

# MaCKRO News

## Message from the Prez

It is hard to believe that that 2024 Maine paddle racing season is less than a week away. Race directors have been hard at work preparing for the early spring white water races. With the warm wet winter, paddlers have had a good opportunity to get on the water and do some early training runs in before the St. George kicks off the paddle racing season on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information on the 2024 MaCKRO Downriver Point Series Championship can be found in Downriver section in this newsletter and the full race schedule can be found on the MaCKRO web site at [2024 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#)

Maine had another great paddle racing season in 2023. Various Maine paddlers also participated and well represented Maine in several large nationwide destination paddle racing events. More details about the 2023 paddle racing season are included in several articles in this newsletter. In 2023, we saw some new races appear on the schedule, including a series of 3-5 mile races in Portland on Monday evenings on Casco Bay. These races are sponsored by Portland Paddle, an outfitter based out of Portland. The races go out of East End Beach and present an opportunity for MaCKRO's membership base to spread to the more populated region of southern Maine. The Millinocket-X Stream race seems to be gaining popularity as a solid challenging whitewater race.

Maine paddle races in 2024 will basically include all of the races offered in 2023. The Aroostook River Fun Run in May is back for 2024. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail will be sponsoring a flatwater paddle racing event in the Rangeley, Maine area Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>. The race (two-day, 40 miles) is the Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous (ROAR) and is part of Maine's High Peaks PaddleFest. Detailed information for these races and all 2024 Maine paddle races can be found on the MaCKRO web site. I am excited to see new races being offered in every corner of our state and hope that many of you will be able to get out there and support them!

Finally, we encourage folks to renew their MaCKRO memberships or become new MaCKRO members. The cost is minimal, actually a free-will donation with the amount up to you. We would like to see all folks who participate in the MaCKRO Downriver and Flatwater series to be MaCKRO members. The membership list is also a handy way for us to inform the entire MaCKRO community about any paddle race or other paddle events occurring in Maine.

Hope to see you soon on the water.

**Aili Hartikka**





### Downriver Point Series Championship

Following are the 2023 MaCKRO Downriver Point Series Podium winners by category. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks for being part of the Downriver Series.

**Canoe Men, Age 19-39** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Ashton Mabee; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Jack Burke; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Damon Galipeau.  
**Canoe Men, Age 40-59** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Jeff Owen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chris Dalton; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Rick Gause.  
**Canoe Men, Age 60+** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Bob Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Terry Wescott; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Clayton Cole.  
**Canoe Women, A-K** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Linda Basilicato; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Jen Adams; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Nicole Grohoski.  
**Canoe Women, L-Z** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Allisen Risinger; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Peggy McKee; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Laurie Sproul.  
**Kayak Men, Age 19-59** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Ben Randall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Bruce Weik; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Emmanuel Boss.  
**Kayak Men, Age 60+** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Hank Thorburn; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Ray Wirth; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Mark Bamford.  
**Kayak Women** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Alexandra Horne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Aili Hartikka; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Karen Francoeur.  
**Youth** — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Gilman Taylor; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Isaac Widmer; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Brady Winslow.

Down River Point Series awards were distributed at the end of the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race (the beginning of June) and at the end of the Pushaw Lake Race (the middle of July). Those two events will likely serve as awards distribution venues for 2024 as well. Be sure to keep your MaCKRO membership current so that we have you correctly entered in one of the (nine) appropriate Point Series categories.

Relatively new to Maine downriver whitewater racing events the past couple of years (as of 2022) are the Rules for Non-motorized Boats in Non-motorized Boat Events, which include all races in the MaCKRO Downriver Point Series. Race directors have become familiar with the applications required — <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Request%20for%20Watercraft%20Event.pdf> — and all racers should at least have a look at what the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has provided for information on this topic: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/public-watercraft-events.html#applications>

The 2024 whitewater season is taking shape! In just a few days the 2024 MaCKRO whitewater racing season begins with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. George River Race (March 30). Please visit the MaCKRO 2024 schedule ([See 2024 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#)) for information on the St. George and subsequent whitewater races in this year's Downriver Point Series.





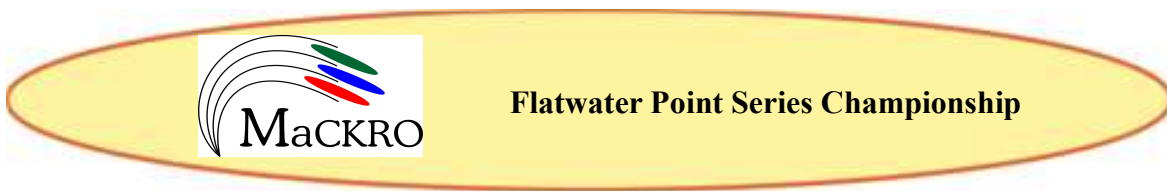
Following are the downriver races that are planned to be included in the 2024 Downriver Point Series.

