

Ron was instrumental in ultimately gathering the most active members together to reorganize and renew the leadership group.

Recognized by his peers to be a true leader and the ultimate volunteer, fully embracing the motto "That I May Serve," Ron was awarded the Outstanding Chapter Volunteer at the 2012 Chapter Officers Forum.

Although Ron was unable to attend the event, the award was accepted on his behalf by Tideneck Chapter President Jim Cox '72. Please join us in congratulating Ron on his achievement!

## Community Service Highlight: Atlanta Chapter, Sugar Creek Garden Clean-Up Project

On Saturday, June 29, Atlanta Chapter alumni volunteers gathered to help clean-up a local community garden in their area.

At Sugar Creek Garden in Decatur, GA, the mission is to grow fresh, organic food in the city. The garden was initially supported by the City of Decatur as part of its urban agriculture initiative and is now fully funded by the Wylde Center, a local non-profit that cultivates environmental stewardship. Food produced in the garden is shared with volunteers and made available to the public through u-harvest events.

The garden depends upon volunteers of all ages, no garden experience necessary! Atlanta Chapter leadership worked with the garden to arrange for a Hokie volunteer group and many alumni turned out to help.

This project is a terrific example of “thinking outside the box” for community service projects; consider finding a local garden in your area that could use some help and you may bring in a whole new group of volunteers!

---

## Don't Forget! Hokie Nation Serves Shirts Still Available

As mentioned in previous newsletters and email notices, we have Hokie Nation Serves t-shirts available with our exclusive HNS logo!

These shirts are intended for chapters who plan on hosting a service event in the near future. The shirts are in limited and short supply, so to receive shirts for your event, please contact Ginny Ritenour at [ginnyrit@vt.edu](mailto:ginnyrit@vt.edu) as soon as possible for an application form.



*Atlanta Chapter volunteers gather for the Sugar Creek Garden Clean-Up Project in June*



*One of the group projects was to spruce up some benches around the garden that needed a fresh coat of paint*



*Atlanta Chapter volunteers left their mark at the Sugar Creek Gardens!*

## Staff Highlight: Jack Hutcheson, Director, National Capital Alumni Programs

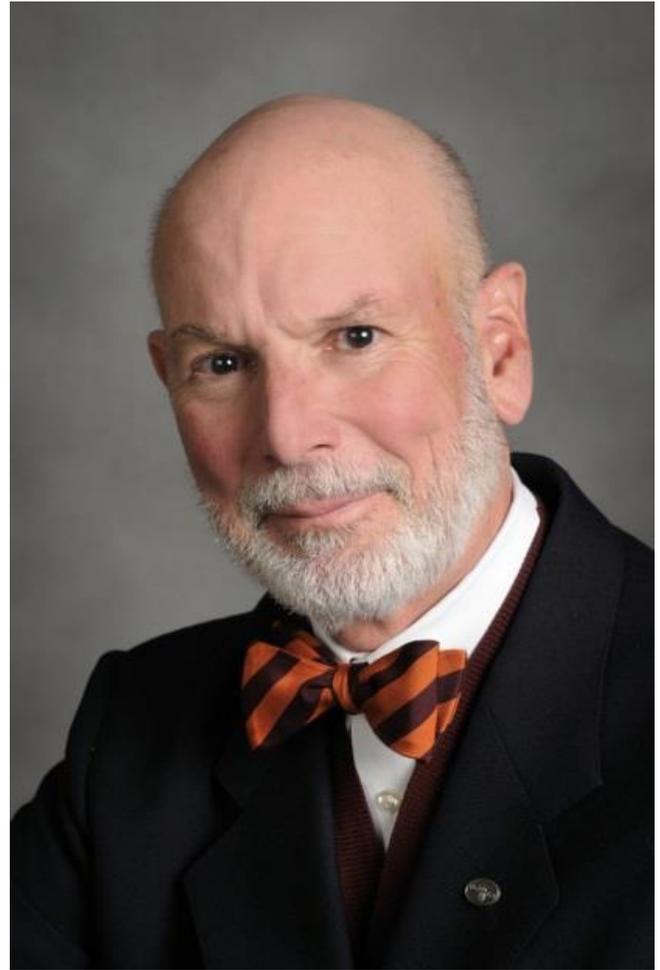
As a third-generation alumnus and fourth-generation employee, Jack Hutcheson serves as Associate Director in charge of alumni chapters throughout the North Atlantic states. His previous work for Arthur Andersen & Co., E. F. Hutton, and as General Partner of his own firm, includes over 20 years of extensive management and administrative expertise.

