



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 2021

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2021 Board of Directors Brattleboro Outing Club

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <i>David Twombly</i> | <i>President & Cross Country Ski Chair</i> |
| <i>Joe Meyer</i> | <i>Vice President & Tennis Chair</i> |
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| <i>Larry McIntosh</i> | <i>Paddling Chair</i> |
| <i>Linda Puzan</i> | <i>Rowing Chair</i> |
| <i>Wendy Harrison</i> | <i>Board Member</i> |
| <i>Joan Wesolowski</i> | <i>Board Member</i> |

President's Report

Spring is here and time to get ready to play tennis, row and or paddle. It's also time to embrace both our history and our future as we prepare to celebrate our **100th Anniversary in February 2022**. Because Fred Harris founded both the BOC and the Harris Hill Ski Jump in February 1922, our organizations are joining forces to co-host a community-wide free event. Mark your calendars for Friday night 2/18/22, the day before the Harris Hill Ski Jump. There will be music, food vendors, a beer tent and a bonfire followed by fireworks. Stay tuned for details. The BOC will be in charge of providing volunteers for parking, ID checkers at the beer tent, and bonfire tenders, to name a few positions. We are forming a volunteer committee for this event. If you would like to help make this event a community-wide success, please email Dave @ capetwom@gmail.com. As more people get vaccinated and the threat of Covid subsides, the Vermont guidelines for gatherings should make it possible to have a BOC social this fall. Stay tuned!

The BOC Cross Country Ski program had a tremendous season this year. Although it did not snow much in December and early January, there was plenty of snow in late January and February. Kudos to all the groomers for your help as it made a huge difference in providing excellent trail conditions, and positive feedback from many who used the trails. Although the ski hut was closed due to Covid, over 350 members enjoyed our trails, including over 100 members from last year. Please read my full cross county report on the next page.

The Tennis program is chaired by Joe Meyer, with fellow committee members Gwynn Yandow, Susan Madrigan, Ed Powers, Roni Byrne, John Zeber, Joan Wesolowski and Matt Guiltinan, and big plans are in store this year. Tree removal to bring in more sun to the courts and a refurbished porch deck. Kyle Oliver will be the new facilities manager and Jacob Miller is back as the tennis instructor. The goal is to open the courts as soon as possible while following the Vermont Covid guidelines as



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President's Report continued

we did last year. We need, and appreciate your volunteer help! Please read Joe Meyer's full tennis report nearby.

RowBOC- Linda Puzan and her committee will be running the RowBOC again this year. I would like to thank all of the committee members involved with the planning, as a lot goes on behind the scenes: Janice Stockman, Liza Eager, Linda Gobbo, Linda Puzan, Don McCool, Mike Fleming, Wendy Harris, Margery McCrum and Peggy Hart. We have just purchased two boats to compliment the existing fleet; a lightweight racing shell and a training one as well. Our thanks also go to Dennis Smith who has been a great landlord and BOC supporter. RowBOC has an exciting year planned. Please read Linda's full RowBOC report nearby.

Paddling- Larry McIntosh continues to be our one-man master of ceremonies, with a fantastic schedule for kayakers throughout the spring, summer and fall. What do the Somerset Reservoir, North Hartland Lake, Harriman Reservoir, Connecticut River and Lowell Lake have in common? Those are just a few of the 18 destinations Larry will host you paddling this season, including Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire from April 24th to October 9th. The Annual BOC Boat Consignment Sale and Swap will be held Saturday May 8th. Location TBD. See Larry's full Paddling report nearby.

SPECIAL THANKS to Our Board Members-

Kudos to our unsung volunteers who donate time and energy behind the scenes to make our programs run as smoothly and safely as possible on your behalf. These folks embrace the volunteer spirit and are active participants in our various programs. Joe Meyer - Vice President & Tennis Chair, Jay Jacobowitz- Treasurer, Jake Dixon- Secretary, Larry McIntosh- Paddling Chair, Linda Puzan- Rowing Chair, Wendy Harrison- Board Member, Joan Wesolowski- Board Member.