St. George – March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Passagassawakeag – April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Elliot Lamb (Souadabscook) – April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Marsh Stream – April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Kenduskeag – April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Piscataquis River Race – April 27<sup>nd</sup>

Meduxnekeag – May 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sandy River – May 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Sebec River – May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Union River – May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race – June 1<sup>st</sup>

Thanks and see you on the water!

**RW Estela & Chris Dalton, MaCKRO Whitewater Committee**



The 2023 Flatwater Point Series included a total of 12 races. These races included in 2023 Flatwater Series were;

Baskahegan  
Caribou Aroostook River Run  
Sebec Lake 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Pushaw Lake  
Maine Flatwater Championship  
Tour Di Verona

Ebb Tide Marathon  
Orland River Day  
St. George/Oyster River  
Cathance River  
Muskrat Scramble  
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 2024 will be similar to the points system done in 2023. Below are the top three finishers male and female for the 2023 Flatwater Series. More detailed 2023 Flatwater Series results can be found on the MaCKRO website. Also shown below is the tentative schedule for the 2024 flatwater series races. For updates for the flatwater races and other races check the MaCKRO website at [2024 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#)





<b><u>2022 MaCKRO Flatwater Series Final Results</u></b>			
<b>Paddlers Name</b>		<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Top 3 Winners</b>
Terry	Wescott	40	<b>1st men canoe</b>
Chip	Loring	36	<b>2nd men canoe</b>
Mark	Ranco	24	<b>3rd men canoe</b>
Lori	Sproul	16	<b>1st woman canoe</b>
Linda	Basilicato	15	<b>2nd woman canoe</b>
Allison	Risinger	5	<b>3rd woman canoe</b>
Dan	Baumert	36	<b>1st male kayak</b>
Bruce	Weik	27	<b>2nd male kayak</b>
Ben	Randall	24	<b>3rd male kayak</b>
Audery	Carter	12	<b>1st women kayak</b>
Raelene	Meyers	4	<b>2nd women kayak</b>
Paula	Lunt	4	<b>2nd women kayak</b>
Stacy	Foster	4	<b>1st women SUP</b>
<b><u>Tentative 2024 Flatwater Series Races</u></b>			
Baskahegan Marathon – Saturday, May 11th			
Aroostook River Spring Runoff Canoe and Kayak Race - Saturday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>			
Aroostook River Fun Run – Saturday May 18 <sup>th</sup>			
Sheepscot River Race			
The Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous (ROAR) – Saturday & Sunday June 29 & 30			
Sebec Lake – Thursday, July 4th			
Pushaw Lake Race – Sunday, July 7th			
Maine Flatwater Championship - Saturday July 20th			
St. George/Oyster River - Saturday, July 27th			
Tour DiVerona – Sunday, August 18th			
Orland River Days Race Orland River - Saturday September 7th			
Ebb Tide Marathon - Saturday, September 14th			
Cathance River Race – Saturday, September 21st			
Muskrat Scramble – Saturday October 5th			
War Canoe Race (Long Pond MDI) – Sunday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>			

