

Where There's a Will, There's a Way: Myron Rosner Rides Tall



By: Judy Philipps Otto

"Disabled" is the last word that leaps to mind when you see Myron Rosner and his Boss Hoss trike burning up I-95 in southern Florida—with or without his beautiful wife or a gleeful child grinning behind him.

Canadian-born Rosner had grown up as an active and athletic outdoorsman, surrounded by snowmobiles and watercraft. By 2001, the 41-year-old builder-developer had relocated his business to Florida, and his wife, then a successful attorney, was expecting their fourth child. That's when Rosner was involved in a construction-site accident that damaged his spinal cord and left him a paraplegic.

"It's interesting that when you have an accident—especially a major catastrophic accident," Rosner said, "—it either brings your dreams to the forefront, or sends them to the back burner. For me, it sharpened my focus and brought the majority of my dreams to the forefront.

"One of those dreams was to be a city councilman and work with our city government. I had many other dreams, too—one of them to be a motorcycle owner. And while I was busy learning how to adapt my life to my new situation, I never gave up on those dreams."

While he was in a showroom, waiting to pick up an adapted conversion van, Rosner spotted the owner's Boss Hoss, and began wondering if and how it might be practical to realize one of his dreams with a genuine dream machine like the Boss Hoss.

Intrigued, he pursued his research, talking with customizers, exploring on-line, and discovering a variety of adaptive devices and parts for modifying vehicles to suit the needs of disabled

drivers. He also researched the Boss Hoss and developed some theories on how to modify it for himself—then, in November 2005, he located a 502 Boss Hoss whose owner in New York was interested in selling it. The owner agreed to deliver it, sight unseen, to the customizers' shop in Florida, and the deal was sealed.

"When I called the shop to tell them the bike was on its way down to them, they were stunned—hadn't really believed I was serious enough to follow through."

Rosner's determination and persistence left the wizards at Custom Bikes of Lauderdale shaking their heads in amazement, even as he chivied them through four weeks of complex modifications to adapt the pre-owned 502 Boss Hoss trike to accommodate his special needs: Paralyzed from the waist down, Rosner needed not only support, stability, and security while riding the high-powered trike, but 100% hand-operated controls, and a custom-designed system for storing his wheelchair within arm's reach and delivering it ready for access at the flick of a switch so he can dismount unaided.

Jack Wiseley, co-owner of Custom Bikes of Lauderdale, designed and installed the wheelchair lift system, a racing harness, feet and leg harnesses; he fabricated an aluminum foot plate to secure Rosner's feet; he moved the rear brake foot pedal up to the handlebars, and created a customized trailer hitch that allows Rosner's trike to tow the cargo trailer that houses his power wheelchair—a state-of-the-art Independence iBOT® Mobility System that has four-wheel-drive, climbs stairs and ramps, and elevates its driver to eye-level on two wheels.