



# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

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**Rotary Club of  
Hattiesburg  
629 N. Main St.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402**

Tuesday the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg welcomed its newest member, *Phillip Carter*.



Special thanks to our guests last week, Jack and Judy Ragsdale, pictured here with Sean Priebe.



## MINUTES: FEBRUARY 16, 2016

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Brian Moore who gave the invocation and to Bill McLeod who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Wes Brooks and Todd Watson who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced today's visitors. Kory Moore is a guest of Ben Donald. Greg Lowery is a guest of Gene Owens. Eric Kless is a guest of Aaron Ladner.

Sean then introduced Phillip Carter as our club's newest member. Phillip was a former Rotarian from the Clarksdale area. He graduated from Delta State University with a degree in music and audio engineering. He received his Masters in Library Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is now employed by the Lamar County Library System.

Sean then introduced today's guest speakers Jack and Judy Ragsdale with Elite Arms Training. Jack is retired from the Tampa Police Department. He is a nationally respected competitor in several disciplines and is a nationally renowned shooter and competitor as well as an expert firearms trainer. Judy is the Director of Elite Arms Training. She is a twenty-three year law enforcement officer and sergeant from the Tampa Police Department. She also has 15 years of competitive shooting and has earned a number of national shooting awards.

Jack says their goal is to provide a fun and educational experience for their classes. Class size is limited to eight allowing for more individualized training time for each student.

To obtain a Concealed Carry Permit, a Mississippi resident can download the application from this website: <http://www.dps.state.ms.us/firearms/firearms-permit-unit/>. You must also have a passport type photo. Your completed application and photo needs to be certified and then taken to the nearest Mississippi Highway Patrol headquarter location. There they will collect the appropriate fees (generally \$112.00) which will include fingerprinting and a background check. Once the application process is completed and

fees paid you will get your CCP in the mail in just a few weeks.

In order to obtain a CCP with an Endorsement you must complete an eight hour training course by a certified instructor. The Endorsement also comes with additional fees.

Jack says there are about 250 certified firearms instructors in Mississippi. He suggests you interview the ones you are interested in before signing up. Ask them what makes them qualified to teach you about firearm use and safety. Also find out what you can about their range and make sure that you choose an instructor and a range that you will be comfortable with.

The Endorsement allows you to carry a concealed weapon into many locations where a CCP does not. You can carry a concealed weapon with the Endorsement into a restaurant where alcohol is served and on school property without breaking state laws. A CCP makes you more legal when you travel and the Endorsement improves your carrying status.

Jack reminds everyone who carries that they will be held accountable for every bullet that comes from a weapon in their possession. Therefore, everyone who wishes to carry should be trained at the highest level possible. He reported that police officers who have some level of weapons training only hit their targets 30% of the time. Seven out of ten bullets miss their intended targets but must be accounted for.

If you own and use weapons Jack says to make sure you are comfortable carrying your weapon. By being comfortable you will be more likely to have your weapon rather than leaving it in your car and not have it available to you when you need it. Additionally, if you own weapons make sure they are secured at all times.

To learn more visit [www.elitearmstraining.com](http://www.elitearmstraining.com).

Minutes provided by:  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary



**Our Guest**  
**Mikal Dickerson**

Welcome to Hub City Life. What would you like to do today?

Mikal has lived in Hattiesburg for 11 years, and each year he finds reasons why living life here is more sustainable than the idea of leaving. A fierce advocate for the Millennial and Generation X cohort and their potential impact on Hattiesburg, Mikal created Hub City Life as an avenue to engage with a demographic who will drive commerce for the next 50 years in and around the city. His primary goal is to use his Software Engineering and Business background to create opportunities that bridge the gaps between major market technology offerings and the infrastructure that Hattiesburg provides for business growth in the high-tech space.



**APRIL 26**



**The Children's Center**

FOR COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

## UPCOMING

**MARCH 1:** MIKE LOPINTO, FESTIVAL SOUTH

**MARCH 8:** EXTRA TABLE, OVER THE EDGE

**MARCH 29:** TOUR OF THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

**JULY 7-19:** ROTARY TRIP TO DISTRICT 5360, CALGARY STAMPEDE

**MARCH 4-6:** OLE MAN RIVER PETS

**APRIL 7-10:** DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**MAY 28—JUNE 1:** ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA)

**SEPTEMBER 24: BIKE-A-THON**

