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# **RAAM Family Newsletter**

January 9, 2008

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Dear Jeff,

Happy New Year! We've had a wonderful surge of entries for RAAM in the last month. To date, we've registered a record 245 racers for the full RAAM, and an additional 35 racers for the Race Across the West (1,000 miles) and the 24 Hour Challenge.

If you're still interested in entering a team in the 2008 RAAM, Race Across the West, or the RAAM 24 Hour Challenge, please contact us as soon as possible so we can reserve a spot for you! director@raceacrossamerica.org

Now, how do you get ready????

## **RAAM Presents a Spring Clinic at Texas Hell Week**

Many of our RAAM participants have suggested that they crave a way to learn more about the logistics necessary to participte in RAAM. Most veterans will say, "getting to the starting line is the hardest part of RAAM."

Therefore, we are excited to host the very first RAAM clinic on March 15th and 16th in Fredericksburg, TX. We'll offer in-depth training on preparing for the logistics or crewing of RAAM or a RAAM Qualifier. We will teach you what we know, and put out all the tips and tricks we've learned over the years from experience and talking with our Racers and Crews



We will have talks, skits, demonstrations, and hands-on exercise. The clinic will be interactive; you will have to think and evaluate the same way you would have to during RAAM or a RAAM Qualifier. Saturday night we will plan a group dinner as well, where rookies and colorful veterans will exchange ideas and tell some inspiring stories.

The Spring Clinic is being held during Texas Hell Week, an annual event held in the Hill Country of Fredericksburg, Texas. This week-long

"training camp," in its 18th year, draws several hundred riders to the spectacular roads in Texas Hill Country, to get a jump on their spring training. After the RAAM clinic during the first weekend of Hell Week, stick around and ride for a few more days or the entire week. Many a RAAM dream has been cultivated, and many insider secrets shared, by riding with RAAM veterans during this week.

To register for the RAAM Clinic, sign up at the RAAM Store

To learn more about Hell Week and Fredericksburg, Texas, visit their website <a href="here">here</a>

#### **RAAM Hall of Fame**

RAAM has started a Hall of Fame to honor those athletes, staff, and crew who have made significant contributions to the race or have had outstanding long-term performances. To even be considered, one must have been involved for at least 5 years. As strong as the race is, 5 years is a long time with the race. We are excited to announce the Class of 2007 which was inducted in October at the RAAM Fall Festival.

The first seven Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Lon Haldeman
- Rob Kish
- John Marino
- Lee Mitchell
- Susan Notorangelo
- Pete Penseyres (pictured)
- Michael Shermer

Each is legendary for their accomplishments and contributions. The Awards section of the new website will have their background.

Come join us next year at the Fall Festival to learn who the Class of 2008 will be!



#### **RAAM Website Overhaul Almost Complete**

What a task it has been to overhaul the RAAM website! The new site is looking great and will be much easier to navigate. We are finishing the task of updating all the content this week and it may even be live by the time this arrives in your inbox. We hope it gives RAAM a fresh look and helps you find RAAM material much easier.

There are a few pieces still to come such as History and some Race Coverage items, but most of

Quick Links
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<u>Our Website</u>
RAAM Products & Registration
Past Newsletters - News for 2008 RAAM
RAAM Photos
Contact Information
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Race Director - Terry Zmrhal - <u>director@raceacrossamerica.org</u>
V.P. Sales & Marketing - Jeff Stephens - jeff@raceacrossamerica.org
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