

PYGMY DEMO DAY

APRIL 29:

Pygmy Boats, whose motto is "Don't Just Paddle It; BUILD It," makes a variety of build-it-yourself kits for lovely wood kayaks. [Their website is wonderful: <http://www.pygmyboats.com/>]

Early in March, Laura Prendergast, Marketing Director for Pygmy, contacted members of RMSKC's steering committee to say they were planning a Demo Day on Lake Granby the end of April. Brian Hunter, our Safety and Instruction Coordinator, says, "I responded immediately and advised that Granby might still be frozen and that in any case the water would be far too cold for all but the best equipped and experienced paddlers. I suggested several other venues." They selected Kingfisher Cove at Chatfield.

Freya unloading the last of the boats off the van



A week before the event Brian emailed Pygmy Boats that the Denver area was expecting a big snow; they replied that their staff were already on the way and cancelling was not possible.

The storm came in as predicted and Brian's photos clearly show one of the risks of spring paddling along the Front Range. He reported: "The water was 51°, air 36°, wind 8mph, wind chill 24° and snow was falling.

"Five courageous souls braved the elements to check out a *Stitch and Glue* kayak. Freya Fennwood and Leif Whittaker, Pygmy's ambassadors, were engaging and helpful to those trying the boats." Brian visited a while, took these pictures and then headed for home.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Freya got the highest rolling score at the Greenland National Championships last summer and wrote enthusiastically about forming an international team for the Women's Group Rolling event in the most recent *Adventure Kayaking* magazine.

In addition to her work for Pygmy Boats (founded by her father, John Lockwood), she is an award-winning adventure sports and lifestyle photographer. Check the videos of her rolling on Pygmy's website and her photos at fennwoodphotography.com.

Read about RMSKC members who've built Pygmy boats on the next page.

PYGMY BOATS WE'VE BUILT



Gary's three Pygmy boats
at Black Rocks on the Colorado River

Gary Greeno, an RMSKC member from long ago, built three Pygmy boats: a 21' *Osprey* double to paddle with his wife and two single 17' *GoldenEyes* for his children. He wrote, "Pygmy kayaks are precision cut, economical and the construction process is stitch and glue. The result is a strong and light boat with marine Okoume plywood sandwiched inside and out with clear fiberglass that highlights the beautiful color and grain of the wood."

Long-time member Dick Dieckman is still paddling the 15' 8" Pygmy *GoldenEye* he built in the late 1990s. He explained the process [2007, *Build a Wooden Kayak* in the EARLIER PUBLICATIONS section of our website] and said, "It's beautiful, tracks well, and I always get lots of compliments on its classic looks and on the warm marine-grade plywood hull and deck."



Dick in his *GoldenEye* at Blue Mesa Reservoir,
with JJ Scervino (former Membership Coordinator)



Eileen and her *Artic Tern* in the Boundary Waters

Eileen Yelverton and Rich Webber are two other Pygmy-building members. Eileen added a classy stained stripe to both sides of her top deck.

We ran a brief article about Rich's experience starting his boat in Ohio at a Pygmy clinic in issue 23-2b of *The Mountain Paddler*.

A complete description of that workshop, with photos of Rich working on his boat and it wrapped up ready to send home to Colorado, was published by one of his classmates in the January 22, 2016 issue of *Adventure Kayak*.

It's an interesting piece by someone with no carpentry background. You can find it here: <https://www.rapidmedia.com/adventurekayak/categories/departments/5416-workshop-confessions-building-your-kayak>.



Rich edging his Pygmy *Murrelet*