

# The MONTEREY COUNTY Herald

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## Magellan with a pedal: Unique craft to circle globe

**BY KRISTI BELCAMINO**

Herald Staff Writer

A small crowd had gathered on the commercial wharf in Monterey. They were looking down into the water at a small yellow boat that was being tugged here and there by a crane.

"What an adventure," said Art Brown of Los Altos.

"This is fun," his wife, Margaret, said.

They were watching Jason Lewis testing the self-righting capabilities of his 26-foot pedal-powered boat.

It wasn't what the Browns saw that was so exciting. It was where the boat had been and where it was going.

In November, the boat will be shipped from Monterey to Peru,

where it will embark on a nine-month journey to Australia. It will be another leg in its journey around the world.

For Lewis, 29, and Steven Smith, 30, it all started five years ago as a way to shun the working 9-to-5, boring office-job lives they saw their friends living.

Instead, these two Englishmen decided they would go for glory by pedaling the boat across the Atlantic in record time.

"We'd always talked about doing something outrageous," said Lewis. "Something that would give meaning to life."

Their expedition is called Pedal for the Planet.

The goal is to pedal around the world on human power alone — and along the way, to encourage

*The goal is to pedal around the world on human power alone — and to encourage school children.*

school children to respect the environment and other cultures.

They are part way there. In 1994, the two men pedaled from London to Miami, Fla. For 111 days, the tight quarters of their little boat became their home. They had a coffin-like cubby to sleep in and another cubby to store their 450 pounds of dehydrated food. They used a desalinator to convert seawater to drinkable water.

They had two mishaps along the way. Once, a whale tipped them over. Another time, Smith fell overboard. The boat was going 10 knots. The only reason he is alive today is because his shoe caught on a rope, said Lewis.

"I almost lost him," said Stuart Smith, Steven's father and the expedition's team leader.

That was three years ago.

Since then, the younger Smith has returned home to write a book about his adventures, while

Lewis rode his bicycle to Honduras.

Lewis recently flew back to Monterey. The pedal boat, called Moksha, (Sanskrit for Liberation), has been displayed at the Monterey Maritime Museum in Monterey for the past six months.

More than 50 schools in the area have visited the boat.

Now that the novelty of being on the road has worn off, Lewis said he wants to work on the education end of the expedition.

He has outgrown the need to be recognized for doing something "outrageous."

"In your 20s, you are trying to establish your self identity," said Lewis. "But then you get to where you want to start creating things instead of running away from them."

So, instead of pedaling with Smith to Australia, Lewis will return to Monterey to work with schoolchildren. Another man will pedal with Smith.

"Self-reflection and soul searching are good, but now I feel like giving something back," Lewis said.

Now the expedition team, made up of the four team members and five volunteers, will help educate children through their Web site and an international video exchange program.

In this program, students from around the globe will video tape a typical 24-hour period of their lives.

Pedal for the Planet can be reached at 1-800-943-0114, or on the World Wide Web at <http://www.pedalplanet.com>