



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 2023

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

**2023 Board of Directors
Brattleboro Outing Club**

- | | |
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| <i>David Twombly</i> | <i>President</i> |
| <i>Joe Meyer</i> | <i>Vice President & Tennis Chair</i> |
| <i>Jay Jacobowitz</i> | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| <i>Zufan Hagos</i> | <i>Secretary, Marketing Chair</i> |
| <i>Larry McIntosh</i> | <i>Paddling Chair</i> |
| <i>Linda Puzan</i> | <i>Rowing Chair</i> |
| <i>Janice Stockman</i> | <i>Board Member</i> |
| <i>Jake Dixon</i> | <i>Board Member</i> |

President's Report

It's springtime and time to transition to BOC's spring and summer programs. Tennis, Paddling and RowBOC are all gearing up for a fabulous season. The XC and Snowshoe Program season was very successful one considering the late and below average snowfall this past winter.

Joe Meyer and the tennis committee have done a lot of work in the off season as everything is all lined up to open all 6 courts in late April weather permitting. See Joe's Tennis report for more details.

Linda Puzan and the RowBOC committee is getting ready to set the dock in the water as they get ready to launch the boats for another rowing season on the river. It is shaping up to be another successful season.

Larry as chair of the Paddling Program has done a lot of planning for another fun-filled paddling season. The Annual BOC Consignment & Boat Sale is back. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 13th for details. See Larry's attached report for the 2023 paddling schedule.

The board has received feedback from our different committees and members that the registration process has been a cumbersome one and the website needs to be updated and look more visually appealing. Therefore, the Board is looking to create a new website to address those concerns. We are seeking people who have ideas and experience to help select a new provider or able to re-design the current one, making it more vibrant. One of the main goals is to have a new registration system that is effective and easy to use for all programs. If you have web design and experience along with social media expertise, please consider joining the board. I would also encourage cross country skiing, snowshoeing and tennis enthusiasts to join the board as well. We are striving to make the meetings more fun and productive as there is a discussion to change the meeting format to every other month and email/zoom as needed. Meetings will be held at different outdoor venues weather permitting during the spring, summer and fall. If you are interested and would like to join the board, please email Dave at capetwom@gmail.com.



THIS ISSUE

Tennis Report..... Page 2
 Cross Country Ski Report Page 3
 RowBOC Report..... Page 3
 Paddling Report Page 4

Continued on page 2

President's Report continued

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members: Joe Meyer, our Vice President and Tennis Chair, for his leadership and stewardship of our tennis program, Jay Jacobowitz, our treasurer, who has done an excellent job managing our finances, Zufan Hagos our secretary and who is in charge of Social Media, 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 paddling trips, and our other valued board members Janice Stockman and Jake Dixon..

Lastly, thanks go to you, our unsung heroes, the BOC volunteers who donate their time and efforts generously pitching in on Tennis, XC and RowBOC work projects which enable our programs to run smoothly. Your volunteer help allows us to keep our programs very affordable for our membership to enjoy our wonderful programs. Kudos to you, our members.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Twombly

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



We're heading into April which means yellow things - daffodils, forsythia, dandelions and TENNIS BALLS. We're poised for an awesome year and it is our intention (perhaps a small bribe to the weather gods) to open before the end of April.

Our volunteer days will be Friday/Saturday April 15/16 and April 22/23. Mark them on your calendar.

I can't wait! The tennis committee (Susan Madrigan, Ed Powers, John Zeber, Matt Guiltinan, May Lillie, Scott Herstad, Amit Sharma and myself) have been busy planning, and we're really excited about the coming year. As always, feel free to contact any committee member with questions or concerns, or to find a way to pitch in and help out around the club. It's a club that has always prided itself, and thrived on being a community of friends and neighbors with a strong sense of volunteerism.

Jacob Miller returns as our instructor/program director and is ready help everyone raise the level of their game . Ed Powers will again provide his coaching in clinics and lessons. Check your equipment and let Jacob know if you need new strings, racquets, balls or shoes.

Kyle Oliver is back for another year as our facilities manager which is great news. Kyle did a terrific job last year. Our clay courts are known as some of the finest all over New England.

