

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 Spring/Summer 2020

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

**2020 Board of Directors
Brattleboro Outing Club**

<i>Dave Twombly</i>	<i>President & Cross Country Ski Chair</i>
<i>Joe Meyer</i>	<i>Vice President & Tennis Chair</i>
<i>Jay Jacobowitz</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Jake Dixon</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Larry McIntosh</i>	<i>Paddling Chair</i>
<i>Linda Puzan</i>	<i>Rowing Chair</i>
<i>Anne Latchis</i>	<i>Board Member</i>
<i>Joan Wesolowski</i>	<i>Board Member</i>



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President's Report

Exciting news! On May 6, 2020, Vermont Governor Scott issued updated guidelines for Outdoor Recreation Businesses, Facilities and Organizations, which enables BOC to open up its tennis, rowing, and paddling programs. We will be following the health and safety guidelines carefully as we bring these essential health-giving activities to our members. You can see the complete guidelines on the following link, under section 4.2: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>. Now is also a great time to go to www.brattleboroutingclub.org to join your favorite programs, support BOC, and offer your volunteer services.

I'm pleased to return as your President, having served on the board for over a decade through 2012. BOC has always encouraged a strong volunteer philosophy, and I believe our inspiring programs encourage younger families to join. For example, if you are a member of the Cross Country Ski program, you can use our rental skis for free, so younger families don't have to buy skis for their kids. I would love to hear your ideas on attracting new members as well.

For the first time in many years we had a social evening at Bella Notte in February. Over 95 responded, but due to poor weather, about 60 attended. The board is planning more socially safe get-togethers. One of the major objectives of the BOC Board is to make our programs as affordable as possible. As our costs have increased, we have eliminated volunteer credits and rebates. The Tennis Program will honor credits for this season only that were accumulated last year. We are also in the process of identifying what we need to maintain the equipment to support our programs now and in the future. We recently raised \$16,000 for a snowmobile, and have ordered two pieces of snow grooming equipment for next season. Please see the Cross Country report for more. BOC also needs more board members, fundraising volunteers, and someone to chair the cross country committee. We are approaching BOC's 100th anniversary in 2022 and could use some help to spearhead that event and make it great!

I would like to thank my fellow board members: Jake Dixon, who has been our secretary for over 20 years; Anne Latchis who has done an amazing job with our website, Jay Jacobowitz, our treasurer; Joan Wesolowski for her valuable input; Larry McIntosh who recently turned 85 and has done a phenomenal job single handedly running our Paddling Program and boat swap; Joe Meyer for his leadership and enthusiasm as chair of the Tennis Program, and Linda Puzan for leading and organizing volunteers for RowBOC. Special thanks to Bill Jahn for his foresight and grant-writing expertise to secure over \$30,000 to buy the building built by students at the Windham Regional Career Center, which is now the permanent BOC XC Ski Hut, a great addition to our XC program and a place we can call home. Lastly, thanks to our unsung heroes and volunteers who donate their time and efforts serving on our committees, and you, our members, who generously pitch in on work projects, whether it be preparing tennis courts, clearing trails, working the ski hut, and just getting involved to make our programs run smoothly.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Twombly BOC President



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Brattleboro Country Club for allowing us to put the BOC XC Hut in their upper parking lot and provide continuing use of the course for our ski trails. I would also like to thank Bella Notte for their support for our XC members as well. I would also like to thank the Retreat Farm for allowing us to put our trails on their fields

The BOC XC program finally has a place we can call home. In previous years, the BOC rented the Brattleboro Country Club's (BCC) Pro shop. Due to Bill Jahn's fundraising and grant writing expertise, he secured \$30,000 to make this project a reality. The BOC was able to purchase a 15'x 35" house which was built at the Windham Career Center. The Hut was moved to the upper parking lot at the BCC in November. Thanks go to Dwight Holmes as he was a major factor in designing the foundation and placement of the hut. He also built a wheelchair ramp for the hut, making it accessible for people to watch their kids and grandchildren cross country ski. Once the hut was in place, many volunteers stepped up to paint, organize and furnish the inside of the hut, making it feel warm and cozy on the inside with a newly installed propane heater and gas stove for hot chocolate.

