



RAAM Family Newsletter

December 10, 2007

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Dear Jeff,

This is the last week for Early Registration. Remember, **RAAM 2008 will have a field limit of 250 racers**. We've had 160 racers register, and based on our conversations with so many of you in the past months, we anticipate reaching that cap.

Register by **December 15th** with a deposit or full fee and take advantage of the reduced entry fees. Please ensure you, or your team's place, on the 2008 roster by beginning the registration process with a deposit at the [RAAM Store](#).

Three H.O.T. Guys Return

We are pleased to have the Head Official Trio (H.O.T.) of Johnny Boswell, Mike Roark, and Robb Warren returning for 2008 to lead our officiating staff. These three officiating veterans have more than 50 years of combined experience with the race in one capacity or another.

The threesome will manage all activities of the 25+ race officials. Moving the 200+ vehicle entourage and our 250 racers on the road, in a safe and respectful manner is their top priority. And, of course, they maintain the integrity of the competition.

We are excited to have such experienced, supportive, and downright good guys, back helping with RAAM.

Memories, Memorabilia and Today's History Quiz

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A few weeks ago we received a package in the mail from Curt Eury (#64) who raced in the 1980s.

Ok - today's history lesson & quiz. For the first 18 years, RAAM racers "owned" their number forever. For example, many RAAM historians will always know Rob Kish as #39, Muffy Ritz as #168, or Steve Born as #97. Who was the racer with the last "lifetime number" bestowed under the old numbering system? We've got a prize for the first person with the correct answer to [jeff@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:jeff@raceacrossamerica.org)

Back to our story. We knew some RAAM memorabilia was on the way, but what a treasure trove we received from Curt! We found several race hats, a few programs, and the kicker was a satin jacket from 1988! What a great addition to our growing collection.



Do you have any old RAAM memorabilia? Has it sat in an old box or in the garage long enough? Contact the RAAM office at [raam2008@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:raam2008@raceacrossamerica.org) and we will gladly relieve you of the effort of storing it!

We displayed some vintage stuff at the Fall Festival in October (see picture of Jonathan Boyer's 1985 bicycle. We were simply amazed at the low gear of 42x18!) We'd like to

display this fascinating and inspiring memorabilia more often. We're considering a display at either the start or finish of RAAM this coming year.

So, what can you donate to the "RAAM museum?"

## Resources, Rules and GEAR Book Available On-line Now

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The first draft of the 2008 Rules ([Link to 2008 Rules](#)) and the 2008 GEAR Book ([Link to 2008 GEAR Book](#)) are now available on the website as PDFs

The Rules are an ever-evolving document. We reviewed situations and rules from 2007 and incorporated updates for 2008. The list of major changes is in the front of the rules. As always, we **EXPECT all racers AND ALL CREW MEMBERS to read, and fully understand, the rules of RAAM.** If you have any questions or need clarification, please email rules@raceacrossamerica.org.



The GEAR Book was started several years ago to help you prepare for the logistical needs of RAAM. This document also continues to grow. We've updated and expanded many sections, especially the Vehicle Setup section, to ensure clarity and provide more information about various aspects of the race. We've captured many nuggets of information in this document; so, save yourself many last-minute headaches, and begin using the GEAR book now!

Your understanding of the Rules and the GEAR Book, will increase the likelihood of a successful and happy finish to your RAAM quest! Start reading the documentation today, and maybe you can be like John Jurczynski in the picture above!

Ensure your Partners and Crew are on our E-Newsletter List

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It's important that your partners, friends and family, and especially your crew, keep abreast of important updates with RAAM. We have been working to re-design our website and add content in a user-friendly manner. (Look for the new site any day!) The website will remain the source for authoritative content.

We know our racers are checking the website on a regular basis (wink, wink, nudge, nudge!) However, it's unrealistic to expect your circle of partners (that aren't eating & sleeping RAAM everyday like you) to proactively check the website on a regular basis.

So, please consider forwarding this e-newsletter to those you feel would benefit. Also, please ask your friends, family and especially your crew, to subscribe to our e-newsletter mailing list. The sign-up is at the bottom of our [home page](#).

We send out a newsletter about every 3 weeks. This frequency should be acceptable for prompting your partners to check-in, and link to the website for RAAM updates.

You might also note the link to our newsletter archives, at the bottom of this newsletter.

## New RAAM Merchandise - Winter Items & Books



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Just in time for those winter rides and outdoor training, we have RAAM winter hats and fleece headbands available at the RAAM store. These are the perfect size for those last minute stocking stuffers.



We have also added several books written by RAAM veterans which would make great holiday gifts. The three new books are "Going the Distance" by George Thomas, "The Guy On The Bike" by Michael Secrest, and "You Want It? You'll Make It!" by Wolfgang Fasching. Those winter trainer miles can get tiresome, but with one of these books you will stay motivated as you read their stories of the world's toughest bicycle race.

Go to the RAAM Store to check out the selection of gift ideas: [RAAM Store](#)

FYI - Due to our web site overhaul project, we're experiencing some problems with the shipping charge for our international customers. If you have trouble, please contact Rick at [finance@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:finance@raceacrossamerica.org). We apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

## RAAM Veteran John Jurczynski's Guinness Record Attempt



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As you read this, 2007 Solo RAAM finisher, John Jurczynski, is embarking on a Guinness World Record attempt. Last year, as a part of his training for RAAM, John rode approximately 89 hours on an indoor Spinning bike. This week, December 10th - 15th, he is attempting to break the current record of 111 non-stop hours. Is this guy crazy?

John, a dedicated fundraiser, is using this effort to raise money for the WLNH Children's Auction. Check out his progress on [John's website](#).

I'm sure he'll be dreaming of breathtaking vistas like Monument Valley (above) or, that sunny RAAM finish (pictured further above) to motivate him through the dark, cold, New Hampshire nights this week. Go John!

## Quick Links...

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[Our Website](#)

[RAAM Products & Registration](#)

[Past Newsletters - News for 2008 RAAM](#)

[RAAM Photos](#)

Contact Information

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Race Director - Terry Zmrhal - [director@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:director@raceacrossamerica.org)

V.P. Sales & Marketing - Jeff Stephens - [jeff@raceacrossamerica.org](mailto:jeff@raceacrossamerica.org)  
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