Since moving to Northern Virginia in 1980, Jack has been a leader in local volunteer organizations. He has held leadership positions in the Alexandria YMCA, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and Christ Church of Alexandria, where he now teaches kindergarten Sunday school.

He was a founding member of the Capital-area Alumni Association of a large national fraternity. His professional memberships include Beta Gamma Sigma, National Business Honor Fraternity, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Forbears and contemporaries graduating from Virginia Tech include Jack's grandfather, class of '07; father and mother, classes of '44 and '48, respectively, and his son Rawles '04. Five generations of Virginia Tech employees began with his great-grandfather, who joined the faculty in 1896, continuing through his grandfather, who held several positions including President from 1945-47, through his grandfather's nephew, and on, to Jack and his Rawles.

Jack enjoys fox hunting and serves as the Honorary Secretary of the Old Dominion Hounds.



---

### Dates to Remember!

- August 2-3: [Virginia Tech Black Alumni Summit: Harnessing our Voices](#)
- August 10: Virginia Tech Day at [VIRginia International Raceway](#)
- August 26: Fall classes begin
- September 1: Labor Day (office closed)
- September 5-7: [Chapter Officers Forum](#)
- October 5: Virginia Tech Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate

# HOKIES on FACEBOOK!



*San Francisco Chapter alumni enjoy a meet-and-greet with Tom Tillar, Vice President for Alumni Relations (far right)*



*Gorgeous VT cookies made by New River Valley Chapter officer Taylor Cupp '09 to distribute at a chapter event*



*Prince William Chapter volunteers gather for their Adopt-a-Highway community service project*



*Palmetto Chapter alumni staff a concession stand at the April 16 Greenville Drive baseball game*



*Seattle area alumni participate in the Seattle Chapter's 2013 Big Event project at Marra Farm*



*New York City and New Jersey alumni enjoy an evening with Coach Bud Foster*

# Virginia Tech Day at VIRginia International Raceway

Optima Batteries  
ChumpCar  
World Series



**AUGUST 10, 2013**

This series is grassroots race teams and for Chumps like you that have always wanted to go road racing without all the hassle. Come out and watch as Joe Average and almost-race-ready cars (\$500 or less) compete in a 24-hour race at historic VIR in Alton, VA. Visit [chumpcar.com](http://chumpcar.com).



**VirginiaTechforlife™**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Use promo code **CCVT2013** to purchase advance tickets online at [VIRvow.com](http://VIRvow.com) and get a 2-Day ticket for only \$10 (offer expires 8/1/2013.) Proceeds support the regional alumni chapter scholarships.

**Join VT alumni for a fun-filled day watching the races, see the beautiful VIR scenery, and enjoy an appearance of the Hokiebird! Tailgating and coolers are welcomed and encouraged!**

*For more information contact:* Jordan A. McCauley, Assistant Director for Alumni Relations - Virginia Tech at 540.231.6285 or email [jordanm5@vt.edu](mailto:jordanm5@vt.edu)

