

**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.

**SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

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**BOC**

**2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The winter of 2015–16 provided many challenges to the cross-country skiers and volunteers. The well-groomed cross-country trails, as well as the energetic activities of the program volunteers, helped skiers get steady use of the meager snowfall. It was a tough year for the cross-country program. Now, with spring's arrival, tennis, rowing, and paddling programs are well on the way to opening their seasons. Docks have been moved, tapes have been nailed down, paddles have been dipped. Volunteers are what make BOC thrive, and all the BOC programs are recruiting members to join in.

As you think about ways you can contribute to the club, please visit the website, sign up for one or more programs, get out in the sun, enjoy, and participate. Then take a moment to appreciate BOC and the community that makes it work.

Thanks.

*Andrew MacFarland — BOC President*



## CROSS-COUNTRY SKI PROGRAM

### Notes from the 2015–2016 Season

From the end of December through the end of February, BOC cross-country ski members signed in to use the groomed trails at the Brattleboro Country Club 672 times. Non-member guests also enjoyed our facilities 151 times.

Nearly 70 students from five local schools took advantage of our instructors' coaching. They enjoyed exploring on skis and snowshoes, and even hiking.

Over 40 Brattleboro Union High School Nordic Ski Team members regularly trained on the Country Club course throughout the season, and we were able to host the Marble Valley race, which our kids won. We are excited to be "grooming" the next generation of enthusiastic cross-country skiers to enjoy the sport.

Volunteers contributed 618 hours of their time staffing the hut, preparing the trails, coaching school kids, and moving in and out. Our new hut manager, Camille Robertson, organized several successful events, and she kept the hut staffed and ready to serve our active membership and guests. We hope to see Camille again next year!

A special thanks to our groomers, who made the most of a challenging snowfall season. We were one of seven Nordic areas out of 35 in Vermont that were open most of the season, and we often had better conditions and more open terrain—a testament to the patience and skill of our "Gomers"!

Next season, we'll be connecting to new trails like Split Rock, improving existing trails, and hoping for more snow! Please consider being a volunteer: you'll feel great, and you'll enjoy some of the best skiing in Vermont!

*Jay Jacobowitz — Cross-Country Ski Program Chair*



## PADDLING PROGRAM

BOC will host 12 paddle trips this summer; they are all FREE and open to BOC members and the paddling public. Canoes, kayaks, and SUPs are all welcome. No advance notice or registration is necessary, except for the overnight camping at Wilgus State Park on Saturday, June 18. More information is available on the BOC website; contact Larry McIntosh for a "hard copy."

*Sunday, May 8* — CT River Setbacks, Hinsdale, NH

*Wednesday, May 18* — Herricks Cove / CT River, Rockingham, VT

*Wednesday, May 25* — Ashuelot River, Keene, NH (new)

*Sunday, May 29* — Lowell Lake, Londonderry, VT

*Sunday, June 5* — The Ponds of Pillsbury State Park, Washington, NH (new)

*Saturday, June 18* — CT River / Sumner Falls to Wilgus SP (camping is optional), Hartland, Windsor, & Ascutney, VT

*Sunday, June 19* — North Hartland Lake, Hartland, VT

*Saturday, June 25* — Sunrise / Early Bird paddle, Harriman Reservoir, Wilmington, VT

*Sunday, September 11* — Hubbard Pond, Rindge, NH

*Saturday, September 17* — Willard Pond, Antrim, NH

*Wednesday, Sept 21* — CT River, Vernon, VT, to Northfield, MA

*Sunday, October 2* — Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT

THINK PADDLING!

*Larry McIntosh — Paddling Program Chair*



## TENNIS PROGRAM

### Let's play on clay!

Spring is here! I was just over at the club and the peepers are going crazy. John Donaldson is back as our facilities manager, and he has already been busy for several weeks. Now it's time for some volunteer action to get the courts up and running. The next two weekends are our annual volunteer weekends (see below). Come on down—renew old friendships and the courts ready. The tennis committee (Gwynn Yandow, Pam Bolduc, David Mischke, Roni Byrne, Kate Fleming, and myself) have been busy planning, and we're looking to improve on last year, which was a great year.

