



Mackro News

Message from the Prez

I can't believe we are just weeks away from the start of the 2023 paddle racing season in Maine. It was good to return to a more normal racing season in 2022 with most races resuming their in person venues. We even had some new races last year, including the very successful and popular Millinocket Stream whitewater race as well as a new flatwater races on the Androscoggin in Rumford, on the Cathance in Bowdoinham and on the Orland River in Orland. The amount of paddle race events and participation in Maine this past year is reflected in the 2022 White Water and Flat Water results summaries shown in this newsletter.

Other non-racing group paddle events continued in 2023 including the women's paddle group and the Tuesday evening Orson Island paddle and the ever popular Orono Paddlers Thursday community paddlers on the Stillwater River. It is always great to see so many local community folks jump in a war canoe for a fun competitive evening. Other paddle events and activities from 2022 are also included in this newsletter.

Now we are looking forward to a full schedule of racing and other paddle events in 2023. The white water racing schedule is pretty much set and is included in this newsletter along with the 2023 white water point series information and rules. The entire 2023 paddle race schedule can also be found at [2023 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#). This schedule is still a work in progress so occasionally check it for any updates.

I would ask that if anyone has ideas for new places to hold races to please contact us and let us know. We can also assist in helping you run and direct a race if this is new for you. I am always looking for new rivers/lakes/areas to hold races. We can't wait to see you in the spring of 2023!

I hope you are all enjoying these last few weeks of winter sports and hope to see you on the water soon.

Aili Hartikka





2023 Whitewater Season is Taking Shape!

Well, as the rain falls on snow, we are getting a different kind of whitewater (sigh) ! Hopefully the paddling season runs more predictably than the ski season! The good news is many race directors have already responded to our queries, and we're happy to tell you the Waldo County YMCA has taken the torch from Paddle Wild and is back to kick off the ***St George*** the last Saturday in March (3/25). The ***Passy*** will be the following week, also being run by the Y. The Y's new director, Russell Werkmen, is ready to take up the challenge, saying the St George “is the harbinger of spring!” – and that his focus as race director is to continue the effort of bringing families together and creating paddling opportunities for youth “to learn and love the sport”. This year's whitewater season will pretty much follow the traditional schedule: ***St. George*** the last Saturday in March (3/25), ***the Passy*** on Saturday, April 1 for paddling fools, and the ***Elliot Lamb (Souadabscook) race*** on Saturday, April 8. **We are looking for race directors for a couple of races:** the ***Marsh Stream Race***, traditionally on Sunday after the Sou (4/9), and the ***Machias***.

Bangor Parks & Rec has posted the date for the ***Kenduskeag***, so start lifting your boats up over your head for April 15!! Other races on the docket for April are the ***Meduxnekeag*** and the ***Sandy River*** (both April 29), but you should be able to make it to the ***Kenduskeag Slalom*** races for the combined race at 4pm (4/29) or the gates on Sunday, April 30! Lots of races coming up in May, with details forthcoming. Hopefully the whitewater will power us through the season!!!!

The 2023 MaCKRO Downriver Points Series will end with the Millinocket Stream Race. Introduced in 2022, the race had a great turnout and plenty of water-- offering one more chance to get wet, and will finish out the whitewater season on June 3rd!

Basic race information, course descriptions, and contacts can be found at the MaCKRO website's 2023 Schedule (mackro.org), which covers both whitewater and flatwater seasons. Racers should be especially aware of all protocols as stated by race directors on the schedule and on race websites. Also be ready for the new Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Watercraft Event Rules viewable at this link: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/public-watercraft-events.html>
See you on the river!

Leslie Gregory





2023 Downriver Point Series Championship

With a new race (the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race) finishing last year's whitewater schedule, MaCKRO's 2022 Whitewater Downriver Point Series had its traditional full complement of winners in the following categories:

Canoe Men: Age 19-39 — Mark Risinger; Age 40-59 — Jeff Owen; Age 60+ — Terry Westcott

Canoe Women — Ander Thebaud

Kayak Men Age 19-59 — Ben Randall; Age 60+ — Hank Thorburn

Kayak Women — Leslie Gregory

Youth Members, Girls — Emma Eckert

Youth Members, Boys — Ashton Mabee

A list of the racers awarded second- and third-place podium positions is viewable on the MaCKRO Web site. Congratulations all!

