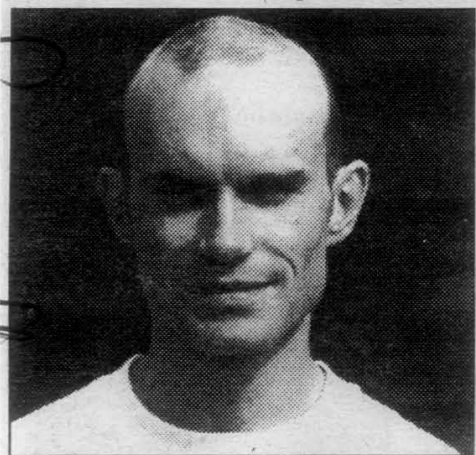


Around The World By Human Power

Duo circumnavigates the planet using power of own bodies

by Steve Smith,
Expedition Leader

Pedal for the Planet—the first human powered round the world expedition—arrived in Flagstaff this week in the shape of cyclists



Steve, with his new haircut for lower co-efficient drag.

Steve Smith and Eilbhe Donovan. Steve, aged 29, and his friend Jason Lewis, both from England, are attempting to become the first people ever to circumnavigate the world using just the power of their own bodies.

While Jason is currently in-line skating across the United States, Steve and expedition camerawoman Eilbhe have been cycling from Miami to San Francisco as Stage Two of this uniquely challenging round-the-world adventure. Stage 1, which began from London last July, involved cycling through Europe, then pedalling 4,500 miles in a purpose built, 2-man pedal boat from Portugal to Miami—which the two Englishmen completed in a grueling 111 days without support.

First impressions are always the most revealing. An interview with the Arizona Daily Sun after our arrival in Flagstaff left the reporter quite bewildered. She must have imagined a muscle-bound Sport but instead faced a wirey, undernourished 150 pounder. Ever since Jason and I began our journey, such assumptions have been shattered along the way. The yachtsmen of the Portugese Algarve expected hardened sea captains to be attempting an Atlantic crossing in a 26 foot pedal boat. Instead they met two determined beginners who had never spent a night at sea. Europeans and Americans alike assume some cycle touring background and rigorous training schedules, though the truth is that we have no experience and despise physical training of any kind. I admit that we enjoy drinking to our health before setting off.

This is not a race. This is a first. Eilbhe and I currently cycle 80-100 miles in one day, each carrying 70-80 pounds of food and baggage on our bikes. We have rested on more days than we have pedaled, and have enjoyed N.M. and Flagstaff.

We train as we go along. we

inspire, enrich and empower the minds of young people in schools and in homes we visit en route. Already we have given presentations at more than thirty schools in England, France, Spain, Portugal and the USA. Some kids are just left wondering whether a big shark could have bitten our buns when we had go to the bathroom at sea, but I like to think that there are others whose hearts and imaginations we touch more deeply.

Essentially we are demonstrating that each of us has the power to accomplish anything we decide to do—and that these decisions affect other people and the planet. The key is to follow the heart, to take control and to feel responsibility for our actions.

Having spent a week in Austin visiting Pine Forest School and fund raising to support the next cycling leg to the Californian Coast, we're eager to hit the road again. Thanks to support from Rotary Club, Absolute Bikes and The TechKnowledge Center, we now have some warmer clothing, camping gear and money for food.

We have missed the ocean ever since leaving the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana. In a few weeks we'll be cycling north along the Pacific Coast Highway, breathing the salty, Pacific coast winds and gathering driftwood for our campfires. To underestimate the long expanse of desert and mountains in between would be foolish—but like the early pioneers in wagon trains—we feel so close that nothing can keep us down now. By the end of this month, Jason will also have completed his incredible journey from Miami to San Francisco on in-line skates.

For me, this was not an immense physical challenge. After the Atlantic crossing, I wanted to enjoy the United States by cycling at a relatively easy pace. But for Jason it will be a great achievement. For our new camerawoman Eilbhe—who had never ridden a bike more than three miles before being asked to fly to Florida to join the team—the 3,500 mile ride across America is also an impressive display of sheer guts and self-reliance. Each of us really can do just about anything. Whether we fail or succeed depends largely on how badly we want it.

The Journey So Far

Stage 1: Cycling to America (July 1994 February 1995)

On July 12th 1994, Steve and Jason cycled from the Greenwich 00 Meridian line in London to the The following day they pedalled across the English Channel in



Steve and Jason after 111 days crossing the Atlantic from Portugal to Miami.

and Jason pedalled away from Europe towards the USA aboard 'Moksha', on an epic, extraordinary



Jason, somewhere in Colorado.

voyage which lasted 111 days. The 4,500 mile Atlantic crossing, averaging 40 miles per day, was successfully completed on arrival in

Miami on February 17th 1995.

The team, including camerapersons Kenny Brown and Eilbhe

Donovan, have visited about thirty schools and summer camps in Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal and the USA. With help from UNESCO, an educational video documentary will be produced based on the adventure and its impact on young people interviewed by the team during the expedition.

Stage 2 - the Transamerica Challenge and Schools Visits Program (June - October 1995)

Stage 2 began from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 18th June 1995. Although this section of the expedition is overland, it presents its own difficulties.

The pedal boat 'Moksha' has

to be freighted separately to San Francisco, then repaired and resupplied for an even longer voyage across the Pacific Ocean to China.

Meanwhile, Jason and Steve have to use their own steam for the 3,500 mile journey across the USA. Steve and cameraperson Eilbhe Donovan are travelling by bicycle, but Jason has expanded his challenge—by rolling to San Francisco on in-line skates! Expected arrival in San Francisco: 31st October 1995.

How You Can Help


Individuals are also invited to donate \$20 or more to have their name inscribed on our pedal boat, 'Moksha'.

You will also receive a periodic newsletter from the team as they travel around the world.

Inquiries to U.S. Coordinator Nancy Sanford: Pedal for the Planet, P.O.Box 801, St. Petersburg, Florida 33731, USA. Tel# (813) 822 4783 Fax#(813) 822 3626.

You can also access our new homepage on the Internet by punching in:

<http://www.tach.net/public/orgs/pedal/pedalplanet.html>



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