What makes the BOC unique? You, our members who love to volunteer your time and expertise. BOC volunteers help prepare the tennis courts and maintain the facilities, put the dock in the West River and get the boats ready for rowing, help with the Boat Swap and organizing various trips on rivers, lakes and ponds, and prepare and maintain the Cross Country and snowshoe trials. As you know, our volunteers enable us to offer our programs at very affordable rates to enable those in and around our community to participate. My thanks go out to all who have and will be volunteering.

Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback for the board. My email is capetwom@gmail.com.
Dave Twombly
BOC President



The BOC XC Ski Program had a tremendous year in spite of the Covid pandemic. It seems like more people were looking to do outside activities, especially cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. As you know, we were not able to open the hut and provide rentals, but the season was a huge success and enjoyed by many as we welcomed new members into the BOC. We were fortunate to have early snow to form a good base, followed by snow throughout the month of February. Our head groomer coordinator, Bill Jahn, did an amazing job overseeing 15 groomers utilizing our newly purchased snowmobile and grooming equipment. We had so many rave reviews for the grooming conditions that I'd like to thank and acknowledge all of our groomers: Bill Jahn, Jesse Sutton, Victor Morrison, Peter Gibbons, Joe Powers, Hank Lange, Joe Cook, Isaac Wagner, Dwight Holmes, Nolan Holmes, David Scott, Tom Yahn, Tenzin Mathes, Amir Flesher, Kara Piergentilli and Jesse Wagner.

Laura Robertson was our membership coordinator who enrolled and distributed cards to 350 members; an increase of over 100 members vs. last year. Laura also oversaw rental fee collection and deposits. Linda Bailey set up a snowshoe program through the Brooks Library where people could rent out snowshoes for free by presenting their library pass. Over 15 pairs of skis and 30 pairs of boots were lent to the Academy School and utilized by their students all winter long.

Many of you know that Bill Jahn has done an excellent job with our groomers. Bill also goes above and beyond promoting the XC program, sending out pictures with updated trail conditions to our members, significantly increasing the usage of our trails. Unfortunately, Bill will not be returning next year due to personal travel plans. Therefore, we are looking for a Head Groomer Coordinator for next year. I am pleased to announce that Shannon Herrick and Zufan Hagos have agreed to serve as our Communications and Social Media Coordinators and will be joining the XC committee as well. Peter and Kate Dellner will also be our new Snowshoe Trail Coordinators and will also be joining our committee. Next year we anticipate that the hut will be open. Therefore, we are looking for both a Hut and Equipment Coordinator. If you are interested to learn more, please send an email to me at capetwom@gmail.com.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the XC committee members for their oversight and planning which took place during this pandemic, allowing the program to safely operate for the enjoyment of both our members and the Brattleboro community. The XC committee members this past season were Linda Bailey, Mollie Burke, Joe Cook, Peter Gould, Bill Jahn Victor Morrison, Laura Robertson, Bob Tortalani and John Ungerleider. And lastly, I'd like to thank the Brattleboro Country Club and Melanie Boese for their continued support of the BOC XC program.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Twombly
XC Chair



It's been a loooooong winter, but it's now April and I just checked our wonderful clay courts. There's no snow, and we're gearing up to celebrate the return of red clay tennis to our Cedar St. paradise. I can't wait! The tennis committee (Gwynn Yandow, Susan Madrigan, Roni Byrne, Ed Powers, John Zeber, Matt Guiltinan and yours truly) have been busy planning, and we're really excited about the coming year.

Jacob Miller returns as our instructor/program director and is ready to help everyone raise the level of their game. Check your equipment and let him know if you need new strings, racquets or shoes.

We have a new facilities manager, Kyle Oliver. Kyle has lots of experience with court and club maintenance, and has already started working to get things up and running. Please welcome him, and make him feel part of our family.

We'll be opening all six courts right from the get-go this spring, but we won't be able to open to the same extent as in pre-pandemic years. We'll be starting with most of the same Covid restrictions and protocols in place. There will be updates along these lines so please be on the lookout for news, and please err on the side of safety. We are really optimistic to be able to relax social distancing over the course of the season and to offer clinics, competitive league play, mixers, etc. But we'll need to open more cautiously and gradually increase social interaction as the season progresses.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS: April 16 & 17 and April 23 & 24. There's a lot of work to be done so please, everyone come out on one or two of these days and help get the courts, grounds and clubhouse ready for the season! If you want to pitch in, but can't make any of those days contact any of the committee members for other ways you can help out.

