

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

Fall/Winter 2020

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

2020 Board of Directors Brattleboro Outing Club

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Leah Silverman	<i>Board Member</i>
Joan Wesolowski	<i>Board Member</i>



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President's Report

The Brattleboro Outing Club is growing, as we enjoy increasing membership in all our programs and celebrate the beautiful Southern Vermont outdoors. Our spring/summer tennis, paddling, and rowing projects added participants and activities including tournaments, coaching, and just-for-fun get-togethers. As we move into our fall/winter season we are very excited to announce our new, dedicated and enlarged Cross Country Ski hut, which will be located on the property of the Brattleboro Country Club, 58 Senator Gannett Drive. Have you ever had to go through an Act 250 process? If so, you know the mountains of paperwork, regulations, and notifications in order to get something like this done. We also received State grant monies, and charitable donations that covered our costs to buy, move and fit up our new Ski Hut. A big THANK YOU! to Bill Jahn and his team of engineers, administrators, and movers for their tireless efforts in getting this major project done. Please make sure to visit the new Ski Hut and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with us this winter!

Each of our programs this year has improved facilities to expand access, comfort and enjoyment for members and guests. We are also upgrading the BOC website and email communications to make joining and staying in touch much easier. Please see the next few pages for our individual program reports.

This year we welcomed new board members Leah Silverman and Joan Wesolowski, as well as new program chairs Linda Puzan for Rowing, and Dave Twombly for Cross Country Ski.

All this work takes the effort of many volunteers, from participants in individual programs to board members. Altogether, these community-minded folks put in well over 1,000 hours of volunteer time EACH YEAR. While we don't have space here to thank each individual, know that we on the board appreciate your dedication and consistent energies in making BOC one of the great—and longest serving—outdoors enjoyment programs in the country.

Remember: 2022 will be our 100th Anniversary!

Think Snow! Chris Wocell



We are heading into an exciting time!

Last spring the Brattleboro Country Club renovated their Golf Pro Shop and let the BOC know that it would no longer be available as the BOC Ski Hut. A location on the back upper parking lot was offered if the BOC wanted to have a building there. In June, a 14' x 36' unfinished tiny house built by the Construction Trades Program, at the Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC) came on the market. Thanks to the support of WRCC Director Ray Dunn, WSESU Business Administrator Frank Rucker, the BUHS #6 Finance Committee, and the Brattleboro Outing Club Education Foundation President John Mabie, the BOC was able to enter into a purchase agreement for the tiny house.

We spent four months going thru the Act 250 process and thanks to hours of work by Brattleboro Zoning Administrator Brian Bannon and Brattleboro Select board member Elizabeth McLoughlin the permit was approved. Dwight Holmes was instrumental in preparing the pier foundation and will soon start on the ADA approved handicapped accessible ramp. Ben Harwood offered his expertise as a structural engineer on how to anchor the building. Mike Renaud transported the building to the Brattleboro Country Club site on November 12th. All of this was possible because of Melanie Boese and her staff's support of the BOC XC Ski Program and her willingness to allow the BOC to place the new ski hut on the golf course property.

After a one-day weather delay, a BOC crew of Dwight Holmes, Joe Powers, Isaac Wagner, Ben Harwood, Bill Jahn, and Tom Grasso assisted Mike Renaud's crew in picking up and delivering the building. The Windham Regional Career Center Director Nancy Weise and Construction Trades Instructor John DiMatteo made sure we had everything we needed to support loading the building. The new BOC Ski Hut is now sitting in its new home at the BCC waiting for some cosmetics before opening it's doors this winter.

The BOCXC ski community support for this project has been outstanding and there is still work to be done. Look for upcoming BOC XC Ski notices.

Please consider donating your time, energy, leadership skills, and/or financial support to make our local skiing all that it can be. For more information on how you can help contact any of the current BOC XC Ski Committee members. See www.brattleboroutingclub.org for the committee listing or write skiboc802@gmail.com

See you on the snow!

Dave Twombly, Cross Country Ski Chair



"Everything worked out well this year! We extended the paddling season into October, added two new locations (Sherman Reservoir (on the VT/MA border & the CT River reach, from Wells River to Bradford), and introduced the concept of 'Leader's Choice' trips, taking advantage of real-time Fall color information to assure peak color for late season paddle trips.

Looks like we have three 'core' paddle trips. Attendance always peaks for the May 'setbacks' birding trip, the sunrise/potluck breakfast paddle on Harriman Reservoir and the Somerset Reservoir Fall foliage outing.

