



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.brattleboroutingclub.org Spring/Summer 2015

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andrew MacFarland

The winter of 2014–15 tested the hardiness of outdoor enthusiasts, with its extended cold spell. The well-groomed cross-country trails, and the energetic activities of the program volunteers, helped skiers make the most of those crisp, cold days. It was a good year for the cross-country program. Now, with spring's arrival, tennis, rowing, and paddling programs are well on the way to start dates. Community program volunteers are what make BOC programs work, but there's another invisible but vital group helping the club thrive. It's the BOC Board. The Board oversees the budget, finances, and website, coordinates program efforts, and makes sure BOC meets the legal requirements of a not-for-profit organization. The BOC Board is recruiting members to join the Board. As you think about ways you can contribute to the club, please consider joining the BOC Board. New leadership will be needed in order to continue the programs. So get out in the sun, enjoy, appreciate, and participate.

Thanks.



~::~ PADDLING ~::~

The Brattleboro Outing Club (BOC) will host ten (10) paddle (canoe/kayak/SUP) outings from May to September. All trips are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, and all are suitable for family canoeing, kayak touring, and stand-up paddleboarding. LIFE JACKETS (PFDs) ARE MANDATORY ON ALL BOC PADDLE TRIPS (SUPs excepted, but encouraged).

No advance reservations are required, except for overnight camping at the Green River Reservoir in September. Light, warm summer rain will not stop these trips; however, high winds, electrical storms, or cold rain will. If in doubt, or for more information, contact Larry McIntosh at (802) 254-3666 or Lmacyak@gmail.com.

The club does NOT provide boats or boards. Rentals are available locally through the Vermont Canoe Touring Center, Putney Road, Brattleboro, (802) 257-5008 (discounts to BOC members); or the Green Mountain Flagship Co., Route 9, Wilmington, (802) 464-2975. BOC membership information is available at: www.brattleboroutingclub.org/membership.

Many of the paddle trips are described in more detail in the guidebook by Alex Wilson and John Hayes:

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Quiet Water, New Hampshire & Vermont, 3rd ed., published by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Detailed information regarding Connecticut River trips is found in *The Connecticut River Boating Guide, Source to Sea, 3rd ed.*, published by the Globe Pequot Press for the Connecticut River Watershed Council. Both of these books are available at local book and outdoor stores, as well as most libraries. Brief descriptions of each paddle trip are attached, and they can be found on the BOC website above.

Several of our paddle trips are of special significance to birders, and are designated sites along the Connecticut River Birding Trail. For information on this unique trail, visit www.birdvermont@valley.net.

NOTE: Our Annual Spring Canoe and Kayak Consignment Sale/Swap will be held on Saturday, May 16, at NOON, in Brattleboro. Location TBA. Call, e-mail, or check the BOC website for location and additional information, as the date draws near.



*Mike Fleming
RowBOC Sculler*

The ski season has drawn to a close, the ice floes are making their way down the West and the Connecticut Rivers, and many a Brattleboro Outing Club member's thoughts naturally turn to rowing! It may not look like spring quite yet, but soon enough the riverbanks will be lush and green, teeming with life, and so preparations are already afoot for another summer on the water.

RowBOC members, it's time to get yourself registered for the season via the BOC website (www.brattleborooutingclub.org) with a Paypal option. And mark your calendars: docks go in on April 25, starting at 9:00 a.m. All hands on deck—those sections of dock are heavy! As usual, we'll be doing any needed repairs (replacing broken boards and worn-out fittings) to the

docks, and of course we'll be tuning up the boats, so there'll be plenty to keep both brawn and brains occupied for a couple of hours. Bring gloves and tools (wrenches, hammers, shovels, etc.—the same stuff we need every year). We'll have coffee and some munchies, as well as whatever goodies our favorite club members might just happen to bring along. (Speaking of docks: once again this year we'll have a policy of requesting a small fee to register people who don't want to row but do want to use the docks for swimming, sunbathing, and wildlife watching. And once again we'll be asking all members to mention the registration option when they find nonmembers using our docks.)

