

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS MISSION UPDATE – September 2019



Michael posing in front of Crater Lake on his recumbent cycle.

Michael lives with an incurable form of cancer called Ependymoma. His brain is partially paralyzed on the left side, and since the age of 15 has had a total of 13 brain surgeries. Michael has been to hospice four times in his life, in his words:

"[the] first time hospice tried to end my life they deemed me to be brain dead and I woke up 4 days later and was quadriplegic at the time with not much [cognitive ability]. But with a lot of hard work I've made a lot of progress."

Michael's most recent brain surgery was just this past December.

Michael's diagnosis has many implications including seizures, hemiplegia, balance and visual impairments, Michael has never been able to hold a driver's license, but has worked hard to continue to progress, gain strength and independence. In particular, Michael rides upwards of 1,000 miles a year on his recumbent cycle for which he uses for exercise and transportation.

On the opportunity to participate in Cycle Oregon with OAS Michael expressed:

"This has been one of my life goals and a dream come true experience. I've talked to many people and done my research about this ride."

Cycle Oregon's generous donation of registration fees and the support from the Cycle Oregon and OAS staff and volunteers, and Michael's personal friend Henry also allowed Michael to be successful by "having an extra pair of eyes to help me with things I might miss because I have some blind spots" in addition to support around rest stops and the campground each night.

Michael sums it all up well:

"I love to ride all over. It's freeing to go fast and one day maybe hopefully I can race recumbent trikes. One day. But I intend to live my life to the fullest I possibly can. I shouldn't be alive and I don't plan to take it for granted."

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Michael (right) with OAS Equipment Manager Matt Porter (left)



Michael with Mt Bachelor in the background. Ready for the descent to Sunriver.