Jacob Miller is back as our instructor / program director. He has also expanded his racquet-stringing/repair service to include selling some lines of racquets and shoes. Let him know if your tennis gear needs help.

Phil Feidelseit is running the single league again. Look for notices about the registration. Play will start right after the Memorial Day Mixer.

**VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS:** April 16 & 17 and April 23 & 24. Please come and get the courts and grounds and clubhouse ready for the season!

**BOC TENNIS NEEDS HELP FROM ITS MEMBERS.** What can you do to help?

- Decline the \$50 rebate from last year.
- Make a donation to help offset everyday expenses.
- Invite new players to join a tennis game or come to a mixer (all members receive two free guest passes).
- Get involved! Volunteer! We'll kick off the season with the best Memorial Day mixer ever.

Please make a special effort to be there and to bring nonmember friends. It's a potluck; the BOC provides

the BBQ and drinks. We can always use leagues, maintenance, grounds, membership, hospitality, etc. Talk to a Roni Byrne, our volunteer coordinator, or any of the tennis committee members, and we'll figure out a way to best utilize your time and talents.

Registration is available online or by filling out a form available at the clubhouse. Adult membership is a very reasonable \$200.

- To register online, go to [brattleboroutingclub.org](http://brattleboroutingclub.org) and pay using PayPal.
- Or mail in your registration form and include a check: PO Box 335, Brattleboro, VT 05302 (add a note if the name on the registration is different from the name on the check).

We strongly encourage online registration. It saves administrative costs and activates your membership more quickly. If you have trouble with your online registration, please contact any of the tennis committee members for help. Once you've registered, go to our website and read/download the Tennis Welcome Letter and instructions concerning court reservations. You'll also find a calendar of events and information about our many summer programs. Once again, we've planned an extensive youth program and adult clinics, as well as private lessons available from our pros.

Singles and doubles leagues will be formed so that we can test ourselves against players of similar ability. The youth programs are a great learning experience and they provide a healthy environment for area kids. I'm excited about the upcoming season, our new initiatives, and seeing you all on the court!

*Joe Meyer — Tennis Program Chair*



## ROWING PROGRAM

An early ice melt on the West River and some warm March days inspired us to get a head start on rowing

**(ROWING PROGRAM, CONT'D)**

this year. Gary Knox and David Gessner are an inspiration for the rest of us to get back on the water before May. Thanks to all who came on DOCKS-IN day after several date changes! We depend on a good turnout of members to move the heavy docks onto the river, proving that many hands make light work.

Know Your Snags! There are several new submerged trees and limbs lurking in the West River and ready to flip you into the chilly waters. Beware!

We've noticed a growing number of people wanting to learn to row this year, and we are in the early planning stages of our summer clinics. The sessions will start a little later this season; they'll run in June and July, and will focus on single- and double-sculling. There's renewed interest in sweep-rowing also, so watch our website over the summer for updates!

A big shout-out to David Gessner for his ongoing dock-repair efforts and for completing a coaching

clinic. THANK YOU, DAVID! Anyone interested in becoming a rowing instructor or coach, and getting some inspiration, should talk to David about his experiences. Maybe he'll even tempt you to train with him for racing in the Head of the Charles.

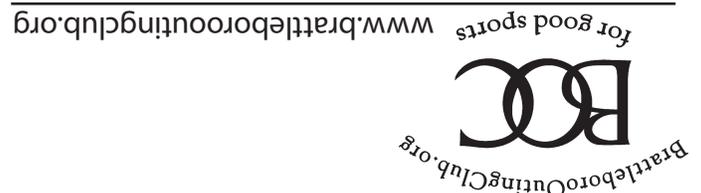
While single sculling is a solitary activity, we strongly encourage members to make connections with others and to row together. Make it a goal to take a double out at least a few times each season, stretch your distances with a small-group row to Putney on a nice, calm day, and call on a new member to row with you sometime. Encourage your friends to give it a try on our CHECK IT OUT day—to be scheduled in late May / early June.

Check us out! If you see us with our skinny boats and long oars from Route 30 or from the Marina deck, look us up and come by for a test ride to see if this is the sport for you!

SAFE ROWING!

*Anne Latchis — Rowing Program Chair*

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