



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.brattleborooutingclub.org

2023-2024



FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



2023-2024 Board of Directors Brattleboro Outing Club

<i>David Twombly</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Jay Jacobowitz</i>	<i>Vice President & Treasurer</i>
<i>Zufan Hagos</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Joe Meyer</i>	<i>Director</i>
<i>Jake Dixon</i>	<i>Director</i>
<i>Larry McIntosh</i>	<i>Paddling Chair</i>
<i>Linda Puzan</i>	<i>Rowing Chair</i>
<i>Janice Stockman</i>	<i>Rowing 2nd Chair</i>
<i>Robert Tortolani</i>	<i>Cross Country Ski Chair</i>
<i>Victor Morrison</i>	<i>Cross Country Ski 2nd Chair</i>

President's Report

There will be a Outing Club Social Thursday, January 18th at the West River Marina restaurant. Mark your calendars. The BOC Annual Meeting will also be held at the same day and place at 5:30 p.m., following the BOC Board meeting at 5:00 p.m. It has been over 20 years since the BOC By-Laws have been revised. The BOC Board is recommending a few revisions which will be reviewed and voted for approval by our membership. The changes will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting. We welcome your participation. .

RowBOC had to suspend their activities due to the flooding in July and rain in late October as the docks were damaged. Volunteers were amazing on both occasions in stepping up to repair the docks under the leadership of Linda Puzan and Janice Stockman. The program still had record enrollment of 53 members who enjoyed the Connecticut and West Rivers. Some members participated in a few regattas including the Head of the Charles in Boston. The Paddling Program also had another successful season which started with the return of the ever-popular Boat & Consignment Sale.

Kudos to the program chairs Joe Meyer -Tennis, Linda Puzan - RowBOC, and Larry McIntosh - Paddling. They did an amazing job along with all of the volunteers. Please read their program reports on the following pages.

The Phil and Mary Dunham Ski Skate Sale was held November 4th. Thanks to Carol Lolatte, Brattleboro Recreation Department, and Zufan Hagos, BOC Secretary, for coordinating the volunteers along with BOC and Rec Center volunteers. This event, started by Phil and Mary Dunham over 50 years ago, has been well received every year by the Brattleboro community.

Continued, next page



THIS ISSUE

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

President's Report, continued

The Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe program is gearing up for winter. Preparations are underway as we anticipate a snow-filled season. Please read the attached Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe report for more information.

There is a lot of work and planning which goes on behind the scenes to make BOC an exceptional volunteer organization. This volunteer support from all of our members like you helps keep program costs low and affordable for all. I'd like to thank my fellow board members for all of their volunteer time and effort: Joe Meyer, our outgoing Vice President and Tennis Chair, for his leadership and stewardship of our tennis programs; Jay Jacobowitz, our treasurer and incoming Vice President, 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 singlehandedly plans and leads our amazing paddling trips around New England; Zufan Hagos, our Secretary who helped not only with the minutes, but coordinating volunteers and communicating with our members; and other board members Janice Stockman, who helped with her thoughtful input and ideas; and our longest continuously serving board member, Jake Dixon. I would also like to welcome two new board members: Bob Tortolani and Victor Morrison, representing the Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Program.

BOC - For Good Sports and Outdoor Fun Since 1922

Respectfully submitted, Dave Twombly, BOC President



One of the really cool things (and there are many) about our club here on Cedar St. is the beautiful trees that wrap around the courts providing privacy, a natural windscreen, a great backdrop for seeing the balls, and a deep sense of beauty and serenity. And then, in the early fall, the beauty is enhanced with the changing colors. Then, sadly, the leaves drop, which means our playing days for the season are numbered, and it's time to clean up and put everything away for the winter. That's where we are at now, but what a great season it has been!

Our membership has increased in 2023 to our highest level ever. We've continued to draw new members, not only from Brattleboro but from all over New England, and from all walks of life. It's such a dynamic and fun membership!

I'd like to take a moment to thank those who helped make 2023 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. You're the best!

I do want to acknowledge a few of the people whose efforts go above and beyond. First, a huge hats-off to Kyle Oliver, our facility manager. Our courts are as good as any you'll find anywhere in New England. This is Kyle's last year with us as he battles some health issues. Good luck Kyle, and thanks for all you've done.

Jacob Miller continues his great work as director of tennis instruction. He's exceptional at helping people get the most enjoyment out of their game. Everywhere you look members are improving their game, an adding to their tennis enjoyment. Ed Powers has joined the tennis instruction staff, and has fit in seamlessly. Well done, as always, Jacob and Ed.

Also 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 large part of our club. A lot of this goes unseen, but believe me it gets noticed, and is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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 Susan Madrigan, Ed Powers, John Zeber, Amit Sharma, Matt Guiltinan, Scott Herstad and May Lillie.

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

Joe Meyer



In spite of everything the rain gods could muster, we only had to cancel one trip! We did have to reschedule our June Sunrise/ Breakfast trip on Harriman Reservoir, but it went off nicely, in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 26th.

Again, we out-smarted the rain gods on Saturday September 30, as rain fell on Grout Pond. We moved that trip to the next day, as the 'Leader's Choice', and had a gorgeous Fall day out there. (I've attached a photo.)

The CT RIVER trip from Vernon Dam to Northfield, MA was touch-and-go for awhile, due to the summer flooding dumping tons of mud at the take out in Northfield. Even though the ramp was 'officially' still closed, we were able to use it, safely & with last minute permission. Another result of the flooding is the disappearance of ALL beaches along that stretch of the river. The CT River Conservancy came on board for this trip, as co-sponsors, since they wanted to use the gathering as a way of reaching paddlers with information about the relicensing of the Vernon Dam. CRC added our trip to their schedule, and we had many more paddlers, as a result.

