



All Terrain Wheelchairs in USA

Marc Kriznack: For over two decades, Whirlwind Wheelchair International has made it their mission to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the developing world.

Ralf Hotchkiss, Whirlwind Founder, Full time rider

Founder Ralf Hotchkiss and his team of designers created the durable, low-cost RoughRider by collaborating with wheelchair riders from more than 40 countries. At Hotchkiss's design and construction class at San Francisco State University, students help refine the Roughriders' design so riders can be even more mobile and independent. It is out of this relentless dedication that the RoughRider has now become available to riders in the United States.

Steve Dalton, Outdoor enthusiast, Full time rider

Steve: It feels good! The seating position is comfortable and with wide front casters it handles uneven terrain really well, which makes it easy to push. Merely by having a wider footprint, with the knobby tires and especially these casters which would deal with soft surfaces like grass, it's really stable side-to-side, so I feel comfortable and confident using it.

Celia Shure, Student, Full time rider

Celia: It's nice to be able to get away from the city and just kind of be in nature. It's relaxing. I find that places even with a bit of tougher terrain, like some sort of a dip or something, I might get stuck in a primary chair. Basically, this feels like it can go anywhere.

Ralf: They can just cruise right through... Smash our way through, basically.

Marc: Its mountain bike rear tires, extra-long wheelbase, and wide front caster tires make it possible to travel off-pavement and open up new possibilities.

www.whirlwindwheelchair.org



Ralf: To use bicycle-based parts, to use easily-reparable parts, has been key to keeping the chairs function. That's the thing about a wheelchair: it's only good when it's working.

Steve: I think being outdoors is a huge element for people to really be their entire selves. The first time that you get back into an environment like this, I've seen time and again is transformative for people. It flips how they see the world and how they perceive themselves in it. Your idea of who you are in the world having a disability changes, and you start to open up again, and you start to remember who you are and what you really enjoy doing, and how being in places like this nourishes you. Those are things that I think are key. Definitely this chair would help people have that experience.

C.C. Wishton: Wooo!

Steve: That's what the outdoor experience does for you!

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