This year, everyone participating in any canoe/kayak race held on Maine waters should be aware of the recent Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Watercraft Inspection Department Rules Chapter 13, which went into effect toward the end of last year's whitewater racing season. The good news is, Clayton Cole, hosting the 2022 Kenduskeag Slalom, became the first whitewater race director to contend with the MDIFW new rules regarding boat inspections for invasive aquatic plants and animals, and he reported that he encountered no real issues with the process. Dan Baumert directed several flatwater races and had the same experience of a smooth process of obtaining and monitoring these permits. Boat inspectors are required to inspect boats for these permits. An online training sessions for certified boat inspectors will be held on March 29th. The registration link for the training can be found at

<https://lakesenvironmentalassociation.wufoo.com/forms/z1geoqf50ceg0a0/>.

Each person needs to submit their own entry for this training. Request for Watercraft Event Permits now needed for paddle races in Maine can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Request%20for%20Watercraft%20Event.pdf> These permits do not apply to tidal areas.

Also in 2023, the MaCKRO Whitewater Downriver Point Series will likely expand from nine categories to eleven with the addition of a second Kayak Women category and a second Canoe Women category, age boundaries as yet to be determined.

This year's award ceremony for the Downriver Point Series will be held either immediately after the Millinocket X-Stream Race or immediately after the Pushaw Lake Race.





Potential Downriver Point Series Races (See [2023 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#)) for race details)

St. George – March 25th
Passagassawakeag – April 1st
Elliot Lamb (Souadabscook) – April 8th
Marsh Stream – April 9th
Kenduskeag – April 15th
Piscataquis River Race – April 22nd

Meduxnekeag – April 29th
Sandy River – April 29th
\Sebec River – May 13th
Union River – May 20th
Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race – June 3rd

See you on the water!

RW Estela & Chris Dalton
MaCKRO Whitewater Committee



The 2022 Flatwater Point Series included a total of 10 races. These races included in 2022 Flatwater Series were;

Sebec Lake 4 th of July	Ebb Tide marathon
Pushawe Lake	Orland River Day
Maine Flatwater Championship	St. George/Oyster River
Androscoggin River Race	Cathance River
Your Di Verona	War Canoe Long Pond

The point system was based on 4 points for a first place class finish, 3 points for second place, and 2 points for third place. One point was given if participating and not finishing in the top 3 in their class. The point system for 2023 will be similar to the points system done in 2022. Below are the top three finishers male and female for the 2022 Flatwater Series. More detailed 2022 Flatwater Series results can be found on the MaCKRO website at [2022 FW Point Series Tally 2022 winner summary.xls \(mackro.org\)](#). Also shown below is the tentative schedule for the 2023 flat water series races. For updates for the flatwater races and other races check the MaCKRO website at [2023 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#)

Dan Baumert
MaCKRO Flatwater Chair





<u>2022 MaCKRO Flatwater Series Final Results</u>			
Paddlers Name		Total Points	Top 3 Winners
Mark	Ranco	35	1st Male Canoe
Terry	Wescott	31	2nd Male Canoe
Chip	Loring	30	3rd Male Canoe
Dan	Baumert	28	1st Male Kayak
Linda	Basilicato	24	1st Female Canoe
Anita	Nugent	20	1st Female Kayak
Ben	Randall	16	2nd Male Kayak
Bruce	Weik	11	3rd Male Kayak
Aili	Hartikka	8	2nd Female Kayak
Amy	DiFrancesco	6	3rd Female Kayak
Peggy	McKee	6	2nd Female Canoe
Barbara	Hunt	4	3rd Female Canoe
Pearl	Lattanzi	4	3rd Female Canoe
Audery	Carter	4	3rd Female Canoe
Stacey	Foster	4	3rd Female Canoe
Jennifer	Beaulieu	4	3rd Female Canoe
Emily	Konopka	4	3rd Female Canoe
Tracy	Thayer	4	3rd Female Canoe
Lori	Glover	4	3rd Female Canoe
Karen	Francoeur	4	3rd Female Canoe
Tammy	Kelly	4	3rd Female Canoe
Ander	Thebaud	4	3rd Female Canoe
Nicole	Grohoski	4	3rd Female Canoe

