



June 15, 2009

In this RAAM Report: Story leads on on the start of RAAM and RAW, start locations and events and new RAAM products.

RAAM and RAW Start

Oceanside, California. The [Race Across America](#) 2009 edition and the Race Across the West 2009 are gearing up for what promises to be a spectacular showdown in all races, in all divisions.

The weather in California has delivered sunshine and gentle ocean breezes on time. The crowds, riders and crew are rolling in, race officials, RAAM staff all mix in well with the surf and tan crowd of Oceanside.

So far, to date, there have been no big surprises, no one has dropped out and everyone is showing up as planned. It really is an amazing scene to witness with racers and crew going through registration, vehicle and bicycle inspections. As you walk through the staging center, different languages can be heard in every direction. People proudly display their shiny new bikes and their trust worthy road warriors. Everyone is congenial. For some, the magnitude of the tasks that wait between the shores of Oceanside and the City Docks of Annapolis, Maryland, weigh heavy in their hearts. It is unspoken, but you can feel it in the air, respect, awe, anticipation and perhaps the slightest touch of fear or nerves.

And why not? Like a fighter waiting in his dressing room before he enters the ring, the in for a knock-down brawl of a battle. The first punch will be delivered early as they climb out of the coastal climate into the brutal heat of the desert. Many will suffer a standing 8 counts, some may get knocked out, and it is a brutal jab and if you survive, it only gets worse. More jabs- all the time. Heat, heat and more heat, climbing, head winds, rough roads, day in, night out, these races force you to go the distance. A distance that is measured in miles, pain and mental frustration. Only the strong survive and often even the strong meet their limits.



The [Race Across America](#) and the Race Across the West are proud to present these great challenges and to provide an event that allows any person on earth the opportunity to find out exactly how far they can go. It is a love affair with our deepest and most primal instincts, survival! Oh what we do for fun!

Stay tuned to www.raceacrossamerica.org and watch the racers as they make their way from one side of North America to the other the old fashion way, with hard work, determination and a whole lot of belief.

The 2009 Race Across America (RAAM) & The Race Across the West (RAW)

Start Dates, Locations and Events

All races start at the Oceanside Pier in Oceanside, California

This year's races include star studded line-ups of internationally acclaimed ultra-cyclists and local elite riders. Also participating this year are a professional musician, a surfing legend and some mature athletes that can and will beat people less than half their age. RAAM is all about the diverse, talented and amazingly driven type of people that RAAM attracts.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of Oceanside's city council, the Strand will be closed to traffic, and the bicycles will rule in anticipation of the RAAM starts. Come out to enjoy all the activity and excitement surrounding the start line of the World's Toughest Bicycle Race

Schedule of start times and events

Tuesday, June 16 (PDT)

- 12:00 PM: Start for the RAAM SOLO women and our 60+ SOLO male racers hosted by author Amy Snyder and Fred Boethling, Solo 60+ past record holder and President of RAAM.

Wednesday, June 17 (PDT)

- 11:30 am: US Navy SEALs Leap Frogs will be parachuting into the start line
- 12:00 pm: Bob Babbitt, editor of Competitor Magazine will be sending off the World's Toughest Bicycle Racers with a new style of a start.
- 12:00 pm: Start for the RAAM SOLO male racers and all the Race Across the West racers.



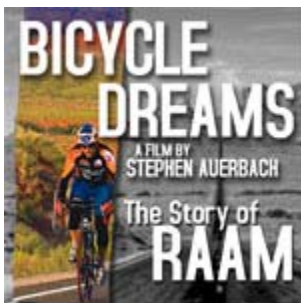
Saturday, June 20 2:00pm (PDT)

- 9:00 am - all day: Start for the RAAM teams. There will be a Family Day Bike Ride sponsored by City of Oceanside. The Strand will be closed to traffic for families to ride their bikes on that day. Bring your bike, and enjoy a ride along the Strand.
- 9:00 am - 3 pm: RAAM Expo will have some of local businesses, shops and organizations joining in the fun.
- 12:00 pm: RAAM Information Seminar/Q&A: Pete Penseyres (RAAM Speed Record Holder), and other guests will be speaking and answering questions about RAAM.
- 1:00 pm: RAAM Teams Introduction and line up for the Team Start. - Laird Hamilton, a world renowned surfer, has teamed up with Bally Total Fitness founder, Don Wildman, Rage Against The Machine bassist, Tim Commerford and Ironman participant, Jason Winn to form Team Surfing USA. This team is racing in an effort to raise awareness for Autism and Lou Gehrig's disease.
- 2:00 pm: RAAM Teams Start - Chuck Bramwell, Executive Director of California Triple Crown will be leading out the teams. So bring your bikes and join in fun. Ride out with the RAAM Teams out to the Bencall Bridge

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The **RAAM Store** has lot of new and unique designed products for this years Races. Some of the featured products are:

Bicycle Dream DVD



This moving story tells of the RAAM journey like no other filmmaker has done in the past. For those who have made the journey, it is a keepsake, for those who dream of making the journey, it is the insight.

Only \$19.99



This Ain't No Tour Hat and Shirt

These have become true RAAM collectables. The limited edition hats and t-shirt sell out very quickly so buy yours today. Each \$24.99



RAAM Bike Club Shirts



These "RAAM Bike Club" shirts come in Adult and Youth sizes. This is the only place to join the club. Adult \$24.99 Youth \$17.99



RAW Race Across the West

For more information please contact: raw09@raceacrossamerica.org

RAAM Report

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