CROSS COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE



Greetings!

The BOC Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Committee is gearing up for our time to shine. Topping last year's wicked-good conditions may be a tall order, but we're a hopeful crew and we'll be ready to bring our best to whatever the weather gods throw our way.

We have some work party dates filling up the pre-season calendar. The first will focus on getting the hut ready to go in mid-November, and we're eyeing Friday and Saturday, November 21st and 22nd for a trail work weekend, with a potential follow up on December 5th and 6th. Other hot dates are for the Phil & Mary Dunham Memorial Ski-Skate Sale at the Gibson Aiken Rec Center on Friday, November 6th (equipment dropoff) and Saturday, November 7th (sale from 8:00 to 11:00 am); and our expected website (brattleborooutingclub.org) opening for Season Pass Sales on November 1st, a month earlier than in previous years.

Also, this season we've made a significant investment in new equipment. Bring your own or enjoy the free rentals we offer when you join for the season. Returning members are already inquiring about winter events like Last Night Brattleboro, Winter Carnival, and Full Moon Skiing and Snowshoeing. It feels like the season is right around the corner! We look forward to a fantastic season ahead and to welcoming you to our beautifully groomed 20-plus miles of ski and snowshoe trails and hope to see you out there!

Shannon Herrick, XC & Snowshoe Committee

skiboc802@gmail.com

PADDLING

From April to October, BOC paddlers ventured to lakes, ponds, rivers, and the biggest reservoir in the state…twice! We needed sea kayaks on Sommerset for the October trip due to the ocean-like conditions of big wind and waves. Everyone agreed, it was the best trip of all although the Sunrise & Potluck Breakfast trip to an island in Harriman Reservoir is a close second.

Again, this season mostly solo kayaks were the craft of choice. However, we also saw the full gamut of 'floating things' this year including folding canoes and kayaks, inflatable craft, and standup paddleboards. We had to scratch only one trip: The Thimble Islands on Long Island Sound, as there were just too many dangerous conditions to ensure a fun trip. And again this year, the North Hartland Lake trip could not take place due to lake staffing issues related to mandated cuts. Instead, a 'Leader's Choice' trip took us to Nubanusit Lake, Spoonwood Pond and the portage path between them which was a first for many. We also saw a marked increase in the number of families with



children in canoes. Paddlers were thrilled to spot Bald Eagles on almost all trips, as were loons & Merganser ducks. And on Hubbard Pond, a large turtle kept some swimmers ashore!

The PADDLING PROGRAM is FREE as it is funded by the Spring sale of watercraft, on consignment. This year we held the sale on Saturday, May 9th, gathering not only money enough for the program, but also gained a few kayaks donated to BOC. We loaned these out, later selling them to fund the program next year. The 2027 Consignment Sale will be on Saturday, May 8th, one day before Mother's Day.

Ideas for future paddle trip? Text or email me…
Lmacyak@gmail.com, text: (207) 703-6668

Larry McIntosh, Paddling Chair

BrattleboroOutingClub.org

BOC

for good sports

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.brattleborooutingclub.org 2026 - 2027

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

President's Report

When was the last time you saw a Bald Eagle; the glint of evening sun while paddling on calm water, or the full cold moon light the midnight snow? All experiences our members and guests enjoyed this year.

104 years and going strong! From paddling around the Northeast, to rowing on the Connecticut and West Rivers, to rallying tennis balls on our soft red clay courts, to enjoying the eerie whoosh of cross-country skis on a well-groomed trail at the Country Club, it's all here for our members and guests of the greater Brattleboro community.

And we are a community fixture, training elementary, middle and high school kids in several of our programs, hosting the BUHS cross country ski team, offering adult tennis clinics, and hosting regional U.S. Tennis Association and local cross country skiing events.

Volunteers are the core to everything we do, from work on each program committee, to seasonal prep work, to service on the BOC board. We depend on our Brattleboro community!

In Good Hands. We are also fortunate that each program continues to enjoy the expertise of skilled managers, from ski trail grooming in winter, to rolling our clay tennis courts and putting in the West River docks and training rowers in spring, to guiding paddlers around New England and the Northeast all summer long.

Affordable Fees and Free Programs. As a non-profit 501(c)(4), we keep program fees as low as possible to provide access to as many as possible, and we offer our Paddling program for free.

Annual Meeting. We hope you'll join us at 5 pm on Thursday, January 21st, at Ramunto's Restaurant at the roundabout on Exit 3 for dinner and a good time. Look for your email invitation as the date gets closer.

