



MDI WHEELERS

ADAPTED BIKING IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

June 2023 Newsletter

Collaborating with community partners

We have a new acquisition - a beautiful brand new Nitro Box Trailer. It was provided by [Friends of Acadia](#) in support of their commitment to improving accessibility at Acadia National Park. The trailer is roomy and can accommodate our two Opair trikes with plenty of room for a third. It provides safe parking for the trikes between rides and protects them from the weather. The back ramp gives us a steady support for rolling the trikes in and out. All in all, a major step forward in making our trips from Eagle Lake easier for all!

[College of the Atlantic](#) has graciously agreed to allow us to park this trailer on the campus, giving us easy transit to the boat ramp at Eagle Lake.

Collaboration with local non-profits is critical to help inform the local community about the service that MDI Wheelers offers.



Watch MDI Wheelers in action



Our [new video](#) tells the story of the Tremonsters and the beginnings of the MDI Wheelers with some beautiful shots of the park. Some of you have seen an earlier version, but our final video, developed with help from Dan DeFranco, the nephew of Linda and George Woolley, is better than ever.

We are especially grateful to our three original riders, Ed Wood, Rick Smith, and George Woolley, for their willingness to share their stories and experiences of the carriage roads. The video also features our leaders Art Wooster and Dave Edson. All this in only eight minutes!

We have shared our video with several community groups including presentations at the [Lions Club](#), the [MDI & Ellsworth Housing Authorities](#), and the [Mount Desert Nursing Association](#). It warms hearts wherever we show it.



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Training is off to a great start

In May we began training Pilots and Safeties. We held four successful training sessions at the Smith's Barn in Seal Cove. We used the training format and material developed by [Portland Wheelers](#). The sessions focused on getting everyone comfortable with the Opair trikes, both the mechanics of operation and the experience of riding as a Pilot or as a Wheeler. Sixteen people completed training rides, so we now have a great list of volunteers ready and eager to serve either as Pilots or Safeties.

This is only the beginning. We could only accommodate 16 volunteers so far in our training schedule, and many potential volunteers were not yet back for the summer. We will soon be scheduling additional training sessions. We have a good list of additional people eager to help.

If you have an interest in volunteering, please sign up on our [website](#).

Scheduling summer rides

The carriage roads are open, and we are ready to get started! We will be beginning the season with rides in partnership with [Birch Bay](#) and [MDI & Ellsworth Housing Authorities](#). We also anticipate broadened community signups.



MDI Wheelers is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Our mission is to serve our community by increasing the accessibility of Acadia National Park carriage roads.

Visit our website to volunteer or donate.

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