



The FREE BOC PADDLING PROGRAM runs from April to October. This year there are 11 trips on ponds, lakes, a river and Long Island Sound. Details are on the BOC website and printed in the RED flyer handout.

Sat, April 25: CT River

Sun, May 3: Sadawga Pond

Tues, May 12: Hubbard Pond

Sat, May 30: Somerset Res

Wed, June 10: Thimble Islands, Long Island Sound

Sat, June 27: Harriman Res/Sunrise & Potluck Breakfast

Wed, July 1: Spoonwood Pond

Thurs, Sep 10: Lowell Lake

Sat, Sep 12: North Hartland Lake

Wed, Sep 23: Somerset Res

Sat, Oct 3: South Pond

BOC trips are FREE, & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The Paddling Program is funded through our Annual Consignment SALE & SWAP of small human & wind powered watercraft. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 9th, in the Black Mtn Square, on Putney Rd, Brattleboro, from NOON to 2pm. Boats will be accepted on Fri, May 8, from noon to 2, & again from 5 to 7. Boats will also be accepted on Sat, the day of the event, from 8 to 11:30 am. The Swap is from 11:30 - 12. The SALE STARTS AT NOON. Boat owners set the price, and BOC PADDLING receives 10% of the eventual selling price. There is also a sales tax. When two or more prospective buyers want the same boat, an 'auction' will decide the eventual buyer. Donations are accepted, and appreciated. Only serviceable craft can be allowed; no 'project' boats.

FMI: Lmacyak@gmail.com

Cell No. for all trips, & during the SALE: (207) 703-6668

Larry McIntosh

Paddling Chair



What do rowers do in winter? We ski, knit, travel, read, swim, take saunas, do pottery, hike, work out at the gym, snowshoe, and spend lots of time on the erg (rowing machine). But mostly we long to get back on the water. And that will happen soon. We plan to put the docks in the West River on April 25 and begin rowing soon after.

RowBOC is entering its 20th year of supporting novice and experienced rowers to enjoy the sport at whatever level they choose, from learner to recreational to racing. We have a fleet of rowing shells that include training boats that are wide and stable, and intermediate and racing shells. We have doubles for two people, and a sweep boat for four that we keep in the boathouse just beyond the Marina restaurant. Stop in and say "Hi!" sometime!

You've probably seen us from the West River Trail and wondered, Could I do that? Would I be able to stay in the boat? Join us on May 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 for Try it Out Day, where experienced rowers will help you get in a training boat, show you how to take some strokes, and maybe row out into the West River a bit. This is a fun, free introduction to what rowing feels like and there's no need to register. Just show up.

If you'd like to commit to learning to row, you can register for the Learn-to-Row Clinic, a ten-session program where master rowers teach you the basics of sculling (rowing with two oars) including turning, rowing forward and backward, rowing terminology, oar handling, and the rhythm of the stroke. Our clinic starts on May 30 and ends June 20. Applications are available on the BOC website or by emailing rowboc@gmail.com.

We believe rowing builds skills people need in daily life: teamwork, persistence, working toward a goal, and a sense of humor and humility. It's also an excellent opportunity for fitness, enjoying nature, recreation, and making new friends. We hope you'll give it a try.

The RowBOC Committee

Please consider an extra donation when joining your program on our website. Many of your fellow members do!



104 Years!

1922 - 2026

...and counting!

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

2026

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

President's Report

As we open another tennis, paddling, and rowing season, I am humbled by the dedication of dozens of volunteers who run the committees that drive each of our programs. Paddling, being our free program, has long been headed by Larry McIntosh, a committee of one, explores beautiful waterways in New England and the Northeast. Our three paid programs, rowing, tennis and, in the winter, cross-country ski and snowshoe, also have long-serving committee chairs and members who each year pledge to provide an excellent outdoor experience to members and guests.

Altogether, BOC programs serve hundreds of members and guests from near and far on thousands of outing days throughout the year. And we've done this continuously for 104—yes, one-hundred-four—years since our founding in 1922 by the visionary Fred Harris.

It is with much pride, then, that I relate to you each BOC program is enjoying historically high participation. The combination of an affordable, consistently high-quality experience continues to draw the support of Brattleboro area members and guests from throughout the Northeast Seaboard. We're known for some of the best-groomed cross-country ski trails in the state; our six beautiful red clay tennis courts are world class, and a serene row at sunset on the West River is truly bliss. But enough of my praises. Hear directly from our program committees on the following pages, and we'll see you outside!

