

JOY FARQUHAR

OCTOBER 31, 1935 – NOVEMBER 17, 2021

In the autobiography she wrote for The RMSKC NEWS in 2015, Joy started with a quote from *Wind in the Willows*, "Believe me...there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

She said, "This does a good job of profiling my life. I have to admit taking time off to raise a family; to teach for 45 years; to run marathons; to ride bikes, including across the USA; to train for various triathlons; and for skiing, but mostly my life is dominated with fun in the water and boats."



Joy, August 2021

"It began with my first water boat, a rubber band model that I powered in the bathtub; next a racing Chris Craft named "Joy Ann" on the Detroit River, owned by my father. Then came lots more: fishing every summer with my grandma in a heavy old row boat which I managed to paddle from early years in Michigan; a Grumman sailboat which resides in California; a birthday present canoe while living in Illinois, which I still have; a Maas Aero which I used for training while crew rowing for Conibear (Dick's Chicks) in Seattle.

"In the 90s I worked at the Center for Wooden Boats learning as much as possible: tear boats apart and refurbish; sail and teach boating to school kids; enter races in wherries across the Sound; give Schooner tours; sing sea shanties and more. Then came the challenge: build my own boats. Take classes to make a cedar strip kayak with Joe Greenley; and a skin on frame with Bob Kelim, which I still have.

"And always I look for all the ferries and other boats that can take me places: India, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, England, France, The Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Canada and live-aboards in Washington. I'm slowing down a bit, but plan on plenty of kayak adventures this year. I go out with OOPS and SSAK on the West Coast but look forward to lots of fun here with RMSKC."

Her family said, "She was a lifelong learner, teacher and adventurer. An indomitable force of nature, she always encouraged others to indulge their curiosity and follow it wherever it led. More often than not, you've be hard put to keep up with her birdwatching, running, biking, kayaking, snow shoeing, dancing, practicing piano and Spanish, and gallivanting around the country in her customized Grandma Joy travel van extraordinaire."

Joy paddled with RMSKC whenever she was in town: lots of summer evenings at McIntosh Lake, where she almost always brought brownies or cookies to share; Chatfield Reservoir or other summer bimonthly paddles, annual birding and cleanups at Barr Lake, and usually an extended trip every year: paddling with HASK in Houston in 2019, for which she wrote the trip report, the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin, rainy camping in Alaska, Lake Powell houseboat and self-supported trips, one with an article about small cannonball-like rocks called concretions, and car camping in Grand Teton National Park.



Joy's van with her orange Kevlar LV Avocet

Some of our favorite photos of Joy are on the following page.



Lake Powell, 2014



Happy Hour, Grand Teton National Park, 2015



Dancing in the rain, Alaska, 2016



On the way home from the Apostle Islands, 2017



Bird watching, Houston, 2019

In September, Brian Hunter and Clark Strickland visited Joy. They wrote, "Joy has had a rough go lately and is recovering from surgery to remove a mass on her brain. She is working at regaining her speech and is resting and taking some exercise under the excellent care of Burton, her son, and his family in Longmont.

"As you might expect, Joy is impatient to get back into her boat and into the swing of her many activities. Her comment to them about her condition was, "Stupid, stupid, stupid," accompanied by a clenched fist and some swift kicks! She has had new replacement cuffs put into her drysuit by our friends at Confluence Kayaks, so she hopes to be ready for some cool weather paddling."

But in November we heard the sad news: "Joy Farquhar has died. Her son says that she passed away peacefully at her home on the afternoon of November 17, 2021. She succumbed to an aggressive brain tumor.

"Joy was a favorite paddle buddy of anyone who was on the water with her and will be missed. Funeral arrangements will be announced in 2022; condolences may be sent to Joy's family at Burton Stoner, 1308 Walden Court, Longmont, Colorado 80504."



September 2021

THOUGHTS FROM RMSKC MEMBERS:

Jim Dlouhy: Although this was not unexpected, it is still hard to hear. Joy and I joined RMSKC about the same time but I didn't really get to know her until about three years later. I really wish that I had gotten to know her much sooner as she was such an interesting person and had done so much in her life. Her endless energy, enthusiasms, and appetite for adventure were amazing. She was aptly named as she truly was a joy to be around. I will miss her.

The last time I saw her was at MacIntosh Lake after the last Tuesday evening paddle. I can still see her as we waved to each other on my way home. Little did I know that it would be the last time I would see her. Joy and I paddled around MacIntosh many times, in wind, rain, and even some pretty big waves. Nothing fazed her and we always had a good time.

I will paddle around MacIntosh with Joy one more time this Sunday at 12:00 [November 21, 2021]. She will be there in spirit. You are welcome to come and join us if you would like.

George Ottenhoff: We have indeed lost a remarkable gem in Joy. Her enthusiasm and energy were an inspiration to all who paddled with her. I was on a number of longer trips with her, and never heard her complain, even after several days of rain in Alaska. Joy would simply put on her rain suit and go on with whatever had to be done. Joy was constantly looking out for others, and always brought goodies (cookies or bars) to share with the group. I will never forget the back massages she insisted on giving me on an Alaska trip when I was having back problems. I will certainly miss her unique "Woohoo" when setting off to paddle.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gail Denton and Dan Downs, Marsha Dougherty, Sue Hughes and Patrick Reardon joined Jim and Karen.

They paddled and stopped several times to share stories about Joy. After they were off the water they enjoyed brownies at Gail and Dan's house and reminisced some more about Joy.

Anne Fiore: I will always remember Joy for her boundless energy, enthusiasm, and independence.

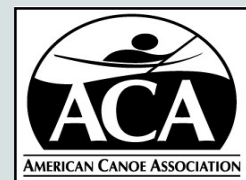
David Gantzer Truly sad news. One of the first paddles Jean and I did at MacIntosh Lake, we met Joy. The conditions very windy and wavy, Joy was just sitting out in her kayak like it was a calm sunny day. The last time I saw Joy was at a rolling class I taught. She was working on her Greenland layback roll in her 80's. I hope that I am rolling when I am that age. She will be missed.

Patrick Reardon Yes, Joy will be missed. She was always helpful and showing me new things about kayaking.

Sue Hughes: Looking back through the RMSKC paddles and trips Joy had been on to collect these photos I was delighted to see how many of them captured her enthusiasm and happy spirit.

STARTING TIME: "Starting time" means the time that everyone in the group will be *in the water ready to paddle*. Be sure to arrive early enough to have your boat off the car, loaded and ready to go by that time.

DAY PADDLES: Non-member guests may paddle with the Club on day paddles if they sign an American Canoe Association Waiver and Release of Liability form and pay the \$10 ACA event fee. ACA members may join RMSKC day trips if they provide a current ACA card; they must also sign a paper waiver naming RMSKC at the put-in, but do not have to pay the event fee.



MULTI-DAY PADDLES: According to RMSKC policy, overnight and extended trips are open only to club members; additional criteria for members' participation may be included in the trip description at the discretion of the trip leader.