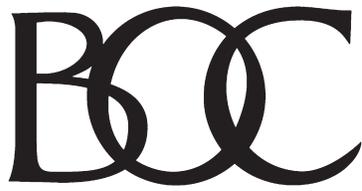


BrattleboroOutingClub.org



for good sports

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.

www.brattleborooutingclub.org

Fall/Winter 2014



FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



NEW ENERGY IN BOC PROGRAMS

*BOC President's Message
Andrew MacFarland*

Our two programs with the largest number of members are "rebooting"! The Tennis Program has a new committee chair, Joe Meyer, working with the director of instructional programs, Jacob Miller. And a re-energized Cross-Country Skiing Program committee is actively making plans for the coming cross-country ski season. Meanwhile, the Rowing Program, led by Anne Latchis, continues to make rowing activities accessible and affordable. Larry McIntosh has led numerous Paddling Program excursions, both day trips and overnight adventures. Be sure to read the program reports in this newsletter, or go to our website at brattleborooutingclub.org for additional information on all our programs.

The operating budgets have stabilized and the programs have succeeded in keeping membership fees affordable. Thanks to vigilant expense management by program committees, we can expect a small budget surplus this fiscal year. One effect of the continued success in keeping fees low and sticking to "break-even" budgets, however, is a lack of funds for equipment replacement and major expenses. The BOC Board is actively looking for new members with the energy to help build and sustain programs and also to develop a capital improvement fund. All programs are still seeking to increase volunteer participation. To insure that BOC remains vital, please call or e-mail a board member or committee member if you can help.

On behalf of the BOC community, thank you to the numerous members who devote time and energy to helping make BOC such an important part of the community. Finally, I want to remind people to go to the BOC website and register for the cross-country skiing program. A gift certificate to one of our programs is an imaginative gift this coming holiday season. Have a great fall and winter. Get outside and enjoy the snow and cross-country skiing on the BOC trails!



Jay Jacobowitz

The BOC Cross-Country Skiing committee has a number of new members, as Hank Lange has been scaling back his involvement with the program. We are happy to read in the newspaper that the new owner of the Brattleboro Golf Course is planning to allow us access to ski again this year, and we hope to meet him soon to negotiate renewed use of the pro shop as our ski hut. The ski hut is an essential part of the educational program, and we have decided to continue keeping it open for visitors and rentals on weekends and available during the week for the education programs.

We are planning to purchase some new ski and snowshoe equipment in order to meet the needs of renters and the education programs. Brad Dinwiddie has generously agreed to coordinate the grooming program, and he is spearheading the grooming equipment upgrades and maintenance that need to happen before the first snowfall.

We hope to increase membership from last year, as we are just at the break-even point for our budget. A healthy and growing membership will ensure that we are able to cover short- and long-term costs in the seasons ahead. We are also trying to reach out to businesses in our community to seek their engagement with us to find new ways to get more people out on the trails, perhaps through group-rate business mem-

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berships for employees. Let us know if your company might be interested.

We would love to hear from members who might like to be involved with our volunteer work crews. Even a few hours during the season can be a big help, and it's a great way to connect with other ski members. Some of the opportunities for volunteer work include trail maintenance (primarily a four-hour morning before the snow flies), ski hut ambassador to man the hut on the weekend (generally a four-hour shift), grooming trails (we will train you to use the snow machines and equipment), marketing and public relations, and ski lesson instructor—or maybe you have new ideas of your own to help move us ahead. The volunteers have been a critical factor in our club's existence through the years, and we need to continually develop an energetic group of engaged members. Send an e-mail or call one of the Cross-Country committee members listed below to let us know how you can help.

Linda Bailey: labdeb@sover.net or 802-254-6965

Brad Dinwiddie: brad@dinsoft.com or 802-257-0991

Jay Jacobowitz: jay@retailinsights.com

Linda Schmidt: lindasschimdt@yahoo.com

John Ungerleider: John.Ungerleider@sit.edu

It won't be long until snowflakes fill the sky and blanket our trails. We all look forward to many fine, snowy days out on the Brattleboro trails. BOC members can also take advantage of our cooperative arrangements with other Vermont cross-country ski areas, which allow us to ski free for a day at each of these great trail systems. Whatever our fortunes with the snow, we hope you find plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the great outdoors this winter!



by Joe Meyer

We've come to the end of another terrific season of tennis at our little tennis oasis on Cedar Street. The weather was very cooperative, the courts were beautiful, and we had a great time playing tennis with our friends. But what really makes me proud to be a BOC Tennis member is the level of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and community spirit that is so evident, day in and day out. Trust me when I tell you that we have a very special tennis club here.

