

ADAPTIVE SPORTS PARTNERS

of the NORTH COUNTRY

Rooted in the community, reaching out to all - all disabilities, all sports, all seasons



The TRAILRIDER

What is the TrailRider?



The TrailRider is a specially-designed wilderness access vehicle. It is essentially a modified wheelchair with the ability to travel on hiking trails through the woods and up and down small hills with the aid of volunteers acting as “sherpas.” Affectionately described as “a cross between a wheelbarrow and a rickshaw,” the TrailRider is actually a precision-made vehicle, engineered to the highest specifications. It has taken hundreds of people with disabilities to places they never thought were attainable.

Who Can Benefit?

The TrailRider benefits people with a wide range of disabilities that cause them to be unable to hike or walk on trails and pathways independently. Examples include individuals with quadriplegia, spinal cord injury, stroke, cerebral palsy, ALS, or muscular dystrophy. The equipment was originally designed for adults, but it can be adapted for children by inserting a smaller seat.

Hikers with disabilities use the TrailRider to visit parks and vacation spots with their able-bodied friends and family members. They have used them for fishing trips and school outings, for summer camps and afternoons at the beach.

How Does it Operate?

With just one wheel, and with volunteers acting as sherpas back and front, the TrailRider can tackle any terrain. It has made numerous treks in the Canadian and American Rockies, and it has twice summited Kilimanjaro. It has also allowed countless fishing trips, school outings and family afternoons outdoors.



It is light weight and ergonomically designed with fully adjustable seating, footrests and armrests to assure comfort for both riders and “sherpas.” A large-profile pneumatic tire rolls smoothly over all types of terrain. The TrailRider features a suspension system to ease the ride and a highly reliable disc brake system for increased safety. It has a cargo compartment for equipment and hiking gear. It is designed to fold down for ease of transportation and storage.

Additional Accessories

The newest model, the Black Diamond TrailRider has a special "child insert" seat that can easily adjust to handle little people as well as adults. A "Mummy Bag," designed by the British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society (BCMOS), allows participants to maintain core body temperatures in all weather conditions. The Mummy Bag is designed to protect hikers from wind, rain, snow and cold temperatures. The TrailRider is equipped with side handles to facilitate simple transfers between the device and a wheelchair.

Who Makes the TrailRider?

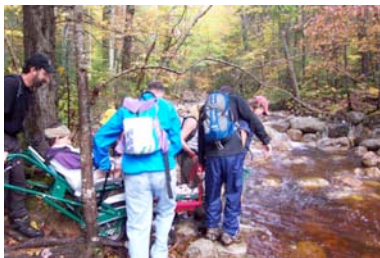
Over coffee one afternoon in the early 1990s, Sam Sullivan, a quadriplegic, and Paul Cermak, an engineer and adaptive volunteer talked about hiking and reaching into the wilderness and how it might be made possible for people like Sam. Literally on the back of a napkin, Sam and Paul sketched out what would become the first-ever TrailRider.

In his garage, Paul started with an old folding aluminum chair and added handles front and rear for the power-providers - the "sherpas," who would push and pull the vehicle. He then mounted a pneumatic tire housing underneath and the TrailRider access vehicle emerged - a vehicle that would many times take Sam into the woods and mountains surrounding his hometown of Vancouver.

Since 1995, the human-powered, ecologically friendly TrailRider has been redesigned, rebuilt and retested, over and over again. In 2005, BCMOS set out to design a new version of the TrailRider. What emerged was the "Black Diamond" TrailRider model that is proving extremely popular. Hikers with disabilities are now using the Black Diamond from one end of Canada to the other, and many are in use in the United States.

Personal Story

Martin was an avid outdoor enthusiast until he began experiencing serious symptoms of ALS, sometimes known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Despite his severe disability, Martin is determined to continue to live life to the fullest. Through programs of Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country and through the use of the TrailRider, Martin has been able to hike again in the White Mountains with his family and friends, despite being on a breathing machine. Volunteers have been able to transport him safely during several hiking adventures including this venture over a mountain stream.



Please help us in purchasing and maintaining the TrailRider and training volunteers to use this valuable piece of equipment.