

Yes, it is that wonderful time of year when RowBOC (Row Brattleboro Outing Club) starts to work on getting the rowing season off to a good start. There is much to plan and organize to make a successful rowing season. Thanks to the Rowing Steering Committee and RowBOC members who put their hearts, minds and bodies into organizing all things rowing.

Here's what we're working on to get our boats moving on the water this season:

• Purchase of a new rack which expands our capacity to store more private boats

- Two new Steering Committee Members
- Free "TRY IT OUT DAY" on Saturday, May 31st, for those who don't know anything about rowing but are interested enough to get in a boat and give it a few strokes.
- Rowing Clinic in June: please check out BOC website for information and an application. Note: there are two clinic groups and 8 in each clinic, so if you are interested it is important to sign up sooner than later so you have a guaranteed spot.
- Members of yesteryear and beyond: We look forward to you participating this season and supporting the club on and ofF the water.

See you on the water!

Please send any questions to our email address which is also on the website: rowboc@gmail.com.

Linda Puzan *RowBOC Steering Committee* 





This year, we saw twice as many open days as last year. Over 200 grooming hours kept us in shape for hosting community events; our Valentine's Moonrise Ski and Snowshoe, and the Snowshoe Scavenger Hunt during Winter Carnival Week. We had over 30 kids and parents on Truske's (snowshoe) Trail, gathering one of each colored clothespin and returning to the hut for hot chocolate and temporary tattoos.

Overall, we served 144 paid individuals, two-person, families, and juniors covering 175 total members, many of whom generously donated a total of \$525 over and above the base membership fee. We are grateful, and were able to keep our season passes at the same, affordable rate, and the trail experience top-notch. What a great winter!



From our instructional program coordinator, Linda Bailey: In January and February, we had fourteen instructors and adult volunteers and chaperones help with school programs that included 82 students of all skill levels from four schools during the six-week school winter activities period. We got to explore some trails we hadn't been able to get to in the past couple of less-snow winters.

Shannon Herrick, XC Committee



### **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

2025



# SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER



# 2025 Brattleboro Outing Club

### **Board of Directors**

Jay Jacobowitz

Joe Meyer

Joe Stockman

Larry McIntosh

Linda Puzan

President & Treasurer

Vice President & Tennis Chair

Secretary & RowBOC Co-Chair

Paddling Chair

RowBOC Chair

Bob Tortolani RowBOC Chair

Cross Country Ski Chair

Roni Byrne Director

Carl Hirth Tennis Committee

Victor Morrison Cross Country Ski Co-Chair

Jake Dixon Director Emerita



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# President's Report

As the last snow melts, the nets go up—and tapes go down—on our six stellar red clay tennis courts; the rowing docks get floated on the picturesque West River, and our paddlers embark on their first New England Spring outing, we look forward to initiating our most successful season ever.

In our last fiscal year, over 400 individuals plus their families enjoyed the benefits of membership in our programs. An additional 100 participated in guided clinics and camps to learn and hone their skills in tennis, cross-country skiing, and rowing. A further 130 paddled on lakes and rivers around New England in our free paddling program. And finally, another 100 guests enjoyed day passes to cross-country ski, snowshoe, and play tennis. Altogether, approximately 800 enthusiasts enjoyed the natural beauty of our Green Mountain foothills and waterways.

I'll never tire of marveling at the resilience of our 100-year-old outdoor recreation club, now in its 103rd year! Read more about our programs' doings on the following pages.

As you may know, BOC operates on a fiscal year from November 1 to October 31. Because the holidays are a busy time for everyone, we have moved our annual meeting to January. This past January 22nd, members gathered at Ramunto's for lasagna and conversation, and to hear the annual report—of our good health.

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Also at the meeting, we recruited a new, ninth Board Director, Roni Byrne, bringing us to full membership as required by the By-Laws, but still below the upper limit of 15 Directors. If you would like to serve, simply contact any one of the Directors listed on the cover page of this newsletter.

In March, the Board of Directors called a special meeting of the membership to ratify proposed changes to the By-Laws, which the Board had been developing since 2023 to clarify and update the rules, last done over a decade ago. Among other things, we strengthened communication between the Board and the Programs; enunciated the rights, privileges and obligations of Members and Participants; and clarified the program budgeting process. Attendees at the special meeting voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes. If you would like a copy of the current By-Laws, please contact Jay@retailinsights.com.

As a not-for-profit U.S. 501 (c) (4), our goal is not to create profit for profit's sake, but to ensure enough economic stability to maintain operations while keeping membership program fees affordable. Each program works hard to provide an exceptional outdoor recreational experience for members, guests, and participants. We depend greatly on these members volunteering their time and expertise. If you are interested in serving the Outing Club in any capacity, please contact me or any of the Board of Directors.