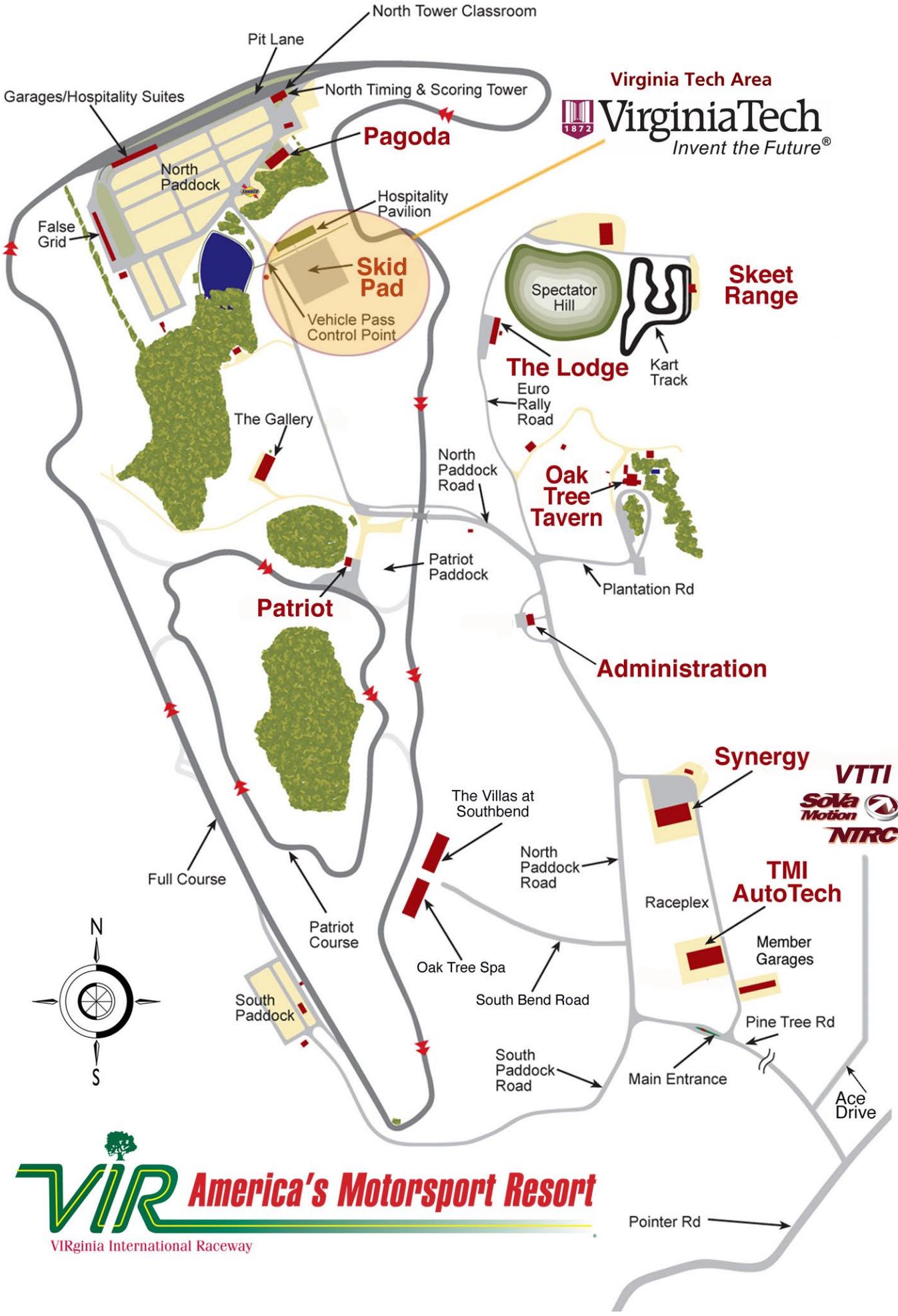
*Thank you to our Event Sponsors: Danville, Halifax, Roanoke Valley, Southside, Charlotte, and NC Triad Alumni Chapters, VT Ware Lab; as well as the Motorcycle Club at Virginia Tech and the Car Club at Virginia Tech.*

*(Please note: Tents/canopies that are being used for alumni tailgating, and displays will not be charged. The standard camping fees will apply for those camping. Tents are \$35 and RVs are \$50.)*



**America's Motorsport Resort**





**VIR** *America's Motorsport Resort*  
 VIRginia International Raceway