



**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**

**2023 Board of Directors  
Brattleboro Outing Club**

- |                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| David Twombly  | President                     |
| Joe Meyer      | Vice President & Tennis Chair |
| Jay Jacobowitz | Treasurer                     |
| Zufan Hagos    | Secretary                     |
| Larry McIntosh | Paddling Chair                |
| Linda Puzan    | Rowing Chair                  |
| Jake Dixon     | Board Member                  |
| Wendy Harrison | Board Member                  |

**President's Report**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOC!! Hard to believe that it's been 100 YEARS. The BOC had planned a joint celebration with Harris Hill Ski Jump for our 100th Anniversary celebration with night ski jumping, fireworks and a bonfire but the weather didn't cooperate. Unfortunately the event had to be canceled so snow could be made Friday night just prior to the ski jump. However, our 100th Anniversary was held at Bella Notte October 6th where 60 people came out to join in the celebration.

Our summer and spring programs all had an amazing season. The Tennis Junior program was back and the weather was perfect to enjoy tennis on those beautifully maintained clay courts. Tennis had an increased membership with over 175 members and is pursuing the possibility of adding 2 pickleball courts possibly for next year. RowBOC had 42 members who enjoyed not only the Connecticut and West River, but some members participated in a few regattas including the Head of the Charles in Boston. The Paddling Program had another successful season which started with the return of the ever popular Boat & Consignment Sale. The program chairs did an amazing job. My hat goes off to the following program chairs and their committees Joe Meyer- Tennis, Linda Puzan RowBOC and Larry McIntosh- Paddling. Please read their attached reports.

The Phil and Mary Dunham Ski Skate Sale is back. It was recently held November 5th and 6th thanks to Jake Dixon, BOC Board member and Carol Lolatte, Brattleboro Recreation Department along with BOC and Rec volunteers. Thank you Jake and Carol for your efforts in bringing this much appreciated and utilized event back to the Brattleboro community.

The Cross country and Snowshoe program is gearing up for a snow filled winter with the addition of another new snowmobile and snow grooming equipment. We purchased a new snowmobile in 2021 and our groomers are ready and anxious to provide the best grooming experience for all XC skiers. Many new trails have also been added for snowshoers' enjoyment as well. The ski hut now has solar power thanks to an anonymous donor. My kudos go out to the Cross Country and Snowshoe committee. Please read the attached XC Ski and Snowshoe report for more information.

In closing, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to operate the BOC and all of our programs. I'd like to thank my fellow board members for all of their volunteer time and effort: Joe Meyer, our Vice President and Tennis Chair, for his leadership and stewardship of our tennis program, Jake Dixon who has been our secretary for over 20 years, Jay Jacobowitz, our

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treasurer, who has done an excellent job managing our finances, Linda Puzan, our RowBOC Chair, who has done a wonderful job of overseeing our RowBOC Program, Larry McIntosh, who single handedly plans and leads our amazing kayak trips, Zufan Hagos, our Secretary who is in charge of Social Media, Wendy Harrison, and Shannon Herrick, who is in charge of the BOC website

### BOC- For Good Sports and Outdoor Fun Since 1922

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Twombly

BOC President



We had a great clean-up day at the end of last season. Lots of our awesome High School skiers pitched in. If you don't see yourself in this picture, think of the fun you missed! The Cross Country and Snowshoe committee has been meeting this fall, and while waiting for winter and whatever the Spirits of Snow will bring us, we've this much to report—

We're hoping for a great snow year. Last season we were open a total of 36 days, well below our average of 58 days per season. Conditions were fine on the days we were open, but we missed out on several key weekends—a blow to our single-day ticket revenues and our community building efforts. Thanks to all our members for your patience while we negotiate with Mother Nature to bring us better snow.

Do you hear that vroom vroom? That's the sound of our new Skidoo snowmobile on its way! An important addition to our small fleet, it has been made possible entirely by our members and generous donors. Here in Brattleboro we have to deal with a much wider variety of snow conditions than many ski areas located at higher altitudes. This requires specialized equipment and more people power. In addition to our two part time paid groomers, we have a hearty group who volunteer their time each week to come out and maintain the trails.

We are looking for more recruits. If you have experience with snow or farm equipment, if you like to ski, and can be available for a couple of hours each week, we'd love to hear from you. It's fun and satisfying work, but it can be chilly! The good news: all of our machines have heated handle grips. So come over and warm your hands while also grooming our beautiful trails.

