

PEDAL FOR THE PLANET

*** Press Cuttings ***

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CLOSE company: Steve Smith (left) and Jason Lewis in their pedal boat. Picture: SAMANTHA MORGAN MOORE

A TINY pedal boat in which two intrepid sailors intend to cross the Atlantic and the Pacific in a unique round-the-world expedition was unveiled in the Westcountry yesterday.

The 26ft craft Moksha - Sanskrit for Freedom - could enable pedallers Jason Lewis and Steve Smith to become the first people to circumnavigate the globe using only muscle power.

Designed by Alan Boswell, of Sidbury, near Sidmouth, it is propeller driven and has been constructed of hardwood at Exeter Maritime Museum over the past nine months by Bridport boatbuilders Hugo Burnham, and Chris Tipper, of Brighton.

Yesterday Jason, 26, a

Pedal pair unveil boat

self-employed contract cleaner, of Dorchester, and environmental scientist Steve, 27, of Wolverhampton, tested the lifeboat-style craft's self-righting capability by capsizing it in the marina as a prelude to sea trials.

"We will be pedalling be-

tween 5,000 and 6,000 miles by boat and it will be a risky business, so it was reassuring to see it self-right within 10 seconds," Steve said.

Today the pair, who still seek sponsors, will pedal out from Salcombe into Lyme Bay to live on the water for three or four days.

They intend to start their expedition in London, where they met while at university, at the end of June. In the next three years they will pedal across the Channel, Atlantic and Pacific, and cycle another 20,000 miles across America, Asia and Europe on standard mountain/racing machines.

The pair hope to raise about £100,000 for the Council for Education in World Citizenship charity.