

**Norm Miller:** Norm is the creator of the Missouri River Paddlers group on Facebook in order to spread as much information to paddlers about the river as possible. Originally from Grayling, Michigan, he currently lives in Livingston, Montana with Kris Walker. Norm is a history buff, especially the Lewis & Clark Expedition in which he retraced their journey during the bicentennial from St. Louis to the Pacific.



**Photo: Norm and his first time on a horse--about to head through the Rocky Mountains with Lewis & Clark.**

**First memory in a canoe or kayak?** *I was 2-years old on the AuSable River in Grayling, Michigan. I was in a canoe with my parents and brother Bob. I was so terrified and yelled at my brother non-stop for two hours to--“Watch out for that stump Bob, go left Bob, go right Bob, watch out for that stick, don’t hit that rock Bob!....” My brother said later than he wanted to drown me.*

**Who’s your favorite band or musician?** *I love all sorts of music especially Bluegrass and folk, but my all time song writer/musicians-- which I have about everything they ever recorded are Gordon Lightfoot and Jimmy Buffett. I’ve meet*

*them a few times also. I feel their songs provide the background music to my life. I also have a big collection of music from Tony Bennett to AC/DC.*

**Are you related to anyone famous or have any brush with fame?** *I've been fascinated by history and my ancestry and have taken the DNA test from Ancestry.com. My 3rd cousin is astronaut Al Wordon-The Command Module Pilot for Apollo 15 back in 1971. I'm directly related to Laura Ingalls Wilder who wrote the "Little House on the Prairie" book series--my mom is an Ingalls. I'm also related to Lewis Cass- the first territorial governor of Michigan and expedition member who helped search for the origin of the Mississippi River source back in the early 1800's. Also related to US President James Garfield. You never know what you might find in your family tree when you start digging around old files and documents.*

**Favorite Missouri River moment?** *The most fun I ever had paddling was actually during our very first paddlers Rendezvous we had this past summer 2015! Great to have about 70 paddlers from our group hanging out together for a week--it was fantastic! Arriving at Three Forks, Montana after having paddled up the Mo is up there too back in 2004.*

**Strangest or most unique job you ever had?** *I was an oil recovery technician during the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill clean up in Alaska. Which basically meant I wiped off oil covered rocks with paper towels all summer. We only recovered 1-million gallons of the 11-million spilled.*

**Best piece of paddling advice that you have ever been given?** *Wear your life jacket and tie up your boat at night! I've had friends lose their boats because they failed to tie them up and a massive wind blew them away! I read every summer some account where someone doesn't tie their boat up or leave it in the water at night for it to get swamped.*

**Who or what are your biggest inspirations?** *My late friend Verlen Kruger, who ended up paddling over 100,000 lifetime miles, including the longest paddling*

*expedition ever undertaken (28,000 miles & 3 years). He is the reason I paddle---period! I use to sit and listen to his stories for hours. I'm also inspired and in awe of the entire Lewis & Clark Expedition----they busted ass-- dragging, poling, paddling, pushing, hauling, crawling and believing for 2.5 years across the continent---their story should be required reading by everyone. I'm also inspired by all the underdogs in sports that end up on top, such as those dark horse Olympic medal winners. I get choked up about them.*