

## PEDAL FOR THE PLANET

\*\*\* Press Cuttings \*\*\*

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, JANUARY 1994

# Pedal power takes on world

**THE Duke of Gloucester** launched and named a pedal boat yesterday that is to help two men complete the first global circumnavigation using their own power. Mr Steve Smith, 27, from Wolverhampton, and Mr Jason Lewis, 26, of Bridport, Dorset, are to use the 26ft wooden craft named Moksha — Sanskrit for liberation — to cross 11,000 miles of the English Channel, the Atlantic and the Pacific

By Robert Bedlow

oceans. The rest of the 25,000-mile Pedal The Planet expedition will be overland on mountain bikes and the trip will take almost three years to complete. The hardwood self-righting craft, which will carry supplies for 90 days, was built by specialists at the Exeter Maritime Museum. Solar energy powers its navigation and radio

systems. As it bobbed on the Thames in a brisk wind at St Katherine's Dock, east London, it looked flimsy but the two men were confident. The aim of the £70,000 expedition, which leaves in April, is to raise £500,000 for the charity Council for Education in World Citizenship, which promotes international understanding. A two-man television team will provide back-up and transport the craft on land.

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EVENING ECHO, OCTOBER 1994

## Pair go around world on bikes

TWO West Dorset men are among a group planning to circumnavigate the world on mountain bikes and in a specially built two-man pedal-powered boat.

Tackling the 25,000 mile journey on a planned 27-month charity trip will be seasoned travellers Jason Lewis (26) from Askerswell, and his friend Steve Smith (27) from Wolverhampton.

Hugo Burnham (25), a shipwright from Powerstock and Megan Lander (34) from London form the back-up team.

London-based businessman Jason and Hugo have been friends since childhood, and Jason is a seasoned traveller, having spent time in America and East Africa.

# Pedal power pair plan to circle planet

by Tim Reid

TWO English adventurers plan to make history by circumnavigating the globe in a pedal-powered boat the size of a small wardrobe.

The 24ft craft will take them across the Channel and 6,000 miles of Pacific and Atlantic ocean. They hope to complete the 25,000-mile round trip by travelling through Europe, Asia and North America on bicycles.

The pedal-for-the-planet plan is the idea of an environmental researcher, Steve Smith, who has teamed up with a photographer, Jason Lewis, to circle the northern hemisphere using only their own power.

Not even Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the expedition president, has attempted such a feat.

The two men, working with the charity Council for Education in World Citizenship, have arranged to visit schools in 15 countries along the way to lecture on environmental issues.

As the July 12 departure date looms, their thoughts

are on the perilous ocean crossings ahead. "We reckon there are three ways of dying," says Mr Smith. "We could fall overboard, crash into rocks or be sliced in two by an ocean cruiser."

"But the boat is like a cork and self-righting, so it should cope with anything else that hits us."

The pedal boat, designed and built at Exeter Maritime Museum in Devon, will be guided by a battery-sized satellite receiver and packed with dehydrated rations. A gas-fuelled distiller will convert drinking water from sea water and while one man pedals, the other will sleep, cook or navigate.

"Boredom is our greatest fear," says Mr Lewis. "We're taking a chess set, some music, and I will try and learn a language along the way."

Both men have spent three years raising money for the expedition, but are still seeking sponsorship — especially for the Pacific leg of the voyage, which may need back-up as they confront the tail-end of the Caribbean hurricane season.

## Degree

"The inspiration for the trip came from his friend Steve — they both did a geography degree at university and the idea was born around that time," said Jason's mother, Gillian.

The foursome hope to raise sponsorship for the £70,000 expedition which will raise money for the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

Jason and Steve will start their journey from London next April cycling across Europe, Central Asia, northern India and Tibet before the Himalayan mountain passes become closed by bad weather.

They will cycle through China and then use their hardwood, self-righting pedal boat, currently being built at Exeter Maritime Museum to cross the Sea of Japan.

The boat is currently in Lowestoft being fitted with steering equipment and on completion will go to Aberdeen for sea trials, added Mrs Lewis.

## Journey

The pair will then face a formidable 5,000 mile crossing of the north western Pacific, planning to reach Alaska and a huge cycle ride along America's west coast to Los Angeles, and eventually to Montreal.

The final leg of their journey will be a 5,000-mile trans-Atlantic crossing by pedal boat which they hope to complete in less than the 41 days recorded by American Dwight Collins last year.