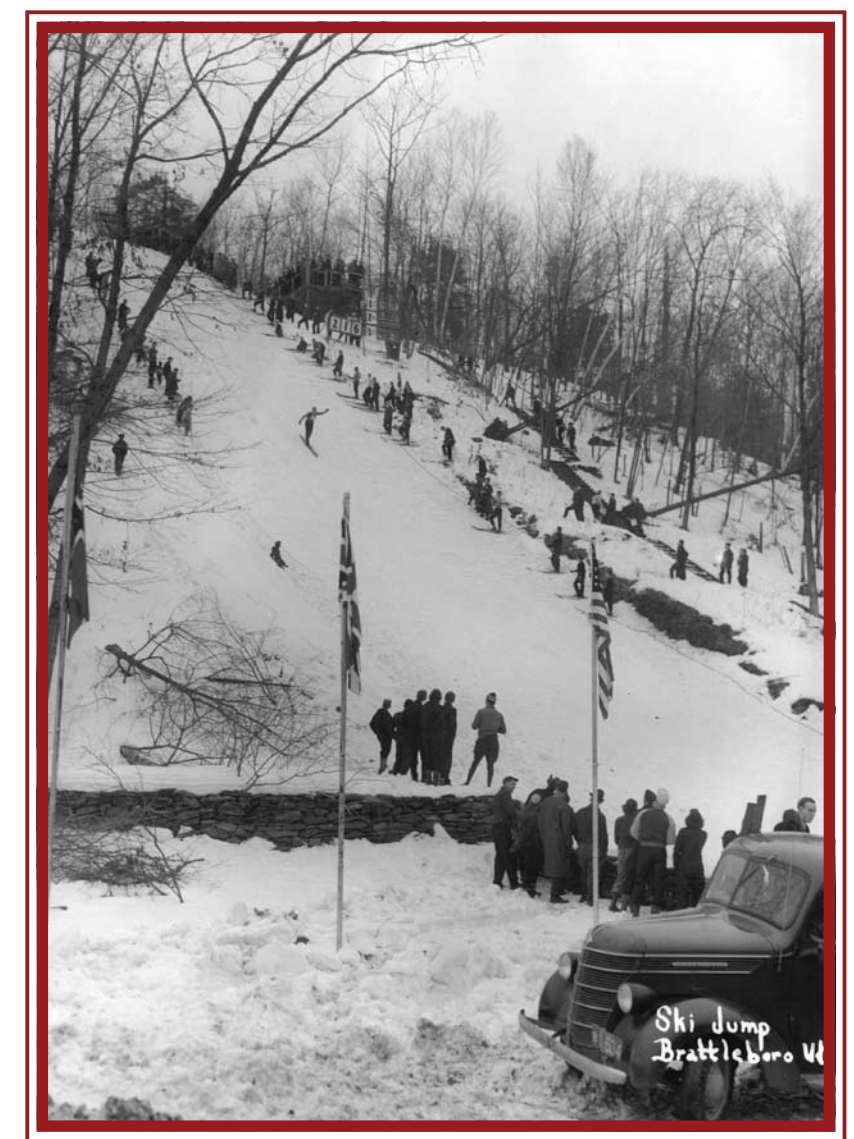


The Brattleboro Outing Club is one of the oldest civic outdoor sporting associations in the United States, founded in 1922.

AT ITS HEYDAY IN 1951, the National Championships were held on the hill for the fifth time, drawing a record 10,000 spectators to witness a contest comprised of a record field of 168 jumpers from around the globe. Art Tokle of Norway floated on the updraft to a new record of 239 feet. Fittingly, on that day, this historic hill, carved into an inconspicuous slope rising out of a cornfield, was re-dedicated in honor of its pioneering patron as Harris Hill.

SINCE THE GENESIS OF HARRIS' IDEA, the Brattleboro Outing Club has taken its shape, cued by the contours of the local landscape. From skiing the slopes and valleys of Vermont's countryside in winter, to paddling the rivers that flow from her mountainsides in spring, the BOC has offered outdoor programs to serve the community for the better part of the last century. From summer tennis played on courts sculpted from the rich clay of Vermont's alluvial outflow, to hikes through her forests in annual autumnal radiance, the club's offerings proceed in concert with the natural rhythms of Vermont's seasons.

Through winters both deep and shallow, Outing Club volunteers have stomped by ski and flung snow, shovelful by shovelful, to prep Harris Hill for tournaments. From 1922-2004, aside from a few hardscrabble years when winter was barren and when World War II raged, causing the competitions to be cancelled, the BOC maintained stewardship of the Jump.



What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. —Pericles

THEN, AS THE MILLENNIUM TURNED, a changing world and circumstance threatened the fate of Harris Hill as it fell into disrepair and lay dormant through a few hard winters (2006-2008).

The steps ascending the hill above you were rebuilt by the pride and purpose of a community committed to its heritage. This hill has been re-contoured and revitalized under the aegis of a newly formed Harris Hill Ski Jump Inc.

To this day, Fred Harris's legacy endures. The Brattleboro Outing Club continues to sustain his vision, dedicated to its original mission and dependent upon volunteers who are passionate about playing in the great outdoors. In the cold months, club volunteers support the Ski Jump, groom cross country trails at its BOC Ski Hut facility, and teach schoolchildren to embrace winter no matter what the weather. In the warm months, members serve to organize tennis mixers at the rustic Cedar Street clubhouse, and introduce neighbors to the rhythmic sweep of the oar at its Row-BOC dock on the West River.

Like this hill before you, rebuilt on a vision and a leap of faith, the Brattleboro Outing Club continues to connect the community to the Vermont countryside and to its natural heritage, bringing people outside to discover active pursuits, in sync with the seasons, for the well-being and sustainable benefit of all. 🌸



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DANA SPRAGUE COLLECTION. OTHER PHOTOS BY ANNE LATCHIS, KAREN BECKER, AND HANK LANGE.

Visit www.brattleborooutingclub.org to learn more about the BOC—For Good Sports.

The Brattleboro Outing Club • Since 1922 • For good sports.

