



Woody, pictured here with an example of his wheel making genius.

BRIDGING THE GAP

"Just tell me where you are and where you want to go, I'll bridge the gap. I love doing that stuff—that's my domain!" His voice was full of excitement at the prospect of creating a solution and getting results. The man who loves bridging the gap is Trautman Gregory Witte. His pursuits have taken him all over the world, and have involved far-reaching ideas executed with a craftsman's sense of perfection. He's a modern day renaissance man, who has the ability to fuse many diverse talents into the task at hand.

His talents for creating solutions have been instrumental in starting organizations, fielding winning race teams, researching and developing experimental vehicles, and transforming the lives of the handicapped.

Born in Germany during the second World War, Woody's family immigrated to the United States and

Give him the idea and he'll make it a reality

built a home in northern New Jersey. Much of his boyhood was spent working on the house, exploring the woods, and creating his own toys and inventions. His teen years were spent excelling in school and rebelling against all that tried to quell his spirit. After a brief stint at Annapolis and Rutgers University, Woody joined the Marines and began his travels to far and exotic places. Two years spent in Japan proved an important period for him. A feeling of immediate affinity for the culture and philosophy of the people

prompted him to learn the language and began a blending of the oriental spirit with his own western ideals. It was here that he began his love affair with fast motorcycles.

Southern California found him finishing his Marine enlistment, teaching Vietnamese to warbound fighter pilots, going to college at night and running the base sailing program. He entered Chapman College as a sophomore in September 1967 and graduated the following July. During this intense period, he became aware that the limitations of the separate disciplines arose from their imposed boundaries. Instead, he was impressed with the interconnected nature of all the disciplines, the seed for a later understanding of the grand design of all life. Formative belief in the philosophies of Gregory Bateson and E. F. Schumacher helped round out his



Superlite outriggers developed from Woody's association with Ed Lucks.

perceptions. What he learned he began to teach at a school for gifted children.

Coming to Colorado, the sense of adventure and outrageous daring moved into full swing. Motorcycle road racing was the kind of pursuit that satisfied many of his cravings. The lack of safe racing facilities prompted him to organize the Mountain Roadracing Association which became a nationally respected organization. His combination of bravado and technical expertise were fundamental ingredients in winning the first top rider of the year award. But his vision of excellence was calling him on to further things.

The need for excellent custom-made wheels gave him an opportunity to explore new depths of craftsmanship and Woody's Wheel Works came into being. His mastery at building wire spoke wheels earned him a growing

reputation. Today, 15 years later, the Wheel Works is considered across the country as the place to get the very best spoked wheels.

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The magnetism of life's many elements show in the projects that have come to Witte. From the network created by a word of mouth reputation, he received a phone call from Amick Enterprises enlisting his aid in the