Tentative 2023 Flatwater Series Races

Baskahegan Marathon – Saturday, May 13th

Sebec Lake – Tuesday, July 4th

Pushaw Lake Race – Sunday, July 9th

Maine Flatwater Championship - Saturday July 22nd

St. George/Oyster River - Saturday, July 29th

Tour DiVerona – Sunday, August 20th

Androscoggin River Adventure Canoe Race – Saturday, August 26th

Orland River Days Race Orland River - Saturday September 9th

Ebb Tide Marathon - Saturday, September 16th

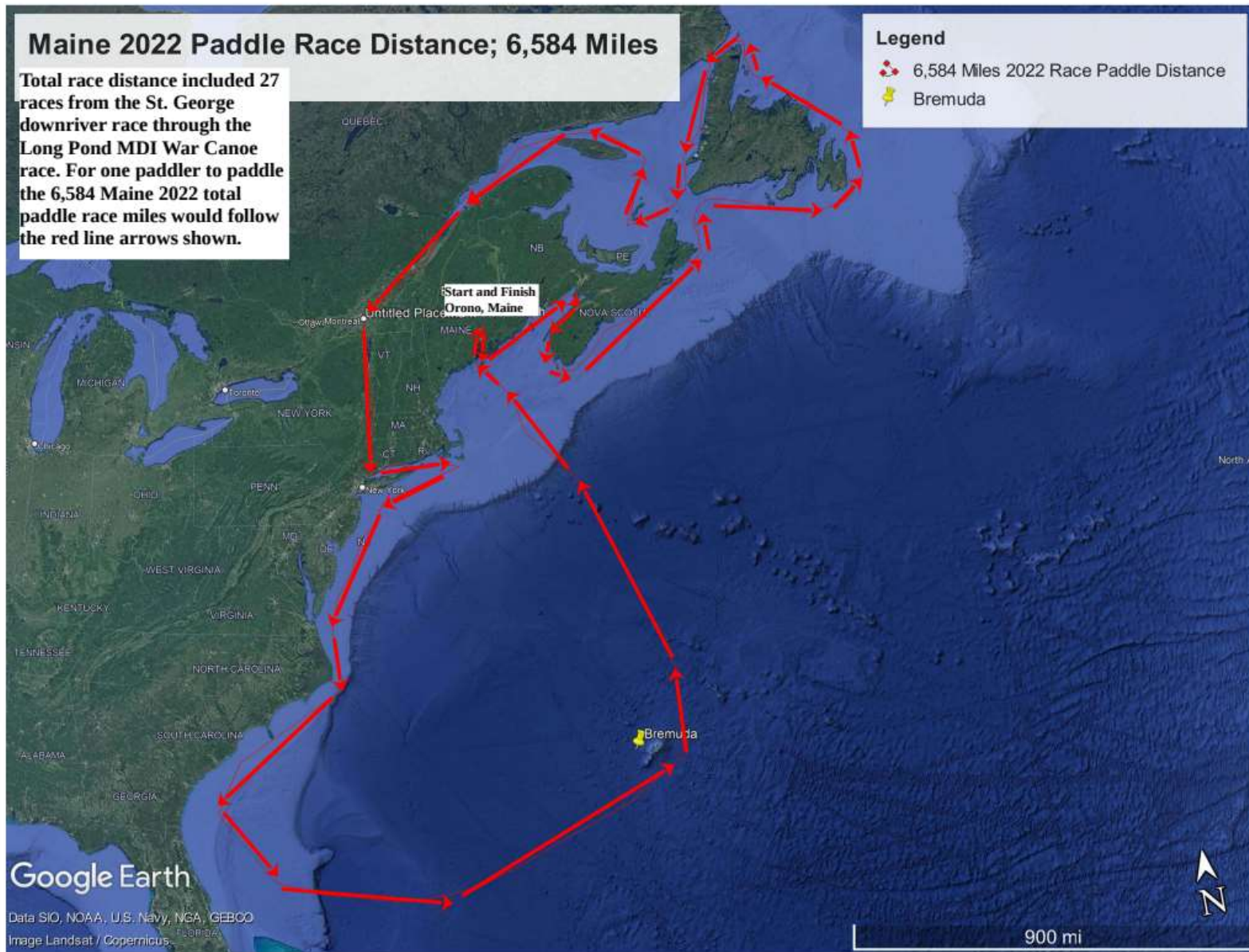
Cathance River Race – Saturday, September 23rd

War Canoe Race (Long Pond MDI) – Sunday, October 8th





Maine Paddle Race Miles for 2022





Awards and Recognition

The Muir the Merrier Award (“Paddle For The Fun Of It”)

The Muir the Merrier Award for 2022 was awarded to David Thanhauser and Cloe Chunn of Swanville. The Muir the Merrier award is presented to the member(s) of the paddling community (not necessarily a racer or even a paddler) that facilitates bringing new participants to our sport.