We always strive to keep our dues affordable for all, and set our budget to just meet the cost of running our club. It's a challenge to keep up with inflation and the broader costs of maintaining the courts, grounds, locker rooms, BBQ and other amenities. The past few years has seen rising costs everywhere and we're having to raise our dues to cover these increases. The new base membership is \$275. If this presents a real hardship for anyone



Tennis continued

please let us know, but we truly appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute with dues and with volunteer efforts to keep our club strong and one we're all proud of.

We're also always extremely appreciative of those who contribute over and above the set dues amount. Numerous members have been doing this quietly for years, and these contributions have played a big part in maintaining the club and our programs. This year you will see a contribution option on the registration page to make it easier for those and who can, and want to help out in this way.

We'll be opening all six courts right from the get-go this spring, and are hopeful that we'll be able to open to the same extent as in pre-pandemic years. We'll continue to monitor the state and local covid restrictions and protocols, but right now we anticipate no restrictions. For now we are going with the common courtesy health rules that folks will stay home if not feeling well, and will notify the club if they test positive and have been to the club recently. This will enable the BOC committee to communicate with members and guests in the event exposure risks are present.

With this guideline in place we are poised to offer clinics, competitive league play, mixers, etc. We will also be offering junior camps and programs again this summer. Go to our website for more info.

The tennis committee is continuing to look into the possibility of adding some pickleball courts to our club. It is still in the exploratory phase and we received very strong feedback in favor of pursuing a potential build of pickleball courts. Site mapping and costs are being worked through as well as any impacts to the landscaping, and as such we'll keep the membership informed along the way. Note that the current dues increase does not reflect any of these plans or preliminary work. We will be in touch as to the potential impact of the project on the tennis dues.

REGISTRATION. We have had a delay with our on-line registration, but this is being fixed and we anticipate for the site ready very soon. Your patience is appreciated. 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 again out on the courts!

Joe Meyer—Tennis Chair



A big “Thank You” to all the Season Pass Members! The number of season pass members was slightly lower than the past two seasons but not significantly. Your loyalty to our program is greatly appreciated. Season Pass Members enable all of us to keep skiing closer to home. They let the BOC XC program plan our operations over the course of a year instead of day-to-day, month-to-month. This helps us continue to maintain, grow, and improve our trail grooming, school programs, equipment rentals, and hut operations.

Our season started slowly The first significant snow came at the end of January and another toward the end of February. In the middle of March twenty, thirty, forty inches of snow fell (depending where in Windham County you were measuring) in a historic nor'easter. That late season snow redeemed what might have been a disappointing season on our X-C ski and Snowshoe trails.

. This season was characterized by wet, heavy snow and above average temperatures, which created lots of downed trees and branches. Our grooming crew is geared up to manage freeze/thaw cycles, but this year stretched us a little bit. We were able to keep our trails open for sixty days this year which is nearly double the number of days from the 2022 season, and represents our average amount of open days over the past five years. To achieve this, we had over two hundred and fifty hours of grooming time, about half of which was from our nine-person volunteer corps.

The number of season pass members was slightly lower than the past two seasons but not significantly, and still represents a huge increase over our pre-pandemic levels. The hut was open for a total of sixteen days, with Alison Schoales as Manager.

Off-season trail clearing and maintenance was led by Joe Cooke. BOC now features five full miles of snowshoeing experience. There is a real increase in interest in this pursuit, from new community members, out-of-state visitors, and skiers frustrated by sporadic iffy conditons.

Three schools took part in our six weeks of instructional programming. Snow conditions varied, but enthusiasm was consistently high, and some participants came back on their own time—a great way for the Outing Club in general to keep in the public eye.

Winter sports are important to our economy, our good mood, our enjoyment of the beautiful place where we live. Each winter the BOC Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Program is one of the best things happening in Windham County, always encouraging more and more more people to get out and enjoy the opportunities for exercise and fun right here on our local trails. Thanks to all who make it possible, especially our hosts—the Outing Club, the Brattleboro Country Club, the Retreat Farm, and some generous local landowners who permit us to ski and snowshoe across their wintry view!