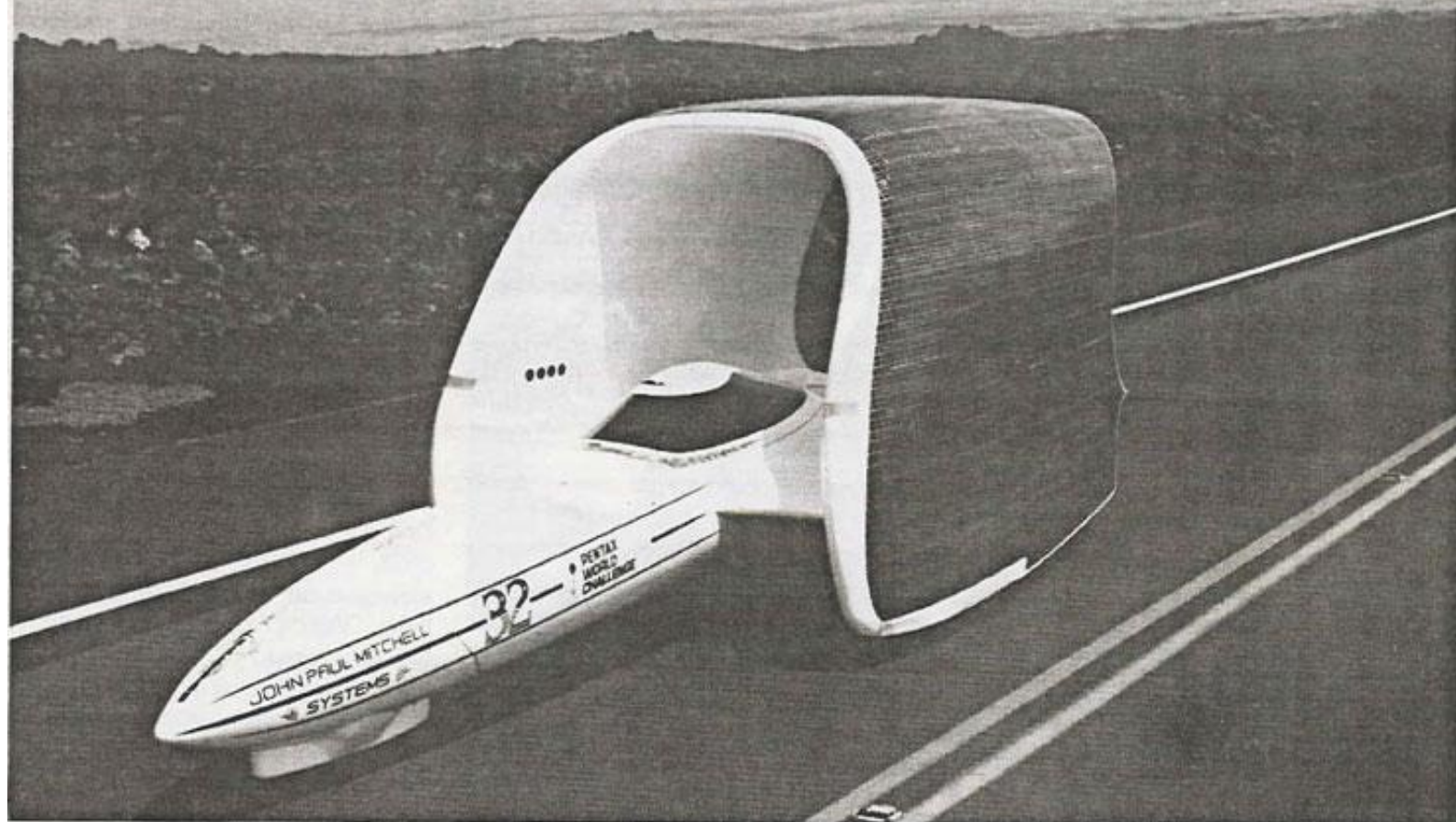
development of a wheel and brake system for the 'Mana La', a solar race car which participated in the First International Solar Vehicle Race across the continent of Australia. Sponsored by John Paul Mitchell Systems of Hawaii, it was a stunning craft using a combination of wind and solar power. Jonathan Tennyson, Project Engineer, impressed by Woody's capabilities gave him a berth on the team. Others have sought his input on experimental transportation projects as well.

Working with the disabled came as a natural progression when the road racing accident of fellow racer, Ken La Come left him a paraplegic. Ken wanted to get back on a motorcycle, so Woody designed a special arrangement of hand controls and on New Year's Day 1987 they rode together again.

Skiing was next. Ken had been a competitive racer since his early teens and so ski racing fit right in. The desire to take the "dis" out of the disability became the pursuit of the perfect monoski. Woody studied the shortcomings of available disabled ski designs. Idea and execution came together resulting in the UNIQUE 1. Enabling Technologies became a reality. Since its first runs, the UNIQUE 1 showed itself to be very versatile and nimble. The self loading feature allowed skiers the freedom they desired. The suspension and seating system gave the skiers the freedom they desired. The suspension and seating system gave the skier precise and stable handling. Sensitivity to user input is reflected in constant improvements as you might expect from a man who enjoys refinement.

The need for outriggers to complement the monoski, and the failure of the ski outrigger market to provide the product, prompted Witte to design new versions that were lighter and stronger. Ed Lucks inspired the idea for a special model for three trackers. Now SUPER-LITE outriggers are available in a wide variety of styles and sizes for all disabled skiers.

There are really no boundaries when it comes to imagination. Enabling those who are physically challenged achieve independently active lives is the quest. Enabling Technologies is dedicated to fusing the diversity of elements into the creation of real world activity



Woody helped develop the wheel and brake system for the solar race car the 'Mana La'.

for the disabled. It is Witte's intention to bridge the gap between the emerging wisdom of the field and the broad spectrum of need. There are no guidelines or reference points in combining the interdependent relationships of the skiers and ski programs, the equipment manufacturers and the funding organizations that help make it all possible. Guidelines need to be established to bring the body of data into immediate use through the various clinics around the country, showing the leading edge to any interested person. This will help to provide a forum for feedback which can be synthesized for further development. It is Enabling Technologies method of creating results.

If you have a vision that you want transformed into reality, you may want to call Woody and share it with him. Tell him where you are and where you want to go, and let him bridge the gap. After all, that's his domain.

Woody and World Champion
Wayne Gardner's 500 cc
Honda in Adelaide,
Australia, 1987.