David and Cloe took a passion for river canoeing and camping to a significant regional paddling initiative. In 2016 they began presenting their ideas to the paddling and recreational community for a paddling trail on the main stem of the Penobscot River that would begin in Medway and continue to tidewater or beyond. They managed to recruit other like-minded volunteers and led the way with persistence and creativity. Their drive resulted in the actualization of this worthwhile dream, and by 2017 the first campsite was established in Brewer at the site of the Penobscot Salmon Club. Dozens of meetings and outings followed and the trail developed into a reality with nine campsites as of 2022 and two more planned for 2023. The Board of the Penobscot River Paddling Trail includes guides, racers, members of the Penobscot Nation, a National Park Service advisor, a member of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail Board.



Cloe Chunn and David Thanhauser (Photo Courtesy of Linda Basilicato)





President's Choice Award

The President's Choice Award is an award to be given, at the complete discretion of the sitting MaCKRO President, to a paddler who demonstrated during that racing season, a willingness to go outside of their comfort zone in their paddling, showing an improvement in their paddling and racing skills, while also maintaining a positive and upbeat attitude, great sportsmanship and showing up to a lot of races." This year's Presidents Choice Award goes to Terry Wescott. Most of us can attest to Terry's great sportsmanship and amazing positive attitude. This year, he continued to race as he always does, despite having some health and pain issues. It is for these reasons that Terry was chosen for this award.



The Chattajack 31 on the Tennessee River

The Chattajack 31 is a 31 mile point to point paddle race in area known as the Tennessee River Gorge in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The first Chattajack 31 took place in 2012 with 30 participants. It currently has grown to over 600 paddlers is one of the premier flat water paddle events in the US. Boats types primarily consist of stand up paddle boards, outrigger canoes, surf skis and kayaks. The race takes place in late October so weather conditions can vary from 80 degree heat to 50 degrees or colder with wind and rain. In 2022 three Maine paddlers (Hanna Rubin, Paula Lunt and Dan Baumert) participated in the Chattajack 31. Weather conditions were ideal with temperature at the start of the race in upper 40s low 50s warming to around 70 with a sunny sky and relatively calm winds. Despite fast paddlers with fast boats from all over the US and multiple countries, the Maine paddlers held their own and were very competitive. Hanna Rubin paddled in a tandem kayak (surf ski) and made the podium with a second place finish with a time of 4:34:01. Paula Lunt paddle a kayak and was 5th out 18 in her class with a time of 5:32:03. Dan Baumert paddled a kayak as well and was 19th out 49 in his class with a time of 5:24:07. The Chattajack 31 was a great experience for the three Maine paddlers and is an impressive event to participate in.

Dan Baumert





Chattajack 31 2022 Maine participants
Hanna Rubin, Dan Baumert, Paula Lunt



Chattajack 31 staging area day prior to the race.

Thursday Evening Orono Paddlers race events

The Thursday evening paddle events were again successful in 2022 at drawing members of the community to paddle on the Stillwater. Attendance varies quite a lot, with some Thursdays showing only the dedicated flatwater racers in attendance and others where those racers are joined by anywhere from 10 to 40 people in the big boats. We remain very reliant on the generosity of the Penobscot River Keepers (Mike Maybury, in particular) for the use of their big boats, and on MaCKRO members who continue to volunteer to captain those boats (Peggy McKee, Terry Wescott, Chip Loring, Bucky Owen, and Eric Gallandt, among others). And we thank RW Estella for setting and collecting the turn buoys every week. The Orono Paddlers have every expectation that this program will continue in 2023 on July and August Thursday evenings. See [2023 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#) for specific race dates and times.





Women's Group Paddle

Looking for ways to encourage newcomers to the sport, particularly women, we organized a series of casual women's paddling sessions on Thursday evenings last June on the Stillwater River in Orono. With 4-8 people at each session (both men and women) canoe skills ranged from beginner to intermediate. We tried to group people by their ability and figure out what they wanted to learn. We had a fun time battling the wind and rain, and once or twice enjoying a sunny day. They were a diverse group - folks who wanted to rediscover latent paddling skills, find a group to canoe with, try out a new boat, or simply explore something new. It is fun to see the river through the eyes of new paddlers and enjoy their enthusiasm!

We will likely do this again this year, organizing a few sessions for beginners. There does seem to be some interest in a women-only group for learning. The idea of an afternoon at Hirundo has also been mentioned. June seems like a good time to get people out on the water. If anyone is interested in volunteering there is room for an experienced paddler to champion this activity for next year. For more information contact Peggy McKee.

