

Donate to Help the VA Help Veterans

You can now make a donation and designate it for our VA Program. Whirlwind will make RoughRiders available to disabled veterans to test and provide valuable feedback through Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals around the country.

Your donation of \$800 will cover the cost of one RoughRider® for a veteran *and* a second RoughRider for someone in the developing world who otherwise could not afford one. Whirlwind will work with VA hospitals to identify well-matched recipients. We expect that the RoughRider will be well received, leading to VA purchases. And, by providing greater access to off-pavement adventures where most conventional wheelchairs cannot go, the RoughRider will open up more opportunities for veterans.



Bob Incerti (top) in southern Africa in 2007 and with his dog, Ben, south of Saigon in 1968 (right).



As Bob Incerti, a Vietnam vet and Whirlwind's San Francisco Operations Manager, puts it, "Returning to civilian life from the military is challenging. Returning with fewer abilities than you went in with makes the challenge harder. Having the right equipment can help veterans meet that challenge."

"There are many wheelchair options—light, agile chairs for smooth surfaces, special chairs for various sports—that allow amazing participation. I often explain the RoughRider by saying, if I were to walk down a dirt road to a cabin in the woods with a road bike in one hand and a mountain bike in the other, the person in the cabin wouldn't have to know anything about bikes to know that the mountain bike was more suited to their area."

"I think of the RoughRider as the mountain bike of wheelchairs, allowing folks to get further down the road, where the fishing gets good and the woods are quiet."

—BOB INCERTI, WHIRLWIND'S SAN FRANCISCO OPERATIONS MANAGER

You can make your tax-deductible donation either by check or credit card or online at whirlwindwheelchair.org/donate

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WHIRLWIND Wheelchair



A demonstrator on a Whirlwind RoughRider® clashes with police preventing disabled marchers from entering the main square of La Paz, Bolivia on February 23 at the end of a more than 1000-mile cross-country march.

Bolivian Disabled Activists Fight for Rights

Lack of mobility is only the first of many barriers that people with disabilities have to overcome in order to be able to fully participate in society. Perhaps no better example of this was on display in La Paz, Bolivia on February 23 when a large group of mobility impaired demonstrators confronted police at the end of a 3-month cross-country march.

The march was in support of their demand that the government comply with a 2006 law that provides 6 million dollars for Bolivians with disabilities annually. They also demanded that people with mobility impairments receive the same monthly stipend that blind people receive. Following the clash, the Bolivian government agreed to the demonstrators' demands. Whirlwind is pleased to see that our RoughRider® wheelchair provided the mobility that demonstrators needed to be able to fight for their rights. A video of the confrontation with police can be found at tinyurl.com/bolivias-disabled-clash

The RoughRider® Comes to the US!

Experience the outdoors like never before

Whirlwind is now taking advance orders for the RoughRider on our Buy One Give One (BOGO) program. Hundreds of wheelchair riders who have contacted us are excited about where they'll go in their own RoughRiders.

The RoughRider was designed to handle rough outdoor conditions like the broken up sidewalks and dirt paths commonly found in the developing world. Its long wheelbase makes it ultra-stable on uneven ground, making the RoughRider great for touring National Parks or for weekend excursions. Watch videos of people out having fun in their RoughRiders in the San Francisco Bay Area at www.whirlwindwheelchair.org/RoughRiderfun



"I looked up through the treetops and realized that I was by myself for the very first time, exploring a forest without fear that I would become trapped or that I would fall over on the uneven ground!"

—BRUCE CURTIS,
MANUAL WHEELCHAIR RIDER FOR 45+ YEARS

2010 RoughRider® Features

The RoughRider was upgraded in 2010, drawing on lessons from years of real-world use. It preserves the strengths of earlier models while incorporating feedback from users and therapists in the field.

- **Chair now available in five seat widths, from 12.5" to 18.5"**
- **Chair can be adjusted to three backrest heights and two seat depths at time of fitting**
- **10 individual tension-adjustable backrest straps for contoured back support**
- **Lower profile frame for ease of transfers and unrestricted reach to the ground**
- **NEW! Molded fender guards provide excellent water and mud protection**

The RoughRider offers greatly increased freedom and mobility in a low-cost chair. Its unique long wheelbase and caster design provide unprecedented stability and ease of propulsion on rough terrain, whether propelled by the rider or pushed by a friend or family member. Dedicated outdoor chairs and quality indoor chairs cost thousands of dollars each. At 20% to 50% of that cost, the RoughRider is priced within reach of many Americans who will benefit from it.

Expanding the Whirlwind Team

We have met some great people through our partnership with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Wheels for Humanity in Jogja, Indonesia and our manufacturing partnership with PT Dharma in Jakarta. Recently, Indriyanto and Maria (at right and below) joined the Whirlwind team to help with engineering and sales. Indriyanto's background in large-scale manufacturing adds a unique body of knowledge to Whirlwind's technical team, whose experience is in small- to medium-scale shops. His expertise has already been a great help in delivering the quality we demand for our wheelchair users. Maria is helping Whirlwind find buyers in new markets and keeping orders on track.



Above: Indriyanto (left) and Maria (center), with their English tutor, Ms. Rina.



Left: Maria and Indry setting up a UCP Kids chair during a wheelchair provision training by UCP.

ASME Student Project



Matt McCambridge (left), Whirlwind's product development manager, works with mechanical engineering students Craig Brinton and Nic Celeste on an innovative trike prototype.

The ASME Trike Project is overseen by Whirlwind product designer Aaron Wieler. It is one of several engineering and entrepreneurship projects that we are currently working on with students at San Francisco State, where our headquarters and shop are located.

Members of San Francisco State's Student Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) are working with Whirlwind on building a hand-powered front-wheel-drive tricycle as a club project. The club has been responsible for welding, fabricating, and contributing to the iterative design process through testing. "The team of undergraduate students is learning valuable skills to help their eventual careers in engineering," says club president Nic Celeste, "while seeing first-hand how engineering and design can help make the world a better place for those with limited mobility." The ASME Trike