

## Update from the Gringo Race in Peru

For the past ten years PAC Tour has been taking hundreds of donated jerseys, shorts, shoes and bicycles to Peru to give away as race prize. During the past seven year the races have been held in a northern suburbs of the capital city, Lima, Peru.



**Road Race along the Pan American Highway north of Lima, Peru**

There were three main races this year. The Masters National Road Race had about 50 racers with several age groups. Most everyone received a prize of a jersey, shorts or shoes. The next weekend was the Gringo Race which was a two day stage race with a 50 mile road race one day and a series of criterium races around the town plaza the next day. Over 200 riders competed in the men and women divisions and five age groups. We gave out another 250 prizes over the weekend. The Gringo Race has a good reputation in Peru for the best prizes. The racers were very thankful to have such nice prizes.



**At the start of the Mountain Bike Criterium Race around downtown**

One of the most memorable thank yous came from a women on the national team who spoke English. She said our support was not only important because of the prizes and equipment we gave them, but because it showed that someone cared about their cycling future. She said knowing that someone in the United States cared enough to follow her progress, gave her the motivation to keep training and become a serious cyclist. She became quite emotional and tearful during her

explanation of why our support was so important during the past ten years we have been helping the racing teams in Peru. I wish I had a video of her thank you speech, but it is something I will always remember.



**Racers in 12 divisions received jerseys, shorts and shoes**

Next year the Gringo Race Series will expand to offer two days of velodrome racing on the track in Lima. The Pan American Games will be held there in 2019 and it will be a good way to get teams from South America to come together for an important track racing event in 2018.



**Several women from the National Team were at the Gringo Race**

We want to let everyone know that their donations of clothing and equipment are going to a good cause. The equipment is changing lives and giving many riders the motivation to reach their potential.

**Donations of clothing and parts can be sent to:**

**PAC Tour  
P.O. Box 303  
202 Prairie Pedal Lane  
Sharon, WI 53585**

In October, we will be organizing a bicycle tour across Peru and riding donated bikes. We will give the bikes away as race prizes after the tour. We can use almost any type of road bike that we can over haul and use during the tour.