Youth Outreach

Jeff Owen continued coaching the canoe team at Orono High, and will do so just one more time in the spring of 2023. (Jeff is very interested in finding an assistant coach for this spring who might be willing and able to take over as head coach the following years.) The MaCKRO youth boats were used twice this summer, once again at the canoe symposium and once again by Jeff for the Orono Paddlers youth camp. (The boats are beginning to age and are in need of sanding/varnishing, and some small repairs.)

Tuesday Evening Group Training Paddles

For the past few years there has been a group paddle around Orson Island Tuesday evenings in June, July and August. This is typically a good opportunity to do some friendly group flatwater race training. This is a good opportunity to work on paddling form and get tips and pointers from experienced racers. It is anticipated this will continue in 2023. The group meets at 5:30 at the Old Town Boat ramp on Fourth Street just above the Indian Island bridge. A notice will be sent out when the Tuesday group paddles start up again. Contact Dan Baumert at djbaumert123@gamil.com for more details.





Penobscot River Paddling Trail



In 2022, the Penobscot River Paddling Trail added two new campsites, one in the Winn area (near Mattawamkeag) and another at Nibezun, a Wabnaki culture and healing center ([Nibezun](#)). This brings the total to nine rustic sites on the main stem of the Penobscot River: Tannery Row- Winn, Medunkeunk Landing – Lincoln, Mohawk – North Howland, Nibezun- Passadumkeag, Riverbilly's Retreat – Argyle, Ketawamkihtek – Old Town, French Island – Old Town, Maple Grove (Penobscot Valley Country Club) – Orono, Penobscot Salmon Club – Brewer.

For 2023, the organization plans to add a campsite in Orrington while continuing to scout for suitable locations in both Medway and between Orrington and Bucksport.

All sites are first come, first served with a privy or outhouse, tent sites, and a large picnic table located within 250 ft of the river. These are carry-in/carry-out, leave-no-trace campsites, lightly used and usually unoccupied. PRPT does hope to see use and traffic increase this year as word gets out. The trail was featured in the October 2022 issue of Maine Magazine ([MaineMag-Go with the Flow](#)) and has an ever increasing following on Facebook.

The unique thing about the trail is the incredibly easy access. Although the campsites are not accessible by road, there are many access points to the river all within an easy day's paddle of nearby campsites. You can leave a shuttle vehicle in Old Town or Brewer/Bangor and be in Medway within 90 minutes, ready to launch on your adventure. Some may choose to start upstream in the East Branch of the Penobscot. There are many trips that can be planned from one day to a week or more. There is excellent fishing for bass and other species along this stretch. Bald eagles are common along with many species of birds and waterfowl. Except for the intermittent class II-III rapids (well known to MaCKRO paddlers) from Old Town to Brewer, there are no significant rapids and only three portages at dams in Medway, Howland, and Old Town. The river in this section has a steady 3-5 mph current, low water conditions offer decent paddling in a semi-wilderness corridor.

PRPT is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. We have been fortunate to receive funding through grants and generous donations from individuals and organizations. Use of the trail is free. Our officers are David Thanhauser- President, Clayton Cole- VP, Cloe Chunn- Secretary, Jim Neville- Treasurer. We currently have seven Board members: Peter Crockett, Linda Basilicato, Rick Henion, Tom Mullin, Nick Bear, Greg Sarnacki, Julie Isbill (NPS advisor). We are looking to add 6-8 board members. Greg Dorr has been immensely helpful in helping us navigate setting up our corporation and addressing various legal questions. I invite you to visit our [Website](#). It includes many maps and details about the trail.

Clayton Cole & Linda Basilicato





Membership

There were 22 renewing or new members in 2022. This includes 6 new members, one of which is a group membership for the Lakes Association, which was the group that spearheaded the boat inspection law. We also had one new lifetime member added to the list this year. The number of new or renewing members is up by over 10 people this year from last year and there were a few from southern Maine. Now is a good time to renew your membership. Go to [Membership – MaCKRO](#) for detailed information on how to renew or become a new member.

2023 MaCKRO Officers

President: Aili Hartikka
Vice President: Dan Baumert
Treasurer: Mark Risinger
Secretary: Allisen Risinger
Whitewater Chairs: R.W. Estella and Chris Dalton
Flatwater Chair: Dan Baumert
Membership Chair: Aili Hartikka
Publicity Chair: Linda Basilicato
Youth Outreach: Jeff Owen

For more information About MaCKRO go to [MaCKRO – Maine Canoe & Kayak Racing Organization](#)

AND

Paddle Hard!!!!

