



Africa to the Americas Expedition:

Ocean Adventure Racing Northwest
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MEDIA ALERT

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OAR Northwest Changing Course World Record Holders to Bridge Three Continents

Seattle, WA – They are from the Northwest.... will depart from West Africa... then end up in South America.

OAR Northwest will announce bigger, better, broader plans at the 2011 Seattle Boat Show.

The four world-class athletes will venture across the Atlantic Ocean from West Africa to South America in a 29-foot rowboat in early December 2011, connecting children from two communities separated by an ocean, yet connected by lives of poverty, war and disease.

Their new and improved journey will benefit Right to Play International. Right to Play believes every child has a right to play. [See p.2 for information about Right to Play]

Atlantic Ocean Rowing Race veterans Jordan Hanssen and Greg Spooner, as well as Olympic Gold Medalist Adam Kreek and former UW rower Richard Tarbill are available for media interviews and/or photos beginning Friday, January 21.

Hanssen and Spooner were half of the first team to ever row unassisted across the Atlantic from mainland U.S. to mainland U.K. They will attempt another crossing with Kreek and Tarbill replacing two previous team-members.

The record-setting men and the actual craft that made the trip will be available from 10a until 8p each day from Friday, January 21 to Sunday, January 30 at Qwest Field Event Center. They can discuss 30 foot waves v. a 29-foot rowboat, losing 45 pounds in 72 days on the open sea, things that go bump in the night (they're sure it was a shark)...and why Jordan and Greg want to do it all over again.

The adventurers had previously announced plans to compete in the Woodvale Race, a Mid-Atlantic rowing marathon. They recently decided to create their own epic crossing, seeking even more adventure and dedicating efforts to raise awareness and money for Right to Play.

Hanssen calls this "so much more of a journey, because it's not over when we reach solid ground."

Spooner looks forward to the trip as a way to "visit communities and interact with people we never envisioned ourselves reaching."

In addition to interviews and photos, the four men will provide opportunities to donate and "like" them on Facebook so Boat Show attendees can follow the expedition as it unfolds. They will also conduct a raffle, with the winner landing a visit from the intrepid foursome at his or her school or workplace.

The boat itself, the *James Robert Hanssen*, is a piece of maritime history, as it is the first rowboat to cross from mainland U.S. to mainland U.K.

OAR Northwest ... Row your ocean.

VISUALS

- * Four strapping, young rowers
- * The historic rowboat

ABOUT OAR NORTHWEST

Founded in 2005, OAR Northwest connects with partners to reach its expedition fundraising goals, while propelling businesses to their own extraordinary achievement. The crew for its next Atlantic crossing: Guinness World Record Holders and North Atlantic Ocean Rowing Race veterans Jordan Hanssen and Greg Spooner, Beijing Olympic Gold Medalist Adam Kreek and National Level Lightweight Rower Richard Tarbill. Jordan and Greg rowed 3,200 nautical miles across the North Atlantic in 72 days from the USA to the UK without assistance. This Pacific Northwest-based 501(c)3 organization is currently raising awareness and funds for their December 2011 Mid-Atlantic crossing, benefiting Right to Play International. OAR Northwest proves that solid teams faced with extreme challenges can inspire excellence. For more information visit www.OARnorthwest.com. OAR Northwest is represented by 5T Sports Group – Vancouver, BC.

ABOUT RIGHT TO PLAY INTERNATIONAL

Right to Play (RTP) is committed to every child's right to play. Children are given a chance to become constructive participants in society, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social background or religion. Through games and sports, RTP helps create social change in communities affected by war, poverty and disease. A team of top athletes from more than 40 countries supports Right to Play. Each week, more than 688,000 children take part in regular sport and play activities and a combined total of more than 1 million children attend regular programming and special sports events and festivals. This is made possible by more than 15,000 local Coaches, Teachers and Leaders.

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