



BOC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Brattleboro Outing Club is to promote community participation in outdoor activities by developing, operating, and sponsoring affordable recreation programs, events, and facilities in Brattleboro and the surrounding towns.

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

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BOC

2016 FALL NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I will be finishing my tenure as president of the BOC Board this fall and I have confidence in the new slate of officers presented by the current board. Our new members bring fresh ideas and energy. I've been thinking about my years as a BOC member and officer, and marvel at what a great organization we've sustained for decades. Tennis was my introduction to the BOC. I spent hundreds of joyful hours on the courts and in the clubhouse hanging out with other members, such as the Tuesday evenings with the Chill and Grill crowd. Visiting league players and guests often comment on their envy of the facilities and atmosphere created at the clubhouse. I saw the cross country program falter after a few snow-scarce winters and emerge with a new vitality. Energetic committees run the tennis and cross-country programs and offer all sorts of events and opportunities for new members to get to know one another. Energetic volunteers emerge to set up courts, clear trails, and get the RowBOC docks in and out of the West River. The paddling program offers numerous fascinating opportunities to explore regional waterways, lakes and ponds. BOC struggled with cash flow problems for a few years and still fights to keep fees low in the face of rising costs. Every time a problem has come up volunteers have stepped up and solved it. I feel honored to have been president of such a great organization. I hope all of you stop, sometimes, when you're on the courts, trails, or water, to appreciate what a wonderful thing BOC is and volunteer. Take part and share the joy.

*Andrew MacFarland — Outgoing BOC
President*

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We are very fortunate to have access to the 20 miles of groomed cross country ski trails, courtesy of the Brattleboro Country Club, just two miles from downtown Brattleboro. Last season, even though snowfall was light, we were one of the few Vermont facilities open with groomed trail skiing and snowshoeing all winter.

Hungry? Thirsty? You'll be glad to know the Fairway Tavern, right next to the Ski Hut, is open all winter, too. Great for warming up before, during, and after your ski. Members and guests are welcome!

We will continue our school training programs, five days a week, and expect 70 or more kids from local schools to learn skiing skills, play games, and have fun. We will again host the Brattleboro High School cross country ski team as a training and racing facility. We also plan to send a student athlete to the Special Olympics Vermont Winter Games in March 2017, for the second year in a row.

Cross country ski events we plan include: Winter Break, Winter Carnival, Full Moon Skiing, Valentine's Day Weekend, and President's Day.

Want to help? We have paid and volunteer positions open. Here are some of the areas you can contribute:

December Hut Move-In (contact Linda at: labdeb@sover.net)

Hut Manager (paid position, contact Dorothy at: dmpinv@yahoo.com)

Volunteer Instructors (contact Linda at: labdeb@sover.net)

Assistant Groomer (paid position, contact Brad at: Brad@dinsoft.com)

Trail Clearing (contact Brad at: Brad@dinsoft.com)

Cross Country Ski Committee (contact Jay at: Jay@retailinsights.com)

Support Your Cross Country Ski Program:

Join by December 15, 2016,
and get Two (2) **Free** Guest Passes!

Jay Jacobowitz—Cross-Country Chair

Another fantastic season of paddling the lakes, ponds and rivers of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Twelve paddle trips were scheduled; four in VT, four in NH and four along stretches of the Connecticut River. All went off as scheduled, except the Ponds of Pillsbury State Park, NH trip; it was rained-out. We'll reschedule for next year, as well as at least one Massachusetts paddle trip. It may also be time for another SALT WATER adventure, in 2017.

Highlights from this past season include: two 'voyages of discovery' on the Ashuelot River, in NH; one allowed a picnic in Keene's Riverside Park (and a walk to Starbucks), as well as using a put-in, heretofore, unknown to any of our paddlers, or published in any guidebook. The other 'Ash' adventure was an up-stream paddle of the lower section, starting at the mouth (as it enters the CT River), up to the first set of rapids; until recently, unnavigable.

Another 'first' was a CT River 4-pack: where we paddled four separate stretches, from Windsor, VT (Sumner Falls) to Northfield, MA. In one day, we found ourselves in three different states. There are many stretches of the CT River where man's past or present activity is not visible, and where Bald Eagles sightings are now the norm. In all, we paddled a little more than 30 miles of this great river...all WITH the flow. Two trips required long car shuttles, which went off without a hitch.

Over the course of the summer, we spotted loons, bald eagles, hawks, great blue herons, kingfishers, swans, geese, many species of ducks, beaver, muskrats and swimming squirrels. No moose or 'wild' horses this year (see the paddling foto gallery for our past 'wild' horse encounter on the CT River).

