

Spartan Wheel Chariots

More than 50 Thomasville Rotarians participated in last week's virtual club meeting where they got to meet Mr. Ben Huntzinger, founder of Spartan Wheel Chariots. Spartan Wheel Chariots was borne out of Mr. Huntzinger's passion for the outdoors and to fill a need for an affordable wheelchair built especially for the rigors of outdoor life and sport.

Paralyzed in an accident 11 years ago, Ben had in mind the kind of chair that would allow him to once again enjoy the outdoors despite his disability. He taught himself to weld and started piecing together basic supplies from Lowe's and The Home Depot. Eventually, the chair he had envisioned was a reality.

Ben's chair design has two unique features: a sturdy rear suspension and large 10" by 3" front wheels which enable the chair to be ridden over gravel, on fine sand and even in the water. Although there are no known competitors with the exact features of his chair, the starting price for other chairs that a disabled person might consider for rugged outdoor use is \$2,500. Mr. Huntzinger's chairs sell for just \$500.

While attending Southern Regional Technical College, Mr. Huntzinger was encouraged to enter a statewide competition among technical college students. The \$25,000 grand prize that he won served as the seed money for Spartan Wheel Chariots, and he has been making, selling and shipping chairs all over the country ever since. Social media has been the main marketing tool for Spartan Wheel Chariots. Facebook, for example, has a sizeable 'spinal injury group,' and that has been the source of 85% of the company's sales of about 120 chairs per year.

Currently, Spartan Wheel Chariots is a one-man operation that keeps Ben busy when he's not studying at Thomas University to become an educator. However, Mr. Huntzinger hopes to have a full-scale production facility one day, possibly employing others who would share his passion. The large number and variety of questions and comments from participants in the meeting suggest that Thomasville Rotarians strongly admire Mr. Huntzinger's passion, and many seem eager to offer guidance and support as

MEETINGS

July is Maternal and Child Health Month

- 7/30 Cheif Troy Rich
- 8/6 Mellinda Piller - Covid and the impact on Small Business
- 8/13 Danillo Pistelli - A History of Mom and Dads and the Pistelli Family
- 8/20 Eliza McCall - Second Harvest
- 8/27 Steve Depaola - Psychology of Negative Elections
- 9/3 Jack Hadley and Melanie Martin - Imperial Hotel
- 9/10 Valerie Scoon
- 9/17 Wayne Johnson - served under Betsy Devos

BIRTHDAYS

- 7/28 Bryant Beadles
- 7/28 Richard Christenson
- 8/3 Dawna Bicknell Tanner
- 8/6 Janet Liles
- 8/9 André Marria
- 8/10 Katie Chastain
- 8/13 Andy Vann
- 8/13 Joe Tarver
- 8/13 Harry Tomlinson
- 8/13 David Sofferin
- 8/13 Chris Kerr
- 8/15 Scott Smith
- 8/17 Donald Sims
- 8/23 Rankin Smith
- 8/23 Stephan Thompson

WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/10 William Dickey (52)
- 8/13 Arthur Wigfall (2)

he considers the future of his business.

Striving to Be Better

As we enter our 100th year, the Rotary Club of Thomasville is placing renewed focus on Rotary's code of honor--the Four-Way Test. To define those efforts and bring the Test to life, we gathered input from members of the executive board and from members of the club.

President John Brown and his board are making the Four-Way Test part of ... [more]

This Week's Program

Rotarian Chief Troy Rich will present an overview of policing in Thomasville.

8/17 Joseph Edwards (17)

8/19 Gary Tucker (60)

8/19 Carlton Bryant (45)

YEARS OF SERVICE

8/1 Fran Milberg (24)
26 years in Rotary

8/1 Wilson Carraway, Jr. (37)
70 years in Rotary

8/2 Carlton Bryant (2)

8/2 Adrian Burns (2)

8/2 Walter Marria, Jr. (2)

8/8 Scott Sterling (12)

8/24 David Hufstetler (3)

ROTARY ONLINE

<https://thomasvillerotary.org>

<https://rotary6900.org/>

<https://rotary.org/>

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm

The Plaza Restuarant

217 Broad St

Thomasville, GA 31792

SOCIAL MEDIA



LEADERSHIP

President John Brown

President-Elect Wayne Newsome

President Nominee Danny Braddy

Immediate PP Kim Walden

Treasurer Teri White

Secretary Angela Williamson

Public Image Michael Bixler

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Directors

Club Vice President Scott Rich

Membership Janet Liles
Foundation Fran Milberg
Service Projects Adrian Burns
Youth Service André Marria
Admin Cameron Jahnke