

# Who are these Bicycle Racers?

Very few people know what it takes to compete in the Race Across America. It is a journey beginning in your heart with a magical aura. It's hard to believe it is happening. Once you commit, there is no turning back, you plunge - body, heart and soul - into the depths of challenge, adventure and the pursuit of a magnificent result. If you have seriously prepared yourself and a bit lucky, somewhere along the way you discover this is the way life is supposed to be. That you are capable of great things, that your fire burns deep inside and your actions endlessly fuel it. Jure Robic, a Special Forces soldier in the Slovenian Army, will be trying to win RAAM for an unprecedented 5th time. Trying to get in his way are returning 2006 RAAM Champion, Daniel Wyss of Switzerland, 2007 third place finisher Gerhard Gulewicz of Austria and a host of others.

Austrian adventurer Wolfgang Fasching, who has summited Mt. Everest and won solo RAAM three times, claims, "Climbing Everest is more dangerous, but RAAM is much harder".

While RAAM has built its reputation as being the world's toughest bicycle race on its solo racers, but the fastest growing segments of the race are the team divisions. Ordinary well-conditioned cyclists can organize competitive 2-, 4- and 8-person teams. Team racers have their sights set on three records: the 2-person team record set by Body XChange/Garden Pathways in 2006 (average 19.58 mph); the 4-person team

record set by Action Sports in 2004 (average 23.06 mph); and the 8-person team record set by Norway in 2008 (average 23.24 mph). The fast teams will ride coast-to-coast in a little over 5 days!

## Taos' First RAW Solo Racer

Former Governor, Gary Johnson, 56, is an athlete and entrepreneur. He has competed in over 500 athletic events including the anniversary of the Bataan March with a 25-mile desert run in combat boots wearing a 35-pound backpack. He has competed in the Hawaii Iron Man Triathlon four times. He has run 100 miles at Leadville that makes the traditional marathon look like a cakewalk. He is a paraglider and rock climber who has reached summits of Mt. McKinley and Mt. Everest.



**Gary Johnson, La Tierra Torture**

Gary says, "My goal is to finish RAW and qualify for RAAM. RAAM is about as tough as it gets, for any event. I would have entered RAW last year but it conflicted with Trans Portugal. (1,000 KM, 8 day stage race) Can't beat the finish line for RAW being at home in Taos, and the hot tub that will await my worn out body."