

Robin Kalthoff: Robin lives in Grand Pass, Mo with wife Connie. Both have spent a lot of time paddling the Missouri and helping “Thru-Paddlers” that are traveling down the entire river. Robin and his son Chris are known for their music jams along the river. Robin was one of the main organizers in this past summer’s first ever Missouri River Paddlers Rendezvous on the lower Mo. He teaches Special Education at Santa Fe High School, Alma Missouri.

What is your first memory in a canoe? *Not in a canoe, but when Richard Messer and Jerry Sanders came through our area in what, 1962? I was a skinny little river rat who was definitely blown away and inspired by these guys. I could not afford a canoe until the 70’s, but spent a lot of time on the riverbank and in the water, building rafts and dreaming of the “Tom Sawyer” life. (Editors note: Richard just published “On The Great Rivers”, about their 1962 canoe trip).*

Who is your favorite band or musician? : *Rodney Crowell, and Christopher Robin Kalthoff.*

Are you related to anyone famous or have any brush with fame? *Alexander Hamilton, who was a member of George Washington’s staff and later became Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton was accused of some illegal actions while in office, and was killed by Aaron Burr in a duel in 1804.*

A favorite Missouri River moment? *Too many to list! Definitely the first time seeing the confluence of our 2 big rivers many years ago; the first canoe trips with Connie in the 70’s, including parts of the Missouri River and many of the clear streams in southern Missouri/northern Arkansas. Our Missouri River Paddler’s Rendezvous this year was amazing. Getting to meet and paddle with so many legends was definitely a high point!*

What is the strangest or most unique job that you ever had? *I haven’t really had any “crazy” jobs. I have done everything from being an advertising “yuppie” to pruning fruit trees to running water/wastewater plants. The strangest job I never had (I applied and was a finalist), was camping in north Missouri for a summer and convincing landowners that the Massasauga rattlesnake was their friend (didn’t get that job).*

What is the best piece of paddling advice that you have ever been given?

“Just go!”

Who or what are your biggest inspirations? *My immediate family, Connie and Chris. I am very proud of and inspired by Chris's literary and musical accomplishments. He makes me better. Connie is still basically raising me. She has had some physical setbacks recently and is amazing in her strong willed determination to overcome all.*