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HAVE GIMMICK, WILL TRAVEL

Don't have any money, not in the greatest physical condition but still want to take a trip around the world?

Why wait?

Two Brits didn't let such obstacles stop them when they took off from London in July.

When they arrived in Fort Lauderdale on

March 5, they had traveled more than 4,500 miles by land and sea on a trip they are billing as "Pedal for the Planet."

Already \$40,000 in debt to those who helped build their "pedal-powered" boat and donated provisions for the transatlantic journey, the two plan to be in the area for the next several months raising cash before heading to California by bike.



Pedal Power: Jason Lewis at controls of pedal-powered watercraft.

They appeared at the Irish Festival in Bubier Park over the weekend, are booked at the Key West Water Festival and Boat Show at the end of the month and the World Aquatics Convention and Trade Show in Fort Lauderdale in May.

"We're selling T-Shirts and charging people \$20 to put their name on the boat. We're trying to get a commercial sponsor," says Steve Smith, 28, who is making the planned four-year trip with his buddy Jason Lewis, 27.

Smith says they don't like hitting up people for money. But, he says, aside from their legs, that's what's fueling the journey.

For people who might consider following their example, Smith says physical training isn't necessary. "We were thoroughly and shamelessly unfit when we left London," he says. "Too many parties. Too much English beer."

But, he says, he'd advise against the boat trip.

On the water for 111 days was grueling, he says. "There is a huge benefit to the 40 days and 40 nights wilderness experience. It's kind of a watershed time to gain a clarity of your life," he says. "But, after that I would have sold a certain part of my soul to be done. There's nothing, no stimulus. Just blueness."

Fund-raising, he says, is easier here than back home. "Now we're a proven item," he says. "We're definitely crazy, instead of potentially crazy."

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