Other high points were the Harriman Reservoir/Sunrise paddle trip (gourmet potluck breakfast), and the end-of-season, mystical, middle-earth like, Somerset paddle trip, in early October. It was the first time we've ever seen the lake so calm, quiet, wind-less, and no other boats...all day! The mist/light warm rain softened both sound and scenery. We hardly spoke; it was like being in church. Three pair of loons were the only

BOC

~ PADDLING ~

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sounds, other than our own paddling; it was magic. The sun came out briefly during our picnic lunch, and two bald eagles made their appearances as we paddled around the big island, on our way back to the launch site. A very special day on the water; from 10AM to 5PM...no one wanted to leave.

All of this was made possible due to the continued success of our annual spring consignment sale/swap of human & wind-powered boats, and related gear. BOC is able to offer these paddle trips FREE, open to members, as well as the general public. Watch for more information; it'll be mid-May.

Ideas for new waters to paddle? Contact me ASAP. I'll do the paddle schedule during the winter. It's always fun to THINK PADDLING, with a good deep snow-cover, and temps below zero. Also, I'm looking for some folks to help with the paddling program. Give me a 'ring'.

lmacyak@gmail.com Larry McIntosh



BOC TENNIS

The nets, and brushes and lines are put away, and the tennis club is in sleep mode. But what a great season of tennis! The upside of the really dry season was that there were almost no rainouts at the tennis courts. The tennis courts were busy from the beginning of May right through the end of October.

We don't keep track of playable days at the club, but I'm thinking that it was a record year. And the courts played beautifully under the watchful eye of facilities manager John Donaldson. The courts were great from beginning to end, and we continually get compliments from guests and newcomers. Thank you John!

Many thanks as well to Jacob Miller for his con-

tinued outstanding work as director of tennis instruction. Our instructional programs were really successful both in terms of participation and the improvement of everyone's game.

We had lots of good competitive play this summer. In addition to our annual open singles tournament we had very competitive USTA leagues and BOC club leagues, and for the first time the BOC hosted the Thurston Cup, a New England tennis tradition for many years.

Of course, a big pat on the back is in order to all of the volunteers. The amount of work put in to get the courts up in the spring, and taken down in the fall is huge, and there's also lots of help with special events. But I'd like to acknowledge all of the members who go out of their way to do little things like clean up, greet guests, organizing weekly groups, or be hitting partners for members, young and old, who don't have as many partners they could hit with. Thanks for the extra effort which makes the club special.

Finally, a big thank you to the tennis committee. For hours over and above the call of duty, even during the winter, to make sure that everything falls into place, that members concerns are heard, and that we stay in position to continue strong in coming years.

Joe Meyer—Tennis Chair



RowBOC

After a few grumblings about taking the docks out too early last year, we decided to try to eke out a couple more weeks and row into mid November, despite the early snow of October this year. We always manage to get a full 6 months on the river. The early and late seasons offer some of the nicest days. Motorboat traffic is rare, the spring and fall colors are magnificent, and there just seems to be more time to enjoy sculling.

Summer of 2016 was a success! Several rowers



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from out of the area or new to town joined the club this year. The Learn to Row Clinic was held in July, over a month later than usual. The instructor was a first time sculling teacher and several members joined in as assistants each week. We encourage all rowers to participate as a helper in the clinics, it's a great way to support the club as well as develop your own skills.

Eight new rowers signed on for the Sat and Wed sessions and all who completed the course joined the club! Welcome new rowers!

Graeme King finished repairs to our 4+ Sweep boat- and it is racked and ready for Spring!

If you are interested in organizing Sweep rowing (4 person boat— one oar each, plus a coxswain)— please contact Graeme, and send out some winter messages to rally a team together. 6 or 12 people



would be ideal including 2 coxswains.

Last, and most important of note is our Olympic Gold Medalist member Tessa Gobbo!

Tessa's team rowed to victory in the women's eight in Rio this summer! Her Olympic Gold Medal earned her an honorary life-time membership at RowBOC. Her mother Linda Gobbo, a club rower, travelled to Rio to see the races and sent some great FB posts for us to all enjoy.

This comment from new rower Marshall Glickman; *I'm delighted Mike Fleming convinced me to try rowing. I've really enjoyed my time on the river/s and starting to learn basic rowing technique, which forces me to be present in a fully engaged way.*

Anne Latchis—Rowing Program Chair

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