



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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Brattleboro Outing Club**

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President's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Brattleboro Outing Club:

As we close our October, 2018, fiscal year, we are proud of the gains we've enjoyed in membership in all our programs, from tennis, paddling and rowing in the spring and summer, to cross country skiing in winter.

Over the last year, we've developed greater community awareness, updated our website, and improved our facilities. We also helped launch a revitalized Junior Ski Jumping program, which is now part of the Harris Hill Ski Jump Association.

In just over three years from now, in 2022, BOC will celebrate its 100th Anniversary! Our buildings and equipment have served us well, but are in need of significant attention; a new roof for our tennis clubhouse, new sleds for our snow grooming equipment, to name just two. We will be mounting a tax-deductible fundraising campaign to address these concerns and ensure that BOC remains strong as it enters its second century! I encourage anyone who can offer help in organizing our fundraising efforts to please contact me.

Brattleboro Outing Club is a true hidden gem of Southeastern Vermont, nestled at the base of the Connecticut River Valley, and providing access to members who have taken advantage of Vermont's beautiful natural resources through BOC programs for nearly 100 years. Here's to 100 more!

Respectfully,
Christopher Wocell



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EXPECTING ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!

Instructional Programs: In addition to offering cross country skiing to seasoned skiers, area schools are signing up for our winter activities program again. We are glad we can continue to introduce local kids to skiing in our 'backyard', and help get them active and outside in the winter. We would be glad to have more volunteers to come work with the school kids once a week. Enthusiasm to work outdoors with the kids is much more important than expertise. We have a training workshop with resources to share and inspire. We also hope to have some instructional clinics for members and others on various weekends during the winter. If you are interested in helping make those clinics happen, please contact Linda Bailey: labdeb@sover.net

Grooming Report from 2017-2018 Season

We are happy to announce Brett Dodge will be our head groomer for the 2018-2019 season. Welcome, Brett!

Years of hard work by the club's two snowmobiles and grooming implements took its toll this past winter, as each machine took a turn being out of commission. This limited our grooming capacity and ability to have two groomers go out at the same time. We owe a big "Thank You!" to master mechanic Ken Oliver for his generosity in donating his time to ready the equipment for the 2018-2019 season. But it is also clear that the club is in need of newer, and more reliable equipment.

New Trail Map: You will see a beautiful, large new laminated trail map at the Ski Hut, outlining the trails that will be easiest and groomed first, as well as the more difficult trails.

Ski Hut: Last season, the Ski Hut provided a warm, welcoming weekend stopping point to hundreds of members and guests. Whether you just sign in, rent



equipment, store boots and other belongings for the day, warm up from a brisk tour of the trails, or grab a free cup of hot chocolate, the Hut is a part of the club that we all count on. Open weekends, holidays and school vacation weeks, the Hut is available thanks to the volunteers who give their time to ensure access to members and guests. This year the hut will continue to operate, but we need more help in order to do this! We are grateful to our faithful 'Friends of the Hut' (you know who you are!) who have given the club many hours of their time, but will be looking to new faces and friends for the 2018-2019 ski season. Please consider acting as a BOC Ambassador in the Hut for easy, 2-hours shifts. Remember: Your volunteer hours help you earn discounts towards your 2019-2020 membership!

Ski Passes: You can pick up your ski passes at the Hut as soon as you have paid your fees for 2018-2019 season.

Jay Jacobowitz



2018...Another fantastic paddling season; eleven trips scheduled, and ten went off without a hitch. We had to scrub the Plumb Island trip, due to a scheduling conflict. Look for it next summer.

Along with the yearly standbys, like the CT River Setbacks, Harriman Reservoir Sunrise & Potluck Breakfast and Somerset Fall Foliage paddles, we added a 4 Day/3 Night paddle & camp trip to the Green River Reservoir, in Northern VT, and a 2 day overnight trip along the upper CT River and North Hartland Reservoir, in Windsor, VT; camping in Wilgus State Park, along the CT River.

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BOC PADDLING

Paddling, continued

New this summer was a day trip out to Outer Island, in the Thimble Islands, off Stony Creek, CT, in Long Island Sound. The island has recently come under federal protection, as part of the Stewart McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife Service. Look for a photo in the Paddling Photo Gallery. A beautiful day, well spent. We had sightings never seen in VT.

