

# DAILY RECORD

◆ COVERING KITTITAS COUNTY FROM THE CASCADES TO THE COLUMBIA ◆

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"The Spirit of  
America on Canvas"



## One man, one wheel, one goal

*Cle Elum unicyclist Jock Young  
to ride across southern U.S.*

By [MIKE GALLAGHER](#)

When Cle Elum's Jock Young says he's riding solo across the southern United States he means it — one man, one wheel.

Young intends to ride a unicycle about 2,300 miles from San Diego to Savannah, Ga. He's flying to San Diego on Jan. 20.

"My rough guess is it's going to take me 100 days," Young said.

Young, 56, is no unicycle novice. He started riding in 1968, and for years has taught children how to ride unicycles through his Wheels Be Free group in the Upper County.

Young said he knows other people have ridden cross country on a unicycle, but he does not know if anyone has done it alone. Young is tackling this adventure without a crew in a support vehicle.

"I'll be going through towns fairly frequently," Young said.

Young selected the January start because the weather should be neither too hot nor cold during the course of the journey.

In addition to the weather window, the overall timing was right for Young.

"I'd been thinking about doing a long-distance trip for a while," Young said. "Sierra just go her driver's license so I don't have to drive her around as much. It's a good time for me to do this."

Sierra is his 16-year-old daughter. Young and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Wise, have three children — Julie is a senior at Carlton College in Minnesota and Jonathan works as an economic consultant for a firm in Washington, D.C.



**Cle Elum resident Jock Young will embark on a 2,300-mile trip across America on a unicycle on Jan. 20. If he is successful, Young, 56, won't be the first unicyclist to have completed such a journey, but he believes he could be the first to do it alone without benefit of a support vehicle. Contributed photo**



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"My kids think it's great that I'm doing this," Young said. "My wife is a little more ambivalent."

Young has always stretched the boundaries of what people think is doable on a unicycle. He has competed in off-road unicycle events on mountain bike trails.

"I'm curious about what peoples' reactions will be when they see me on the unicycle," Young said. "When people see me on a mountain bike trail, it's, 'Wow.'"

Young plans to ride about five to six hours a day. He's following a route developed by Adventure Cycling Association.

"They have a very detailed route mapped out," Young said. "But I reserve the right to get off that route if someone tells me there's something I have to see."

Young has been riding with a 30-pound pack to prepare for the trip.

He does not have any sponsors for the trip, but Young said he has been thinking about setting up a way for people to contribute.

#### Also Inside:

#### **One man, one wheel, one goal**

[Cle Elum unicyclist Jock Young to ride across southern U.S.](#)

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE** One day will appear blank due to no Sunday paper.

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