



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 Fall/Winter 2021-2022

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

**2022 Board of Directors
Brattleboro Outing Club**

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

I am proud to tell you the Outing Club has increased membership in *all* our programs, summer and winter, despite more than a year of pandemic restrictions. It's clear: Brattleboro supports the Outing Club, and loves our beautiful natural outdoors!

As we approach our 100th Anniversary, 1922 to 2022, I want to share a brief history, and encourage you to help us celebrate our Centennial this coming February.

Winter Carnival and Ski Jump

It was February, 1921, when Brattleboro native and avid outdoorsman, Fred Harris, organized the town's first Winter Carnival, with races and events on the Retreat Meadows. Immediately following, Harris took a "leap" of faith to build the ski-jumping hill and wooden trestle tower on Cedar Street, using \$2,200 of his own funds; about \$34,000 today!

The inaugural Brattleboro Ski Jump launched on February 4, 1922, drawing over 2,500 spectators. Harris next founded the Brattleboro Outing Club to own and operate the ski jump, and organize winter outings and events. The club's mission at that time was "To encourage, develop, and promote outdoor family life and good fellowship." Harris later turned control of the jumping hill over to BOC, which it ran continuously until 2005, turning responsibility over to the dedicated Harris Hill Ski Jump organization.

In keeping with its mission to celebrate outdoor sports, during winters from the 1950s until 1986, BOC sponsored bus trips for children and adults to ski at Hogback Ski area in Marlboro.

Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Program

Years ago, BOC added the Cross Country Ski program, with miles of groomed trails on the grounds of the beautiful Brattleboro Country Club. The program hosts Brattleboro High School's Nordic Boy and Girls Ski teams; teaches young area school children how to ski, and hosts many winter events through the holidays and Winter Carnival in February. Open to



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members and guests, the Cross County Ski program is one of BOC's most popular.

Two years ago, after 20 years of sharing the golf Pro Shop as a warming hut for members and guests, the Cross County Ski program now has its own winter home in our purpose-built Ski Hut, located in the upper parking lot of the Country Club at the trail head leading to miles of skiing and snowshoeing.

Country Club owner, Melanie Boese, has generously provided continuous access to the golf course and surrounding woods, preserving a decades-long tradition of supporting BOC's outdoor sports programs. Thank You, Melanie!

Tennis - World Class Clay Courts

As if ski jumping weren't enough, Harris also started the BOC's tennis program in the late 1920s, building the clubhouse on Cedar Street just south of what is now known as the Harris Hill Ski Jump. According to past President, David Neumeister, in 1955, there were just four clay tennis courts.

Two additional courts make up the current six courts we enjoy today, with a reputation for being some of the finest clay courts anywhere. The Tennis program regularly hosts regional tournaments, organizes club ladders and gatherings, and is open to members and guests.

RowBOC-Beginners and Skilled Rowers Together

When I was President in 2006, Tim Whitney approached the BOC board to start a rowing program. Tim's oversight combined with Graeme King's boat building expertise launched BOC's latest program, RowBOC. With its easy put-in on the calm West River, just north of The Marina Restaurant, RowBOC has enjoyed safe river access and protection for our boats, leasing the dock area and nearby Quonset hut from Dennis Smith for over 15 years. Thank You, Dennis!

The Paddling Program

The Paddling Program was formed 22 years ago by Larry McIntosh, who continues to host dozens of canoe and kayak trips throughout New England. The Paddling program is free to participants. All you need is a boat and paddles, which Larry helps facilitate with a boat exchange and sale every year.

100th Anniversary Celebration

We invite you to help celebrate our 100th Anniversary next year with two socials and events we are planning. On Friday, February 18th, 2022, from 6 pm to 8 pm, BOC and Harris Hill Ski Jump will co-host an event at the Ski Jump on Cedar Street, with food, drink, merriment, and fireworks.

The Ski Jump will run Saturday and Sunday, February 19th and 20th, and this year is dedicated to honoring Fred Harris, our founder. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event, and are asking you to assist us with such activities as parking, equipment set up and take down, and refreshment and merchandise sales at our table. If you are interested, please send me an email at capetwom@gmail.com. We plan a second Anniversary social in late spring/early summer.