We also included a paddle trip on Lowell Lake, in Londonderry, VT and a 30 minute 'carry-in' (uphill) to Pisgah Reservoir, Winchester, NH. That was an effort, but well worth it. Wheels came in handy that day.

Sightings this summer included bald eagles, loons, osprey, owls, great blue herons, swans, porpoise, seals, swimming squirrels, migrating water fowl and beautiful Fall colors. We added great photos of a bald eagle near the Quechee Gorge, to the Paddling Photo Gallery.

Kayaks continue to be the most popular craft, but canoes are always in the mix; all are welcome, including stand-up paddle boards. Our 2018 Canoe & Kayak Consignment Sale/Swap was a huge success. This yearly Spring event completely funds the paddle program, making it FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Look for it next year, in mid-May; open to all hand powered craft, small sailboats and related gear.

I'm always on the lookout for unique new trip destinations. Please contact me with any & all leads for next summer's schedule:

Larry McIntosh, Lmacyak@gmail.com

BOC TENNIS

I just finished playing outside for the last time in 2018. It's always a little bittersweet walking away from the courts knowing it'll be spring before I'm back out here. And it has been another terrific year. As I reflect back on the year just ending I realize that it is the effort, energy and community spirit of the entire BOC tennis community that makes our club so special, and our time spent here so enjoyable. However, I would be remiss not to acknowledge some of the people whose efforts go above and beyond.

A big tip of the cap goes to Rick Sullivan whose first full year as facility manager was everything we hoped for and more. The courts played beautifully all year, and his attention to detail improved the facility in too many ways to count. Thank you Rick!

Jacob Miller continued his fine work as director of tennis instruction and all-around club ambassador. The instructional programs were really successful both in terms of participation and the improvement of everyone's game. It is so much fun watching people of all ages get better at tennis and experience more enjoyment playing as a result.

In the late summer we embarked on a fund raising effort to underwrite the cost of a much needed upgrade to our court sprinkler system. The response was swift and generous, and more than I had hoped for. A huge shout-out is in order to all those who generously responded. I can't thank you enough. The work has started and will continue in the spring.

As always, a big pat on the back to all of the volunteers. Everyone's willingness to pitch in and help is essential to sustaining the club and our special tennis community. So many people doing so many little things is a big part of our club.

And last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to the tennis committee. They are such a great group to work with and their behind the scenes efforts to make sure that everything falls into place is remarkable.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful winter. I strongly encourage everyone to check out the BOC Cross-Country ski program. It's an excellent recreational opportunity for skiers of all ages and abilities! I look forward to seeing you on the courts next spring!!

Joe Meyer





Our terrific 2018 rowing season is ended, too soon! This club of die hards would likely row in a blizzard, but we must chose discretion over passion. Still, it was a remarkable season that saw increases in membership, activities, participation and fun. And next season cannot come soon enough.

Several preseason planning meetings/socials helped make opening the season a breeze. Veterans and newbies alike got on the water right away as soon as we put the docks back in the river. Chilly mornings and fast water did not keep us from our boats. The onset of summer weather got everybody involved.

A promotion at the Brattleboro Farmers Market and a “Try It Out Day” at the riverfront ensured that our “Learn to Row” clinic was fully subscribed. Club members turned out for 12 mid-summer training sessions, where a dozen novices were introduced to the joys and challenges of both sweep rowing and sculling. At the conclusion of the clinic, participants were offered membership at a

reduced rate for the rest of the season. Big success!

Seasonal activities included combined rowing with the Putney Rowing Club, with round trips by rowers from both clubs. The Green Mountain Head race hosted by the Putney Club is a highlight of the Fall Calendar. Elite rowers from all over the northeast and beyond show up to compete for apples, cheese and maple syrup by racing on a three mile course. Racers are grouped by age, so there is no limit on participation. Row-BOC volunteers are glad to help the Putney members in putting on a great show. It is a lot of fun whether one is racing or spectating. The GMH gets national recognition in the rowing press!

So with Winter hard upon us, what is a rower to do? Cross country skiing is a great complement to rowing, providing intense physical stimulation and challenge along with a sense of glide and balance.

But when you can't ski... There is indoor rowing. A great exercise, but also – competition. This is a great way to maintain fitness while improving on rowing technique. Information abounds online. For help getting started, email Row-BOC from the BOC website or email Row-BOC Program Director: david.gessner.vt@gmail.com.

Janice Stockman

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