



Among the correspondence we receive each month, we got one recently that particularly stood out.

A biker from Croatia named Boris Ivančić wrote asking us for a patch. His story is inspiring and frustrating at the same time. From what we've learned about him, this man started riding in his teens, like so many others. In 2008, he was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease*. Since then, the disease has been taking its terrible toll; and keeps him



Wheelchair-bound Biker Requests Patches for Wall

wheelchair bound.

In part, his note shared, "My condition stopped my body riding a bike but didn't stop me being a biker in my mind - forever and eternal. I do have things which are making lonely days bright - my friends and my hobby. This hobby of mine is collecting patches, stickers, flags and motorcycle groups labels from all over the world. My wish is to get as many as I can... Please make my wish come true. Please send yours so I can keep filling up my wall."

* There are numerous websites offering information about ALS. From what we've gathered in a small attempt to offer perspective here, Lou Gehrig's Disease attacks the nerves in the brain and spinal cord that control your muscles. As your muscles get weaker, it gets harder to walk, talk, eat, and breathe. People with ALS still have full mental function. They have all of their senses -- sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. So, unlike some other diseases that debilitate the body & take the mind along with it; while the body of an ALS patient is shutting down they are still completely aware of their condition & circumstances. This no doubt provides the potential to feel like a prisoner of your own body... Unless you devise a way to 'escape' your confines. Boris appears to have done just that ☺ He travels all around the world by way of online friends and his Biker Wall of patches & other mementos.

Boris' heart and determination are inspiring to say the least. He's

a gutsy guy who isn't letting a bad turn of the cards quench his good humor or thirst for life. Rather than giving in to what has happened, he's chosen a more positive path and found a way to still be a part of the biker community.

His collection is growing steadily, with patches coming in from Australia, Cyprus, London, Russia, Spain, Sweden, & elsewhere to add to those from his Croatian biker brothers & sisters. If any of you would like to help Boris fulfill his wish by adding to his Biker Wall with patches, stickers, flags, or other memorabilia... you can mail items to

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Additional source material & information courtesy of
Motorbike Writer, Mark Hinchliffe,
<http://motorbikewriter.com/>
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