

## Crossing the USA via bicycle

**SOLO AND  
UNSUPPORTED**



**DAY 1:  
PUGET SOUND  
SEATTLE, WA, JULY 3**



**1,000 MILE MARK:  
HARLEM, MT**



**DAY 48:  
FENWAY PARK  
BOSTON, MA, AUG 20**

# 48 ACROSS THE 48



## 48 Across the 48: The Beginning

I was in my kitchen doing the dishes one evening a year ago, and had just finished talking with Pat Held, who had been struggling with the loss of his wife, Carolyn, to cancer the previous year. I was feeling bad for him. As I finished up my cleaning, my mind wandered to ways in which I could get Pat involved in something to uplift him. It was at that moment

*Sunset on the UP at  
the lighthouse at  
Manistique, MI*

that Carolyn's bicycle ride from the summer of 1988 came to mind, and a voice said, "you should recreate Carolyn's ride." I told that voice "you're crazy!"

Well, here I am, shortly after the completion of my own amazing 3600 mile, 48 day bicycle journey from Seattle to Boston, and I still believe that inner voice was crazy; but it was crazy with a point. That inner voice knew that if I took this journey, it would get many of you, like Pat, involved in something transformative to uplift us all, in memory of Carolyn. Together, you helped me raise over \$20,000 to benefit cancer research at the Mayo Clinic, and I am told the donations continue to roll in. I now see why this journey affected Carolyn's outlook on the rest of her life, even in the face of terminal cancer.

I've been affected, permanently, too. I now know for certain that no challenge is insurmountable.

Underlying this journey was a compelling sense of loss for all the friends and family I have lost to cancer: Carolyn, my Aunt Jeanine, college classmates. I've learned that even one of the early donors to this bike ride has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, with just a month to live. We have much, yet, to do.

This sense of loss has helped to propel me, and it will continue to do so.

## 48 Across the 48: No Ending

Next summer, and each summer after, I will ride an epic bike journey to benefit cancer research, via the Carolyn Held Memorial at the Mayo Clinic. I hope you will follow me, and encourage others to give to my cause, too.

Each mile that rolled by, and each dollar that you contributed will be one mile, and one dollar more for those who will have cancer in their lives and who may live years longer because of a cure that has been found. My miles, your dollars, and our working together, giving to cancer research, *will* save lives.

I welcome you to continue to stay connected to *48 Across the 48*, as I'll be posting more pictures, video and stories from my journey both at my website [georgemaurer.com](http://georgemaurer.com) and at [facebook.com/48 Across the 48](https://facebook.com/48AcrossThe48). You were a big part of this e-adventure, and I'd love for you to stay connected, as there will be another bike ride in Carolyn's name next summer. You can also invite others to continue to give at: [philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/carolynheld](http://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/carolynheld)

Finally, a giant "thank you" to those of you who hosted me in their homes at points along the way, who donated directly to me to help pay for my food and camping, and to all of you who gave me special words of encouragement.

With copious amounts of love and gratitude,

*George Maurer*

### Scenes from 48 Across the 48:



#### 48 Across the 48 Statistics:

1. Number of flat tires: 10
2. Highest elevation climbed: 6600'
3. Number of 100 mile days: 13
4. Number of days of rain: 3
5. Longest biked in 1 day: 139 miles
6. 8 states, 1 Canadian province
7. Top speed: 50 mph
8. Average mileage: 85 miles/day
9. Longest stretch sans rest: 13 days
10. Number of donors: 177
11. Total raised: \$20,000+