2026 Brattleboro Outing Club Board of Directors

Jay Jacobowitz	<i>President & Treasurer</i>
Joe Meyer	<i>Vice President & Tennis Ctte</i>
Janice Stockman	<i>Secretary & RowBOC Ctte</i>
Rose Chaffee	<i>Tennis Ctte</i>
Liza Eager	<i>RowBOC Ctte</i>
Scott Herstad	<i>Tennis Ctte Chair</i>
Carl Hirth	<i>Tennis Ctte</i>
Larry McIntosh	<i>Paddling Chair</i>
Victor Morrison	<i>XC & Snowshoe Ctte Co-Chair</i>
Bob Tortolani	<i>XC & Snowshoe Ctte Co-Chair</i>



THIS ISSUE

Tennis Report.....	Page 2
Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Report.....	Page 3
Row BOC Report.....	Page 4
Paddling Report.....	Page 4

Continued next page



We can't wait! The tennis committee has a great mix of experience and fresh energy, and we've been busy planning for an exciting year. This year's committee consists of me, Scott Herstad, plus Ed Powers, Matt Gultinan, Nancy Heydinger, Julie Ros, Amit Sharma, Rose Chaffee, Shelley Ritchie, Carl Hirth, Maggie McKay, Jacob Miller and Joe Meyer. As always, feel free to contact any committee member with questions or concerns, or to find a way to pitch in and help 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 to 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.

Rob Lutz has signed up as our facilities manager which is great news. He's well-versed in court maintenance and is well known at the club. Our clay courts continue to be known as some of the finest in 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. So, we are keeping dues at \$275 for the 2026 season, with family memberships for \$550 and junior memberships for \$40. 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 pro-

grams. This year you will see a contribution option on the website registration page to make it easier for those who wish to help out in this way.

We recently started an open-play program for players new to our club to come and meet and play with other new members as well as long-established members. It has been successful, with everyone meeting new players and expanding our BOC tennis community. We look forward to doing this again this spring/summer. Of course we'll still offer our usual assortment of clinics, competitive league play, mixers and other events for the general membership as well as junior camps and programs. Go to our website for more info.

REGISTRATION:

To register online, go to brattleboroutingclub.org. You may use Paypal as a means of paying. You DO NOT 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!

Julie Ros
Tennis Committee



The BOC XC Ski and Snowshoe Committee is pleased to share that we have concluded a stellar 25/26 season! From excellent conditions to increases in our membership and volunteer roster, to expanded community outreach, it has been a winter to remember.



By the numbers: We had 72 open days; an additional three weeks over last season's 51 days. 249 grooming hours between 11 volunteers and one paid part-time groomer and an average of 3.5 hours per day grooming. 100 students from three area schools participated in our Winter School Program, with 14 active instructors for a total of 142 volunteer hours. We enjoyed 213 memberships, totaling 269 members! And we received a \$10,000 grant from the Brattleboro Outing Club Education Fund (BOCEF), the tax-deductible arm of BOC for donations. We also donated four family passes to the Brooks Memorial Library.

The numbers were great, but the vibes were even better, with increased interest in volunteering, beginners and students discovering the joy of being active outdoors in all seasons, and countless smiles over countless miles of skied and snowshoed trails.

We brought back some favorites, with Ski Bingo and the Clothespin Scavenger Hunt events during the February winter break week. Among the Bingo participants were some enthusiastic stick-flickers and trailside snowman builders, and for the Scavenger Hunt, families showed up as soon as the hut opened, excited to try out snowshoeing and search for clothespins. Children ranging from age 4-12 trooped out and back, eager to exchange their finds for hot chocolate and prizes.

For the six weeks of school programming, we had three participating schools: Academy, Putney Central, and St. Michael's, with the Grammar School utilizing the trails for their own program, as well. We had good conditions for skiing every week of the program this year. And we were lucky to have a group of instructors that included new recruits, many of whom have previous education and/or instructional background. Their commitment to the program made the logistics of outfitting many students with their equipment needs possible. Special thanks to Hank Lange and his Wizards of Winter team that worked with the Academy students.

Speaking of equipment needs, the \$10,000 grant from BOCEF, as well as the donations we received, will be used to improve our fleet of rental skis and boots. We have matched this grant with membership fees and trail pass income and have also received support from Burrows Specialized Sports for the purchase of this equipment. And speaking of rental skis and boots, Suzie Wagner, new to our committee this year, absolutely rocked the Hut this season, getting everyone (including many pass-borrowers from the library) warmed up, trail-ready, and informed.

We are grateful for all our amazing volunteers, paid staff, dedicated committee members, and the entirety of our pass-holding membership and daily visitors for an amazing season. From getting our trail system ready (special shout-out to Joe Cook) to predawn grooming circuits and reports all season long to packing it all up neat and tidy as Spring inevitably washed it all away...huzzah, crew! Until next time!

-XC and Snowshoe Committee
by Shannon