Enjoy the Spring!

Jay Jacobowitz, President



A warm spring and many volunteers have got our six red-clay courts ready for play on Wednesday, April 30! There is still cleanup, hanging windscreens, and activating the irrigation system, so email tennisboc@gmail.com to offer your help.

The tennis committee has a great mix of experience and fresh energy, including Ed Powers, Matt Guiltinan, Nancy Heydinger, Julie Ros, Amit Sharma, Rose Chaffee, Shelley Ritchie, Carl Hirth, Maggie McKay, Jacob Miller, Joe Meyer, and me, Scott Herstad. Feel free to contact any committee member with questions, concerns, or to pitch in and help. The club has always prided itself on being a community of friends and neighbors with a strong sense of volunteerism, many of whom also contribute beyond the set dues amount each year. This year you will see a contribution option on the registration page of our website to make it easier for those who wish to donate this way.

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. The talented Travis Kissell is back for another year as our facilities manager of what we believe are some of the finest in New England.

We are glad to keep dues stable at \$275 for the 2025 season (with family memberships for \$550 and junior memberships at \$40), and meeting the challenge of maintaining the courts, grounds, locker rooms, BBQ and other amenities.



We started an open-play program last summer for players new to our club and play with other new and returning members, expanding the BOC tennis community. We look forward to doing this again this spring/summer, and continue to offer our usual clinics, competitive league play, mixers and other events for the general membership as well as junior camps and programs again this summer. Go to our website for more info.

To register online, go to brattleborooutingclub.org and pay using PayPal. (You don't need a PayPal profile!) We strongly encourage online registration, which saves admin costs and activates your membership quickly. I'm really excited about the upcoming season and seeing you again out on the courts!

Scott Herstad—Tennis Chair



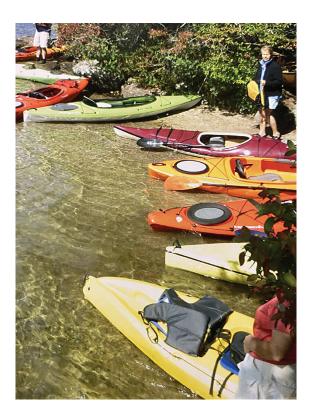
BOC will host 14 paddle trips, from April 27th to October 1st. All BOC trips are FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The weekend of August 22nd to 24th is an overnight camping adventure in Button Bay State Park, on Lake Champlain, near Vergennes, VT, for those interested, and registered.

The SUNRISE paddle & potluck breakfast trip to an island in Harriman Reservoir will be early, on Sat, June 21st.

And back this year, is the SALT WATER paddle trip out to the Thimble Islands, in Long Island Sound.

All BOC trips are FULL-DAY outings (think PICNIC-BYO), except the SUNRISE POTLUCK BREAKFAST trip.



Please see the BOC website for the full schedule and details about WHERE & WHEN to meet for each trip, local media, a hard-copy handout and a list of recommended things to bring on all outings, on the website.

THE ANNUAL BOC CONSIGNMENT SALE & SWAP OF HUMAN & WINDPOWERED WATERCRAFT IS SCHEDULED FOR NOON, SATURDAY, MAY 10TH, at BLACK MOUNTAIN SQUARE, 972 Putney Rd, Brattleboro.

I'm always looking for new places to paddle. If you have a suggestion, or secret place you're willing to share, please let me know. BOC PADDLING...where we always look FORWARD, on the water.

Larry McIntosh, BOC/Paddling, Lmacyak@gmail.com

#### THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

SUN, Apr 27th - CT River/Hinsdale Setbacks, Hinsdale, NH

> SAT, May 3rd - Sadawga Pond, Wilmington, VT

WED, May 7th - Hubbard Pond, Rindge, NH

SAT, June 14th - Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT

WED, June 18th - Thimble Islands, Long Island Sound, CT

SAT, June 21st - Sunrise Paddle & Potluck Breakfast, Harriman Res, Wilmington, VT

WED, June 25th - Spoonwood Pond, Hancock, NH WED, July 2nd - Pisgah Reservoir, Winchester, NH

SUN, Aug 17th - Lowell Lake State Park, Londonderry, VT

WED, Aug 20th - North Hartland Lake, Hartland, VT

FRI-SUN, Aug 22-24th - Button Bay State Park, Lake Champlain, Vergennes, VT

> SAT, Sep 13th - Somerset Reservoir, Somerset, VT

SUN, Sep 21st - Grout Pond, Stratton, VT

WED, Oct 1st – South Pond, Marlboro, VT

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