David Twombly, President



We are preparing for a snow-filled, magical season of skiing and snowshoeing on the grounds of the beautiful Brattleboro Country Club golf course on Senator Gannett Drive, off Upper Dummerston Road. **Registration opens November 1**, which you can access at brattleborooutingclub.org. We welcome individuals and families of all ages, levels and interests. We hope to open our dedicated warming Ski Hut once we find a hut manager. Interested in this paid position? If so, please let me know at capetwom@gmail.com.

Kate and Pete Dellner recently joined the Cross Country Ski committee as Snowshoe coordinators and will oversee this new program. We plan over three miles of marked snowshoe trails for you to enjoy. Look for events and opportunities this winter. Please help me welcome new Cross Country committee members: Shannon Herrick - web coordinator; Zufan Hagos - Social Media and Email coordinator; Isaac Wagner - Head Grooming Coordinator; Kara Pieergentili - paid Groomer; and Kate and Pete Dellner - Snowshoe coordinators. We also have many seasoned, long-term members including Linda Bailey - Instruction Program Coordinator; Laura Robertson - Membership Coordinator; Joe Cook - Trail Maintenance, Victor Morrison - Ski Vermont Liaison; Mollie Burke and Peter Gould - Ski Hut coordinators, and members at large, Bill Jahn and Bob Tortalani.

We have an amazing group of groomers who work hard to keep the trails in the best possible shape in all conditions, under the direction of Isaac Wagner. Stay updated on trail conditions at trailhub.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need more volunteers to make our program run smoothly for all to enjoy this season of skiing and snowshoeing. Interested? Please contact me or any of the committee members whose names you recognize.

Please send an email to the specific coordinator, listed below:

Trail work: Joe Cook: jfcook3@gmail.com

Kate and Pete Delnar: kateandpete77@gmail.com

BOC Ski Hut: Peter Gould: petergouldvt@gmail.com

Mollie Burke: mollieburkevt@gmail.com

Lessons/School Program: Linda Bailey: labdeb@sover.net

Trail Groom & Mark: Isaac Wagner: piwagner@comcast.net

Ski & Snowshoe Equipment Coordinator

If you are interested in helping coordinate our equipment, please email Dave Twombly at capetwom@gmail.com.

Cross Country Ski - continued

Member Benefits

We are continuing to offer **Free Rentals** for Members on a first-come-first-served basis. The BOC Ski and Snowshoe Hut will be open--once we find a Hut Manager!--for rentals on weekends and school vacation weeks from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are not renting skis or snowshoes, we ask that you come dressed to ski, carry your membership card and sign in at the kiosk. Please also redeem guest passes at the kiosk and be sure your guests sign in. It is important that we have the names and contact information for all skiers and snowshoers, in case contact-tracing becomes necessary.

The BOC is part of the Ski Vermont Cross Country Reciprocal Program. The **Reciprocal Program** offers season pass holders from participating cross country ski areas a one-time, complimentary trail pass for a single day of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing at any other participating Vermont ski area. Restrictions and blackout dates may apply. Season pass holders should contact the cross-country area they intend to visit for applicable restrictions and conditions. BOC trails may need to be open for skiing at the time of redemption elsewhere. For more information go to: <https://skivermont.com/cross-country-reciprocal>

Warm & Fuzzy!

Warm XC and Snowshoe Skida buffs will be for sale.

Volunteering -- What it's all about!

As our increasing membership proves, enjoying outdoor sports through BOC is important to the greater Brattleboro area community. Dozens of volunteers donating hundreds of hours--behind the scenes--make your enjoyment of our facilities safe, seamless, and fun.

Please consider volunteering your time for Cross Country Skiing, this winter; or for Tennis, Rowing, or Paddling when the snow melts.

Let it snow and see you on the trails!

Dave Twombly, Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Chair.



It's mid-October and our time on BOC's Cedar St. tennis courts is dwindling. But we'll play as long as we can, and finish up what has been a great year. Despite the challenges of staying open, let alone thriving, we increased our membership in 2021 to our highest level ever. We now have members from three states and 23 towns. It's exciting making all these new friends!

Now it's time to thank everyone who helped make 2021 such an outstanding year for the tennis program. I'm continually blown away by the effort, energy and community spirit of the entire BOC tennis community that makes our club so special. This has been particularly true this last year and a half with so much of our lives being changed or put on hold.

For many of us the BOC has represented a much needed opportunity for recreation and friendship. Really it's a matter of everyone contributing and working together that makes it all come together so well. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the people whose efforts go above and beyond. First, a huge hat's off to Kyle Oliver, our new facility manager. Kyle had the courts playing beautifully all year and the club has been in great shape. Well done Kyle!

