



Image\_John Pierce



While the Tour de France was taking place, across the globe in China another stage race was being contested. The Tour of Qinghai near the Tibetan plateau is a tough 10 stages which is also a UCI ranked event at an average altitude of 10,000 feet. Past winners of the Tour of Qinghai include Tom Danielson in 2002 and in 2003 Damiano Cunego. Several national teams were in attendance fine tuning their fitness for the upcoming Olympics, so it was a stacked field with some serious firepower. Responding in kind, Rock Racing brought their

big guns as well. Climbing aces Oscar Sevilla, Doug Ollerenshaw and eventual overall winner Tyler Hamilton were the go to guys when things got vertical. However the stages often ended in a sprint finish, so Fred Rodriguez and Kayle Leo Grande were in attendance for the bunch kick. Rock wasn't the only American team making the trip. The fun loving guys at Team Jelly Belly were there to mix it up with such jokers as Brad Huff and Jeremy Powers. *ROAD* caught up to Hamilton as he discusses the race, the good times in China and his future with Rock Racing.

# Tour of *Qinghai Lake*