Last May's Consignment sale was bigger than ever. I had to add staff to handle the volume of both boats to sell and folks to buy. We used the larger of the two spaces in the 'On The Waterfront' building, just above the Marina Restaurant. Hopefully that will be available next May.

We continue to use AMC's 'Quiet Water' paddling books for the Tri-State area, as guides for local BOC trips. The 3rd Ed is the most current; good books for a paddler's library (holiday hint).

These trips, and the consignment sale, cannot happen without the able assistance of my helpers Dennis & Leigh (Greenfield) & Sandy (Ackworth); my BOC hat's off to them.

Ideas for future paddle trips? Please contact me:

Lmacyak@ gmail.com - Larry McIntosh



Patience and determination...

...are words that come to mind when learning the techniques of rowing. These words took on new meaning this rowing season when July's torrential rains raised the West River seven feet, inundating our docks and tearing them apart. When the current settled down at peak flood stage, we pulled the dock sections out of the water, assessed the damage, and ordered supplies. Chairman of the Boards Mike Fleming, along with Don McCool and many dedicated rowers, spent many hours over the course of four weeks rebuilding the docks and getting them back in the water. Phew!!! Thanks to all of you for your help!

Even with this month-long blip, our rowing season was still a big success. At the beginning of each season we provide a clinic for those who want to learn the basics of rowing technique. Eighteen new rowers attended and learned rowing basics—the catch, the drive, the finish, the recovery —while learning to overcome faults like rushing the slide or bending the knees too early. We now have more than fifty members: old friends and new rowing together and enjoying the beauty of the West and Connecticut Rivers.

Some of our rowers like a bit of competition and enjoy the challenge of racing. This year, three of our club members are rowing in the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston: Parker Toyloy (representing her school team) and the team of Mwanga William and Tim Whitney (rowing a double and representing Mwanga's Kampala Rowing Club).

RowBOC (RowBrattleboroOutingClub) is always excited to introduce rowing to those who have never rowed and reintroduce it to those who haven't rowed in years but want to brush up their skills and get back on the water. We have a variety of boats available to all members. Intrigued? As we begin our rowing season each spring, we have a free Try It Out Day. Check us out at brattleborooutingclub.org and click on the Rowing heading for more information. We are always enthused to have new people experience this great recreational sport. Have questions about our rowing program? Please email us at rowboc@gmail.com.

To end this rowing season with a bit of levity: What do you do with a sick rowing shell? Bring it to the doc!

Linda Puzan, RowBOC





Winter is coming and we've been getting ready - the cross country and snowshoe trails in the woods have been checked for downed trees, our grooming equipment has been serviced, the committee has been meeting and planning, and a start of the season work day is planned. Now we need members and volunteers - and snow! Keep reading for information on membership, volunteer needs, our December open house, and more. Registration for the 2023-2024 winter X-C/Snowshoe season opens December 1 on the BOC website: <https://brattleborooutingclub.org/cross-country-skiing/> Our membership fees have stayed the same for the past eight years and are a great value. Membership benefits include:

- Unlimited skiing on our local, almost out your back door, BOC trails at Brattleboro Country Club
- free daily snowshoe and ski rentals when the hut is open
- AND your BOC Season pass entitles you to reciprocal skiing privileges at 21 Vermont Nordic Ski Centers, FREE! EVEN IF WE'RE CLOSED! For the price of a single adult BOC Season Pass: \$125 You ski free 1 time at each of 21 Nordic Centers AND SAVE YOURSELF \$445! With a 2-person family pass the savings DOUBLE to \$890, you both ski free 1 time at participating centers. Savings continue with a regular family pass. Everyone skis free 1 time at a participating area.

Please register online at www.brattleborooutingclub.org. Want to pay by check? Have difficulty registering? Contact us at 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!

The Hut will be open weekends and holidays, 10am - 4pm, (conditions permitting - check our Facebook page and Trail Hub for last minute changes). Our Hut Manager, and helpful volunteers, will be there to check out rental equipment, share trail condition information, and keep the hot chocolate on tap.

The grooming crew is getting ready for the season, with the benefit of returning lead groomers to keep us on track. But more hands make for easier work for

all, and a chance to get more grooming done faster, so new folks willing to learn and join the crew are always welcome. Contact us at skiboc802@gmail.com if you have interest or questions about what is involved.

Our Instructional and School Programs at the BOC have been regaining momentum these past couple of winters and this year we have even more schools and students signed up to participate already, even before the snow flies. We look forward to sharing 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, so even if you are not an expert on skis, come join the fun of helping people be active outdoors in the winter.

If conditions cooperate, we 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

To start the season off, we are having a Winter Kick Off Open house, Saturday, Dec 2, from 2-4pm.

Join us at the Hut for our XC Ski and Snowshoe Open House and Getting Ready For Snow Clinic! Come see the fascinating grooming equipment that make our trails possible, learn more about what we do to get school kids excited and engaged in winter sports, and how you can help. Try out roller skis (you'll need to bring a helmet, gloves, boots, and poles), learn some new exercises, and participate in some activities to prep for ski season.

And you might be skiing for free this season because all who attend will be entered into a drawing for an individual season pass! Hot chocolate, cider, and sweets will be waiting for you in the hut.

If you plan to be there and want to try the rollers skis, please RSVP to Yvette McKenzie at ymmdfd@yahoo.com. Cheers!