This was my first year as chairman of the tennis committee, and it gave me a new perspective on how much effort it takes to make the club run this well, and how many individuals are involved in that success. It happened everywhere you looked: people getting tired and dirty preparing the courts in the spring; volunteers helping run the leagues and mixers and tournaments; instructors raising the level of play and enjoyment for so many players, young and old; and the many members going out of their way to make guests and new members feel like part of the community. To all those who helped in big

and small ways, I can't thank you enough for your efforts and your support.

It was a great year on many levels. The membership numbers have stabilized and we were able to operate without raising dues. There is still hard work to do if we're to keep the club going into the future, but we've made a big step in the right direction.

The junior program, under the supervision of Bob Madrigan and Jacob Miller, continued to reach out to Brattleboro and surrounding communities to attract and develop new tennis players.

The singles and doubles leagues saw good participation and competition right into October. Hats off to Phil Feidelseit for running the singles league. We also had a lively club mixed-doubles tournament in September. Congrats to the winners of the event, Andy Winter and Meg Donahue!

Many members played in USTA-sanctioned leagues. The local USTA teams all acquitted themselves very well, and the following teams were able to advance to the USTA sectionals competition: Men's 8.0 65 & over (BOC Old Boys), Women's 8.0 55 and older (Blazing Brats), Women's 6.0 55 & over (Tennis Brats), and the Women's 4.5 18 & over (River Valley Ringers).

The Larry Bloch BOC Open Singles Tournament was a success again this year, bringing top players from all over New England to our club for an entertaining weekend of tennis.

There were also numerous social tennis events that were well attended and enjoyed by all the attendees: the annual holiday mixers, the Pro-Am fundraiser (which we hope will become an annual event), and several Grill 'n' Chill evenings.

Special thanks and recognition go to Phil Natowich for his continued fine efforts in keeping the courts, grounds, and clubhouse in great shape.

I also need to acknowledge tennis committee members Andrew MacFarland, Gwynn Yandow, Pam Bolduc, David Mischke, Michelle Immler, John Donaldson, Judy Katz, and Jenny Burtis. Without their efforts the tennis operation wouldn't run nearly as smoothly, and I, as a new chairman, certainly appreciated their help.

And lastly, I'd like to thank Bob Madrigan for all of his efforts. After many years at the helm, Bob turned the reins of the instructional program over to protégé Jacob Miller this summer. He spent countless hours teaching and promoting tennis and the Outing Club. Thank you, Bob.

I apologize for not being able to individually thank all of the people who helped out. Believe me when I tell you that your efforts did not go unnoticed—they went a long way toward making the Outing Club such a special place. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you again in the spring.



BOC

~ PADDLING ~

by Larry McIntosh

*A wild and windy year,
fraught with rain, lightning and fear.
And betwixt and between,
a season of sun, fun, and water's sheen.
Hold on to your seat,
while you follow this feat:
We moved May 4 to Sept 6,
and Sept 6 to next year.
But really May 4 went to Keene,
and a new trip was seen.
Sorry, no moose this year,
but for Pisgah, we had to carry our gear
up a steep slope, in order to boat.
Eagles aplenty and loons afloat,
camping at Wilgus and crossing a moat.*

May 4 (Hinsdale Setbacks) was way too windy to paddle, so we all went over to Keene, behind the hospital, and paddled the Ashuelot River. No wind, and a pleasant day of quiet river paddling. We could almost paddle to Starbucks, just below the dam, on West Street.

The May 28 Harriman Reservoir trip went off, even in the drizzle/mist, and we paddled the center section — seldom seen. Herrick's Cove went well, but we didn't see the eagle's nest. Another try next year. Pisgah was special, even if we had to carry boats a half-mile uphill. The beavers were active and plentiful, and the lake was quiet and peaceful (except for the beavers). The Sunrise trip on Harriman Reservoir found us at a picnic table on an island, greeted by a bald eagle that didn't seem to mind our antics. We must have bothered the fish, though, and s/he eventually flew away.

This was our first year of doing two Somerset trips — one in the summer and one in the fall — and we'll do it again next summer. It's such a special place. The two-day Connecticut River/North Hartland Reservoir camping trip went off without a hitch (well — a few scratches due to low river water), and we had to paddle against a strong current to get up into the Quechee Gorge for lunch on Sunday. Water was still a bit brisk, but worth the swim.

