



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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|------------------------|--|
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President's Report

Fred Harris founded the BOC and Harris Hill Ski Jump in 1922, which means we are approaching our 100th Anniversary, and beginning to plan celebrations throughout 2022. We need many volunteers; artistic folks who can develop T- and sleeve shirts, hats, other clothing, and poster art. If you are a history buff, we can use your help in making our 100th Anniversary Celebration the best our community has ever seen! If you are looking to have some fun planning this community-wide event, please email me at capetwom@gmail.com.

Each of our spring-summer programs had good results. Our Paddling, Tennis and RowBOC programs have done a great job keeping our members safe while following Vermont State Covid guidelines, which we will continue during the Cross-Country ski season. Each program instituted new safety and social distancing measures, which I am glad to say our members and guests have consistently followed.

Kudos go to Tennis program director, Joe Meyer; Rick Sullivan, Jacob Miller, the Tennis Committee, and all the BOC volunteers who helped open the courts this spring and close them this fall. With 156 members, and 25 new, it's been a great season! Please read Joe Meyer's report nearby.

Linda Puzan and her committee ran the RowBOC program. Our thanks to Dennis Smith, who has been a great landlord at our West River docks, and a great BOC supporter. We will miss Graeme King, who has been instrumental in building new docks, obtaining new sculls, and coaching new members, and wish him success back in Australia. Twenty-nine intrepid rowers took the plunge this season! Please see Linda's report nearby.

Our Paddling Program, under long-time director, Larry McIntosh, launched 12 successful paddle trips this year, with only one cancelled. We thank Larry for organizing and planning these events, and for finding the most naturally beautiful paddling spots around New England. With Covid, we had to cancel the annual springtime Boat Sale and Swap. Larry's report is nearby.

I'd also like to thank the Brattleboro Country Club (BCC) owner, Melanie Boese, for continuing to support the XC program. Bella Notte Restaurant at BCC will be closed this winter, as will our BOC Ski Hut. Nevertheless, with our new grooming equipment, ski conditions should be superior! We served 170 skiing members and families last winter. Please read my nearby report for more on our plans for an exciting XC ski season.

I would also like to invite you to our Annual Meeting, which will take place on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Please see our website for the Zoom link.

Respectfully,
Dave Twombly, President



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A beautiful blue sky, cool, crisp air, a backdrop of green trees with a thick white blanket of expertly groomed snow on the ground is what you'll experience when you ski and snowshoe on the BOC trails.

We are preparing for a great season! The forecast looks like a La Niña weather pattern, calling for lots of snow. A new snowmobile will arrive in November to complement the new grooming equipment we purchased and received this summer. Bill Jahn, our expert groomer, will oversee trail maintenance again this year. We have hired Jesse Sutton as our primary groomer, who is also the Brattleboro Country Club Superintendent, with excellent knowledge of the golf course and past experience grooming trails in northern California. We are always looking for volunteers to join our grooming team. No experience is necessary. If you are interested, please contact Bill Jahn, at billjahn1123@gmail.com.

With Covid continuing, we will be keeping the Ski Hut closed this season. However, we are exploring the possibility of offering full-season ski rentals vs. daily rentals this winter. It will depend on demand for full-season rentals matching our current inventory of ski equipment. If you or any members you know are interested, please email me at capetwom@gmail.com.

To keep everyone safe this season, we will post Covid guidelines on our website and in

front of the Ski Hut. We are allowing people from Vermont and out-of-state visitors to ski at the BOC trails as long as they are from a green zone and are observing Vermont's Covid guidelines.

We look forward to supporting community-sponsored events like Last Night and the Winter Carnival with free skiing on our trails, and will let you know once details of these events are firmed up.

In closing, this winter will be a great time to enjoy the snow-covered countryside of lovely Brattleboro, whether it be XC skiing or snow shoeing on the best groomed trails in Southern Vermont. For dog lovers, we have just completed a new bridge this fall allowing easy access to the Dog Trot trail from the Ski Hut while providing easy access to our snowshoe trails as well.

We look forward to a wonderful, snow-filled season for all to enjoy and look forward to seeing you there.

Dave Twombly
XC Chair





There has never been a paddling season like this, in the 21 years I've been with BOC; nor a year like this, in the 85 years I've been alive. I don't even remember the "war years" being this divisive, unpredictable, deadly, turbulent or uncertain.

In spite of all that, WE DID HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PADDLING SEASON, albeit, modified.

Working with the U.S Centers for Disease Control, the Vermont Department of Health, and other paddling entities, we came up with Pandemic Paddling Guidelines, which served us well. Not everyone agreed with our requirements—they went off on their own—but those who paddled with BOC abided by the "rules," and were happy, healthy paddlers.

Of the 13 paddle trips scheduled, only one had to be cancelled due to weather (a Leader's Choice Fall Foliage trip), and in one case we were locked out by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, due to short staffing. We will reschedule that North Hartland Lake trip for next summer.

