The IceBreaker

Nutmeg Curling Club
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The 2008 Golden Handle Committee Members

On the Bonspiel Trail

Senior Women's Worlds Results
Donna Purkey's team completed roundrobin play at the Senior World's in Vierumaki, Finland, with a record of 6 - 3. Only Canada was better with 7-2! However, there were 4 other teams at 6 - 3. They moved to a tiebraker and lost which placed them in 5th place overall — out of the medal round. Donna played in 3 games, Skipping one game when Pam Olenik became ill.

2008 USA Curling Mixed Nationals
Derek Surka and Charrissa Lin (Nutmeg) with teammates Sean and Rachel (Potomac) lost in the semifinals of the 2008 USA Curling Mixed Nationals. This was a great showing for a team that didn't play together that much.

Derek and Charrissa have made the playoffs almost every year they have gone to the mixed nationals. The duo made it to the finals of the mixed doubles and Charrissa played at the Women's nationals.

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Message From the President

Dear Nutmeggers-

We have come through our first two seasons with staggering growth (350% of our initial membership)! This is due to a real team effort by all Nutmeggers who work on the various committees, come to curl, and 'talk it up' to friends and neighbors helping us to expand. A huge 'well done' to all!

Your membership runs on a calendar year basis; don't put the club out of your mind over the Summer! There will be a number of activities. First up, is the annual meeting which this year will see us seated 'on the rink' (something new for us!) to enjoy a meal and a silent auction with your curling friends. It's great fun and a chance to bring guests as they participate in the fun of bidding and, check out the club. This is our official annual meeting. The nominating committee will present the slate of new board members and, we'll provide a brief update on Nutmeg status and finances. DON'T MISS IT!

We'll have a clambake in the Fall and other events in between, the Social Committee will be working to get things scheduled and circulate the dates to all.

I have been meeting with the committees for a season's end wrap up and am thrilled with the plans and commitment to make next season even bigger and better! The first two years in Bridgeport have been a great success. Now, we go forward fine-tuning our efforts.

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President's Letter (Continued)

Curling does not stop in the Summer- there are bonspiels to participate in all over the USA. If you are interested, check out our website for informational flyers and put a team together. Go out and represent Nutmeg to other clubs around the country!

The club calendar for next season will be out in advance of the season so that you can plan ahead. Did you know the Winter Olympics are in Canada in 2010? Did you know 2010 is Nutmeg's 50th anniversary? It is sure to be a banner year for the club and for curling. I am looking for volunteers to start planning for Nutmeg's 50th. Please contact me if you are interested.

We have opportunities to expand further:

•We have had inquiries regarding wheelchair curling and, as it is a bit different than curling as we know it, we need to have some people learn about it so that they can instruct others. If you have an interest in this area, please contact me.

•We have a good deal of ice time available during the day which is perfect for able-bodied seniors. Anyone interested in 'taking point' on 'growing' this area? Give me a buzz.

•We're polishing our activities, trying new things and moving forward. Anything else? Let me know: jenniferstannard@hotmail.com

See you at the annual meeting! - Jennifer

Nutmeg Club Championship

Former Nutmeg President Cleve Cleveland presents the Club Championship to Sabrina Keillor, Tom Crispino, Britt Bisson & Derek Surka

The Nutmeg Club Championship was held with 12 teams participating this year. Curling went off without a hitch on Thursday evening but, the Friday draw had to be postponed due to inclement weather. Thanks to all who were so flexible!

After a total of 18 games, numerous buffalo wings and LOTS of fries the finalists for the three events were determined. The teams played to the crowd as all games were tight and, the second event went into an extra end!

The Surka rink emerged victorious as Nutmeg Champions with Derek Surka, Britt Bisson, Tom Crispino and Sabrina Keillor winning a close match with Rob Reihl's rink of Mark Malkin, Lee Paine and Julie Power.

The Second event had the warm room on the edge of their seats as Scott Follin's rink of Heide Follin, Mark & Laura Marchionna never gave up and won in an extra end over Elly Bockley's rink of Karl Bockley, David Asano and Matt Bertonica.

Turlough (Terry) Smith swept into the third event with kilt ablaze and, in another close game, led his rink of Karen Shane, Jim Crispino and Neil Varjas to a win over Jill Owens rink of Allan Alward, Jerry Cunningham and Kathy Clark (Alf Winter shared the Vice position with Alan) A great event with new Club Champions 'til next season! -- Jennifer A. Stannard

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

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Annual Meeting and Silent Auction

The Silent and Live Auction is held to raise funds for the club. Fundraising is essential to retire debt and cover operating costs. Every dollar we raise from corporate events, sponsorships, and the auction is a dollar that doesn't have to be raised through increased member dues. So please be generous! Last year we had 9 tables of donated items including a trip to Aruba, golfing in North Carolina, sailing on Long Island Sound, vacation house on Cape Cod, Broadway tickets and wonderful wine baskets. We raised close to $15,000.

Be creative! Remember some of the best auction items are a donation of Time, Talent or Services.