BOC TENNIS NEEDS HELP FROM ITS MEMBERS. After holding the line on our dues last year, we need to increase the dues slightly (less than 5%) to \$235 this year to help keep pace with the rising costs of maintaining our club in tip-top shape. If you've checked out other sports-club dues, you'll agree this is VERY reasonable. We feel that it is an important part of our mission to provide a first-rate tennis program at a cost that allows as many people as possible to be a part of our tennis community.

REGISTER EARLY. To register online, go to brattleborooutingclub.org and pay using PayPal. (You don't need a PayPal profile!) We strongly encourage online registration. It saves administrative costs and activates your membership more quickly.

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

Joe Meyer—Tennis Chair



Calling All Rowers: Spring Is in the Air and We Are Ready to Row!

It has been a very tough year for the world. The corona virus has played havoc here and, well, just about everywhere. Now there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel as vaccines are our hope to create herd immunity. And of course the season of spring has always been a sign of hope as nature wakes from its winter sleep. The sap starts running, more people are out and about walking, riding bikes, and zooming around on motorcycles. Snow on the river banks and ice blocks in the waterways have melted; this is our sign that we are ready to start rowing again.

Last season we suspended our free learn-to-row day, though we were able to hold rowing clinics for a limited number of new rowers. As we opened the boathouse for the season, we followed Covid protocols for safety and can claim the season a success.

For this rowing season, we are bringing back the Try It Out Day on Saturday morning, June 5. We are planning a rowing clinic for novice rowers who can then join RowBOC at the completion of the clinic. As we did last year, we will follow Covid safety protocols for all rowers. We look forward to returning members and welcome their help to support new rowers. But first we need to get the docks in the water, which we hope to do in early May. Stay tuned.

Please check out the Brattleboro Outing Club's website (Brattleborooutingclub.org) for information on the following:

- Free learn-to-row day
- Clinic dates and times
- Clinic fee and registration
- Membership fee and registration
- Anything else related to RowBOC

Our boathouse is on the West River near its confluence with the Connecticut, just down the road from the Marina Restaurant. It's a great place to learn to row! We hope that former members will rejoin, and that we can introduce a clinic's worth of new members to the joy of rowing. Please encourage your friends, families, and work buddies to check us out. You can also contact us at rowboc@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Time to say "Way enough" (a rowing term to stop rowing) and leave you with this thought from Brad Alan Lewis: "Rowing is such a fine sport. Everyone goes backward."

Linda Puzan

RowBOC





BOC SETS 2021 SUMMER PADDLING SCHEDULE, AND GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY AND SAFE PANDEMIC PADDLING.

The Brattleboro Outing Club plans to host 18 paddle trips, from April 24 th to October 9th. Details will be posted on www.BrattleboroOutingClub.org at 'Summer Paddling'. Paddling is good for both body and soul. It allows us to exercise, as well as getting into nature, away from the 4 walls, into a clean, safe and open environment.

During this time of COVID-19, it is especially important to protect ourselves, as well as those around us. PANDEMIC PADDLING requires us to be more conscious of our surroundings and actions. The following guidelines are offered to help make us all more responsible paddlers:

