



MaCKRO News

Message from the Prez

Happy spring everyone.

Last year saw a number of new racers compete, especially in the always exciting whitewater races. We also saw a number of new members join our club. I'm hoping this indicates a renewed enthusiasm for the sport and that this will lead a few of you to think about becoming more involved with MaCKRO.

Although I have agreed to stay on as President for the time being, I am hoping someone younger with lots of energy would like to step into the roll. Please reach out to me (Aili Hartikka at ailih186@gmail.com) or Dan Baumert at djbaumert123@gmail.com, if you are interested in filling this roll.

As we look ahead to the new racing season, the whitewater racing scheduled is coming together, with the first race just days away! Please stop by and see Dan at the races as he plans on having a table set up for people to renew or become new MaCKRO members.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas you may have for possible new races and anything else that may be on your mind.

Thank you,

Aili Hartikka





Downriver Point Series Championship

Following are the 2025 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 — 1st Brady Burke, 2nd Damon Galipeau, 3rd Aston Mabee

Canoe Men, Age 40-59 — 1st Mark Risinger, 2nd JD Burke, 3rd Morgan Baxter

Canoe Men, Age 60+ — 1st Bob Martin, 2nd Terry Wescott, 3rd Mark Ranco

Canoe Women, A-K — 1st Emma Eckert, 2nd Linda Baslicato, 3rd Nicole Grohoski

Canoe Women, L-Z — 1st Allison Risinger, 2nd Hannah Rubin, 3rd Cliodhna O'Malley

Kayak Men, Age 19-59 — 1st Orion Fleming, 2nd Alex Ciampa, 3rd Eric Nathanson

Kayak Men, Age 60+ — 1st Ray Wirth, 2nd Dan Baumert, 3rd Hank Thorburn

Kayak Women — 1st Leslie Gregory, 2nd Alexandra Horne, 3rd Karen Francoeur

Youth — 1st Gabriel McIntosh, 2nd Camden LaBree, 3rd Arron Lang

Downriver Point Series (DPS) awards were distributed at the end of the Millinocket X-Stream Canoe Race (the beginning of June), which will be the awards distribution venue for 2026 as well. **Racers, we are easy about eligibility. Keeping your MaCKRO membership current helps us organize the DPS categories, and we greatly appreciate your involvement.** Although we have no set fee for Personal or Family membership, we strongly encourage making at least a modest \$5 donation early in the season. That way, by the time the Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race happens, we will have a fair idea of how our membership is doing in 2026's Downriver Point Series. MaCKRO membership can be renewed online at [Membership – MaCKRO](#).

The 2026 whitewater season is here with the 44th Annual St. George River Race taking place this coming Saturday March 28th. Please visit the MaCKRO 2026 schedule [Races & Events – MaCKRO](#) for information on this year's Whitewater Races and the Downriver Point Series, which currently include 12 races:

St. George – March 28th

Passagassawakeag – April 4th

Elliot Lamb (Souadabscook) – April 11th

Marsh Stream – April 12th (Tentative)

Kenduskeag – April 18th

Piscataquis River Race – April 25th

Machias River Canoe Race – April 25th & 26th

Meduznekeag – May 2nd

Sebec River – May 9th

Union River – May 27th

2nd Annual Tylor Kelly's Allagash Dash – May - 16th

Millinocket X-Stream Race – June 6th

Worth noting is that the Machias River Race, after a three-year hiatus (2022 was the most recent running), is returning to the Downriver Point Series in 2026, with father-son team JR and Ashton Mabee (who took 1st place overall in the 2022 race) intent upon revitalizing this exciting Down East paddling event by holding *two consecutive days* of races this year – and encouraging paddlers to race in different categories, though racing both days is not required to qualify for awards and prizes.

RW Estela MaCKRO Whitewater Committee Chair





Flatwater Point Series Championship

The 2025 Flatwater Point Series included a total of 12 races:

Sebec Lake 4 th of July	Saco River Rebound
Pushaw Lake	Orland River Day
Maine Flatwater Championship	St. George/Oyster River
Tour Di Verona	Cathance River
Ebb Tide marathon	Muskrat Scramble
Royal River Rumble	War Canoe Long Pond

The point system was based on 4 points for a first-place finish, 3 points for second-place, and 2 points for third-place. One point was given for completing the race though not finishing in the top 3 of a given class. The point system for 2026 will be similar to the point system used in 2025. Below are the top finishers, male and female, for the 2025 Flatwater Series. Additional 2025 Flatwater Series results can be found on the MaCKRO website [Results – MaCKRO](#). Also shown below is the tentative schedule for the 2026 flatwater series races. For updates for the flatwater races and other races, check the MaCKRO website at [Races & Events – MaCKRO](#). Also for 2026 an up-to-date MaCKRO membership is not required but strongly encouraged to be eligible for the Flatwater Point Series Championship.

