

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUP San Juans

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Event Facebook: Silent Auction Benefit for Spinal Injury Research

Respected Companies Standing Together to Support Spinal Injury Research

Graham Faught, a young, athletic 21-year-old man who suffered a devastating and tragic accident while skim boarding on Maui, HI is one of the inspirations behind a large movement and event to raise awareness about spinal cord injury and the difficult transition back to living life taking place in Washington State on September 27th. Fracturing his C4 vertebrae, Faught was left paralyzed from the shoulders down and has been facing adversity in medical facilities steadily making progress in his goal to a full recovery and returning to a normal lifestyle despite setbacks.

To raise awareness surrounding spinal cord injuries SUP San Juans, a newly formed group of local stand up paddle boarders based in Northwest Washington, are organizing the first one-person, self-contained Stand-Up-Paddle trip of its kind in the San Juan islands. Co-founder of SUP San Juans, Matthew Friedlander, will launch his stand-up paddleboard from Washington Park in Anacortes on September 17th. Carrying all of his own food, water, and camping supplies, Friedlander will paddle around the entire perimeter of Washington States San Juan Islands, a total distance of 80 miles over 5 days.

"I have known a few people now who have had their lives affected by a spinal cord injury. I have seen how the adjustment back to a normal life can be unbelievably expensive and weigh on friends and family around them. I have been motivated by Graham's situation to help all those people through that difficult process," states Friedlander of SUP San Juans. "Thousands of people are affected by devastating spinal injuries every day. We are bringing awareness to the struggles they face, from adjusting to a new normal, to lack of badly needed insurance coverage. Standing and pushing through this SUP trip is meant to honor their strength, and to show the world we are standing together."

On September 27th, completion of this SUP trip will be celebrated with a silent auction, taking place at Boundary Bay Brewery in Bellingham Washington, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm, with hopes to raise \$5000 for the cause. All proceeds are going directly to Wings For Life Research Foundation, a privately funded worldwide research charity organization with the exclusive aim to perform and promote basic and clinical research related to spinal cord injury, as well as Faught's Recovery Fund on youcaring.com. According to Wings For Life Research Foundation, a devastating spinal cord injury occurs every 41 minutes in the US alone. With statistics like these it's not hard to see why big names such as RedBull stand behind the cause.

Many influential, big-name companies throughout the nation and locally, are standing together to show their support of research for spinal injury and the SUP San Juans event. Auction items include goodies such as a Jimmy Lewis stand up paddle board, Dakine luggage, a Ryan Sheckler autographed skate deck, and a state-of-the-art thin film solar charger.

Stand together with SUP San Juans and for those that can't by attending, donating, and bidding on auction items.

For more information:

Wings For Life Research Foundation:

<http://www.wingsforlife.com/en/>

Graham Faught Recovery Fund:

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/graham-s-recovery-fund/39214>

To donate, or for sponsorship opportunities:

See Press Contact above or items can be shipped directly to;

2883 State Route 9 Sedro Woolley WA98284

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