



**RORY McCARTHY
CLASS OF 1972**

Rory McCarthy, a member of the National Honor Society, graduated from Point Pleasant High School in 1972. He attended the University of Florida 1972-1975. He currently attends the University of Southern Maine, where he is only a few credits from a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Rory lives in Bath, Maine where he owns and operates his own company, R.E. McCarthy Design an electrical design image consulting service. He enjoys cycling, outdoor activities, art, pottery, travel, swimming, rowing, kayaking and people.

Rory McCarthy has always had a passion for sports. When his mobility was dramatically reduced in his teens due to muscular atrophy, and he was no longer able to walk without crutches, Rory assumed he would be relegated to a life on the sidelines. However his discovery of handcycling during its early days in 1980 gave Rory the means to pursue not only his own athletic goals, but his philosophy of inclusion, integration and opportunity in athletics for all individuals regardless of physical differences.

In 1993 Rory was a core cyclist for the Access Life ride from the Pacific coast of Washington State to the Atlantic shore of New Hampshire. The 4150 mile ride was sponsored by Northeast Passage, a chapter of Disabled Sports USA.



In 1995, Rory embarked upon an eight month, round-the-world cycling trip as a core cyclist/ambassador for World TEAM (The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports in AXA World Ride 95. The trip brought the team of both disabled and able-bodied participants through 17 countries on 3 continents over its 13,000 mile course. As the only handcyclist to pedal every mile, including over 400 miles through the rugged Gobi Desert, Rory McCarthy was described as a "wonderful ambassador with an infectious spirit, perfectly representing the mission of World TEAM Sports", by Jim Benson its founder and director.

In January of 1998, Rory again set out as a supporting handcyclist in the Vietnam Challenge, a ride which united Vietnamese and American athletes, able-bodied and disabled, veterans and civilians, for a 1200 mile, 16 day cycling journey from Hanoi in the north to Ho Chi Minh City in the south. Again Rory's ability to reach out to new people communicated an important message in a country where many, largely due to land mines, have lost some use of their bodies.

In his own community, Rory continues to spread his message of human potential by giving talks and giving slide presentations on his travels. Since the World Ride, Rory has given over 60 presentations to school, scout troops, children's rehabilitation hospitals, business groups and various organizations for the disabled. Additionally, Rory is a Governors Council on Physical Fitness volunteer, has served for 5 years on the board of Northeast Passage, and is currently the chair of membership for the newly formed United States Handcycling Federation, working to establish handcycling as a widely recognized competitive sport. September of 1998 found Rory in Colorado competing as a member of the first US handcycling team at the World Cycling Championships for the Disabled.

Rory McCarthy's enthusiastic dedication to the importance of meeting personal goals and his example of fitness for people of all abilities has touched many lives. Well known in his own community, Rory's message of ability and possibility resonates at home and far beyond. Unquestionably an exceptional athlete and a positive force for change!