

An Unfiltered Q&A with Jarett Bies in, *Revealed*:

1: First memory in a canoe or kayak?

Very first had to be the inflatable ones they raced on the old 70s Battle of the Network Stars. First "real" experience was on Gray's Bay, Lake Minnetonka, MN. A friend had purchased one and it looked so cool! Then he let me use it that summer and that's where it became my own passion. Learned a lot about hydrodynamics and paddling that summer in 1996.

2: Who is your favorite band or musician?

It varies as I have many, but I would have to name The Smiths and Slayer, Soul Coughing and Sublime, as well as dozens of others. Let's just go with that quartet of S-named bands!



Jarett and Claudette.

3. Are you related to anyone famous or have any brush with fame?

No famous relatives. Have had a few brushes with fame, but mostly small-C celebrities. Got to have a soda with the lead singer from Tool back in the 1990s in his bus. He was really nice.

4: Favorite Missouri River moment?

I'd say the first start of the South Dakota Kayak Challenge, and the first start of the Fort to Field 50, to see months of work come together, to see so many people doing what they love on an amazing piece of water - those are up there. It's hard to pick a favorite. So many friends - so many people - the first time I helped a long-range paddler - I think it might have been Janet or Shawn or the Scott on a SUP - all good memories.

5: Strangest or most unique job you ever had?

I was a forward observer for a mortar platoon for a few years in the USMC. That'll never go away - not strange, but unique. Lots of exciting times and long marches. Carrying a radio.



During the SDKC.

6: Best piece of paddling advice that you have ever been given?

The black humor of Cable G. saying the PFD is so they can find your body sticks with me ... he also gave me some great insight on long paddles on remote rivers and back-paddling technique. That PFD quote isn't really advice, but it remains in my mind.

7: Who or what are your biggest inspirations?

I try to be a patient person like my late father, Jerry. I do get inspired seeing people in love with water. My inspirations vary - my wife inspires me every time we paddle - she is a true natural and there's no one better when it comes to a good trip on the River.

8: Something no one knows about you?

I am actually terrified of water - I am often thrilled just to cross a little lake as I don't want to fall out. Flat water feels like WW to me sometimes.

9: If you had the enough money what would you do?

Buy more kayaks for my friends who need them and buy other gifts for people with passions.



Jarett with race staff during the Fort to Field Paddle Battle in 2014

10: Most unique paddling or camping gear you have?

I swear by my poncho liner - many veterans will know this little lightweight blanket - it really helps when you're camping in cold weather. That or my cool floppy hat - no one has an MRE hat that I know of.

