Scott Van Deren spends a lot of time on his bicycle. As of September, he estimated that he’d already put 3,500 miles in on his bike in 2012 (the equivalent of riding from Seattle to Miami with a couple hundred miles to spare).

And when his “typical” ride isn’t enough, he undertakes grueling treks across the thin-air byways of his native Colorado. He’s finished the Double Triple Bypass ride three times. This is a bike event that involves riding 120 miles over three mountain passes and gaining 10,000 ft of vertical—then doing the whole thing in the opposite direction the following day.

Growing up in the Denver area, Van Deren was an avid skier and hiker. He earned a degree in business from the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) when he wasn’t playing basketball, tennis or golf or otherwise keeping active the Colorado outdoors.

Unfortunately, numerous ankle surgeries forced him to give up skiing and hiking. So he switched to biking, both road and mountain, as it put less stress on his ankle. And now you’ll find him on his road bike (currently a carbon-fiber Specialized Roubaix) or hitting the trails on his full-suspension Specialized Stumpjumper mountain bike several times a week.

As you might have guessed, he commutes to work on his bike when he can, making the 21-mile trip to his office at Drake-Williams Steel, Inc., an AISC member fabricator in Aurora, Colo., in a little more than an hour. His enthusiasm for riding is contagious, and he is involved in several group rides, including a Tuesday-night mountain bike ride with industry professionals.

“The two companies were remarkably similar, with a positive company culture,” he says. In addition to structural projects, both companies were active in “contract manufacturing,” producing bridge expansion joints, railroad components, traffic signal poles and other non-traditional fabrication jobs.

And so in 2011, Drake-Williams Steel purchased Mountain Steel in a mutually beneficial merger. One-hundred percent of Mountain Steel’s employees came to work at Drake-Williams’ Aurora facility. With the change, Van Deren has stepped away from his former management role and now focuses on bringing in business and building relationships across the industry.

“Van Deren cultivates new opportunities not only for his company but also with his cycling. In 2005, he and a friend created their own ride, called the CRAMP (Colorado Road Ascent of Mountain Passes) Tour, whose 350-mile route includes every paved mountain pass over 10,000 ft in Colorado (according to his calculations, there are 26).

“We did them all in four-and-a-half days,” Van Deren recalls. “Our own support team was an RV and two drivers.”

Although the ride took place in June, they experienced a fair amount of rain and even snow. But just like working in the construction industry, some of the best rewards or projects come from being challenged and successfully overcoming unexpected obstacles.

Van Deren, near the summit of Loveland Pass in Colorado during the 2012 Double Triple Bypass ride—in sunny and inclement weather.