Rotary Club of Thomasville

Thomasville HTML Template

JULY 28, 2020

Spartan Wheel Chariots

Overcoming the Limitations of a Physical Disability

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

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
8/6	Janet Liles
8/9	André Marria
8/10	Katie Chastain
8/13	Andy Vann
8/13	Joe Tarver
8/13	David Sofferin
8/13	Chris Kerr
8/13	Harry Tomlinson
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)
8/17	Matt Edwards (17)

passion, and many seem eager to offer guidance and support as he considers the future of his business.

Striving to Be Better

Living the Four-Way Test

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

Policing in Thomasville

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

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) 41 years in Rotary
8/2	Carlton Bryant (2)
8/2	Adrian Smith 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

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
Public Image	Michael Bixler

Directors

Club Vice President	Scott Rich
Foundation	Fran Milberg
Membership	Janet Liles
Service Projects	Adrian Smith Burns
Youth Service	André Marria
Admin	Cameron Jahnke