



Verit Fisher/The Herald

**MOKSHA**, a pedal-powered boat, is scheduled to depart for Hawaii this morning from Monterey.

## Circling globe with pedal power

BY LORI HINNANT  
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started as an escape from everyday, boring, jobs and tedium, Jason Lewis and Steve Smith decided to sail around the world on their pedal-powered boat.

Really on their own, the two of them, with some help from corporate and private donors along the way, have set out to circumnavigate the globe, using only human power. They've made it from London to Miami, from Miami to Monterey. And today they — or at least their pedal-boat Moksha — are scheduled to leave for Hawaii on a trip that began as a lark

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— Jason Lewis, team member

for the two Englishmen has become an international educational adventure.

"We did it because we'd gotten into this money-maker attitude and we realized we needed a break for sanity," said team member Lewis.

He and Smith attended university together, and when Smith told him his crazy idea in

1992, Lewis said his response was almost immediate.

Both took a basic navigation course, set out to find sponsors for the trip and looked around for boat designers.

Once they got the boat, which looks something like a banana and smells like a high school locker room, they began to pedal across the Atlantic.

The boat is rigged like a bicycle so that one person can pedal while the other person sleeps or plays harmonica, or simply sits and thinks.

"You really get into the minutiae. It's quite a meditative lifestyle," said Lewis, adding that the three-month trek across the Atlantic "was the most fulfilling (time) of my life."

Once they arrived in Miami, Smith and team member Eilbhe Donovan took off on bicycles. Lewis donned his in-line skates and headed north.

He made it to Colorado when a car struck him, breaking both his legs.

"I feel safer out on the ocean than I do on the road now," said

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**STEVE SMITH** of Pedal for the Planet consults an on-board computer prior to the next leg of an around-the-world journey.

## PEDAL

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Lewis, whose legs continue to trouble him.

Instead of traveling as fast as they could across the country and around the world, the Pedal Planet team stops in schools along the way. They teach about navigation, math, geography, and even use computers and satellite equipment from their trip and their web page.

"They're learning all this without even knowing it," Lewis said.

The team has visited more than 350 schools since they began, and they plan to continue growing.

Lewis said he and Smith are remaining behind for the leg to Hawaii "because we've done the isolation thing. We feel our time is better spent in the classroom now."

Stanford University student Donovan and Brian Smith will wait in Maui for the Moksha to arrive, a journey that will take them almost three months.

"They haven't yet had a lot of experience on the ocean," Lewis said. "But they've got a lot of enthusiasm."

Like Smith and Lewis, he said the new pedalers have recently taken navigation courses. "They're not going to have a little bit about the ocean so it's not a suicide mission. Mostly you need a passion to be out there."