Jacob Miller continues his great work as director of tennis instruction. He's so good at helping people get the most out of their game. It is always fun watching people of all ages get better at tennis and experience more enjoyment playing as a result.

As always, a big pat on the back is in order 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 for their continued fine work. This is a great group to work with, and their work on the front lines and behind the scenes to make sure that everything falls into place has been exceptional. Thank you Gwynn Yandow, Susan Madrigan, Joan Weslowski, Ed Powers, John Zeber and Matt Guiltinan.

Next year we expect to be able to be fully open with the return of our kid's camps and junior program in the summer. We also expect to be able to follow through on our porch repair project and several other grounds upgrades. I look forward seeing everyone next summer and making the program a big success in 2022!

Joe Meyer, Tennis Chair





There is a wise adage that it takes a village to raise a child. Our rowing program, like a child, relies on the village to keep it healthy and strong. The village that I am talking about is composed of the Outing Club, the RowBOC Steering Committee, and our members at large.

As we close our program for the season, this is a time to reflect on RowBOC's overall success. We have been in existence since 2006–2007 and we have been a strong, healthy program since its inception. The program requires purchasing rowing shells for members to use, renting a boathouse, building and maintaining our docks, providing rowing clinics for those who are new to this wonderful sport, developing policies and procedures to keep everything running smoothly, troubleshooting when problems arise and need immediate attention, marketing the program to the community, ensuring there are sufficient funds to meet the various needs of the club, having those with rowing expertise provide guidance to our members, and continually assessing the program to ensure its maintenance and success.

So what has been going on this season? Purchasing two rowing shells, getting some necessary maintenance done and equipment to some of our fleet, fixing the dock when boards needed replacement (and with so much rain this season, our docks needed extra attention—tightening up bolts and adding ropes to keep the dock in place). Veteran RowBOC members ran a clinic for new rowers and we added seventeen new members this season! All of this work required meetings, texts, e-mails, and an “all hands on deck” energy. Our dedicated volunteers heeded the call to make all these moving parts work and look effortless.

And that's not all. Some of our members rowed in the Paper City Regatta in Holyoke, Massachusetts in October 2021 for a fun-filled experience and rowing camaraderie. A group of dedicated members also volunteered for the Connecticut River Conservancy's 25th Annual Source-to-Sea Cleanup. We're doing our part to keep our beautiful river clean for ourselves, other water-sports enthusiasts, and all the abundant wildlife that make the Connecticut such a magical part of life in Vermont.

So a big thank-you to all our supporters and members who contributed to this season's success. As another adage goes, “the definition of being good is being able to make it look easy.” That is RowBOC at its best.

See you all in the Spring of 2022 for another season as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Brattleboro Outing Club! The rowing program looks forward to continued success for the next 100 years and beyond. Join us and be a part of this great experience. Check us out at www.brattleborooutingclub.org.

Linda Puzan

RowBOC Chair

Even considering pandemic restrictions, this last paddling season (April-Oct) has been one of the most successful in our entire 22 years.

Highlights include: the most number of scheduled trips ever (18), with only one cancelled due to weather. Also of note was the surprise success of the May consignment sale, partially due to two mini auctions, and a multitude of buyers, for a few select boats. One boat went for \$600, twice its asking price, another for \$300, three times its 'sticker' price.

Also new this year were two of our Connecticut River trips co-sponsored by the CT River Conservancy (CRC). These were both focused on the Vernon Dam, and its relicensing. CRC provided a speaker, and added our trip to their mailing list, resulting in almost 30 paddlers for each trip.

For this year's Leader's Choice Fall Foliage paddle trip we did a Two-Lake special: both Sunset Lake and South Pond, with an easy back-road connection. Both were in full color, and well attended.

Kayaks continue to be the most popular, but the small, light weight canoes are beginning to show up on almost all paddle trips.

Our May consignment sale continues to fully underwrite the paddling program, allowing it to be FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. May 14th, 2022 is the tentative date for next year's sale.

A big THANKS to my able assistants, Dennis Labrie & Sandy Brewer...always there when I need them.

I continue to look for new paddling destinations throughout New England. Please call or email if you have a suggestion. Respectfully,

Larry McIntosh Lmacyak@gmail.com (802)254-3666

