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Contact: Amy Weirick
(614) 848-8380
Amy@WeirickCommunications.com

***Award-winning adventure writer Jeff Alt
to appear at AAA Great Vacations EXPO in Columbus***

Columbus, OH – Acclaimed author and adventure junkie, Jeff Alt will appear at the AAA Great Vacations EXPO. Alt will take the AAA Travel Stage at the EXPO on Saturday, January 23 at 5 p.m. He'll make a second appearance on Sunday, January 24 at 1 p.m. Alt will discuss his incredible journey hiking the 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail. In addition, he'll offer tips on hiking and introducing kids to the outdoors.

The EXPO is a one-stop shop for everything related to travel and offers information, EXPO-only deals and the very best travel values on everything from cruises and European vacations, to affordable escapes that are close to home. With more than 150 exhibits and events, special attraction areas within the EXPO will include The Great Outdoors adventure area built by Metro Parks, AAA Travel Stage, EXPO Casino and more.

Award-winning author, inspirational speaker and family man, Jeff Alt entertains worldwide audiences with the life lessons he's gleaned during countless hiking adventures. Alt has already fulfilled the top item on his "bucket list," surviving the challenging five-month, 14-state journey across the Appalachian Trail. During his 2,160-mile trek, Alt lost 30 pounds, shared his bunk with skunks and endured temperatures that soared and dove to dangerous levels. Alt dedicated his trip and his resulting memoir to a brother with cerebral palsy. Alt's book "A Walk for Sunshine" has raised more than \$160,000 for the Sunshine Home, where his brother lives. Alt is also the author of "A Hike for Mike," an account of his and his wife's journey through the 218-mile John Muir Trail, which traverses much of the Western United States' most visited parkland, taking visitors from Yosemite National Park, through Sequoia National Park, King's Canyon National Park and ending at the highest peak in the continental U.S., Mount Whitney.

Alt's humorous and insightful stories have been featured on CNN-Radio, Hallmark Channel, ESPN, The Good Life Show, Good Day USA and more. Both of Alt's books are on sale now and will be available at the EXPO.

The AAA Great Vacations EXPO takes place January 22-24, 2010 at Franklin County Veterans Memorial in downtown Columbus. Show hours are Friday 2-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8 or \$4 for AAA members and are available at the door or at any AAA Ohio Auto Club store and online at AAAGreatVacations.com. Children ages 16 are admitted at no charge. Additional details, stage schedules and consumer information on the EXPO are available at AAAGreatVacations.com.

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***Outstanding color art, video and interviews available. Contact Amy Weirick,
(614) 848-8380 or Amy@WeirickCommunications.com.***