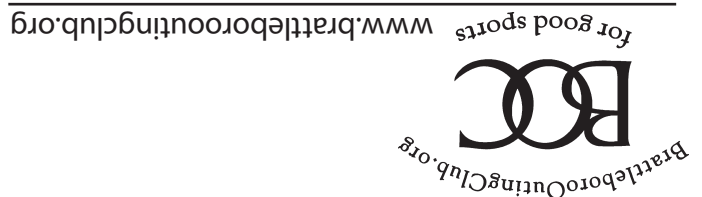
...Follow all CDC guidelines, as well as State & local requirements regarding masks, physical distancing and group sizes. Car-pooling only with other fully vaccinated paddlers, unless it's with someone you live with. Avoid congested parking areas. DO NOT congregate around launch & landing sites, or rest stops; spread out. Be totally self-sufficient; able to load, unload and move your own boat/board. In the event you have to ask for help, or offer help, be conscious of physical distancing. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET (PFD). When paddling, remember to keep apart, and NO rafting outside your 'Pod'. A good rule on the water is to stay AT LEAST 2 boat lengths from each other. Since our kayaks, canoes and boards are all over 6', it shouldn't be difficult to determine distance, but remember, from where you sit/stand, to the front (bow) is only a HALF a boat length. Also try not to follow closely behind another boat, since the virus could be shedding, or particles from the boater ahead may drift back on you. If you have to follow, try to keep AT LEAST 2 boat lengths apart. It's best to paddle in a line abreast, rather in a file, one behind the other. Be conscious of the wind direction. Use it to stay healthy, and not down-wind from another paddler. If you are not able (or don't know how) to rescue yourself in the event of a tip-over, and the water is deeper than your waist, PADDLE NEAR THE SHORE, where you can swim or walk your boat to safety. Requiring rescue endangers both you, and the person coming to your aid, since physical distancing parameters will be compromised. Be self-sufficient, and responsible. Keep track of your own trash & recycle. BOC hosted paddle trips are FREE, and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Just show up with your own boat/board, and required safety gear.

Trips are as follows:

Saturday, April 24 th : CT River/Hinsdale Setbacks, NH...meet at 9:30am, Walmart

parking lot (Rte 119), Hinsdale, NH
Sunday, April 25 th : CT River/Hinsdale Setbacks, NH (same trip as the day before)...meet at 9:30am, Walmart parking lot (Rte 119), Hinsdale, NH
Wednesday, April 28 th : Herricks Cove, Bellows Falls, VT...meet at 9am, Hannaford parking lot (south end), Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Wednesday, May 5th: Tully Lake & Long Pond, Royalston, MA...meet at 9am, Walmart parking lot (Rte 119), Hinsdale, NH
Wednesday, May 12 th : Ashuelot River, Keene, NH...meet at 9am, Hannaford parking lot (south end), Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Saturday, May 15 th : Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT...meet at 8:30am, Coffee House, Wilmington, VT (Jct of Rtes 9West & 100South).
Wednesday, May 19 th : Spoonwood Pond, Hancock & Nelson, NH...meet at 8:30am, Hannaford parking lot (south end), Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Wednesday, June 23 rd : CT River, Brattleboro, VT to Hinsdale, NH...meet at 8:30am, Marina Restaurant, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Saturday, June 26 th : Sunrise Paddle & Nosh, Harriman Reservoir, Wilmington, VT...meet at 5:30am, Royal Diner, Marlboro Rd, (Rte 9), West Brattleboro, VT
Sunday, June 27 th : North Hartland Lake, Hartford & Hartland, VT...meet at 8:30am, south end of Hannaford parking lot, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Wednesday, June 30 th : CT River, Dummerston to Brattleboro, VT...meet at 8am, Marina Restaurant, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Wednesday, July 7 th : Lowell Lake, Londenderry, VT...meet at 8:30am, in Jamaica, at the Jamaica Country Store, on Rte 30.
Saturday, July 10 th : Gale Meadows Pond, Winhall, VT...meet at 9am, in Jamaica, at the Jamaica Country Store, on Rte 30.
Wednesday, September 8 th : Spoonwood Pond, Hancock & Nelson, NH...meet at 8:30am, the south end of Hannaford parking lot, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Saturday, September 11 th : Pillsbury Lake State Park, Washington, NH...meet at 8am, south end of Hannaford parking lot, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Sunday, October 3 rd : Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT...meet at 8:30am, Coffee House, Wilmington, VT (see May 15 th , above)
Wednesday, October 6 th : Harriman Reservoir, Center Section, Wilmington, VT...meet at 9am, Coffee House, Wilmington, VT (see May 15 th above)
Saturday, October 9 th : Leader's Choice, where the colors are peak...meet at 9am, south end of Hannaford parking lot, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT
Details about where & when to meet for each trip are also posted on the BOC website. There's also a list of recommended items to bring along on every paddle trip. Everyone is welcome to join BOC Masked Paddlers, &/or, just go out on your own.
The Annual BOC Consignment Sale & Swap of human & wind powered watercraft is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th; location TBA. More info will be on the BOC website and local media.
FMI, contact Larry at (802) 254-3666, or Lmacyak@gmail.com

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