There was a lot of preparation work that had to be done before the snow arrived and thanks to all the volunteers and BUHS ski team members who helped rope off the greens. Joe Cook was our Trail Maintenance Coordinator who made sure that the trails were cleared after a few trees had fallen down. He was real handy and timely with his chain saw.

Linda Whelihan was our Membership Chair who did a fantastic job in keeping track of our 218 members and printing out all of the BOC membership cards.

We were lucky to have an early snowstorm, which dumped over 21 inches in early December. Otherwise, the snowfall was way down this season. However we had the BOC Groom Team led by Bill Jahn , Jesse Palmer ,our paid groomer, along with the rest of the groom team who did an amazing job with what little snow there was this year. Regardless of the weather, the trails were always skiable and were open 74 days, closed only 20 days from 12/2-3/3. Great job to all of our groomers for a job well done.

Wait there's more. Our hut manager, Saski Bailey-de Bruijn, did a great job coordinating and managing all of the hut volunteers along with Peter Gould and Mollie Burke. Laura Robertson was also an invaluable asset as our Hut Coordinator who maintained the snowshoe trails and the popular kid Snowshoe Scavenger Hunt during Winter Carnival. . Saski and Laura were very warm and pleasant in welcoming our members and many guests into our new ski hut. There were 45 other hut volunteers who donated over 250 hours running the hut operations, renting skis and checking in our members and in our guests.

Linda Bailey did an excellent job overseeing and running the school programs and groups as she has done for 20 years. There were also 13 instructors who volunteered more than 150 hours to help students from 5 schools enjoy our XC course. Thanks Linda, you're amazing.

The BUHS Boys Nordic Team are the Vermont State Champions having won the Division 1 Nordic Ski State event while the BUHS Girls Team came in fifth. Both teams practiced and competed on the BOC trials at the Brattleboro Country Club. Congratulations!

There was a BOC Social held at the BCC in February where I announced the Brattleboro Outing Club Education Foundation aka BOCEF would match \$ for \$ contributions which were received for a much needed snowmobile. I am pleased to announce that we have successfully raised money to purchase a new snowmobile which costs \$16,000 and has been ordered, arriving in the fall. A big thanks to all of our generous donors to make this possible as it will be a great addition to the XC program. FYI, we plan to have stairs built leading up to the Hut to make it a much safer climb to the top by July.

In closing, my hat is off to the XC Committee who made this past season, a successful one. It was my pleasure to be involved with such a dedicated group of volunteers. You're the best and kudos to : Linda Bailey, Molly Burke, Peter Gould, Bill Jahn, Victor Morrison, Linda Robertson, Leah Silverman, and John Ungerleider

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Twombly
XC Chair



BOC will host 11 trips during the 2020 paddling season, from May to October. All outings are FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and FAMILY FRIENDLY. Canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) are all welcome. No reservations required, just show up, with boat/board, and related gear. The only exception, is the overnight camping trip to Wilgus State Park, in September. Reservations ARE required for this trip, if staying with BOC that night. A \$10 non-refundable deposit/donation will secure the reservation. Limit is 6, overnight.

LIFE JACKETS (PFDs) ARE MANDATORY on all BOC paddle trips. Special Pandemic Paddling guidelines will be posted on the website.

The club does not provide boats or boards. Rentals are available locally through the VT Canoe Touring Center, Putney Rd, Brattleboro, VT (802) 257-5008 (discounts to BOC members/supporters).

Another good place to pick up (or sell/trade) a boat/board will be at the 21st Annual BOC Canoe & Kayak (also SUP, Rowing shell & small Sailboat) SALE/SWAP, on Saturday, June 13th.. location TBA. Stay tuned... (last few years it's been held in the Outlet Center, on Canal St, but it may have to change, this year). Scheduled outings are as follows:

...Wed, May 20th: Spoonwood Pond, Hancock & Nelson, NH

...Sun, May 31st: Somerset Res, Somerset, VT

...Wed, June 3rd: Hubbard Pond, Rindge, NH

...Wed, June 17th: Grafton Pond, Grafton, NH

...Sat, June 20th: Harriman Res, Wilmington, VT (sunrise paddle & potluck island breakfast - FIRST DAY OF SUMMER)

...Sat, Sept 12th: CT River, Sumner Falls to Wilgus State Park, Ascutney, VT (this is an overnight camping trip, if desired).

