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Documentary to Chronicle 52-year Old Suburban Woman's Quest to Compete in the Everest of Ocean Events

Late-Blooming Athlete, Former Coloradoan Undaunted by Recent Dog Attack

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Princeville, Kauai, April 2, 2010 – A documentary entitled “32 Miles from Now” is being filmed about one woman’s dream to stand-up paddle the “Everest” of ocean competitions: the 2010 Molokai to Oahu Paddleboard Race on July 25. Undaunted by her age (52), previous inexperience in open water, and a horrific dog attack last fall, Princeville resident, Ann Hettinger, is the oldest woman to ever attempt this feat solo.

Renowned local surf cinematographer, Joel Guy, is in the process of filming hundreds of hours chronicling Ann’s transformation from suburban Colorado housewife to avid athlete embracing the island lifestyle and Hawaiian watersports. Guy, a native of Kauai and owner of Hanalei Grass Shack Productions, captures Ann’s incredible journey with footage of her rigorous training regimen in some of the most breath-taking scenery in the world; the adrenaline-pumping sports of surfing and stand-up paddling; and sound bites from such world-famous watermen as Laird Hamilton, Ekolu Kalama, winner of last years Molokai to Oahu solo SUP and Todd Bradley, co-founder of C4 Waterman . A trailer from the documentary, tentatively scheduled for release in late fall 2010, can be viewed at www.32milesfromnow.com.

Ann’s journey to Molokai began 17 years ago when her daughter firmly stated, “Mom, if you don’t quit smoking, you’re going to die.” The self-described chain-smoking “couch potato” was faced with a harsh reality: make a life change or suffer the consequences. Ann threw her cigarettes and sedentary life away, took up running and weight training, and radically changed her diet and her life. Running became her passion, so she hired a coach and began competing in 5k’s, 10k’s, half-marathons and marathons.

A longtime Denver resident, Ann had taken her first swim lessons in high school P.E. She saw the ocean for the first time in her late 20’s during a family trip to San Diego. Captivated by the ocean during a vacation trip to Hawaii at age 38, she returned to the islands years later and fell

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in love with Kauai, vowing to make it her forever home. In 2009, Ann founded “Soul & Sport Ventures”, an all-inclusive women’s adventure retreat at Hanalei Bay on the North Shore of Kauai (www.soulandssportventures.com).

A non-surfer, Ann tried stand-up paddling, an exciting emerging sport, as an easier way to enjoy the water. Invited by a friend to try outrigger with the Hanalei Canoe Club, she was hooked on the time-honored Hawaiian watersport. It was through her experiences with outrigger that she first heard about Molokai. Intrigued by the fact that world-renowned ocean event included a stand-up paddling race, she decided to take on the challenge.

Close friend, Cheri Hakman, introduced her to cinematographer Guy. “When Ann told me of her vision, and said that she was going to write a journal about the experience, I immediately thought that she should document it. For me it is a huge inspiration for all women around the world, to know that a dream can turn into reality if you most importantly BELIEVE, and have a passion and determination to get from A to B”, says Cheri.

World-class paddler, Steve Cole, agreed to coach her, stressing “You have a HUGE goal in front of you”. She not only had to learn to surf, she also required training for open-ocean stand-up paddling and how to read the ocean’s many moods. Her first passion, running, plays a major role in Ann’s training for Molokai...she runs an average of 50 miles per week. Says Ann, “My heart, soul, mind and body are completely dedicated to this challenge. It will be an honor to paddle with this amazing group of watermen and waterwomen, and to have the ocean allow me to participate.”

“Because the ocean has brought such joy and purpose to my life,” says Ann, “it is also part of my goal with this documentary to bring attention and awareness to the preservation and the health of ocean reefs. To support this cause a portion of all proceeds to be donated to "Save Our Seas" - an international Hawai'i based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization utilizing education and research to preserve, protect, and restore the world's oceans for future generations

She adds, “My life has been a work in progress to overcome personal and physical adversities to become an athlete and believe in myself. No dream is too big. If my journey can offer one glimmer of hope to someone, then my heart will smile with joy and it was all worth it. My mantra is, “Follow your passion...the time to live is now.” View trailer at www.32milesfromnow.com

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