



The Rotary Club of Macon

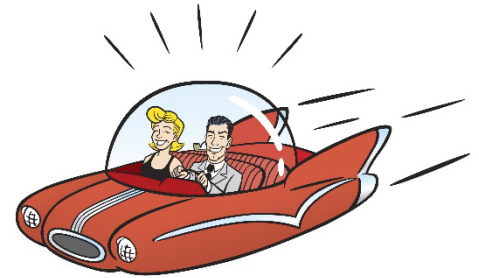
♥ THROBS

Published Weekly Since 1914

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Future of the Car Industry

Will all cars soon be electric? Are autonomous cars the wave of the future? And is the American car industry still competitive in the world? Come hear from Marsh Butler as he brings us up to speed on what to expect.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 11 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/yszrxkm8>. Our AV people are still working to fix the audio problem and hope to have a solution by next week's meeting.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

September, 2023

25 Central Georgia CASA Susanna Patterson

October, 2023

2 NewTown Loans Lauren Marshall
9 No Meeting
16 Macon Mental Health Matters Andrea Cooke
23 No Meeting
30 GRSP/Club Assembly

November, 2023

6 Crimestoppers – No meeting at church
13 District Governor Felix Smith and Asst. District Governor Steve Bell
20 No Meeting

MEETING September 11, 2023

Attendance: 66.7% -65 in person, 21 Zoom, plus 5 guests

CART \$10.00, Raffle \$74.00

Club Membership:141

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting. She noted that today is September 11, when we mark the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks. She also noted that our club's charter date is March 1, 1914, which equates to 109 years of Service Above Self.

Jeffery Monroe then came up to lead the song and Pledge of Allegiance. In recognition of 9/11, he chose the National Anthem. Andrew Eck offered the prayer.

Stephanie then recognized the speaker, his guest, and four other guests including a visiting Rotarian from Griffin and at least two potential members. She offered birthday wishes to the eight members with birthdays this week, including President Elect Danny Gibson whose birthday is today. Five members have club anniversaries, including Jimmy Asbell with 10 years and Chip Miller with 30 years.

It was then time for CART brags to raise funds for Alzheimer's research. Here's a sampling:



President Stephanie said we will continue our tradition of Read for the Record at Burdell Hunt on Thursday, October 26. Kathy McCollum will soon be sharing information on how we may participate with this event!

Stephanie then said she would like to direct attention to the 2023-2024 International President Gordon McNally's banner that hangs from this podium and says "Create Hope in the World." She said we may have seen in July's Rotary Magazine President McNally's Presidential Initiatives. They are:

- Prioritizing mental health
- Building peace through virtual exchanges
- Empowering girls

In reflection of these initiatives, President McNally says "Research shows that performing acts of kindness is an effective step any of us can take to protect our well-being. And by building peace within, we become more capable of bringing peace to the world." Peace isn't a dream, and it's not passive. It's the result of working hard, earning trust, and having open conversations that may be difficult. Peace must be waged persistently – and bravely. Everything we do across our areas of focus has the potential to foster the hope that can make peace possible."

So, as we look at the banner this year may we all reflect in President McNally's Theme "Create Hope in the World"

Andrew Eck then came forward to introduce our speaker, Jimmy Puckett. Jimmy is the CEO and founder of Spinen, a Macon IT company that designs and maintains data centers, develops applications and software, and offers a wide range of services to a diverse clientele of businesses and government agencies. Jimmy is a graduate of Mercer University with a double major in Technical Communication and Computer Science.

Jimmy began by referencing the fear some people have of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and saying “AI will not take your job, but someone using AI will.” AI, especially ChatGPT, has been in the news a lot and is already being integrated into the way companies conduct business. Jimmy’s firm has embraced AI and he encouraged others to do likewise, but he offered advice on how to avoid problems. First, if you use ChatGPT you should look for the setting to disable training so it doesn’t add your information to its dataset. You should focus on building good prompts, not just a list of questions to be asked.

If you are looking for a long-term roadmap,

- Make sure that you know where your data is located & centralized
- Make sure that you own your own data
- Make sure that if you are selecting new software, it has a good API (bring your IT team into the software selection process)
- Look for repetitive processes that you could use AI to summarize data

As an example, Jimmy said his company fields many questions daily from people having various computer problems. They have devised a chat bot that interacts with the customer and makes a succinct summary of their problem.

The membership had more than the usual number of questions, which indicated their interest in this topic. When asked where one should go on the web to find more information, Jimmy cited several sources while cautioning that some of them are “nerdy” and very in-depth:

- https://www.youtube.com/@matthew_berman
- <https://www.youtube.com/@daveebbelaar>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@rabbitmetrics/videos>
- <https://aiweekly.co/>



In remembrance of 9/11, President Stephanie closed with a quote from Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl:

“If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is not time for hate.”

The meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at gwheat@visitmacon.org

Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**.

Vocational Spotlight

See <http://maconrotary.com/vocational-spotlight.php> to read more information on Rotarians featured monthly on our website <http://maconrotary.com> If you would like to be included in a Vocational Spotlight, please contact Gary Wheat, gwheat@visitmacon.org

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime Meeting Rotary Project or Rotary Committee
Anytime Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* link

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15th of the following month. **Members are required to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Charles Olson EOlson200@msn.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask Membership Chair Charles to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!

www.maconrotary.com