We did have to cancel the camping part of the weekend paddle-and-camp trip in early September, due to Covid restrictions.

The biggest disappointment was the postponement and eventual cancellation of our annual BOC Consignment Sale & Swap. That resulted in a loss of between \$200 and \$400 in income. Unexpected donations helped offset some of that loss, but we may still have a shortfall.

We continue to offer the BOC Paddling Program, FREE, and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Highlights this year were the Connecticut River trip, from Sumner Falls to Wilgus State Park, and a fantastic Fall day on Somerset Reservoir. We were even visited with a moose on the eight-mile drive into Somerset! Last paddler off the water was at 5:00 p.m. Such a perfect day.

Paddle waves to Dennis Labrie and Sandy Brewer for their help during the season. They helped smooth troubled waters, and were there when I needed them.

I'm always looking for new waters to paddle. Please send your ideas.

Larry McIntosh
Paddle Chair
Lmacyak@gmail.com

This has been one of the best fall tennis seasons ever at BOC's beautiful red clay courts on Cedar Street. The weather has been ideal, and the foliage vibrant, allowing and encouraging us to play a lot of October tennis.

It's a gratifying finish to a year where very little has gone as planned due to the pandemic; a late start, curtailing the social aspect of our programs, and the constant vigilance to make the club a safe place. But with our collective efforts, energy, and community spirit we were able to make this a season that was truly special.

In these trying times, many appreciated having this lovely outdoor venue available. I want to thank those who have worked behind the scenes to make this year happen: Jacob Miller, Rick Sullivan, and particularly the tennis committee, for all of their great work. Nobody's job was easy this year.

But most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to thank our members. Thank you for your support, your patience, your volunteer help, and your willingness to work with us even when some of you disagreed with some of our decisions. This cooperation was key in providing a tennis program where everyone felt safe in this topsy-turvy year. I'm confident we'll be able to keep the BOC tennis program strong, and that soon we'll be able to enjoy the program to its fullest extent. Thank you all so much.

In closing, let me say: Be strong - be there for each other, and best wishes to all for a wonderful winter. I strongly encourage everyone to check out the BOC Cross-Country ski program. The XC program is set for another season of great winter of skiing. It's an excellent recreational opportunity for skiers of all ages and abilities, and great outdoor exercise in these times where we need to continue our diligence with the Covid protocols!

I look forward to seeing you on our clay tennis courts next spring!

Joe Meyer
Tennis Chair





It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.

Covid-19 vs. Rowing:

Could we open up the boathouse at all?

Would people want to renew their membership?

Would new people be interested in a learn-to-row clinic?

Could we interact safely in the boathouse and on the dock?

I am happy to say that we managed to answer Yes to all these questions, and we enjoyed a wonderful rowing season. We followed all the safety protocols: social distancing, wearing masks in the boathouse and on the dock, limiting the number of people in the boathouse at any one time, and sanitizing equipment. Due to Covid-19, we chose not to have our annual free Learn to Row Day. However, we were able to hold not one but two clinics for new rowers, and we welcomed seven new members to RowBOC. A big thank-you to the clinic coaches: Tim Whitney, David Naughton, Linda Gobbo, and Liza Eager. While our membership numbers were down a bit from last year, we did have a total of 29 members who were able to enjoy our two beautiful rivers, the West and the Connecticut, from May through October.

Though Covid was a challenge that could not be ignored, the worst of our rowing angst came from having to deal with

vandalism at our dock—damage to dock planks, a picnic table, a wooden fence, and a sign we had installed to provide some friendly guidance to the public if they use our dock when rowers are not present. Nevertheless, we were able to get all the damage fixed, and we're grateful to the Brattleboro Police Department for their extra patrolling of the area, which greatly diminished this problem. We also connected with the West River Trail Association to get a porta-potty, since there are no bathroom facilities in the area. Our collaboration helped to keep this area clean and enjoyable for all to use.

On the topic of gratitude: a really big thank-you to Marcia and Phil Steckler, who donated a pair/double rowing shell to our program. We name all of our club boats, and needless to say, this one is called the Steckler!

In closing, RowBOC gives an especially big thank-you to Graeme King—boat builder, coach, mentor, and all-round world-class authority on all things rowing. Graeme is leaving us and moving back to his home country of Australia. We will miss him more than we can say. He has given so much to our rowing program, making it a great success and keeping us all determined to work on our skills. We say hooroo (Aussie for “goodbye”) to Graeme!

If you are interested in learning more about rowing and are thinking that this may be an activity you would enjoy, please check us out at brattleborooutingclub.org. RowBOC's e-mail address is Rowboc@gmail.com. We will gladly answer any questions you may have and would welcome your participation in 2021!

Linda Puzan

RowBOC Chair

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