

DICK DIECKMAN

DECEMBER 27, 1941 – JULY 2, 2023

Dick Dieckman, our longest-tenured club member (over 27 years) and former Steering Committee member, died in early July. Dick was 81, and had declined physically very rapidly after surgery, radiation and chemotherapy to treat brain tumors a few months ago.



Over the years Dick paddled with club members at least a couple of times a summer, usually on longer camping trips: down the Green River several times and the historic Missouri Breaks of the Missouri River through Montana, and to Yellowstone Lake, where the weather turned scary, Voyageurs National Park, and Alaska when his sleeping bag got soaked. He enjoyed paddling many western reservoirs: Flaming Gorge, Bighorn Lake, Blue Mesa, and Lake Powell on an RMSKC houseboat trip. Most recently he joined club paddlers in the Tetons in 2021 and Lake Granby and Eleven Mile Reservoir in 2022 and on day trips at Chatfield Reservoir.

Before many of us were members, he taught a class on compass navigation (2004) and, with Larry Kline, the first kayak camping class on Lake Granby in 2008. He wrote about having built his wood Pygmy Golden Eye in 2007 and authored the report about his paddle through the Missouri Breaks in 2008.



His biography in a 2009 issue of the *Mountain Paddler* said, "Dick went on his first paddling trip, in 1994, with a friend in Misty Fjords National Monument. They paddled a two-person Folboat for a few days in the fjords and around the Ketchikan, Alaska area.

"He decided he liked paddling and found RMSKC on-line in Colorado; he joined in May of 1996. Later he built his own wooden kayak and wrote an article about it.

"Since then he has been on many kayak adventures around the world: ten days along the barrier reef in Belize, time in New Zealand, and several trips in the Broken Islands, Vancouver Island area of British Columbia."



Dick was a kind, generous, funny, talented and intelligent man, and an excellent paddling companion.

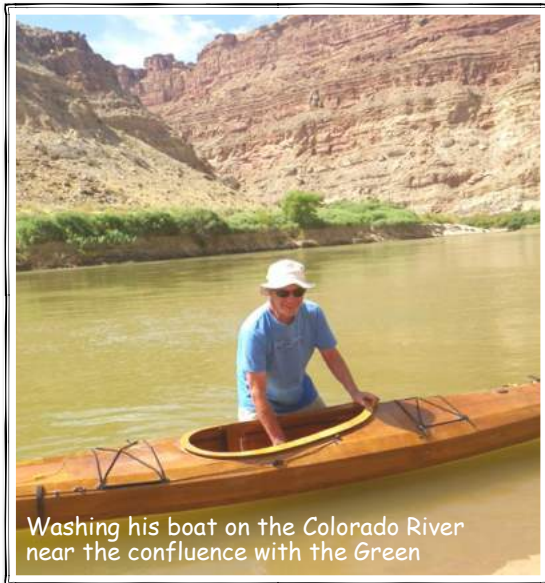
He will be greatly missed.



Below Turk's Head, on the Green River in Utah



Bighorn Lake, Montana, 2019



Washing his boat on the Colorado River near the confluence with the Green



A happy first-time camper with Dick: Lake Granby Kayak Camping Class, 2008



Dick, standing, at the left, on the only dry evening of the whole Alaska trip



Dick's famous pandang curry