Snowshoeing: we now have five miles of trails! We've added Dog Trot and Labland to our circuit, so snowshoers can bring their dogs--only on those two trails. We'll be offering more free and low-cost programming especially for children and families, such as our popular scavenger hunt and guided snowshoe walks.

Our BOC XC and Snowshoe Club is leading the way in recycling. Check out these colorful plastic beer can carriers repurposed as trail markers, starting on the snowshoe trails. These markers will eventually replace the plastic tape currently used.

Registration for the 2022-2023 winter X-C/Snowshoe season opens November 1. We've decided to keep season memberships at the same affordable price.

Youth (25 and under): \$75

Individual (26-over): \$125

For two: \$250

Families (up to 2 adults and 4 youth) living in the same household):

\$250



As in past years, your membership also includes free daily snowshoe and ski rentals when the hut is open. (Yes, we plan to open and staff the hut most weekends and holidays this year.)

Please register online at [www.brattleborooutingclub.org](http://www.brattleborooutingclub.org)  
Want to pay by check? Have difficulty registering? Contact us at [skiboc802@gmail.com](mailto:skiboc802@gmail.com)

When you register, if you are able, please add an extra donation to help us meet our rising costs. That would be so generous! We've kept our Instructional and School Programs at the BOC going these past couple of winters. This year we hope to have more schools participate, to share the outdoor fun that cross country skiing and snowshoeing can provide for people of all ages. We're always looking for more instructors. Enthusiasm for working with kids outside is the major prerequisite! We'll provide the training and support you may need.

We also plan to offer more clinics for all comers on the weekends. Some events will show up on the calendar, but some will happen more 'pop up' style, as the snow inspires us. Please drop us an email if you are interested in helping with school programs or clinics, or if you have any questions: [skiboc802@gmail.com](mailto:skiboc802@gmail.com)

Here's to a great winter!



Mwanga William

Tim Whitney

While autumn is a time when children head back to school to learn their three R's, we at RowBOC are wrapping up our season after learning about and loving our own three R's: Rowing, Recreation, and Racing. Our members have been enjoying all that rowing offers, and as we turn to autumn to close the season we have had many days to enjoy our three R's.



**Rowing:** We opened the season with two rowing clinics and thirteen new members who learned Rowing 101. The clinic teaches the basics: the parts of the boat, how to place the oars, how to have an efficient rowing stroke, and the safety components of rowing. New members joined with seasoned rowers to continue working on their skills and most importantly having fun!

**Recreation:** 42 members joined our club and were able to enjoy the two rivers where we row—the West and the Connecticut. New friends have been made and rowing friendships rekindled. We shared time together on the water, hanging out on the dock, having a barbecue, jumping in the river on a hot day, and doing it all over again throughout the season. We also coordinated a joint rowing experience with the Putney Rowing Club where four of their members row down in a quad (four rowers) to Brattleboro and four RowBOC members row the boat back up to Putney. So there are great recreational opportunities to try: rowing a single, a double, a pair, a quad, and a sweep boat. If you are not familiar with these types of boats, we hope your curiosity is piqued and you will contact us to learn more about rowing.

**Racing:** While racing is not a requirement to row . . . we do have members who take on this aspect of rowing, and there are many rowing regattas in the region. Some of these regattas include the Rockrimmon Regatta in Springfield, MA, the Green Mountain Head run by the Putney Rowing Club, the CRI Regatta in Boston, MA, the Paper City Regatta in Holyoke, and the Head of the Charles in Boston. Some of our members have entered these various regattas. Two members in particular have been honing their racing skills and entering many of these regattas: Tim Whitney and Mwanga William. Both of these RowBOC members are highly skilled rowers and racers. In addition to utilizing their racing aplomb, our club has benefitted from their expertise and willingness to help members to hone their rowing technique and skills.

And there is one more R to add to RowBOC activities: River cleanup. Wendy Harrison who is a rower and Board member helped to organize a local group for the Connecticut River Conservancy Source to Sea Clean Up in September. Thanks to all those who volunteered to clean an area of the river. This is our second year participating in this event. We look forward to RowBOC's on going participation each year to help keep our river as pristine as possible. This rowing season was a success thanks to all our members who made the rowing experience so enjoyable. We hope to see you in the 2023 rowing season. And for those readers who have not tried rowing or have been away from the sport for some time, please consider attending a future clinic, or email us at rowboc@gmail.com with your questions.