What do rowers do in the winter? Here is a sampling of what our members do in the off rowing season: lots of snowboarding and skiing, skating when the ice is right, cooking, reading, sampling cocktails, building ice shanties, taking walks with friends, doing yoga by the fire, winter running, playing with dogs, lifting weights, quilting, working out on the erg...and dreaming about rowing!

These dreams will come true in a couple of months. So please check out the Brattleboro Outing Club website and click on RowBOC to get information about the rowing season. As of this writing we do not have a date yet for dock in day. We will keep members apprised when this happens and it will be “all hands on dock.” We will also continue with our yearly Try it out Day which will be on Saturday, June 3rd. Clinics for new rowers will start on June 10th and run for 3 weeks; this information will be posted on our website for those of you who want to learn how to row/scull. And please do not forget to renew your ongoing membership. We look forward to seeing all of our fellow rowers at the boathouse! If you want more information about rowing please do not hesitate to email us at rowboc@gmail.com

Linda Puzan

RowBOC



BOC

~ PADDLING ~

The 2023 Paddling Schedule features 15 trips on local reservoirs, lakes, ponds & rivers in, and around the Brattleboro area. The Northern most outing is North Hartland Lake, Hartland, VT (at the down-stream end of the Quechee Gorge). On the East is Spoonwood Pond, Hancock, NH (a place motorboats can't access). The Southernmost water is Tully Lake, Royalston, MA, and in the West is Somerset Reservoir, Northwest of Wilmington, VT. Lots going on in that big circle.

Descriptions of all 'flat water' trips can be found in the AMC Quiet Water books for VT/NH and MA/CT/RI; both 3rd Ed. River trips are shown on the CT River Paddlers' Trail Maps, 2nd Ed.

Although there is no BOC sponsored camping trip this year, camping is available at 7 of the our paddling locations: Spoonwood Pond, Tully Lake, Grafton Pond, Somerset Reservoir, and at/near, all 3 CT River locations. Paddlers wanting to include camping in their outing are advised to plan early. Reservations are required in most locations. CT River camping is first come, first served, and locations are identified on the CT River Paddlers' Trail Map, 2nd Ed.

The complete schedule is as follows: (Details on BOC website & flyer...soon).

Apr 22nd, Saturday- EARTH DAY- CT River, Hinsdale Setbacks, NH.

Apr 23rd, Sunday- Same trip as the day before.

May 17th, Wednesday- Tully Lake, Tully River & Long Pond, Roy-

alston, MA.

May 20th, Saturday- CT River: Hoyt's Landing, down river, to Herrick's Cove, VT.

Jun 7th, Wednesday- North Hartland Lake, Hartland, VT.

Jun 11th, Sunday- Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT.

Jun 21st, Wednesday- SUMMER SOLSTICE- Spoonwood Pond, Hancock, NH.

Jun 24th, Sat- Harriman Reservoir, Sunrise Paddle & Potluck Bkfst, Wilmington, VT.

Aug 13th, Sunday- Gale Meadows Pond, Winhall, VT.

Aug 16th, Wednesday- CT River, Vernon Dam to Northfield, MA.

Aug 30th, Wednesday- Harriman Reservoir, Center Section, Wilmington, VT.

Sep 20th, Wednesday- Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT.

Sep 30th, Saturday- Grout Pond, Stratton, VT

Oct 1st, Sunday- Leader's Choice (wherever the colors are peak)

Oct 4th, Wednesday- Sunset Lake & South Pond, Marlboro, VT

The Annual BOC SALE & SWAP of small human & wind-powered watercraft will be held on Saturday, May 13th, from NOON to 2 pm. The location is yet to be decided.

Boats will be accepted on Friday, May 12th, from Noon to 2pm & 5pm -7pm. On Saturday, May 13th, boats will be accepted beginning at 8am, until 11:30am. The SWAP will be 11:30am - 12. The SALE starts at NOON. This is a consignment sale, to fund the BOC Summer Paddling Program. Boat owners set the price, and BOC Paddling receives 10% of the eventual selling price. When 2 or more prospective buyers want the same boat, an 'auction' will decide the eventual buyer.

