

Early in August, I saw a post on the AACA Facebook page about a young lady who had driven her 1984 Fiero on a 7,182 mile road trip. I had lots of questions as I read the post, so I decided to reach out to her to see if she'd be interested in telling me more about her trip. We arranged a phone call in late August and here's her story.

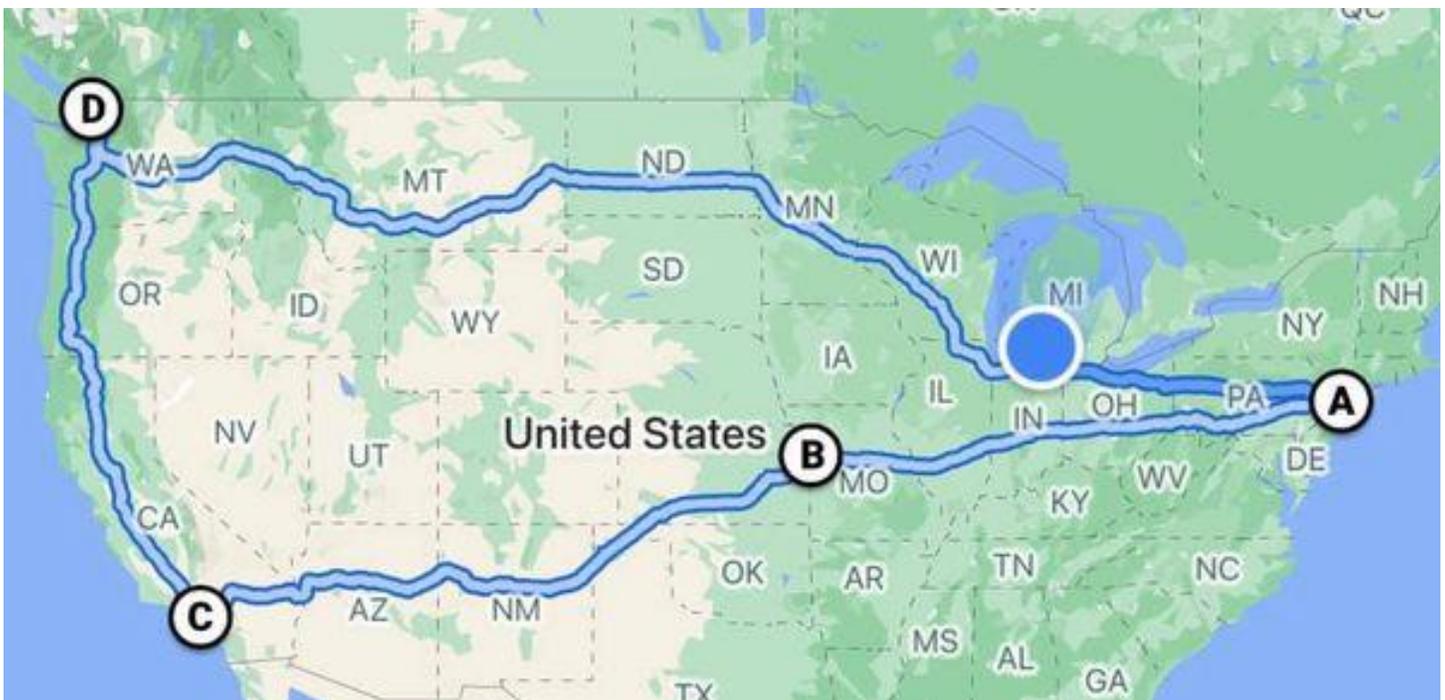
Who is she? Her name is Kristin Sturdy and she lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She turned 25 in July and this road trip was her way of celebrating that milestone birthday.

Kristin's route took her from Kalamazoo, MI to New York City, then Kansas City, Missouri, to Los Angeles and finally to Bellingham, Washington, before returning home to Kalamazoo. She was visiting college friends and her younger sister as she made her way around the country.

Her car is a 1984 white Fiero, manual transmission and had 44,000 miles when she purchased the vehicle in June of 2020. It now has a little over 53,000 miles. She said she's been driving a manual transmission car since she was 17 and she finds that you're more involved and it's more fun to drive a car with a stick shift. She replaced the clutch in her car, as well as completed a full brake job on it before beginning her journey. She had lots of tools with her, so much so that she had to put her luggage in the passenger seat! Before she left, her dad gave her a crash course in roadside repairs.

When I asked her why she bought a Fiero, she responded that Ferris Bueller's Day Off is a movie she loves and Ferris' sister, Jeanie drove a Fiero!

I asked her if she had been nervous thinking about driving that distance by herself and she told me she'd been driving from Michigan to Washington state with family for some time, but her longest trip by herself had only been a 6-hour drive – a little bit shorter than her drive around the country! She averaged 13 hours per day while working remotely along the way.



We talked about her biggest challenge of the trip, which was it turned out, was that her car has NO AIR CONDITIONING! Just the thought of that made my sweat! She bought a swamp cooler and put it on the center console, but at times she also drove with 5 lb. bags of ice on her lap! She said the worst temperatures were when she was driving from Kansas City to Los Angeles through the Mojave Desert. The temps hit 114°, but she said once she started going through the desert, there was no stopping!

She listened to 70s and 80s music, while munching on Cheez-It® and drank lots of coffee! Her one minor oops! during the trip was somewhere in New Mexico when she locked the keys in the car. Luckily, she was at a well populated rest stop so a call to a locksmith and \$75 later and she was on her way again!

I asked her if she would do another trip like this and she said she would, but hopefully AFTER she finds a project car with air conditioning so she can put that on her Fiero.

I really enjoyed talking with Kristin and learning more about her trip. We talk a lot in the AACCA about the getting the younger generation involved in our hobby and she is certainly a shining example of someone who has a passion for her and it shows!

I'd love to feature more stories about folks & their cars on our website! Hit me up at hr@hersheyaaca.org if you've got a story you'd like to share with us!