...Sun, Sept 13th: North Hartland Lake, Hartland & Hartford, VT (second day of a 2 day trip, if desired)

...Sat, Sept 26th: CT River, Brattleboro to Hinsdale, NH (part of the CT River Conservancy, 25th Annual, Source to Sea, Clean-up)

...Wed, Sept 30th: Leader's Choice; wherever the colors are peak.

...Sat, Oct 3rd: Somerset Res, Somerset, VT (moose, loons, color, bald eagles, otters, etc.)

...Wed, Oct 7th: Leader's Choice; wherever the colors are peak.

Details of WHERE & WHEN to meet, and descriptions of each trip, are posted on BOC website, as well as, in the printed schedule.

For more information, suggestions and ideas for new places to paddle, contact: Larry McIntosh (802) 254-3666 or Lmacyak@gmail.com.



Greetings to all of the BOC Tennis Community! I sincerely hope that all of you are safe and healthy. I'd like to say that we'll be opening the club up next week, but that's not the reality. The reality is that we're still not sure when we can open. We're committed to maintaining our mission to promote healthy tennis opportunities for our membership and being a positive force for recreation in our community.

The Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order remains in effect, but with modeling continuing to indicate Vermonters are significantly slowing the spread of the virus, the Administration is taking a cautious, incremental and evidence-based approach to putting Vermonters back to work.

The Governor's most recent order allows for some the performance of outdoor work with proper precautions taken. This may allow us to start preparing some of the courts for limited play. As I write this report, we are working on plans to open in some capacity as soon as we can safely prepare some of the courts.

Here's what we will do:

-Stay in touch with state and local officials to make sure we're working within their guidelines.

-We'll stay in touch with you to let you know where we're at in the process.

-Work to offer tennis opportunities for all of our members. We know a lot of our members prefer doubles. Doubles in the world of social distancing may need to look a little different, but we're committed to offering the opportunity for all members to get out on the courts with their friends enjoying the game the love.

Here's what you can do:

-Stay healthy. However, frustrating it is to live a social distancing life style, stay the course.

-Stay in touch with us. Let us know how you're doing. Let us know if and when you can provide some volunteer help getting the courts open.

- Register for the season. The new web site is up and you can register for the season. I know this is a leap of faith to some extent, but we're going to need the income to stay afloat. If the season is greatly diminished, we can make adjustments to make it worthwhile for everyone.

Stay healthy – be strong. However long this takes let's be there for each other.

Joe Meyer

Tennis Chair



The Wonders of Rowing!

Ever wonder what it would take to stay afloat and upright in one of those skinny racing shells?

Ever wonder how you get four people to row in sync?

Ever wonder what these terms mean: Way enough, check it down, back it down, sweep boat, sculling, catch a crab, at the catch, the drive, the finish...

Learning to row you would have the opportunity to experience the answers to these questions, though hopefully you will seldom catch a crab!

Since spring is in the air, it's time for the Brattleboro Outing Club's Rowing program (known as RowBOC) to open the boathouse, get the docks in the water and plan for another wonderous rowing season. As part of our spring planning, we offer a free Learn to Row day and if this hooks you and you want to learn more, we will have a rowing clinic with experienced coaches teaching the basic skills needed to row-row-row the boat. Clinics are for folks new to rowing as well as those who may just be

rusty and want to hone their skills. When the clinic ends, we would hope that you'll join RowBOC and have the opportunity to continue to work on your skills and enjoy the camaraderie of both new and seasoned rowers. Due to the Covid-19, the free Learn to Row day and the Rowing clinics have not been scheduled yet. We will remain in compliance with Governor Scott's directives regarding Covid-19. We will to do some dock work and get them in the water as soon as possible. So please do not hesitate to get information about the club and learning to row at the email address listed below.

Our boathouse is on the West River, near its confluence with the Connecticut, which makes it a great place to learn to row. If you have rowed with us in the past we hope you will join us this season, and please tell your friends, family and work buddies about RowBOC. Encourage them to give this wonderful sport and recreational activity a try.

And please check out the Brattleboro Outing Club's website (brattleboroutclub.org) for information about the date of the free Learn to Row day as well as the dates and costs of the rowing clinic and membership. You can also contact us at rowboc@gmail.com for questions and information.

Looking forward to connecting with new and seasoned rowing friends!

Way enough for now!

Linda Puzan

RowBOC