Tentative 2026 Flatwater Series Races

Aroostook River Spring Runoff Canoe and Kayak Race - Saturday, May 3rd
Baskahegan Marathon – Saturday, May 9th
Aroostook River Fun Run - Saturday May 16th
Royal River Race – Saturday, June 20th
The Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous (ROAR) – Saturday & Sunday, June 20th - 22nd
Sebec Lake – Friday, July 4th
Sheepscot River Race – Saturday, July 11th
Pushaw Lake Race – Sunday, July 12th
Saco River Race - Saturday July 19th
St. George/Oyster River - Saturday, July 26th
Maine Flatwater Championship – Sunday, July 25th
Tour DiVerona – Sunday, August 16th
Orland River Day Race – Saturday, September 12th
Ebb Tide Marathon - Saturday, September 19th
Cathance River Race – Saturday, September 20th
Muskrat Scramble – Saturday, October 3rd
War Canoe Race (Long Pond MDI) – Sunday, October 11th





<u>2025 MaCKRO Flatwater Series Final Results</u>			
Paddlers Name		Total Points	Top 3 Winners
Terry	Wescott	27	1st-men's canoe
Mark	Ranco	23	2nd-men's canoe
Clayton	Cole	21	3rd-men's canoe
Rod	McLain	21	3rd-men's canoe
Linda	Basilicato	21	1st-women's canoe
Amy	Di Francesco	15	2nd-women's canoe
Pam	Browning	8	3rd-women's canoe
Priscilla	Reinersten	8	3rd-women's canoe
Dan	Baumert	40	1st-men's kayak
Ben	Randall	23	2nd-men's kayak
Orion	Fleming	18	3rd-men's kayak
Kari	Crowe	4	1st-women's kayak
Karen	Francoeur	4	1st-women's kayak
Beth	Duguay	4	1st-women's kayak
Aili	Hartikka	4	1st- women's kayak
Audery	Carter	4	1st-women's kayak

Dan Baumert, MaCKRO Flatwater Chair

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."

River Robertson is the winner of the 2025 MaCKRO President's Choice Award. He keeps participating in longer and harder races while also starting up new races in southern Maine, where the large population benefits from such events. His energy, enthusiasm for - and dedication to - the sport shows, as does his willingness to share his knowledge of the sport with others, especially those younger than himself.

Congratulations River!





Maine Paddle Race Miles for 2025

Once again there were a tremendous number of paddle race miles in Maine for 2025, which included 28 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 (a total of 8,779 miles!) are paddled in a single Maine paddle racing season.





News Splashes

Various Maine paddlers represented Maine in various paddle races. Following are stories of three national races that Maine Paddlers participated in.

AuSable River Canoe Marathon

The AuSable River Canoe Marathon, is a non-stop 120-mile, C-2 (two-person) canoe race held annually on the last full weekend in July. The race starts at night with a thrilling LeMans-style running start to the river in Grayling, MI, and ends the next day on the shores of Lake Huron in Oscoda, MI. The Marathon is not a recreational canoe float. It is an ultra-competitive race that attracts professional paddlers from across the United States, Canada, and often teams from outside North America. In 2025 two boats represented Maine in the AuSable. The team of Aston Mabee and River Robertson returned to the race after good showing in the 2024 race. In 2025, Ashton and River improved their overall finish by more than 10 places, finishing 51st overall out of 103. Their time was 16 hours, 35 minutes, 36 seconds. The team of Rod McLain and Chip Loring finished the race in a time of 19 hours, 11 minutes, 17 seconds. They finished 103rd overall and were the last last team to make the cutoff time as an official finisher. Rod and Chip were the oldest team in the race. Congrats to the two boats representing Maine in the 2025 AuSable River Canoe Marathon,.



The thrilling LeMans-style start of the AuSable River Canoe Marathon.





USCA Canoe Championships

The Penobscot Nation Youth Paddling Team took home various medals and awards from the 2025 United States Canoe Association (USCA) Canoe Championships held in Northfield, MA. The Penobscot Paddling Youth Team made the awards podium numerous times and won the award for the best overall state youth group. Other Maine paddlers and podium appearances are listed below

John Mathieu - 1st K1 Unlimited Men Veteran II
Fred Ludwig - 2nd K1 Unlimited Men Veteran II
Apemesim Galipeau - 1st C1 Man Open
Dan Swallow - 2nd C1 Man Open
Daniel Baumert - 3rd K1 Touring Men Grand Veteran I
Apemesim Galipeau & Mark Ranco - 2nd C2 Men Open
Bruce Weik - 5th K1 Unlimited Man Veteran II
Jillian Sockbeson & Jason Sockbeson - 1st C2 Mixed Junior Short Course
Koa Neptune-Sanborn & Megan Augustine - 2nd C2 Mixed Junior Short Course
Apemesim Galipeau & Zayna Dana - 1st C2 Man/Youth Short Course
Teaghan Cavanaugh & Mark Ranco - 2nd C2 Man/Youth Short Course
Jaxon Sockbeson & Koa Neptune-Sanborn - 2nd C2 Junior Men Short Course
Teaghan Cavanaugh - 2nd K1 Woman Junior Short Course
Ella Bither - 3rd K1 Women Junior Short Course



The Penobscot Nation Youth Paddling Team and Coaches.





