

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DESTINATION: AUSTRALIA — the Human Powered Circumnavigation Begins

1st Leg of journey: 6700 nautical miles and eight months on the Pacific

On June 2, 2007, nearly 25 years after the legendary British ocean rower Peter Bird pushed off into the San Francisco Bay en route to Australia, Turkish adventurer Erden Eruç will begin his own row across the Pacific Ocean. The mission of Eruç is to circumnavigate the world by human power. Eruç's Pacific Ocean crossing will take him to Australia before he resumes travel west by bicycle, then rows the Indian Ocean toward India.

"I wanted to honor the legacy of fallen friends," said Eruç who has established the non-profit organization Around-n-Over to create educational opportunities based on human powered journeys. "If we think now that rowing an ocean is possible, it is because pioneers like Peter Bird paved the way." Peter Bird was lost at sea on his final attempt to row the Pacific a second time from Vladivostok to North America.

Eruç is not foreign to the challenges of the ocean, or to the tragedies that can strike at a moment's notice in nature. "We are drawn to the vast distances and the immense heights that nature offers in order to discover ourselves. Explorers like Peter Bird understood the risks, and they were prepared to accept the challenges. We will keep fanning the same flame to keep it alive."

Born in Cyprus, and a Turkish citizen, Eruç is a long time U.S. resident who has dreamed of a human powered, self propelled journey around the world since 1997. His vision was to turn the world into a giant laboratory to inspire and to engage students. After an accident claimed the life of his friend Göran Kropp while rock climbing together in September 2002, Eruç decided that his journey should include climbing the highest summits on each continent, respectively, along his route in memory of Kropp. Kropp was best known for his bicycle ride from his home country of Sweden to Nepal in 1996 to climb Everest without supplemental oxygen.

In early 2003, Eruç bicycled from Seattle to Alaska 5,546 roundtrip miles while towing his climbing gear in the style of Kropp, walked in the length of the Kahiltna Glacier and scaled Mt. McKinley with his friends. This was the first summit on the tribute that Eruç has now named: *Six Summits Project*. The row to Australia will set the stage for climbing the second peak on the project: Mt. Kosciuszko.

It was in early 2006 that Eruç spent 96 days alone at sea, rowing across the Atlantic Ocean between the Canary Islands and the island of Guadeloupe. "My challenge was more mental than physical – I had to face my self imposed isolation and to deal with the boredom," said Eruç who became the first Turkish man to row an ocean.

Eruç will use the same ocean rowing boat during the Pacific crossing which is designed to be self-righting and self-bailing. The 23 feet long specialized boat will hold 10 months worth of food, a water desalination unit, a life raft, a sea anchor, a radar transponder, satellite phones, a GPS chartplotter, fishing lines, an iPod, and 6 ceremonial bottles of small wine to uncork at every 1000 miles.

Together on the path to success

Turkish air springs market leader Aktaş Group will be Eruç's main sponsor during his rowing journey across the Pacific Ocean. Education is a priority for Aktaş Group which believes that courage and determination lead to success. As it stands by those who share this vision, the Group will proudly support Eruç throughout his Pacific journey.

Aktaş Group General Coordinator Aydın Erdoğan stated that they planned to be the pioneer in supporting initiatives which will serve a leading role in the development of the society, and added: "Erden plans to circumnavigate the globe by rowing across vast oceans, and to climb the highest mountain on each continent. His courage and belief in success were very similar to our goals as Aktaş Group. We are truly proud to support Erden as he prepares to once again take our nation's name to the global platform with his row across the Pacific journey."

About Around-n-Over

Around-n-Over (www.around-n-over.org) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization based in Seattle to educate and to inspire based on human powered journeys. Using the Six Summits Project as a launch pad, the organization aims to provide educational content about the journey, and to share its know-how for future human powered endeavors. By sharing his journey with students world-wide through Around-n-Over, Eruç aims to instill the values of selflessness, sacrifice and perseverance in the tradition of previous adventurers and expeditions.

Loyal sponsors like Marjinal Communications and the Ironmark Law Group are instrumental to the success of Around-n-Over, and the Pacific Ocean crossing is made possible with the full support of AKTAŞ Group (www.aktasgroup.com).

About the Ocean Rowing Society

The Ocean Rowing Society is an international body that verifies the legitimacy and accuracy of rowers who traverse the world's oceans. Members of the U.K.-based Ocean Rowing Society (ORS) also provide technical and logistics support, sponsorship opportunities, media counsel and services related to planning and carrying out an ocean row.

ORS maintains historical records of the world's ocean rows and catalogues statistics and the personal archives of international ocean rowers. According to the ORS, there have been successful ocean rows by individuals from 18 different nations. Seven ocean rowers have been lost at sea. More historical data – including real time details of all current ocean rows – is available on the ORS web site (www.oceanrowing.com).

Upcoming Event

To be a part of this great adventure, please join Eruç and his supporters for a pre-launch celebration and presentation.

- When:* **Thursday, May 31**
- 5:30 pm Cash bar opens
 - 6:00 pm Buffet dinner \$12.50 per person
 - 7:00 pm Multimedia presentation by Erden Eruç – Minimum suggested donation: \$10 per person

Where: Corinthian Yacht Club, 43 Main Street, Tiburon, CA
(37 Degrees 52' 17" N. Latitude - 122 Degrees 27' 20" W)

RSVP: www.cyc.org/speakers ~ *Seating limited to first 150 respondents*

Come early to meet Erden and to see the ocean rowing boat!

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**Erden Eruç's Departure: Saturday -- June 2, 2007 - 7:30pm**  
Corinthian Yacht Club, Tiburon, CA -- ***weather allowing***  
Approximate time at sea – 240 days!  
Destination: Brisbane, Australia.

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.around-n-over.org>  
Or contact Nancy Board 206-604-3577**

*Photographs available on request.*

Just curious or cannot make the event?? Tune-in to Eruç's podcast at:  
[http://www.blogtalkradio.com/hostpage.aspx?show\\_id=25939](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/hostpage.aspx?show_id=25939)

**When: Saturday - May 26                    Time: 5 pm**  
Go to the URL **TODAY** and sign up for a reminder email!  
Or send your questions ahead of time: [news@travelwritersnews.com](mailto:news@travelwritersnews.com)