



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

Providing pedal-powered transportation for the able and disabled with dignity

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Expo Preparations 2015



For the last couple years, His Wheels has entertained the idea of hosting a conference. The thought was to bring together the International Trike Community and our University Trike Consortium. However, my advisors cautioned me against the idea due to all the energy and work such an undertaking requires.

God had a better plan. In June, I learned about the first annual Chicago Unconventional Bike Expo (CUBE). It was scheduled for October 2-4, 2015, in Tinley Park, just 45 miles from home. A few days after contacting the organizer, she came to visit us at His Wheels to discuss the possibility of having an International Trike Track. She was all in favor of the idea.

With only three month notice for the expo, there were lots of preparations to do. Thanks to Gaby, a College of DuPage graphics design student, we were able to design a new postcard size brochure. Other tasks included getting new professional apparel with our logo on it, and designing a new display board.

On September 24, 2015, thanks to Chicago Radio WBEZ's Worldview program with host Jerome McDonnell, I gave an update on HWI and invited listeners to visit CUBE.

Chicago Unconventional Bike Expo—CUBE

Here are some exciting results from our time at CUBE:

Two of the three engineering students participating in this year's HWI trike Senior Capstone Design Project at Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) joined us on Friday. Also, Alex, a recent mechanical engineering graduate from ONU, helped us during the expo. Alex was part of last year's trike cargo option design team.

On Friday, HWI taught a class on hand-ergonomics. Our team included Nancy, our consulting Physical Therapist, Kevin, our design engineer, and myself. An exciting outcome was providing the director of an established recumbent trike company with critical information as they embark on designing a hand-pedaled prototype. He said, "You put us twenty-two prototypes ahead of where we would have been if I hadn't attended your class." He offered to help us in any way their company could, and we offered to provide ongoing input as needed. We are excited to have found yet another organization to collaborate with on the journey of improving the design of hand-pedaled trikes.



What a treat to have Jen, my friend from nursing school help out at our booth and share in the fun.

David, a College of DuPage video student came and did some filming at CUBE. As a way to gain experience, he has offered to produce a video so we can encourage others to join us for next year's International Trike Track.

Fall Happening

October 8th I met via web conferencing with nine people on Spring Arbor University's (SAU) campus in Michigan. The group included two faculty members from SAU, a marketing professor from Immanuel Business School in Hyderabad, India and six students. After sharing my testimony and the story of HWI, we dreamed together about possible classroom projects and entrepreneurship business opportunities. Since SAU has a HWI trike on campus, the students were able to evaluate it and we used it as the springboard for our discussion.

October 12th Messiah College (MC) hosted our first monthly University Trike Consortium web conference, which I facilitated. Also in attendance from HWI was Kevin (engineer) and Jeff (Board Member). In addition, we had five faculty members from the following institutions: MIT (Massachusetts), Letourneau University (Texas), SAU (Michigan) and MC (Pennsylvania). Our meeting goals included:

- Planning the International Trike Track for CUBE
- Widening our disability mobility discussion base
- Sharing ideas, strategizing together, while energizing our teams in order to reduce the work done in a vacuum.
- Promoting ways to move trike designs forward
- Identifying partners throughout the world that we could work alongside

October 14th Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) 2015-2016 Senior design team and their faculty advisor visited HWI. The trip began at my house, showing them where the dream of HWI began back in 2005.

From my house we went to our Public Storage Unit and showed them an alternative way for running a ministry; one that is low in overhead costs, yet sufficiently meets our needs in a creative, out of the box, way.



The next stop was Kevin's house, where student saw his workshop, complete with old restored power tools, handmade plains, and his engineering creativity oozing from the rafters.

From there we treated the ONU team to Chicago deep dish pizza in Wheaton. This provided a time for debriefing, while allowing them to miss rush hour traffic. And we couldn't send them home hungry! (Only hungry for God's Kingdom.)

Fall Travels

Trikes Travelling: One trike will go to BUV (Basic Utility Vehicles). The founder heard about us through ONU and has offered to display our trike alongside his product at events he attends. Our mission statements are similar. BUV's mission is to create unique transportation solutions relieving daily burdens and empowering sustainable economic development to help transform communities in Africa and beyond. When talking with the founder, I said, "If someplace overseas can build your BUV, they can build our trike."

We will ship a second trike to MIT's D-Lab. Students there are working on a hand-pedaled trike. They hope to go overseas in January to do some trike testing with their trike and ours.

Alice's travels: I will head to the East Coast in November for HWI and pleasure. The plan is to visit HWI supporters in New Jersey. Then I will travel with two faculty members from Messiah College to MIT where we will visit Matt, an MIT faculty working in the MIT D Lab: Development through Dialogue, Design, and Dissemination. We look forward to sharing resources, discussing trike testing and seeing the work they are doing at the D Lab.

Thanks for being part of our growing HWI team. We are amazed at all the varied opportunities we have while addressing hand-pedal trike needs.

On Behalf of the HWI Team
Alice Teisan Founder & Director



P.O. Box 423 • Wheaton, IL 60187 • (630) 510-1005 • info@hiswheels.org • www.hiswheels.org
Blog: hiswheelsinternational.blogspot.com • **Twitter:** HisWheels • **Facebook:** HisWheelsInternational