



INTERESTING WHEELCHAIR NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

TEAM HYBRID NEWSLETTER—WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter.

We'll be sending you a monthly newsletter with interesting news and stories from around the world, all wheelchair related. There's some amazing and inspiring things going on all over the place and we want to contribute to sharing these stories. We hope you enjoy reading them.

If you don't want to receive this newsletter, just reply with "Delete" in the subject box of your email and you'll no longer be sent newsletters.

You can do this at any stage. It's important for us to hear about new awe-inspiring events, so let us know if you're involved in something that others should know about and we'll add your story to one of our newsletters.

This is the story of Team Hybrid – just a short version! Mark Higgon, T4 paraplegic, started Team Hybrid in 2002. Mark designs all the power and hand cycle attachments sourcing the best possible components to ensure maximum performance

and durability. Team Hybrid has built a very good reputation for producing high quality products, and this is because of Mark's attention to detail. Some say it's because of his stoical perfectionism, but he won't admit that!

Have a look around the Team Hybrid web site and check out the different wheelchair attachments. There's the Viper power attachment, the Coyote hand cycle attachment and the Cougar, which is a hand cycle with power option.

There are some video clips you might enjoy also. During testing, Mark tried out different motors and other components, to make sure he selected the best ones for the final products. There's one video clip of a Viper toeing a 2 ton Land Rover.

www.TeamHybrid.co.uk



Ricky James—Perseverance!



It wouldn't be right to have a newsletter like this without mentioning Ricky James. A

truly inspirational young man and an example that you can do what you put your mind to.

Ever since he was a kid, all Ricky wanted was to be a professional motocross racer. His drive and determination got him in to one of the top motocross teams in America, where he started competing on the amateur circuit.

When Ricky was 17 when he broke his back in a National race in Texas, but that didn't stop him. Even as a T7 complete paraplegic, he's done some amazing things.

With his single-minded attitude and the support of his family and friends, he got back on 2 wheels and done some amazing things on his dirt bike. He's also competed in karting, quad bikes, Nascar and offroading. An

extremely fit young man, he's a keen handcyclist and wheelchair racer and has entered triathlons too.

Check out Ricky's web site – some amazing photos...

www.RickyJames824.com



Skydiving Camps for Paraplegics



Dale Elliot, Australia's first freefall paraplegic skydiver, is working on a project to set up specialised courses so

other paraplegics can learn skydiving.

Dale designed all the special protective gear to prevent bone and skin damage. He's used hi tech materials such as energy absorbing d3o that provides superior impact protection which is built into Dale's jump pants and Cookie "Ozone" helmet. Leg straps safely secure his legs

to his harness that have an additional piece of webbing stitched between them to prevent them from sliding down the thighs during free-fall, which was a problem in the past.

Dale is keen to share his expertise and is currently working on a project to set up courses at a skydiving centre in America. He wants to hear from anyone inter-



ested in learning to skydive so check out his web site and contact him for more information.

www.DaleElliott.com

Extreme Wheelchair



This has got to be one of the most impressive designs for a new wheelchair! Adam Silverstein, a 22 year old Industrial Design student, has designed this amazing wheelchair for his Senior Thesis at university in Georgia, USA. Like many other students with similar projects, he went online to get input from

wheelchair users at a disability forum and recruited the support for extreme wheelchair users, Aaron Fotheringham and Christiaan Bailey. These guys tested the functionality of his design and helped Adam fine tune his prototype into a fully functional and very impressive wheelchair.

www.asilverstein.blogspot.com

Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham

Born with Spina Bifida, 18 year old Aaron has more than earned his title as the world's most extreme wheelchair user. From the age of 8, he's been hanging around skate parks with his older brother who dared him to drop down a quarter pipe. He said it was scary at first but he was soon hooked. The rest is history! Check out

his amazing web site and see the mad things Aaron does.

www.AaronFotheringham.com



Apparelyzed Website & Forum

Apparelyzed is a web site with all the info anyone needs related to Spinal Cord Injuries. Not only that, it has a very active Forum with almost 10,000 members. It's the brainchild of Simon Roulstone from Leicester, England, who set up the site in August 2003 so that people affected by SCI's could exchange real life experiences. Not only does the Forum

help people with paralysis, but also their families, friends and lovers, as well as others seeking information about the many issue that surround life with a SCI.

www.Apparelyzed.com



Geoff Holt Atlantic Challenge

Englishman, Geoff Holt, 42, has become the first Quadraplegic to complete a solo voyage across the Atlantic. Geoff departed from Lanzarote on 10th Dec 2009 on his 4,353km trans-Atlantic trip, arriving in the British Virgin Islands on 7th Jan 2010. The "Impossible Dream" is a purposed built 60ft wheelchair accessible catamaran. Get the full

story, photos and video clips from Geoff's web site.

www.GeoffHolt.com