Linda Puzan

RowBOC Chair

We're just finishing up a banner year at BOC's Cedar St. tennis club. Our membership has increased in 2022 to our highest level ever. We're drawing members from all over New England, and from all walks of life. It's really exciting to have such a dynamic membership and make all these new friends!

I'd like to take a moment to thank those who helped make 2022 such an outstanding year for the tennis program. Of course, the entire BOC tennis community deserves a big thank you for the way they support the club and enhance the program with their effort, energy and community spirit. It wouldn't be the same without all of you.

However, I would remiss if I didn't acknowledge some of the people whose efforts go above and beyond. First, a huge hat's off to Kyle Oliver, our facility manager. Our courts are as good as any you'll find in New England, and they've played beautifully all year under Kyle's watchful eye. Great job Kyle!

Jacob Miller continues his great work as director of tennis instruction. He's so good at helping people get the most enjoyment out of their game. Jacob also brought back junior tennis this year, and it was so much fun to see the all young tennis players running around having a great time. This year Ed Powers was added to the tennis instruction staff to great effect. Ed's Monday and Wednesday clinics were well received – great fun, very instructive and an excellent way to meet other players.

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 big and 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 group is the best! Their work on the front lines and behind the scenes to make sure that everything falls into place is exceptional. Huge thanks to Gwynn Yandow, Susan Madrigan, Joan Weslowski, Ed Powers, John Zeber, Amit Sharma and Matt Guiltinan.

Keep your eyes open for this - We are exploring the possibility of adding pickleball courts to the club as early as next year. We'll do our best to keep the membership up to date on this project, and others, over the winter. It won't be long before we're getting ready to crank it up for 2023.

On behalf of the tennis committee thanks to everyone for a great summer. Be well – see you in the spring!



# BOC PADDLING

What a great paddling season! We hosted craft of all sizes and shapes this summer: from little 9' solo 'pond' kayaks, to a 22' ocean-going double kayak; and from small solo 10' canoes to 18' doubles and stand-up paddle boards (SUP). The most curious craft was the converted wind-surfer hull, with a lawn chair attached, foot-steered with a kayak paddle, as the seated Captain held a down-wind kayak sail. (foto attached). Our venues included ponds, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and a marsh. No salt water this year; that comes again next summer. The overnight camping was on the Connecticut River. We put in below the Harland Rapids/Sumner Falls, and paddled fast water to Wilgus State Park, with several swim breaks & a lunch stop at the Sculpture Garden and Harpoon Brewery, in Windsor, VT.

Another CT River trip started below the Bellows Falls Dam, and ended at the Westminster Station Bridge, with a visit to the Walpole Creamery. We watched a bald eagle take a duck, on this trip. Burdick's, in Walpole, was another stop along a car-shuttle route. Paddling requires calories.

High points this summer included great weather, plenty of beaches (due in part to the drought & low water table), lots of wildlife, and plenty of both old and new paddlers. Good to see

past paddlers bring new friends. Wildlife included loons, ducks of all sorts, geese, bald eagles, hawks, osprey, beavers, otters, swimming squirrels, and the first ever bear sighting. The September 'Two Lake Special', of both Sunset Lake & South Pond, the same day (using back roads) was well received, but the Fall colors were not yet peak. My personnel favorite trip was the last one: Somerset... perfect weather, great bunch of paddlers, lots of wildlife, water was still warm enough to enjoy the last swim of the season, colors were good, and it only ended, because the sun went down.

The biggest single success was the May consignment sale of canoes & kayaks. We were allowed to use the indoor/outdoor space above the Marina restaurant, in the WATERFRONT building, and it was a good thing! We filled both spaces, with the short boats, and gear, inside, and long canoes & kayaks out front. Great visibility & parking, and I hope to use the same arrangement next year. It was the biggest turnout of both buyers & sellers, and the highest total sales, ever.

Thanks again to my two trusty helpers, Dennis & Sandy. Without them, things wouldn't run smoothly, or at all.

I'm always looking for new waters to paddle. Feel free to contact me with your secret spots, and/or, places I've overlooked.

Larry McIntosh  
Paddling Chair  
Lmacyak@gmail.com

