

Atlanta is next stop for around the world expedition

43-year-old has cycled nearly 8,500 miles and summited Mt. McKinley in attempt to become first around the world under his own power

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 6, 2004 - Extreme athlete Erden Eruç and his Around-n-Over expedition (www.around-n-over.org) to become the first human to circumnavigate the globe solely under his own power is expected in Atlanta this Friday on the cross North American cycling leg of his global expedition.

Eruç departed his home town Seattle on Oct. 3 and Nashville, Tenn. on Sunday morning en route to his second summit attempt - Mt. Aconcagua, South America's highest peak. At 22,840 feet, Aconcagua is the western hemisphere's highest point, and when summited in early 2006 will put Eruç within four peaks of his goal of reaching the highest summit on each of six continents. Eruç expects to make a brief layover in Huntsville, Alabama on Tuesday before pedaling his Novara bike and BOB trailer into Georgia later this week.

When his circumnavigation is completed late in 2010, Eruç will have climbed each of the tallest peaks in North and South America, Oceania, Asia, Africa and Europe while approaching each by bike and by foot, and rowed across three oceans and the distance of the Red and Mediterranean seas. The Turkish native has already summited Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak in 2003.

The Aconcagua leg, which will take Eruç through Atlanta, includes an estimated 3,400 mile, 60 day cycling journey across North America from Seattle to Miami. Eruç will eventually reach the base of Aconcagua by rowing from Miami around Cuba and through the Panama Canal to Ecuador and then biking south from Ecuador through Peru and Chile.

On the way to Atlanta, Eruç has pedaled nearly 175 pounds of bicycle, trailer and panniers fully laden with food and personal gear 8,500 miles. His journey has taken Eruç from Seattle north through British Columbia and the Yukon Territory and along the Alaska Highway to Denali and then back to Seattle.

Since leaving Seattle in early October, Eruç has covered nearly 3,000 miles by bike through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee, in his attempt to complete the first self-propelled human circumnavigation. Following Atlanta, the expedition will take Eruç into Florida with a stop in Jacksonville and eventually a mid December arrival in Miami.

Along the way, the former systems engineer turned expeditioner by way of a lay-off, will talk about his global journey to local school children to share the values of selflessness, sacrifice and perseverance of previous adventurers and expeditions including his late climbing partner, mountaineer Göran Kropp. Kropp is well known for his role in the rescue of several climbers who were stranded by a violent storm on Everest in 1996 and then successfully summiting the earth's highest peak without the use of supplemental oxygen. Kropp's journey to Everest included riding his bicycle laden with climbing gear from Sweden to Nepal.

In May 2003, Eruç reached the summit of the 20,320 foot Mt. McKinley in Alaska which included the 5,546 mile bike ride from Seattle to Denali and back. His bicycle journey to Miami will push his odometer to nearly 9,000 miles. Following a break to

recover, Eruç expects to depart from Miami for Ecuador in late February aboard Calderdale - The Yorkshire Challenger, his 23 foot trans-oceanic rower. He expects to summit Aconcagua in January 2006, then Oceania's Carstenz Pyramid in the summer of 2007, Asia's Everest in 2008, Africa's Kilimanjaro in 2009 and finally Elbrus in Russia in 2010 before returning to Seattle later that year. The expedition will include time-off between legs for hurricane seasons on the oceans and winters on the mountains which will allow for recuperation and equipment repair and replenishment.

About Around-n-Over

Around-n-Over (www.around-n-over.org) is a tax-exempt organization to support the seven year quest of Seattle extreme athlete Erden Eruç to circumnavigate the globe under human power. Eruç aims to climb the highest summits on six continents after approaching each by bicycle and on foot, and to row across three oceans. 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. This journey was inspired by the book Ultimate High depicting Göran Kropp's 1996 cycling journey from Sweden to climb Mt. Everest, and by Tori Murden, who in 1999 became the first woman to cross an ocean by rowing.

Around-n-Over is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization and is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United State of America. Invicta Law Group is instrumental to the success of Around-n-Over, and the following organizations have contributed to the journey: BOB Trailers, OrtliebUSA, REI, and Seattle Vertical World.