

OCEAN NAVIGATOR

MARINE NAVIGATION AND OCEAN VOYAGING

could result from an eruption. The west coasts of Guadeloupe and the islands of Isles des Saintes were said to be especially vulnerable to tsunami action, prompting some yacht owners to scurry away to more protected sites.

As of press time in mid-January, however, the warnings had come to nothing, although yachts circumnavigating Montserrat reported sightings of rock slides, clouds of ash, and even areas of glowing mountainside and lava.

"We sailed a circle around the island and got covered with ash," said Richard Jacoby, skipper of the training vessel *Ocean Star*. "We could clearly see that there is plenty of action going on in there," he added.

Volcanic observers on the island reported sometimes 30 or more rockslides per day and a frequent glowing appearance to the mountain's northeastern flank, with avalanches of incandescent blocks and a new volcanic dome growing regularly within the crater.

Conditions of the volcano are dis-

cussed frequently among yachtsmen each morning on the Caribbean weather net frequencies. An AM broadcast station on Montserrat provides daily briefings, and for armchair sailors and volcanologists there is even an Internet site for daily volcanic info: <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/volcanoes/west.indies/soufriere/govt/>

A blistering circumnavigation

A PEDAL BOAT PACIFIC CROSSING BY A PAIR OF BRITISH ADVENTURERS WILL BE PART OF the first attempt to circumnavigate the globe under human power.

The 11,000-mile stretch of water between Peru and Australia should be the toughest challenge yet for Steve Smith and Jason Lewis, who have already crossed the Atlantic in a pedal-powered boat and have spanned the continental U.S. by bicycle and roller blades.

"Roller-blading across the country was more of a physical challenge than the Atlantic," said Lewis. He took



Above, Jason Lewis and Steve Smith have already crossed the Atlantic aboard their foot-powered boat *Moksha* and plan to continue on around the world. Opposite, Lewis and two of the feet doing the powering.

a break, literally, when he was hit by a car while skating through Colorado. Undeterred, however, Lewis was back on the road in a few months after his two broken legs had sufficiently healed, and he completed his transcontinental skate in San Francisco.

Their pod-like pedal boat, called *Moksha* (Sanskrit for "liberation"), had an easier crossing—it was carried across the U.S. by truck. The nav station aboard *Moksha* includes a

Trimble Galaxy, which is a combined GPS and Inmarsat-C unit, a wooden chart table that doubles as a fish-cutting board when the opportunity arises, a Magellan handheld GPS, and a Collision Avoidance Radar Detector (C.A.R.D.) unit. Although unequipped with a proper radar for plotting, Lewis is happy with the radar detection system, which is complemented by a Lensref ball-type radar reflector mounted on a 14-foot former pole-vaulting

pole. *Moksha* also carries a 406 EPIRB. "We were nearly run over by a fishing vessel before we got this collision-avoidance stuff," Lewis said.

Average speed for the 28-foot wooden boat was 1.8 knots on the Atlantic crossing, but a new drive system that includes an 18-inch stainless steel propeller has improved the speed to 3.6 knots, according to Lewis.

On the Atlantic crossing, heavy weather aboard *Moksha* involved de-



ployment of two old car tires to keep the bow into the rushing seas. "We have a real sea anchor now, though," Lewis added.

Lewis explained that one of the biggest challenges to crossing the Atlantic in such a small, enclosed space was getting along with his

partner Steve Smith. "Even though we're good friends it was still a lesson in how to deal with people," Lewis said. "We tried to speak to each other very little; we were down to 12 words a day!"

The team will bicycle together to Callao, Peru, and they hope to depart for Australia in June once their boat arrives by truck. One resupply is planned for the Marquesas, but, Lewis explained, very few island stops will be made due to the danger of entering reefs in the small boat.