

West Michigan Recumbent Rider Sets Seven World Records

BY KAREN GENTRY

Marshall Randall trains on the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park for his record-breaking ride.



Two years ago, when (now) 66-year-old Marshall Randall looked at recumbent records set by a 29-year-old from Las Vegas, he knew had his next competitive challenge. “I looked at his records and thought, I think I can beat those,” said Randall, director of sales and marketing for recumbent manufacturer, TerraTrike, based in Grand Rapids.

He trained hard all Summer of 2022. Most of his training took place on the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park near Cedar Springs, which he describes as “an incredibly awesome trail.” In September of that year, he set seven world records in the 100K, 100-mile, 200K, 200-mile, 300K, six-hour and 12-hour: averaging more than 17 miles per hour.

For his successful record-breaking attempt, a 4.5-mile course was set in a rural area east of Grant, Michigan. A vehicle with an official from the World UltraCycling Association followed him with two GPS devices plus a physical log and two digital logs. Records must be set on a road where traffic is allowed. “They (WUCA) are a stickler for details,” Randall said.

Randall chose the Greenspeed Aero for his world record rides. “It is the fastest, most aerodynamic recumbent available,” he said. Now when he checks The Guinness Book of World Records, he gets a kick out of seeing his name and world records listed.

Riding a recumbent is faster for Randall. “You can ride 12 hours straight on a recumbent. My body at 66 is not going to be able to do that on a regular bike,” Randall said. “I can have more



Kelle rewards Marshall after his record-breaking ride.

fun. I never feel so young as when I’m riding.”

Randall has been active in endurance sports since his high school days when he ran track and cross country. He dabbled in bike racing while at Spring Arbor College near Jackson. In the early 1980s, he moved to Florida and cycled with an Orlando group. Although he took part in the Olympic cycling trials, he knew his limitations in competing at that level, so he jumped headlong into triathlons. “I got a few sponsors and made a meager living,” he said.

He and his wife Kelle have been married for more than 40 years and she has been supportive of his endeavors every step of the way. Randall

decided to get a “real job” after their first child was born. The couple owned a couple of bike shops in South Carolina and eventually made their way back to Michigan. Randall started working for TerraTrike in 2015 after working as a traveling representative for sporting goods.

So, what’s next for Marshall Randall? In 2023, he cycled 9,000 miles on his recumbent. This year he’s taking a break to let his body heal and rebalance. His future goals include going after all the recumbent records from six hours to 24 hours. He just needs to find a flat, fast course that’s safe for 24 hours.