Saturday, Sept. 6, was the day of a major storm in the forecast; thunder/lightning/wind were all due around mid-afternoon. Once you launched into the Connecticut River in Vernon, there would be no turning back or getting off the river till Northfield, well after the storm was due. So this trip was moved to the Hinsdale setbacks (which didn't go in May, due to wind), and we were off the water well before the storm. (Note to self and others: Summer weed growth clogged many of the channels. Not a good trip for late summer/early fall, if

you want to use the narrow waterways.) The island lunch spot was still accessible from the Connecticut River.

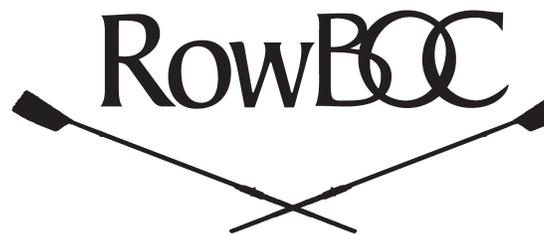
Lowell Lake was warm and beautiful, with few boaters. Since the water level is dam-controlled, the narrow channel, behind the north island, was still open and weed growth was not a problem. On this trip we saw many beaver lodges and a great blue heron.

Our first trip to Chittenden Reservoir (northeast of Rutland) started out cold and windy, but not long into paddling, magic happened. Wind died, sun came out, and cold weather gear came off. We lunched in the sun and lee. Loons and mergansers were in abundance, along with huge moose tracks.

The crown jewel of our paddling season is always Somerset in the fall, and this year was no exception. Sunday, Sept. 28, was a beautiful warm fall day, with little or no wind and plenty of color. We had fifteen boats and seventeen folks (one double canoe and one double kayak), and we looked like a rain-bow flotilla (photos to be posted soon) as we paddled north to our lunch & swim beach. No moose or eagles this year (maybe too warm), but some loons put on a show, and there were merganser races in progress.

We had another successful Canoe and Kayak Consignment Sale/Swap in May, and were able to offer all the paddle trips FREE and open to the general public. Look for the next sale/swap in mid-May 2015.

Got any ideas for an interesting paddle trip next year? E-mail me: Lmacyak@gmail.com.



by Anne Latchis

Row BOC—the Brattleboro Outing Club Rowing Program—enjoyed a spectacular spring, summer, and fall on our local rivers. From late April to early November scullers were able to row over half the year! It's been interesting to watch the bridge work over the West River, and we were able to row without any river closures this year.

If you think you may want to learn to scull or refresh your skills, please mark the first weekend in May 2015 for our "Check It Out Day." Anyone interested in giving rowing a try will have a chance to sit in a stable recreational shell and learn the basics of single-sculling off our docks on the West River. This is a great chance to find out whether this sport is for you before you commit to a clinic or lessons. Spring and summer rowing clinics are posted at the website in late April each year.

This fall, seven local middle and high school students participated in the RowBOC Junior Scullers Program. Five

members of the team returned from the spring season to help new participants begin to learn the intricacies of sculling. Coaches Tim Whitney and Basha Freudenberg conducted this group's practices on Wednesday and Friday afternoons on the West and Connecticut Rivers right up until Halloween. We learned and refined the basics of boat handling, maneuvering, efficient technique in sculling, and how to improve our stamina and speed. Any local 8th–12th graders interested in joining the RowBOC Junior Scullers for the spring season (starting mid/late April 2015) should contact Tim Whitney at tim@coreflowyoga.com or at (802) 451-9427.

In order to join the BOC rowing program, one must qualify by completing a RowBOC training clinic, be involved in the Junior Scullers program, or pass a captain's test with one of our coaches. This test requires the ability to launch and dock successfully, turn around on the river, and demonstrate a foundation of basic rowing technique. Novice rowers are required to complete a clinic or take private lessons before joining the club. After a new-member orientation, the novice rower is permitted to sign out club boats suited to their skill

level and row with another member during the first year. The nature of the sport requires that one be a strong and confident swimmer in the event of a mid-river spill. We hope to see other Outing Club members try rowing next spring!

Graeme King is repairing our "4+" boats and is eager to renew a sweep-rowing clinic at RowBOC. If you rowed sweep in school and want to get back in a boat, or are drawn to rowing in a larger boat with a crew of four plus a coxswain, watch the website for news this coming spring. In order for this program to launch, we will need someone to organize and work with a growing list of folks who have expressed interest. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to RowBOC@gmail.com. We are also looking for trained coxswains ready to get back on the water and work with new coxswains eager to learn.

As Outing Club volunteers, our members work together to keep our program safe and functional, and to foster respect for the value of our shared fleet of shells as well as our shared love for rowing.



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www.brattleborooutingclub.org
P.O. Box 335
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0335