

WHEEL TALK ABOUT IT



What Happened...

A SEASON IN REVIEW

Summer's here and Wheel Serve NC is in full swing. We now have 2 more programs up and rolling including Wheel Serve Wilmington, which started in April and Wheel Serve Asheville, which held a kickoff jamboree in May. Players from Wheel Serve Charlotte travelled to each city to greet new players. Welcome Wilmington and Asheville to the family!

In exciting news, in May, six players from across the state competed at the able-bodied charity Smash Cancer Tournament in Wilmington, achieving one of our goals by integrating players into the existing tennis community. We didn't leave empty-handed, Billy Eno won the Mixed Doubles 5.0, Chris

Thomas won the Men's 6.0 Consolation, Eric Pierce was a Mixed Doubles 5.0 Consolation Finalist and tie break matches were played by Kelly Flouhouse, Christian Felkl and Tod Manning. What a victory!

Next up at the net is Wheel Serve Piedmont and Wheel Serve Sandhills. Both programs will be a collaboration between their local Community Tennis Association and Parks and Recreation. This fall, we will have 6 programs across the state, bringing wheelchair tennis from the sea to the snow.



Wheel Serve Asheville

IN THIS ISSUE

What Happened...

Let Us Introduce...

Why It Matters...

What's Happening...



Let Us Introduce...

DEB KAPOPOLUS - VOLUNTEER

Deb has lived in Charlotte, with her husband Ernie, for six years. She has played tennis for 17 years.

Why did you decide to volunteer?

"One day 3 or 4 years ago, my friend, Helen Leonard, told me about a wheelchair tennis program she volunteered for and the fun everyone had while they were on the courts. She didn't intend on 'recruiting' me, but I was hooked! My new friends are avid tennis players who happen to be playing from a wheelchair. Some players are funny, others are more serious. We all have good days and our challenging days, but even on our 'off' days, we hit tennis balls, laugh a bit and appreciate how lucky we are to be together, playing tennis."



Why It Matters...

ADAPTIVE SPORTS GRANTS

There's nothing better than getting your own wheels. So when Carrie Cleary and Bob Russell from Wheel Serve Cary learned of the Challenged Athletes Foundation's adaptive sport grant, they didn't waste time to apply. Many people don't realize how expensive a sport chair can be, costing around \$2,500, nor the independence it brings to the player. Bob, who had a hemipelvectomy, commented that "the weakest part of my game was the ability to push my chair, since I only have a power chair and can't afford a

What have you learned?

"I started volunteering because I thought it was a great way to give back to the community and maybe help a friend. Now, Wednesday is not my 'volunteer' day; it is the day my friends and I play some tennis. Like all tennis teams and clubs, our group is full of a variety of people. We all have different skill levels, different reasons for playing and different physical abilities. However, despite our differences we all have appreciation for just being able to be there. We all want to be as good as we can, but recognize the victory isn't in winning the match; it's the experience of simply playing it."



sport chair. So when I learned of CAF, I jumped on it." Carrie, who's left leg is paralyzed from a surgical accident, said this upon receiving her new chair, "I named her Trixie, which means 'Bringer of Joy.' The first day on the court with Trixie was amazing. The way my body felt in the chair made it easier to move faster and turn tighter. Having a chair made to your measurements gives you a great advantage." Tennis is an amazing sport, and as Bob says, "chasing a ball around the court in a wheelchair takes me out of my head and into my body, and that's a healthy thing."

To read their full story, click [here](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

CHARLOTTE

Wheel Serve Charlotte
Wednesdays
9:30 - 11:30 AM (Summer)

Levine Tennis Center
2219 Tyvola Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28210

ASAP
Tuesdays
9:30 - 11:30 AM (Summer)

Levine Tennis Center
2219 Tyvola Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28210

CARY

Wheel Serve Cary
Saturdays (Bimonthly)
3:00 - 4:30 PM

Cary Tennis Park
2727 Louis Stephens Dr.
Cary, NC 27519

ASHEVILLE

Wheel Serve Asheville
Saturdays
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Asheville Racquet Club
200 Racquet Club Rd.
Asheville, NC 28803

WILMINGTON

Wheel Serve Wilmington
Sundays (Monthly)

Althea Gibson Tennis Complex
3405 Park Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403

PIEDMONT

Wheel Serve Piedmont
Coming this Fall

SANDHILLS

Wheel Serve Sandhills
Coming this Fall