



Bike MS Champion Living with MS

JD Early

1. When were you diagnosed with MS?

3/2003, age 28

2. How were you diagnosed with MS? MRI, physical “issues”.

I guess walking into walls is bad??

3. How does MS affect your daily life?

It affects everything I do in one way or another. I use a wheelchair to get around (not bad for the biceps ;-). I have tremors & shaky arms, making eating & drinking interesting, and fight fatigue. I am able to work through these things by not taking it too serious. Temperatures also affect me quite a bit. Cold = stiff, hot = limp.

4. Why is Bike MS important to you? I feel it is important for many reasons;

- a- gets people out & active, enjoying the outdoors & fresh air.
- b- raises money needed for research to find a cure and/or help those who need the help from medical supplies/meds to helping with heating & cooling bills.
- c- awesome to see so many people pulling together to help whether or not they know someone with MS or not. To coin a phrase from a great friend, “if everybody did it, would it work”. Seeing & feeling so much support & love, is amazing.

5. What’s your message to cyclists?

Thanks so much for joining the ride and helping. Everything and anything you do is appreciated. I pray for a cure and with your help and participation in this event, we are 1 step closer.

6. What is your proudest moment?

This seems to be ever changing and growing. Overall, when I do something someone says I can’t, it feels awesome. Not to challenge or say “you’re wrong” but, knowing someone is proud or impressed by me makes me proud.

7. **What is your favorite movie?**

Big James Bond fan. Don't think there is 1 particular favorite movie.

8. **What's on your iPod or what is your favorite band?**

Varies from rock to classic to pop.

9. **What's the single thing you can't live without?**

My family & friends. I love my wife and am so grateful to her for everything she is and all she does. I'm grateful to my friends & family for their love & support as well.

10. **What are your hobbies/pastimes:**

I enjoy the movies. Bowling has always been fun for me also. I enjoy trying new things as well. Being with people and just sitting around playing games, chatting, just hanging out.

11. **What do most people not know about you?**

I have an extra set of ribs.

12. **Who is your hero?**

I look up to Michael J. Fox for being someone who fights everyday to push the limits his body has him in and push through those times. I also think of people that fight everyday with harder trials than my own and think, "wow, that is awesome they were/are able to do that."

13. **Identifier- when a cyclist decides the he/she would like to ride for you, they will ride with an identifier or something that represents you** (i.e. stuffed animal, temporary tattoo, flag):

My favorite color is blue and I like things that are fun & unique. How cool would it be to have a blue star drawn on the riders arm. Sweet!! 😊 I would be honored to see that and love to add that to my proudest moment list.