

## SHARING PRODUCTS & IDEAS

### The *FreeWheel*™ Wheelchair Attachment... Changing the Lives of Wheelchair Users

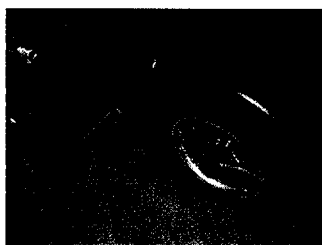
By Dawn Ziegler

Wheelchair users all over the world are raving over the increased mobility and independence they are obtaining with the *FreeWheel*™ *Wheelchair Attachment*. With its debut last April at the LA Abilities Expo and patent approval on June 15, 2010, this all terrain wheel attachment turns most any manual rigid wheelchair into a sturdy three-wheeler that can tackle almost any surface!

Patrick Dougherty, inventor of the *FreeWheel*, knows all about the struggles of maneuvering a wheelchair over rough terrain. It was seven years ago when Patrick was injured in a motocross accident which resulted in a C6/7 spinal cord injury. On many days he found himself stuck in his yard trying to be involved in his children's activities. It was then when the idea for the *FreeWheel* evolved.

Relying on his engineering background and the help of his machinist friends, the design for the *FreeWheel* began taking form. Cutting apart a bicycle rack, they built a crude frame and wheel which attaches with a hitch onto Pat's footrest. Although far from a finished product, the result of gliding over rough terrain was exactly what he was looking for!

The design of the *FreeWheel* is simple. The aluminum frame and fork hold a larger wheel which attaches with a clamp securely to your footrest lifting the front casters off the ground. There is also a stabilizing mechanism which holds this wheel straight until slight



pressure is applied to steer. The result...less resistance and a

smooth ride over almost any terrain. When not needed, the *FreeWheel* can easily be unhooked and clamped onto the storage perch that is on the crossbar on the backrest. With its lightweight and compact design (5 lbs & 2 feet long), Patrick made certain of easy handling even by a quad like himself.

The *FreeWheel* is designed to work with rigid framed wheelchairs with rigid footrests. Patrick notes there are some folding chairs that will work but most are not a good fit.

The *FreeWheel* is available for purchase online as well as through dealers in the U.S. and in some foreign countries. The *FreeWheel* is also shown at most *Abilities Expos* where it is available for immediate purchase at a small discount. The cost of the *FreeWheel* is \$499 plus shipping & handling (\$30 if shipped within the U.S.). There is a satisfaction guarantee and one year warranty for breakage. In many cases a person can get his/her insurance to cover the cost or get reimbursement. On the website, information is also provided to help properly "code" the *FreeWheel* based on its health & safety benefits, usability and independence to justify its purchase to an insurance company.

To purchase the *FreeWheel* or to get more information go to: [www.gofreewheel.com](http://www.gofreewheel.com), or email Pat Dougherty at [pat@gofreewhell.com](mailto:pat@gofreewhell.com) or Cindy Krieg at [gofreewheel@live.com](mailto:gofreewheel@live.com).

