Chalk it up to genes, maybe, but Hemmer has always sought out adventure, whether quitting his job at 27 to backpack around the world or today, at 46, getting his biggest thrills from being in the field, where he's covered wars in Iraq and Israel.

**PERPETUAL MOTION**
Growing up, I was willing to try anything. I was always outdoors and playing sports — football, basketball, baseball. When I got a little older, I started jumping out of planes, and once in New Zealand I bungee jumped off the tallest commercial bridge in the world at the time. Every sensation, every sensory mode in your body is firing.

**REPORTING AS AN ACTION SPORT**
The thrill in my job is to experience history changing for millions of people, and then tell that story to millions of others. There's a sensory overload in breaking news stories, too. When you're on the scene for a developing story — one that unfolds over weeks, if not months — that's why I'm in the business.

**GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL**
I sail a 23-foot Ensign with a wooden keel. It's a great way to not only be on the water and outdoors, but to get your mind away from all the other issues in your life. It takes your full focus.

—INTERVIEWED BY DACUS THOMPSON

For more Accomplished Renegades, tune in to IFC's The 360 Sessions, Tuesdays at 9 PM ET/8 CT.