

Loveland Trikes for a Cause

This article is about a quadriplegic(quad·ri·ple·gic) (paralyzed from the neck down) Coloradan who is going to bike from the Colorado/ Wyoming border all the way to the Colorado/ New Mexico border in fifteen days. The ride is called, "Pedal for my Peeps." The ride is going to start on Monday, Sep 26, 2011 and end on Monday, Oct 10, 2011. He is doing this as a fundraising for the Spinal Cord Injury Recovery Project. The Coloradan's name is Jay LaPointe who is from Loveland, CO.

In 2004 Jay was in a motocross ride, after the ride he went for one last ride and hit a bump. These are his words about what happened "My neck went over my arm. I heard a pop. I knew what had happened when I hit the ground."

At first, the doctors said he had a 3% chance of walking again. After, a lot of hard work and yelling at his legs Jay now walks with a crunch and for the past two years he has been triking. He rides his bike 3 hours a day for 5 to 6 days a week and works out in the gym regularly. During the trip across Colorado, Jay will have two special tricycles he will use. One is a Project One Trek Madone which is a special bike for him and the other one is a Catrike recumbent, not so personalized. Jay says, "I am a product of exercise-based recovery, so my thought was what a better way to tell people about (it) than to ride across Colorado."

It is really cool that Jay is triking that far and for a good cause too. It's very sad that Jay got hurt but it's a great thing he is getting better. A lot of people who had a dream and was all ready to join the professional motocross ranks would have just given up. Quitting and not trying to get better is the easy thing to do. Jay has proven that working hard and not taking the easy way out pays off in the end. He is probably going to be very tired when he is done the ride especially doing at least 30 miles a day. I don't think I could ever in my life do that long of a bike ride.

Jay's mom who is his biggest fan is going to follow him in the car in case he gets too tired or something happens on the way. This is so cool and very nice of her. I bet there both very excited. She normally rides her bike right next to him. They make a great team.

Each night Jay is going to try to update his website, jaylapointe.com for everyone to watch his progress during the ride. During the ride I'm going to watch his progress every day and cheer him on. I will also wear his shirt, Rider 14. Jay is really cool and ... HE'S MY COUSIN!!! My Aunt Terri, Jay's mom is amazing too.

I'm so proud of my cousin, Jay I wish I was there in person to tell him that. I hope someday I can meet him face to face.

By: Sierra Cummins