



Michigan Section American Works Association

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PRESS RELEASE

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THE GREAT ROW UPDATE

If this is Thursday, it must be Grand Haven, Michigan. That's right, Mike Roon has completed about one-third of "The Great Row," his trip to the Mackinac Bridge to raise money for "Water for People." This all began last Saturday in Gary, Indiana. Mike is employing a 12-foot rowboat, and yes, he will be using only oars to propel the boat. Barring any unforeseen weather complications, Mike expects to arrive at The Big Mac as planned on the Fourth of July.

One-hundred-percent of the money raised by "The Great Row" will be used to fund safe drinking water projects in Ecuador. Roon, an AWWA-Michigan Section member since 1993, has been an active and vocal member of the Section's "Water for People" committee since 1996

"The Great Row" is sponsored by Camp & Cruise – marine outfitters located in Marne, Michigan – which has donated a brand new 12-foot Lowe aluminum boat with a trolling motor and trailer. Tickets are still available for \$10 each, or three for \$25, and can be purchased online at www.michwfp.org until September 15, 2006 when the drawing will be held. One-hundred-percent of the money raised will benefit "Water for People."

"Water for People" is a 501(c)(3) international development organization dedicated to supporting safe drinking water for people in developing countries. The organization was founded in 1991 by Ken Miller, a former president of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). "The Great Row" is only the latest effort in behalf of "Water for People" for Roon – a Public Works Supervisor in charge of underground utilities and sanitary collection for the City of Wyoming near Grand Rapids. In previous years, Mike has ridden his bicycle across the United States, and climbed Mt. Rainier, the 14,410-foot tall active volcano in Washington State.

The Denver-based AWWA is the "world's largest scientific and educational organization dedicated to drinking water quality and public drinking water supply". The mission of the Michigan Section is to "enhance the knowledge, skills and technology necessary for public water suppliers to produce a safe, adequate, and reliable supply of drinking water, to promote laws and regulations which protect public health and to promote public confidence in their product."

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Although “Water for People” is engaged in making safe water accessible to people throughout the world, efforts by the AWWA’s Michigan Section have focused on Ecuador, where members have built 10 water systems. Roon’s trip to Ecuador in October will be his 10th in behalf of “Water for People.”

To see an itinerary of Mike’s voyage, visit www.michwfp.org and click on the map. Go to <http://www.michwfp.org/miawwa/index.html> to learn more about the Michigan Section, AWWA. For more information about the AWWA, go to <http://www.awwa.org/>.

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