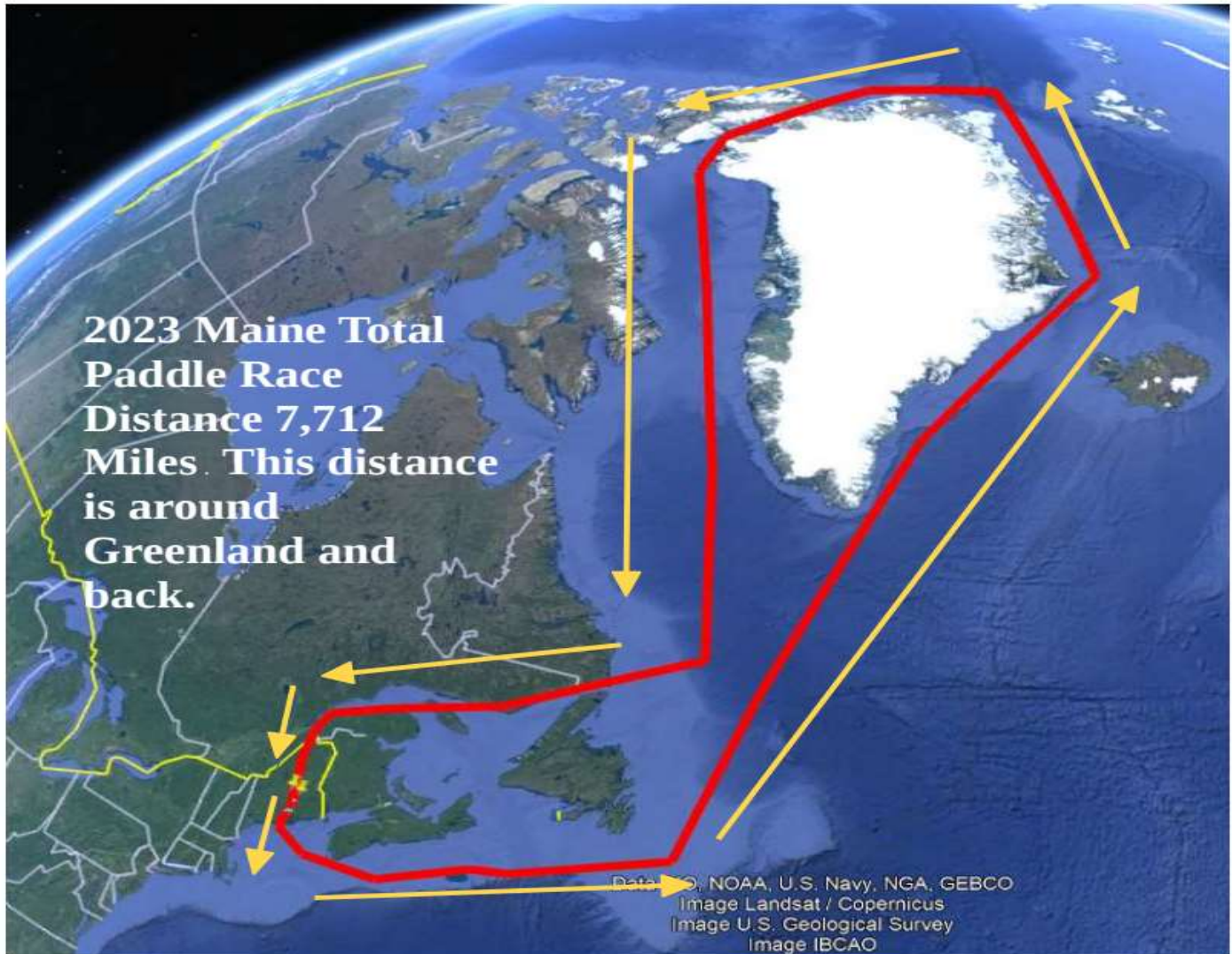
**Dan Baumert, MaCKRO Flatwater Chair**





### Maine Paddle Race Miles for 2023

Once again there were a tremendous amount of paddle race miles in Maine for 2023. This included 32 races starting with the St. George in March and ending with the Long Pond War Canoe Race in October. The following graphic speaks for itself showing how many race miles are paddled in a single Maine paddle racing season.







## **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.

The recipient of the 2023 President's Choice Award was given to Terry Wescott, for his indomitable spirit, his constant willingness to teach and support other paddlers and continuing to show up at every single race. It is truly a joy watching Terry at these races!



Various Maine paddlers represented Maine in three major National paddle races, the General Clinton Canoe Regatta, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, and the ChattaJack 31.

## **General Clinton Canoe Regatta**

Maine was well represented in the 2023 General Clinton Canoe Regatta. Team "Big Al" returned this year in the Saturday Mixed Stock Aluminum Relay with respectable top 15 finish. Six boats from Maine participated in the Sunday 70 mile endurance in various classes that included two person canoe, one person canoe and one person kayak. The top three podium finishes were made by several boats.



Tammy Kelly and Jeff Owen assisted by Mark Risinger at the start of the aluminum mixed relay.





### **AuSable River Canoe Marathon**

Ashton Mabee and River Robertson finished the AuSable River Canoe Marathon in a very respectable time of 17:26:46 and finished 73 overall out of well over 100 finishers. This was Ashton's first AuSable and he and River represented Maine well in such a prestigious paddle racing event.



Ashton Maybee and River Robertson at the 2023 AuSable River Canoe Marathon.







## The Chattajack 31 on the Tennessee River

Four Maine paddlers returned to The Chattajack 31 mile point to point paddle race in the Tennessee River Gorge in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was a summer-like day in late October with a sunny sky and temperatures reaching into the 80s. Maine paddlers had another good showing in the race.

Paula Lunt was 147<sup>th</sup> overall out of 483 finishers with a time of 5:17:20 and 1<sup>st</sup> in the women's kayak class!! Dan Baumert was 192<sup>nd</sup> overall with a time of 5:34:16 and 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 in the men's kayak class. Hanna Rubin and Chip Loring were having a great race before they ran into heat issues and had to pull out after 20 miles. But they both vow that they will be back better than ever.



Dan Baumert, Chip Loring, Hanna Rubin, Paula Lunt at the 2023 ChattaJack 31.



