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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Belmont Resident Prepares for Bicycle Race of a Lifetime – Across the USA

Patrick Autissier will race from one coast to the other to raise money for Partners in Health (PIH) and Nashoba Learning Group (NLG)

Belmont, MA – In June, Patrick Autissier of Belmont, MA will embark on an extraordinary journey that will test the utmost limits of his physical endurance, mental resilience and commitment to a cause.

As a competitor in the 2007 Race Across America (RAAM), Autissier will hop on a bicycle and pedal on his own power across the length of the American continent, 3,043 miles from Pacific to Atlantic, stopping to sleep only when necessary.

Autissier started cycling in the early eighties when he was doing triathlon. When he moved from France to the United States in 2001, he got interest into ultra cycling and started to dream about RAAM. After his first solo attempt on RAAM in 2005 (DNF after 1,600 miles) and a second place in a 4-man team division in 2006, Autissier is now ready to fulfill his dream of finishing RAAM as a solo rider.

“I race to raise money and awareness for Partners In Health (www.pih.org) and Nashoba Learning Group (www.nashobalearninggroup.org), and on a more personal note, to know my limits and to ride across a beautiful country, said Autissier, who will race against others in the solo traditional category. “I want to prove that anything is possible when you set your mind to it. “



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The toughest endurance event in the world, RAAM offers long-distance cyclists the opportunity to challenge themselves to the height of their abilities. Over 1400 cyclists have completed RAAM since its first edition in 1982. Winners completing the course in approximately 9 days as a Solo rider and 5 days as a team effort, sometimes sleeping as little as 2 hours per day. These modern day heroes brave the desert, plains and mountain weather, lead a crew in a mini-organization of support, and raise thousands of dollars for charities around the world.

“RAAM unites people of all backgrounds, nationalities, and cycling histories in an adventure that challenges them to the core of everything they are,” says Fred Boethling, who bought rights to the race in 2006, after becoming the oldest man to successfully race RAAM Solo across the country. “It’s man against the elements, the road, and ultimately, him or her.”

To follow Autissier progress in this year’s Race Across America, visit www.patrickautissier.org or www.raceacrossamerica.org.

About the Race Across America (RAAM)

The Race Across America, known as the “world’s toughest bicycle race”, will set over 215 competitors on a 3,043-mile route stretching from Oceanside, California to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Athletes race continuously day and night, on their own power or sharing the challenge with a team, and a crew of 8 -15 people following in support cars with food and supplies for the race. These courageous adventurers brave heat, wind, thunderstorms, altitude, the dark of night, fatigue, and sleep deprivation, cross two major mountain ranges, and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity. The race is under new ownership in 2007. The new management team is comprised of long-time veterans of past RAAMs who have demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to the race via their years of racing, crewing, officiating, and volunteer leadership. For more information and race updates, see <http://www.raceacrossamerica.org>.