

Sal Lilienthal



Sal is currently working as a team mechanic. From 1994 through 1996 he lived and worked in Europe for the Motorola Cycling Team. He provided technical support for the Tour de France, Vuelta Espana and many other races that are part of the World Cup circuit. Sal gained a lot of experience as a mechanic for the IME Cycling Team from 1991 to 1993. He had an opportunity to work with the national team in 1992, when the team time trial team was training in Europe for the Olympics. In 1989 and 1990, Sal worked with MAVIC at the Tour de Trump and some other races. He graduated from Hobart College in 1988 with a degree in Third World Studies and a minor in Asian Studies. In 1985 and 1986 he spent a year studying economic development in Sri Lanka. He led bicycle tours for teenagers during the summers from 1985 to 1988.

What is your favorite tool?

3 mm Allen driver for centering Shimano brakes and a Y allen wrench.

What do you like most about being a race mechanic?

Driving the truck and customizing the bicycles for each athlete.

Whom do you admire the most?

My grandfather-he was always calm, relaxed and maintained a sense of humor no matter the situation.

What do you do to unwind and relax?

Going to the movies, writing letters, or doing my laundry at 3 a.m. (sometimes it's the only time you can have by yourself).

If not working as a bicycle mechanic, what would you be doing?

Planning and leading bicycle tours for teenagers or teaching high school social studies.

What was your most fulfilling personal moment?

Walking out of the woods after winter camping in Colorado by myself about five years ago.

What was the last book you read?

The Last Vampire by Anne Rice.

Who is your favorite musician?

Pink Floyd-every time I listen to them I learn something new.

What is your favorite Simpsons' episode?

The episode with Leonard Nimoy.

How long have you been a mechanic?

Since 1988.

Who is the most famous rider's bike you've ever worked on?

Lance Armstrong, Phil Anderson, Sean Yates and Steve Bauer.

What was the first race you worked?

Tour de Canada in 1989.

Why did you start working on bicycles?

I couldn't get a job bartending in Vermont.

What do you take with you where ever you go?

Something my grandfather told me — never give up.

What do you dislike about the job as race mechanic?

It's difficult to maintain a strong relationship while being on the road most of the time.

When did you have the most fun working a race?

Driving the truck during a transfer from Andorra to Barcelona. It's a three-hour downhill drive through the mountains. **C**

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