

FOUNDATION FEST

Honoring the Shirks

By Jon van Woerden

The BMW CCA Foundation Fest – celebrating the long awaited opening to the Genesis exhibition – was full of surprises. We all knew about the magnificent vintage BMWs on display at Genesis, so no surprises there. What we didn't know is what was hidden underneath Alf Gebhardt's 3.2 Super Baroque Angel, but soon we would.

After a few words of welcome by the Foundation's president Lance White, club members Lonny and Lou Ann Shirk were invited to the podium by Frank Patek, executive director of the BMW CCA who presented them the coveted "BMW CCA Friend of the Club" award for their unrelenting demonstration of enthusiasm, passion and dedication to the CCA. Both the Shirks were visibly moved which even their face masks couldn't hide. But there was more to come!

Neil Baer and Michael Mitchell unveiled the Shirks' 1970 BMW 2800 CS. Lonny and



Lou Ann had decided to donate their coupe to the permanent collection of the Foundation. The Sahara-ish coupe, which was displayed last year in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency in Greenville during the 50th BMW CCA Oktoberfest, has a long history with the CCA. It was purchased by the BMW CCA club

president Parker Spooner from Reid Pepin in 1977. In 1989 when Parker Spooner fell ill, he brought the car to Michael Izor and told Michael: "I don't want anyone else have it, and you're going to buy it". Michael repainted the E9 from Sahara to a slightly different color using only half the red in the paint mix, now resembling a creamy *café-au-lait*, a stunning color which went very well with Parker's black painted web wheels. When Michael Izor felt he could no longer give the coupe the love it deserved, he sold it in 2010 to Lonny and Lou Ann who promised to take good care of the car. The car was repainted in Izor's custom shade of Sahara, the wheels were refinished in silver and the interior was redone in the original tan. The 4-speed transmission was replaced by a 5-speed overdrive and The Shirks took it to several Oktoberfests and other BMW events. Now that the Spooner/Izor/Shirk coupe is in the permanent collection of the Foundation, we can be sure to see it at many BMW events in the Southeast and beyond.

