

Hawaii

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T-H photos by William Ing

After 53 days at sea, Jason Lewis blows on a conch shell Friday afternoon to herald the arrival of the "Moksha" at Hilo Bay as his crewmate Steve Smith looks on.

Pedal pushers pull into port

□ British duo attempts environmentally friendly trip around the world

By Hunter Bishop
Tribune Herald

A pair of Englishmen pedaled their specially designed 26-foot water craft into Hilo Bay Friday afternoon, completing the third leg of an epic round-the-world journey.

Fifty-three days ago, Jason Lewis and Steve Smith, both 32, set their course for Hilo out of San Francisco Bay.

The two have been on the move since July 6, 1994, when they began what is believed to be the first fully human-powered journey around the world.

The "Pedal For The Planet" tour began in England and it took them 111 days to pedal the "Moksha," their tiny yellow boat, across the Atlantic. Then Jason donned a pair of roller blades, and Steve hopped on a bicycle, to cross the North American conti-



Proud father Stuart Smith gives son Steve a celebratory champagne clous as the two travelers tether their 26-foot craft at the Hawaii Naniloa Resort dock.

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SAILORS: Pedal-pushing pair pull into Hilo port

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ment. A car accident in Colorado only stopped their progress for about nine months.

Coming out of San Francisco, they were swamped by a storm and rescued by the Coast Guard, which set them back a bit and ruined most of their store of food for the Pacific crossing.

But they made it in good health and good spirit, arriving about 4 p.m. at the dock at the Hawaii Naniloa

Resort.

"Welcome Hawaii," said Jason, as well-wishers showered them with leis and champagne. "It wouldn't be a proper arrival without this," he said, pulling out a conch shell to sound their landing.

They plan to spend six months in Hawaii, visiting schools to talk about their trip with young students, and then set out for Fiji and Australia where they will pedal their land craft across

once again for Asia.

They plan to complete the first pedal-powered trek around the world in 2000.

Steve, an environmental scientist, and Jason, a musician, embarked on the adventuresome journey to raise environmental awareness throughout the world.

They also do it to "live life to the full and enjoy the experience," said Steve's dad, Stuart, who was

Hilo.

They are funded through corporate donations of equipment and private donations from people all over the world who help sponsor their trip. A naval architect designed the wood-constructed boat.

"The people keep us going," Stuart Smith said.

Up-to-date news and information about the trip can be viewed at the "Pedal For The Planet" web site.