After the core scullers have had a couple of weeks to shake the rust off (and watch the rowing safety DVD no matter how many times you've seen it before), sometime in May we'll be offering an open-deck to welcome interested newcomers to check out this BOC offering of sculling (two oars per person) or sweep rowing (one oar per person). There will be an opportunity to meet coaches, ask questions and even try a few strokes! You'll soon learn how different rowing is from paddling: we go in reverse!

This summer we'll be joining with our friends in the Putney Rowing Club to offer a learn-to-row clinic, slated to begin on Saturday, May 16. (Dates will be posted on the RowBOC website by May 1.) The clinics fill up quickly, so if this is your year to learn to row, please check the session dates online and sign up early.

By the end of May the summer rowing season will be in full swing. Think of it: mist rising off the still, glassy water at daybreak...the graceful, hypnotic rhythm of catch—pull—recover, catch—pull—recover, as the miles recede astern...beaver and mink cutting the surface...the dazzling psychedelic sunsets of mid-summer. And what better vantage point for bird watchers than our great rivers, where snowy egrets and great blue herons wade at the river's edge, flights of Canada geese soar overhead, bald eagles and turkey buzzards stare down from the pine tops...

Don't miss out — get yourself registered and ready for another season on the water!

All BOC XC-ski or tennis members currently paid up for the year may sign an additional RowBOC waiver and be welcome to use our docks with limited privileges during the summer season. Former members and the general public may pay \$25 per person or \$75 per family for this dock-use privilege. This cost helps to cover the expenses of dock maintenance.



Joe Meyer

Spring is here and it's time to get serious about getting our Cedar Street tennis paradise up and running. The tennis committee (Gwynn Yandow, Pam Bolduc, John Donaldson, David Mischke, Roni Byrne, Kate Fleming, and I) have been busy planning and we're ready to make this the best year ever. It's time to really kick it off. Here's how you can help:

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS: April 18 & 19 and April 25 & 26. 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 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 help with leagues, maintenance, grounds, membership, hospitality, etc. Talk to a committee member 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; mail the form with your check to our PO box, or deposit the form and your check in the drop box at the clubhouse. Adult membership is a very reasonable \$200.

- To register online, go to brattleborooutingclub.org and pay using PayPal.
- To mail the registration form along with your check: PO Box 335, Brattleboro, VT 05302 (add a note if 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 provide a healthy environment for area kids.

I'm excited about the upcoming season, our new initiatives, and seeing you all on the courts!



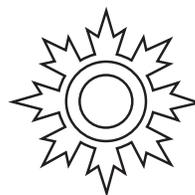
Winter 2014–15 turned out to be a GREAT ski year, with tons of snow and lots of trails to explore. We focused on HIGH QUALITY trail conditions, with ample room for both classic and skate skiers on the same trail, and snowshoeing too! Over 75 students from

six area schools participated in programs this winter, and many other guests enjoyed multiple days of near-perfect conditions. We want to especially thank our dozens of volunteers for making all this possible, from trail-clearing and maintenance in the summer and fall, to grooming when the snow flew after every storm. Hut minders warmed visitors with hot chocolate and fitted friends of all ages with rental skis and boots, and volunteer instructors made sure that everyone learned the basics of how to cross-country ski. Our first corporate member, the School for International Training, took advantage of our new wellness program, with ten universal passes for employees. Perhaps you know of other companies interested in winter wellness and outdoor fresh-air activities? And, did you know that your membership entitles you to ski in dozens of other Vermont ski areas?

JOIN AND ENJOY!

Along these lines, we can always use more volunteer help during skiing and in the off-season. We have committee and administrative tasks, as well as helping to ready and maintain the wonderful conditions at the Brattleboro Country Club golf course, one of the most beautiful cross-country ski venues in the state of Vermont—and we thank the Country Club's new owners for their community-minded spirit in continuing to make these facilities available to BOC!

We hope to see you out there this year! To find out more about helping make it all possible, please contact Brad at Brad@dinsoft.com or (802) 275-7185.



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BrattleboroCountryClub.org
for good sports
www.brattleborocountryclub.org
P.O. Box 335
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0335