

An unfiltered look at Mark Kalch in, *Revealed*:

1: First memory in a canoe or kayak?

Heck, probably paddling with my Dad, brother and a family friend at a place called Eungella National Park. Really beautiful rainforest up in the mountains in Central Queensland, Australia. We used these massive bright yellow plastic kayaks. I remember when it got shallow Dad would jump out and haul us across the rocks with me still sat in the boat. These days I have to do my own hauling!



Mark on the Volga river in Russia.

2: Who's your favorite band or musician?

I like pretty much anything but Pearl Jam holds a real special place for me.

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

Me! Just kidding. Is this where I get to brag? I don't know. I have met a bunch of the royal family in England. Shook hands with the Queen, her husband Prince Phillip and Prince Edward on a few separate occasions. Seemed like nice folk. I was more excited when I got to meet Mike Horn and talk about our Amazon descents though. Jeez I was more excited when I met Dave Miller just now! Maybe I am just easy to please. ;)



Norm Miller and Mark Kalch at Hellroaring Creek, Montana 2012.

4: Favorite Missouri River moment?

Wow, that is a tough one. Too many. Coming in to Three Forks to meet you (Norm) and Kris waiting with Root Beer and pizza after 10 days or whatever of hard paddling on the upper was pretty sweet. I had some nice days on Fort Peck Lake with it's relative isolation too. Yeh too many to choose.

5: Strangest or most unique job you ever had?

Expedition paddler?



Mark on the upper Missouri river in Montana-2012

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

*I have had some gems over the years from a few of my heroes. But I guess one from which all the rest come from was thanks to Piotr Chmielinski. Piotr made the first source to sea descent of the Amazon in 1985/86. He became our mentor over the course of our descent. In one early email while we were on the tough whitewater of the Upper Amazon he reminded us not to forget that, **"the river always wins"**. I like to think about this whenever I am on river whether for a couple of hours or a couple of months. It stops me from getting complacent. Never truer words spoken I would say.*

7: Who or what are your biggest inspirations?

I am inspired by people who just do cool stuff. Whether it is re-enactors, artists, paddlers, inventors, athletes, whoever! People who are not happy to accept normal as a given.

