



Biography - John Silva

John Silva, age 63, is originally from the mid-Peninsula and North Bay regions of the San Francisco Bay Area before he moved to Amador County, California, in 1985. An avid outdoor adventure enthusiast, Silva took up a variety of human-powered sports, including whitewater kayaking and backpacking, at an early age. Silva's early passion for solo adventure led him on a hitchhiking trip that took him across the United States and back through Canada in 1977. He gradually settled down with the responsibilities of a career and raising a family, but he never let go of his wanderlust as he continues to backpack, kayak and have a strong passion for the outdoors.

Silva retired from the Amador County Sheriff's Office at the end of 2019 and formed Give Back Adventures to combine his enthusiasm for solo wilderness adventures with raising funds for non-profit organizations. Silva's first expedition was delayed by the pandemic until the summer of 2021 when he completed a 3,000 mile solo, off-road, and unsupported bikepacking expedition on the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route from Canada to Mexico. Operation Care of Amador County was chosen as the recipient of Silva's inaugural expedition due to years of him responding to domestic violence related incidents and working closely with Operation Care during his law enforcement career.

According to Silva, "A book documenting the many twists, turns, hardships and challenges of my bikepacking expedition from Canada to Mexico could never fully convey the lifetime of memories I accumulated. The expedition was filled with countless mental and physical challenges; however, it also gave me great strength and resolve knowing it was for the much greater purpose of promoting domestic violence awareness. Silva's expedition also raised nearly \$13,000 to support Operation Care of Amador County and their mission of providing a wide variety of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault."

Following his successful 2021 expedition Silva realized that as an older male, as well as a former law enforcement officer, he has a unique platform to advocate for and raise funds for social causes and/or non-profit organizations that he feels are important. Silva continued by stating, "I look forward to future fundraising expeditions and plan to do them for many years to come."

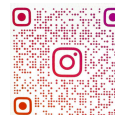
Outdoor Adventures to Support Charitable Organizations

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IN THE PRESS

Steamboat Pilot & Today:

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/sports/divide-rider-stops-in-steamboat-on-3k-mile-journey-for-domestic-violence-awareness/>

Ledger Dispatch:

https://www.ledger.news/roots/retired-acso-sergeant-to-ride-mountain-bike-from-canada-to-mexico-on-a-challenging-fundraising/article_296c5fde-d5f5-11eb-8780-7b257e34feca.html

https://www.ledger.news/roots/operation-care-fundraiser-give-back-adventure-by-john-silva/article_18b8a40e-fc74-11eb-9a1b-8b5741c206ba.html

https://www.ledger.news/roots/former-acso-sergeant-rides-3-000-miles-in-support-of-domestic-violence-awareness/article_70f360c2-2dee-11ec-9c4e-03ea355ada4c.html

https://www.ledger.news/roots/silva-of-give-back-adventures-donates-nearly-13-000/article_b6f472fe-9be0-11ec-94cc-c70fd5882e1b.html

Give Back Adventures - YouTube Videos:

GDMBR 2021, Thoughts from the Great Divide on Domestic Violence

<https://youtu.be/53FmqINlaMU>

GDMBR 2021, A Tale of Two Perspectives

<https://youtu.be/62dYBsHpAFc>

Mokelumne River, Source to the Sea - Teaser Video

<https://youtu.be/Gfr52L7uLOY>