The start of the ChattaJack 31, Dan Baumert in the red kayak.







### **Thursday Evening Orono Paddlers race events**

The Thursday evening paddle events were again successful in 2023 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 2024 on July and August Thursday evenings. See [2024 MACKRO SCHEDULE - Google Docs](#) for specific dates.

### **Youth Outreach**

Orono Paddlers again hosted a youth paddling camp this August using the MaCKRO youth boats. It was a fun camp, though with just six kids. We hope to continue with camps each year and market them more to rebuild the participation back to closer to 12-15 each session.

Orono High School is hopeful that a new coach can be found to restart its Canoe Team this coming spring. They are still searching for an Assistant Coach who either has or is willing to become ETL certified (or a Registered Maine Guide) as this certification is now required for school paddle coaches.

After many years of service Jeff Owen is stepping down from the MaCKRO Youth Outreach position. He has and always been a faithful supporter of MaCKRO and especially youth paddle development. A big thanks to Jeff for all of the dedicated hard work he has done over the years for youth paddling. With that said we do have a current vacancy for the MaCKRO Youth Outreach position. If anyone is interested in helping out more with youth outreach let us know.

### **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 2024. All types of boats and paddlers are welcome and encouraged to come. 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@gmail.com](mailto:djbaumert123@gmail.com) for more details.





## **Penobscot River Paddling Trail 2024 News**



With the addition of 3 new locations, the Penobscot River Paddling Trail (PRPT) is closing in on its goal of a riverside campsite every 10 miles from Medway to Bucksport. The three new sites are all located downstream of the original Penobscot Salmon Club site, established in 2018. These additions bring the total number of campsites to 11 while also completing the southern tidal reach of the paddling trail.

The first of these new locations is Sturgeon Leap, located in Orrington just upstream from where the Ebb Tide Race finishes. The second new campsite, in Prospect, is Ferry Crossing (*etalikwsakahlaweetimek*, “Place where one crosses”). It is located near the site of a former ferry crossing between Prospect and Bucksport. The five-acre parcel was donated to the nonprofit volunteer organization, making it the first campsite to be owned by PRPT. All other sites are owned by individuals, a municipality (2) or a business (1).

The third new campsite will be located on the east shore of Verona Island. This site will mark the southernmost terminus of the Trail, with additional offshore sites offered by the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). This site will be hosted by Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, which now owns and provides stewardship for the Joost Family Preserve. The Preserve includes shore frontage along the eastern channel, about 0.6 miles downstream of Porcupine Island. The Preserve includes existing parking and walking trails and, soon, a secluded campsite for river travelers. They will be adding a landing with steps to provide easier access from the tidal flat.

The 11 rustic PRPT campsites on the main stem of the Penobscot River, in order, are: Tannery Row-Winn, Medunkeunk Landing – Lincoln, Mohawk – North Howland, Nibezun- Passadumkeag, Riverbilly’s Retreat – Argyle, Ketawamkihtek – Old Town, Oak Glen (Penobscot Valley Country Club) – Orono, Penobscot Salmon Club – Brewer. And now Sturgeon Leap, Ferry Crossing and Verona Island. The City of Old Town, citing code stipulations, has closed our campsite located at the southern end of French Island.

In 2023, PRPT elected Clayton Cole as its president.

For 2024, the organization plans to continue to scout for suitable locations in Medway.

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 Clayton Cole—President, Rick Henion—Vice President, Cloe Chunn—Secretary, Jim Neville—Treasurer. We currently have seven Board members: Peter Crockett, Linda Basilicato, Tom Mullin, Nick Bear, Greg Sarnacki, David Thanhauser. We are looking to add a few 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.





Our sites feature some of the most awesome outhouses in Maine

*Additional Information:*

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 very good paddling in a semi-wilderness corridor.

**Clayton Cole & Linda Basilicato**







## **Membership**

Last year, we had 5 new members join, including 1 family membership with 2 children under the age of 10. Only 8 members renewed their membership last year; however, we did have a new lifetime member which is great. This year we would like to get more members to renew their membership or actually become new members. We are trying to get as many folks as possible that participate in both the Downriver and Flatwater series Championships. We are going to have a MaCKRO booth setup at some of the first Downriver races this year to give folks a chance to renew or become first time MaCKRO members. Keep in mind that the membership fee is a free will donation. We would like to get a good membership list so at least we have a contact list to send out any information on updates on paddling racing and other paddling events in Maine. Information and online MaCKRO membership renewal can be found at [Online Donations & Membership – MaCKRO](#). Please contact me, Aili Hartikka at [ailih186@gmail.com](mailto:ailih186@gmail.com) if you have concerns or ideas on how to improve membership renewal.

## **2024 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: Vacant

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

AND

***Paddle Hard!!!!***

