

OMB APPROVAL	
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>NIHART CHARLES E</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O SPARTAN MOTORS INC</u> <u>1165 REYNOLDS ROAD</u>  (Street) <u>CHARLOTTE MI 48813</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>SPARTAN MOTORS INC [ SPAR ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/31/2003</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$10.1	12/31/2003		A		3,500		12/31/2003	12/30/2013	Common Stock	3,500	\$0	3,500	D	

Explanation of Responses:

Stephen C. Waterbury, by 01/05/2004  
power of attorney  
 \*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

**EXHIBIT 24**

**LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned does hereby constitute and appoint JOHN E. SZTYKIEL, RICHARD J. SCHALTER, JAMES W. KNAPP, CARYN M. MOREAU, STEPHEN C. WATERBURY and MICHAEL K. MOLITOR, or any one or more of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys and agents, with full power of substitution in the premises, to do any and all acts and things and to execute and file any and all instruments that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, may consider necessary or advisable to enable the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and any requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission in respect thereof, in connection with his or her intended sale of any security related to Spartan Motors, Inc. (the "Company") pursuant to Rule 144 issued under the Securities Act and the preparation, execution and filing of any report or statement of beneficial ownership or changes in beneficial ownership of securities of the Company that the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) may be required to file pursuant to Sections 13 or 16 of the Act including, without limitation, full power and authority to sign the undersigned's name, in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity, to any report, application or statement on Form ID, Forms 3, 4, 5 or 144, Schedules 13D or 13G, or to any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorneys and agents, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

The undersigned agrees that the attorneys-in-fact named herein act as legal counsel to the Company in connection with the securities matters addressed herein, and do not represent the undersigned in his or her personal capacity in connection with such matters. The undersigned agrees that the attorneys-in-fact named herein may rely entirely on information furnished orally or in writing by the undersigned to such attorneys-in-fact. The undersigned also agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the attorneys-in-fact against any losses, claims, damages or liabilities (or actions in respect thereof) that arise out of or are based upon any untrue statement or omission of necessary fact in the information provided by the undersigned to the attorneys-in-fact for purposes of executing, acknowledging, delivering or filing any such forms, or any amendments or any successor forms thereto, or any form or forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission in lieu thereof or in addition thereto.

This authorization shall supersede all prior authorizations to act for the undersigned with respect to securities of the Company in these matters, which prior authorizations are hereby revoked, and shall survive the termination of the undersigned's status as a director and/or officer of the Company and remain in effect thereafter for so long as the undersigned (in his or her individual capacity or in a fiduciary or other capacity) is subject to Rule 144 with respect to securities of the Company or has any obligation under Section 16 of the Exchange Act with respect to securities of the Company.

Date: September 9, 2002

/s/ Charles E. Nihart

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Signature

Charles E. Nihart

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Please print name