

James Studinger

Chasing Plaid – Biking 1,200 Miles Around the Entire U.P.



The Upper Peninsula is widely known for its forests, shorelines, and waterfalls. Its biggest untold secret is pavement. There are thousands of miles of paved roads that are so baren, you can ride all day and hardly see a car. Millions of people visit the U.P. each year, but they all flock to the same destination tourist hotspots via the busy highways. Nobody ventures off the beaten path. And that's exactly where bikers' paradise begins. James Studinger grew up in Manistique, and would train for triathlons riding his bike on the backroads. Two things he never saw were cars or other bikes. He was baffled whenever he saw a biker trudging along the speeding mayhem of US2, and realized that people just didn't know where to go. So he created a 1,200 mile ride around the perimeter of the U.P. to spotlight the incredible biking opportunities nobody knew. In doing so, he biked in and out of just about every town throughout the U.P. and became intimately involved in biking safety and planning.

Join us as James explains his methods for safe biking, designing routes, and chasing plaid. If you love road biking, the U.P. is your destination.

James Studinger grew up in Manistique and views the entire Upper Peninsula as his playground. He hiked from Lake Superior's Miners Beach to Thompson's sandy shores of Lake Michigan. With topo map and compass, his only rule was that he couldn't use a manmade road or trail except to cross it. He canoed from Lake Superior through the interior of the U.P. to Lake Michigan. And road biked a 1,200-mile ride around the perimeter of the U.P., creating Tour Da Yoop, Eh and Chasing Plaid. As comfortable in a sport coat working at his downstate office as he is spending dirty days camping by an open fire many miles in the backwoods. James uses a combination of new and old technology to explore and forge his own path.

Known as "the guy to have with you" on any outdoor exploration. James is forever drawn to discover what's around the bend and over the hill. Check out some adventures at <https://www.calloftheyooper.com> and <https://www.tourdayooper.com>. Or come listen during the Quiet Adventures Symposium and learn how you can have your best Michigan adventures of a lifetime.