Chattajack 31

The Chattajack 31 is a paddle board, kayak, and canoe race that winds 31 miles through the Tennessee Rive Gorge starting from downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. The race celebrates the effort a paddle athlete makes in the pursuit of distance endurance. Two boats from Maine participated in the 2025 Chattajack 31. Chip Loring and Dan Baumert paddled a C2 outrigger canoe finishing 15th out of 16 in their class with a total for a time of 5 hours, 49 minutes, 32 seconds. The team of “Dan B and Chippy” were the oldest C2 team in the race with a combined age 150 years! Rod McLain was the other Maine boat in the race paddling a C1 outrigger canoe in a time of 4 hours, 54 minutes, 9 seconds for a very respectable 16th place out of 66 total in his class. Chippy is already talking about going back again to the Chattajack 31.



Team “Dan B. and Chippy” near the finish of the 2025 Chattajack 31.





Thursday Evening Orono Paddlers Race Events

The Thursday evening paddle events were again successful in 2025 in drawing members of the community to paddle on the Stillwater. Attendance varies quite a lot. On some Thursdays, only dedicated flatwater racers are in attendance, paddling their own boats. On other Thursdays solo and tandem boats are accompanied by 10-person war canoes. 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 2026 on Thursday evenings in July and August. See [Races & Events – MaCKRO](#) for specific dates.

Youth Outreach

The Orono High School Canoe Team is BACK for the 2026 racing season, with Jeff Owen as head coach working with any and all student-athletes who sign up. As in years past, Jeff will be looking to the racing community for veteran whitewater racers who are willing to volunteer to partner with the team's novice paddlers for the first three races (the St. George, Passy, and Souadabscook's short course). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeff at jowen@rsu26.org.

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

In 2026 MaCKRO is looking to partner with any other groups or organizations to possibly sponsor some youth paddlers in any existing youth paddling development programs. Details are currently being worked out.

Tuesday Evening Group Training Paddles

For the past few years, there has been a group paddle around Orson Island on Tuesday evenings in June, July, and August. This is typically a good opportunity to do some friendly group flatwater race training, to work on paddling form, and to get tips and pointers from experienced racers. We anticipate this will continue in 2026. 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@gamil.com for more details.





Penobscot River Paddling Trail 2026 News



PRPT is pleased to announce several milestone achievements for 2026

- 1- An agreement (contract?) was arranged with Penobscots Nick Bear and Gabe Paul to help PRPT establish its longstanding goal of an educational initiative to highlight native (Penobscot) history and ... We will unveil (reveal) the first of three installations? In this initiative we reveal the first installation at the Nibezun Campsite in Passadumkeag on Sunday, July 12. Please plan to join us for a 8 mile paddle from Howland boat launch to the PRPT Nibezun campsite. We will conduct our annual meeting enjoy lunch and celebrate the first step of the native cultural history of the trail.
- 2- At the Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show from 3/20-3/22 PRPT hosted a booth. A couple visited our booth and through the course of conversation they made an offer to PRPT to establish our long-sought after northernmost campsite on the trail. This site will (potentially) be located about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downstream of the Mattaseunk dam in Mattawamkeag. This campsite will allow river paddlers a place to rest after an 8 mile paddle from Medway and a rigorous portage around the dam. An easy 7-mile paddle downstream to the 'Tannery Row' campsite in Winn follows.

Plan a short or long trip on the Penobscot River Paddling Trail this year, you wont be disappointed!

Clayton Cole and Linda Basilicato

Membership

In 2025 the MaCKRO membership was the highest it has been in several years. There were also some additional new lifetime members bringing the total to nearly 20 lifetime members. Similar to last year, MaCKRO will have a representative at all of the downriver races giving paddlers a chance to renew their membership and receive 2026 membership cards. This worked well in 2025 to encourage membership renewals and enlist new members. As we have done in the past two years, any lifetime member and any other current MaCKRO member by June 1 will be eligible for a \$150 drawing after the last Downriver Series - Millinocket X Stream Race - in early June.

In 2026, we would like to increase MaCKRO membership. Please visit our table after the races, or renew or join online at [Membership – MaCKRO](#) . We also urge our members to reach out to us to let us know how we might best serve our MaCKRO membership.

Dan Baumert, Membership Chair





2026 MaCKRO Officers

President: Aili Hartikka
Vice President: Dan Baumert
Treasurer: Amy DiFrancesco
Secretary: Aili Hartikka
Whitewater Chairs: R.W. Estela and Chris Dalton
Flatwater Chair: Dan Baumert
Membership Chair: Dan Baumert
Publicity Chair: Linda Basilicato
Youth Outreach: Ray Wirth/Leslie Gregory
Website and Social Media: Ray Wirth

We are currently looking for a new MaCKRO President. Aili Hartikka will continue as President until a new President can be found. If you are interested in this position or know of anyone else who might be interested in the MaCKRO President's position let us know. Thanks to Aili for serving in the President's position all these years.

For more information about MaCKRO, go to MaCKRO – Maine Canoe & Kayak Racing Organization

AND

Paddle Hard!!!!

