

Chain Gang Cycling History Snippet

The cycling team evolved 7 years ago from the Carolina Adventure Team to a strictly cycling only team affectionately known in 2008 and hereafter as Chain Gang Cycling. It all started back in year 2000 when Mark Barrera decided to form a group with similar interest to train and compete in adventure racing. Clif Abare and Mark Barrera met one evening while training for the local mountain bike racing series and decided to work together on the Adventure Team. It wasn't long before the team was biking, hiking, running and kayaking. The team consisted of about 15 members including our families. Mark and Clif competed in multiple races that included The Burn 24 hour Mtb Bike Race in which their team finished 7th, 24 hours of Adrenaline in Georgia and Anne Springs challenge in which their team finished 3rd in their division and qualified for the Texas Championship. Carolina AT was involved in many charity events which included Victory Junction Charity event and "MS 150 Breakaway to the Beach". During the M.S. ride Clif was introduced to Skinny Dennis who encouraged him to come out to Bike South ride and give road riding a shot. He did and was hooked on road riding ever since... Problem was it was the beginning of his shaved legs!

Carolina AT team was growing and had about 30 members so a few team members decided it would be in the best interest of the team to separate and form a cycling only team. Clif was chosen to lead this new band of misfits into the world of road bike racing and form the Carolina Adventure Cycling Team. The cycling team started out with five members. When team members showed up to ride with a jersey that had "Carolina Adventure Team" printed across the chest some of the roadie counterparts were a bit concerned about an Adventure team riding and racing in the pelaton. The next year the team picked up 2 new members but was still really a part of the adventure team with Georgia Pacific as a major sponsor of the cycling team. This obviously was a step in the right direction but the cycling community was still a little leery of an Adventure team road racing. From that point, sponsorship for a race team was essential part of enabling a team to race thru out the year. The following year the team was proud to be sponsored by Overcash Demmitt Architect and form a race team called O.D.A. Racing Team. The team members continued to train and race and were starting to come into their own as one unit while racing and definitely gained respect from their fellow riders. That year the

team produced a North Carolina State Champion. This could not have been done without the hard work of each team member and sponsors. Again the team entered into another sponsorship in hopes to grow the team, this time the major sponsor was Bolt Brothers. Due to a career change and the lack of time that a team needs, the leadership and sponsorship was given over to the Bolt Brothers Bike Shop.

Like the phoenix, Chain Gang Cycling has risen from the ashes and will again fly and wreak havoc on the local cycling scene.

Mission: To promote cycling thru charity rides, racing and provide a forum to allow other cyclist to enjoy the sport camaraderie.

Our core values have not changed: Train, race and most of all enjoy the experience (after all we do have families, jobs and cycling is something we do for fun)

- Introduce new cyclist to the sport and help improve bike handling skills
- Encourage team mates to actively participate in community racing events
- For experienced cyclist strive for extraordinary results competing at a higher level as a team
- Finally, participate in charity event to benefit MS

Now that we have come full circle and once again focusing on our core values, Chain Gang Cycling has been reinvented and has new sponsorship with Harris Teeter for the 2008 race season. We have cyclist of all skill levels, some like to get on the bike and ride others are hard core racers but we all have one thing in common and that is we enjoy cycling. The team was always built around this principle and hope everyone has a great fulfilling season with all personal goals met.

This should be a pleasurable experience to be on the team and family has and is always welcome in fact expected you bring them along to events. Can't wait to get into the full swing of the season and let the races begin.

See you on the road!!!

Clif