Many new paddlers were added to our roster this summer, due to out-of-town print, and social media outreach, in addition to handing out schedules to cars with boat racks, at the Brattleboro Food Coop and other parking lots in town.

The success of the annual Spring consignment SALE/SWAP, has allowed us to continue to provide the paddling program FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, in addition to meeting new prospective paddlers.

Only one trip had to be scratched this year. Due to the spring high water on the CT River, NH Fish & Game closed the take-out for the Bellows Falls to Walpole trip. We'll try that again next year.

Also next paddling season, we hope to extend the schedule forward in to April, while still keeping an October trip, giving us seven months of outings. Must be something good from global warming.

Highlights from this year included 2 eagles, and their young in a nest, right over our heads, as we paddled in the CT River setbacks, in Hinsdale, camping on a beautiful sandbar along the CT River, the quiet of the Ashuelot River, as it flows within a protected corridor of trees, and close encounters with a beaver, and 2 loons, on Somerset.

We're always looking for new places to paddle. Please send suggestions to: Lmacyak@gmail.com."

Larry McIntosh

Paddling Chair



It's early November and BOC's Cedar St. tennis courts have been put to bed for the winter. But right up to the end it was a great year. Now it's time to thank everyone who helped make 2019 such an outstanding year for the tennis program. I'm continually blown away by the effort, energy and community spirit of the entire BOC tennis community that makes our club so special. Really it's a matter of everyone contributing and working together that makes it all come together so well. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the people whose efforts go above and beyond.

A big tip of the cap goes to Rick Sullivan whose continued fine efforts as facility manager have kept the courts playing beautifully all year and the club in great shape. Well done Rick!

Jacob Miller is just great as director of tennis instruction and all-round club ambassador. He's so good at getting people out on the courts playing their best. It is so much fun watching people of all ages get better at tennis and experience more enjoyment playing as a result.

Thanks to Franz Reichsman for his work this summer rejuvenating the BOC Larry Bloch tournament. It's so much fun, and so instructive, to watch REALLY good players compete in such an intimate setting. A super job by Franz and everyone who pitched in.

As always, 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 little things is a big part of our club.

And last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to the tennis committee for their continued awesome efforts. This is a great group to work with, and their behind the scenes work to make sure that everything falls into place is remarkable.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful winter, and we look forward to seeing you on the courts next spring!!

Joe Meyer

Tennis Chair



Our 12th successful rowing season began on May 21 when a full complement of RowBOC members gathered beside our West River boathouse to reassemble and launch our dock, which had undergone extensive refurbishment. Our Try It Out Day on June 1st attracted 16 prospective rowers, eight of whom completed our introductory clinics and became new RowBOC members, bringing our total membership to 33. So far this season, we've logged over 500 sign-outs—an average of 33 rows a week. Our members and boats are getting a great workout!

Our Learn to Row clinic is grateful to have had two great rowing coaches—our very own Graeme King and Tim Whitney—as well as the invaluable assistance of generous RowBOC members without whom the clinics could not have happened at all. And throughout the season, Graeme regularly made himself available to provide helpful sculling hints to new and seasoned rowers. There is always something to learn in such a subtle sport! We are blessed to have the use of two beautiful rivers. The West River offers a great opportunity for rowers to get their chops before venturing out onto the mighty Connecticut River. To ensure that new members feel comfortable out on the water, seasoned members make themselves available to row with them. New friends soon become rowing buddies.

Once again this season, the club has taken the opportunity to connect with the Putney Rowing Club (PRC) by organizing a round-trip group row from Putney to Brattleboro and back, a shared rowing experience that is becoming a tradition. Moreover, RowBOC members support PRC by volunteering to assist at the Green Mountain Head regatta, held annually in Putney on the last Sunday in September. This is a wonderful event in which more than 300 rowers take to the Connecticut River for a three-mile race. RowBOC members past and present have taken up the challenge!



RowBOC, continued

Throughout the rowing season we have seen a flurry of activity on our dock, with sunbathers, swimmers, and paddlers all making use of it. But they've graciously moved off the dock whenever RowBOC members need to launch—as the saying goes, “It takes a whole dock to launch a rowing shell.” With all this extra activity, the docks are getting more than their share of wear and tear, so once again we are grateful for our RowBOC members who get the dock fixed whenever repairs are needed.



As we close out our season, our newly formed steering committee has been busy reworking our membership handbook, which will be hot off the press in time for the 2020 rowing season. The steering committee's goal is to ensure a healthy, vibrant club that is welcoming to all who seek to join us out on the water. Hope to see you next season!

Linda Puzan
Mike Fleming
RowBoc Steering Committee Members