

WHEEL TALK ABOUT IT



What Happened...

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Wheel Serve NC has been rolling along in 2023, playing lots of tennis and growing in numbers. We have 5 programs in NC including Charlotte, Cary, Asheville, Wilmington & the Sandhills as well as 63 players and 40 volunteers spending 36 hours on court each month playing wheelchair tennis in NC.

In addition to year-round programming, we have several annual events that unite us all in our love of tennis. Because of our fundraiser, Wheel Serve It Up in 2022, and our sponsors, we have been able to help support our players, programs and events. In February, Western Wake Tennis Association hosted the Polar

Up/Down Tournament at the Cary Tennis Park to shake the cold off our wheels. In March, we attempted to host our inaugural Wheel Serve NC Open wheelchair tournament, but the weather wouldn't cooperate despite our players' & volunteers' cheery dispositions. In June, we were honored to have 9 players participate in the SouthPark Magazine Pro-Am benefitting Wheel Serve NC. It went so well, we're on the calendar for next year. In August, we hosted our annual Winston Salem Open Play Day with 29 players as well as concluded the WSNC Open. Finally we've had 18 players, of all skill levels, competing in USTA tournaments across USA.



Wheel Serve Charlotte

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Let Us Introduce...

SANDY DELLINGER - VOLUNTEER

Sandy grew up in Charlotte and is married to her husband Steve and has 3 sons, JD, Patrick and Edward. She is a life long tennis player.

Why do you love the sport?

"It allows me to be outside, socializing with people who enjoy playing, being competitive but still having fun and it keeps me moving!"

What do you love about volunteering?

"Every week at Wheel Serve is awesome. I have met players from all walks of life who love to play tennis. Everyone is excited to be there and always with smiles on their faces. There are beginners to very high levels all on



Tyler Bullard (second from left)

Why It Matters...

WHEEL SERVE NC GRANTS

Wheel Serve NC wants to help their players offset tennis-related expenses making it possible to play as well as supporting our 5 programs throughout NC. Because of our fundraising efforts, we are able to offer the Workman Player Grant, named in memory of Gary & Becky Workman and the WSNC Program Grant. The Workman Player Grant offers players \$250 biannually while the WSNC Program Grant offers \$450 to each program annually. Nothing is off limits as long as it's used in the pursuit of tennis. Our programs

the same courts encouraging and cheering for each other every week. It's an awesome environment that puts a smile on my face."

What do your tennis friends think?

"When I tell my friends that I volunteer for a wheelchair tennis program, the look on their face is usually like, 'what,' not understanding how it's done. First they think I too play in a sport chair, but then I say, jokingly, that I could if I was that coordinated and explain the rules. Each week I go out and hit balls, play games and get some really good tennis each week. I'm not sure there are a lot of people in the tennis community that understand wheelchair tennis and know about Wheel Serve NC. I tell everyone!"



Sarah Benzing & Sandy Dellinger

have utilized the grant for equipment and to offset the cost of a sport chair. Many of our players use it to offset tournament expenses including entry fees, travel and accommodations. Tyler Bullard, Wheel Serve Wilmington, commented "it made it possible for me to participate in my first tennis tournament! A personal goal of mine since I started playing a year ago. Thank you Wheel Serve NC." Others purchase equipment such as a new racquet, tires and tubes while some have transportation barriers and use it to attend weekly clinics. No matter the reason, Wheel Serve NC wants to support our players and their needs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

CHARLOTTE

Wheel Serve Charlotte
Wednesdays
9:30 - 11:30 AM (Summer)
11 AM - 1 PM (Winter)

Levine Tennis Center
2219 Tyvola Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28210

CARY

Wheel Serve Cary
Western Wake Tennis Association
Saturdays (Bimonthly)
3:00 - 4:30 PM

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

ASHEVILLE

Wheel Serve Asheville
Asheville Tennis Association
Saturdays, Apr. - Oct.
1 - 3 PM

Asheville Racquet Club
27 Resort Dr.
Asheville, NC 28806

WILMINGTON

Wheel Serve Wilmington
Greater Wilmington Tennis Assoc.
Fridays
9:30 - 11:00 AM (Summer)
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Winter)

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

SANDHILLS

Wheel Serve Sandhills
Village of Pinehurst P & R
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
9 - 11 AM (Summer)
11 AM - 1 PM (Winter)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Click [here](#) for details.