



## Racer Biography Eric C. Pearce

My interest in ultracycling dates back when I first started seriously riding a bike in college in the early 1980s. I remember watching RAAM coverage on *Wide World of Sports* and imagining someday I would be able to attempt such a challenge. In 1986, I entered my first bike race in Los Alamos NM, and quickly fell in love with the sport. Ultimately, I upgraded to USCF Category 2, and developed into a successful local and regional racer, and placed on the podium at the Masters National Championships in the criterium in 2006 and 2011. I currently race with Tucson Masters Cycling, a masters USA Cycling club based in Tucson AZ.

More recently, I have begun to explore my early interests in ultracycling with the 2014 Dirty Kanza, finishing before sunset in 13:54:04. In August 2018 I completed the 309 mile Hoodoo 300, finishing in 19:04. Now, I hope to complete the RAW in 2019, and perhaps attempt the RAAM in 2020. Taking 32 years of training and race experience, figuring out what knowledge and experience is relevant, what can be adapted, and what must be learned to perform in a new discipline of the sport has been amazingly rewarding and challenging.

Cycling and elite training has always had a deep meaning to me. Through sport, I believe we develop the courage and character not only for the competition at hand, but also for all aspects of life. Through our training and racing, I believe we develop, rehearse and test those skills. For me, ultracycling is a new exploration of those ideals.

### Athletic Background and Data:

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Residence:         | Tucson, Arizona |
| Racing Age:        | 57              |
| USCF Category:     | Cat 2           |
| Racing Experience: | 33 years        |
| Height:            | 5' 10'          |
| Weight:            | 144 lbs         |

### Notable Race Results and Accomplishments

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2018 Tour of the Gila Stage Race, NM   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> GC 55+ (first 55+ in 4 of 5 stages) |
| 2018 Valley of the Sun Stage Race      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> GC 55+                              |
| 2018 Oracle Road Race                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> 55+                                 |
| 2017 Colossal Cave Road Race           | 1 <sup>st</sup> 55+                                 |
| 2016 SLR Road Race, Bonsall CA         | 1 <sup>st</sup> 55+                                 |
| 2013 Tour of the Battenkill, NY        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 50+                                 |
| 2013 Longsjo Classic Criterium, MA     | 1 <sup>st</sup> 50+                                 |
| 2007 Battenkill-Roubaix, NY            | 1 <sup>st</sup> 40+                                 |
| 2011 US Masters Championship Criterium | 5 <sup>th</sup> 50+                                 |
| 2006 US Masters Championship Criterium | 3 <sup>rd</sup> 45+                                 |

|                      |                       |  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 2014 Dirty Kanza 200 | 203 miles in 13:54:05 | 14/56 50-54, 114/465 overall                 |
| 2018 Hoodoo 300      | 309 miles in 19:04    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 50+, 3 <sup>rd</sup> overall |

## Career and Family

In my professional life, I am a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona. I am married to my wife of 35 years, Cathy Pearce, who is a competitive masters runner and my Crew Chief for the 2019 RAW. Cathy and I have been blessed with three adult sons, Christopher, Benjamin, and Jack.

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