Jay Jacobowitz

2026
Brattleboro Outing Club
Board of Directors

Jay Jacobowitz	*President & Treasurer*
Janice Stockman	*Secretary & RowBOC Ctte*
Rose Chaffee-Cohen	*Tennis Ctte*
Liza Eager	*RowBOC Ctte*
Scott Herstad	*Tennis Ctte Chair*
Larry McIntosh	*Paddling Chair*
Victor Morrison	*XC & Snowshoe Ctte Co-Chair*
Bob Tortolani	*XC & Snowshoe Ctte Co-Chair*

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

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BOC TENNIS

Wrapping up another great season at BOC's Cedar Street clay courts!

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures, leaves and acorns drop quicker than we'd like them to, we see the outdoor tennis season is drawing to a close. We hope you've all had plenty of time out on our beautiful red clay courts this summer. It's been a great season, and we'd like to share a few highlights.

Over the last two weekends in October, many hands made light work of closing the courts for the winter including taking up the lines, rolling up the nets, removing the wind screens, cleaning the clubhouse and moving furniture inside. Thanks to all who volunteered!

A Successful Summer of Tennis

Our summer programs enjoyed another strong season! Tennis Director Jacob Miller reports that this year's kids' summer camps went well, bringing plenty of activity and enthusiasm to the courts. Meanwhile, Ed Powers reports that the adult clinics were well attended throughout the summer, reflecting the continued interest in improving skills, staying active and enjoying the game. A big thank you to Jacob and Ed for making tennis at BOC an enjoyable and welcoming experience for players of all ages and abilities.



A Special Shout Out to Facilities Manager Rob Lutz!

If you've played at BOC this summer, you've no doubt appreciated the beautifully maintained courts and grounds. A special THANK YOU! to our Facilities Manager and fellow member, Rob Lutz, whose hard work and dedication on and off the courts have kept our facilities in excellent condition throughout the season. Maintaining outdoor clay courts takes considerable time, care and attention, and we're fortunate to have Rob looking after ours.

Thank *You* for Another Great Season!

To all our members, guests, instructors, volunteers and everyone who helps make BOC Tennis Club such a special place – thank you!

The BOC Tennis Committee



RowBOC

This was the second year in a row (ha, ha!) of record-breaking enrollment in the BOC's Rowing Program: 58 members joined, up five from a record 53 last year. We believe we are attracting new members for several reasons.

Rowing looks graceful and beautiful. Have you walked on the West River Trail and caught a glimpse of someone in a rowing shell? The sleekness of the boat combined with the length of the oars can make the rower look like a bird flying on the water's surface–graceful, effortless. But the more effortless it looks, the more skilled and strong the rower is. Good rowing looks easy. It isn't. This year we taught 10 new rowers in the clinic and led a skills workshop for intermediate rowers.

Rowing combines a physical challenge with a close encounter with nature. The river is always changing, and in a rowing shell, one can observe the small changes that most people miss. This year the water has been especially clear, stones and sticks and even trash were visible at the bottom of the West River. Mike, our dock builder, even found the adjustable wrench he dropped in the river last fall! After the spring rains, the river can be full of logs and debris. This year we formed a crew to remove snags to make the river safer to row. Visiting rowers from Connecticut and California marveled at our unique, calm and beautiful setting, saying how lucky we are. We know!

Rowing provides a full-body workout. Almost every muscle in your body is used in the rowing stroke, especially your legs, core, back, and arms. People think rowers have strong arms and shoulders. They might, but the power comes from the legs and core. As we say, rowing is a leg sport, not an arm sport. Ask a rower how rowing has changed their body–most are happy with the changes!

Rowing is a practice; it is hard to learn but the practice provides rewards for the brain and body. Rowing takes months to be proficient but a lifetime to excel. Every stroke gives your brain and body feedback and opportunities to make small tweaks to improve the next one. This is mindfulness at its best; stray from the present moment and you might find yourself in the water! That happened this year, too. In fact, we teach people how to get back in the boat during our Learn to Row clinic.

Rowing is social and solitary at the same time. At RowBOC we primarily row singles and doubles. That means one or two people with each person handling two oars. You can certainly row alone, but the positive vibe in our club is due to the camaraderie; people make dates to show up at the boathouse together, help each other move boats down to the dock and return at about the same time to close up. We are a friendly club with many lasting friendships fostered here.

Interested in giving rowing a try? If your sport is skiing or snowshoeing and you want to stay in shape for the winter, consider learning to row. We hold our clinic every June and we'd love to have you. If you're a tennis player, consider coming to our Try-it-Out Day in May when everyone who shows up gets to hop in a boat with the support of master rowers. If you rowed when you were younger, come to our Return to Rowing Day, also in June, when you can see if rowing still calls you.

Janice Stockman

