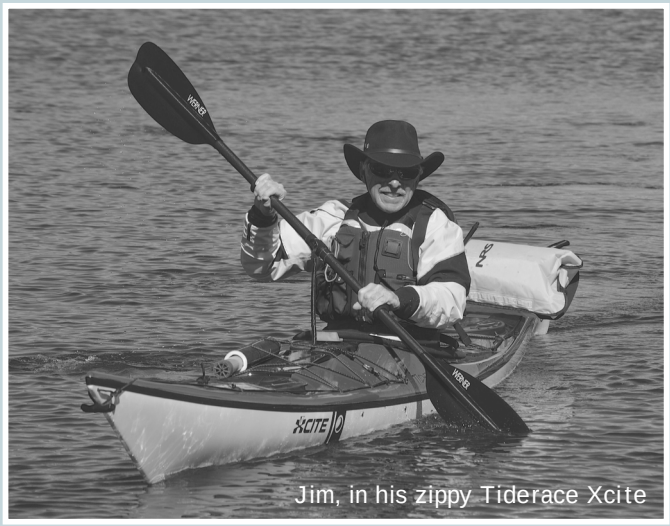
Jim Dlouhy's Latest Career

RMSKC member Jim Dlouhy taught PE and coached girls' gymnastics in Iowa for more than two decades. He and his wife Karen also owned a gymnastics club where they taught and coached. Then they moved to Colorado and Jim got a job at Eldora, first as an instructor and later as the Nordic Ski School supervisor.

After he retired from Eldora, he taught backcountry skiing and trained ski instructors for the Colorado Mountain Club, and taught snowshoeing and cross country skiing for the Longmont Rec Department.


Jim, in his zippy Tiderace Xcite

Seven years ago he became interested in sea kayaking, took lessons at Body Boat and Blade, earned his ACA Level 2 certification in 2014 and an ACA Level 3 in 2015, and bought some boats—lots of boats.

For the last four years he has been teaching kayaking for the Longmont Recreation Department, using his fleet of six 10' Pelican rec boats and seven sea kayaks.

One class, *Introduction To Recreational Kayaking,* is for people new to the sport who wish to learn about paddling a rec boat in calm waters. The class covers how to fit a PFD, getting in and out of a kayak, launching and landing, what to do in case of a capsize, and other basics for safe paddling. The emphasis is on safety, and on fun. It lasts half a day and includes all the equipment.

Introduction to Recreational Kayaking

His second class, *Introduction to Kayak Touring,* is designed for more experienced paddlers. Everything covered in the rec boat class is taught while paddling a sea kayak. In addition, rescues and more advanced paddling skills are presented. This class is two half-days with all equipment included.

Jim also offers sunrise, sunset, and full moon paddles, providing equipment and an introductory lesson for each outing, and private lessons and coaching.

If you have friends who'd like to try kayaking, they should contact the Longmont Recreation Department. The classes are very reasonably priced.