Host a party! (Brunch, Lunch, pool party, cocktails, beach party

Teach a skill! (Computer, sewing, cooking, tennis, sailing)

Provide a Service! (Babysitting, pet or house sitting, airport transportation, gardening, house repairs)

Food Items! (Deliver your specialty once or monthly)

Special Talents! (Design a deck or garden, interior decorating, graphic design

Things! (Curling collectables, themed baskets, jewelry, handmade items, gift certificates)

All your fabulous Auction Donations should be in the hands of the committee members before the event. Please call Diane Muldowney (847-2330) or Jim Meinhold (761-9305) to arrange drop off or pick-up. (Remember, your donations are tax deductible)

Keep an eye out for the flyer in the mail, or print it from nutmegcurling.com

Please RSVP as soon as possible with your auction time. The deadline is June 5 for pick up. Please help us keep phone calls to a minimum.

Membership Results

During the October 07, January and February 2008 Learn to Curl Open Houses over 250 people were introduced to curling. Forty-seven new/experienced curlers joined Nutmeg this year. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the warm room and on the ice.

Hot Shots Curling Camp

The Hot Shot's Are Coming to Nutmeg October 24 - 26th!

Details are being finalized, watch their website: www.hotshotscurling.com for information.

Health Net Triathlon Relay

The Health Net Triathlon will be held June 21 at Indian Well State Park in Shelton. Consisting of a 1.5K swim, 40K Bike and 10K run. As a member of the Bridgeport Chamber, Nutmeg has been invited to enter a relay team(s) of 2 or 3 people. The entry fee is $120 per team and prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Interested? Pull a team of Nutmeggers together and go for it! Information is on www.trifitness.net

Junior Bantam League

Emily Winter, Libby Brundage and Jay Montesano

Team Curling Rocks competed in the Plainfield Curling Club Bantam Bonspiel in South Plainfield, NJ February 16-17. The field of eight teams, ages 14 and under, came from Philadelphia, Bridgeport, Wayland, MA, and from the host club.

The curling Rocks team comprised of Libby Brundage at skip, Emily Winter at Vice, Jay Montesano at Second and Shannon Ringler, of Plainfield filling in at Lead.

Curling Rocks ended the preliminary round robin in a 3 way tie for fourth place with a key win in their third match of the day. Exhausted coming off the ice, they immediately had to throw to the button as a tie breaker. Jay's 18-inch and Libby's 32-inch shots cinched fourth place in the first day's preliminaries.

Sunday morning the team took the ice for the finals of the second event against Philadelphia I, and in a close battle took runner-upon the short end of an 8-3 score. The tournament winner was the Broomstones I team over Philadelphia II, with second event winner Philadelphia I and Nutmeg runner up in the second event.

The team is continued its competitive season in the Broomstones Curling Club Bantam Bonspiel in Wayland, MA March 15-16. Ten teams from Philadelphia, Nashua, Cape Cod, Albany, Nutmeg, and the host Curling Clubs participated.

After several close games, Curling Rocks came away with the fourth event runner up to the Cape Cod I team. At the prize presentation, the host and tournament chair, Keith Dropkin enthusiastically noted that Nutmeg Curling Club was back in the bonspiel loop after several years, and looked forward to continued participation. Our first year team conducted itself in a manner befitting the spirit of curling, and as sporting ambassadors of our club.

Libby Brundage is in her second year of curling at Nutmeg Curling Club. She is an eighth grader from Killingworth, Conn who attends Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. She travels an hour each way to get on the ice to curl twice a week.

Emily Winter is from Easton, Conn. played vice. She is an eighth grader at Helen Keller Middle School. Also in her second year of curling, she looks forward to continuing curling as a High School student next year.

Emily and Libby shared the Binner Trophy award as Nutmeg Curling Club Junior players of the year in 2007.

Jay Montesano is an eighth grader at Helen Keller MS from Easton. He started curling in December of 2007, and has shown real shot-making skill and an avid love of the game very quickly in his brief time at the game.

Scott Sacci is a ninth grader at Fairfield Ludlowe HS and is in his second year curling. He played lead for the team at the Broomstones bonspiel, and was an enthusiastic team member.

On The Bonspiel Trail (Cont'd From Page1)

Quete du Roi Gay and Lesbian Bonspiel

Peter De Jong teamed up with Jim O'Boyle (Ardsley), Luc Latour and Jim Vibert (both from Toronto) to play in the sixth edition of the La Quete du Roi Gay and Lesbian Bonspiel at the Royal Montreal Curling Club, March 21-23. After losing the first two games in the points round robin to teams from Montreal, they ran the tables in the single elimination rounds against two more Montreal teams and then a team from Toronto to end up as the D Event winners. Interesting factoid: Founded in 1807 the Royal Montreal Curling Club is the oldest athletic organization in North America and recognized as an "Event of National Significance" by the Canadian government.

In March, Sara Hirx, Elly Bockley, Terrie Allen and Jayne Beattie competed in the Women's Challenge at Potomac Curling Club

Pinto's Guide to the Kaiser

Two Nutmeg teams travelled to Utica, NY to compete in Kaiser 5 & Under Bonspiel.Nutmeg I: Terrie Allen skip, Karl Bockley vice, Elly Bockley 2nd, Mike Hope lead. And Nutmeg II: Joel Leneker skip, Lili Davis-Burchat vice, Mike Davis Burchat 2nd, Betsy McCurry lead. Mike "Pinto" Hope reported on his experience at the event.

Well, we arrived in scenic upstate NY at Utica Curling Club and settled in to this very nicely equipped facility. I have now curled in 7 cities. Nutmeg is the most satisfactory and consistent ice; Utica is a close second. The early go a bit slower than back home, though after a bit of adjusting felt fairly close. The mid way transition was close and the later round play was very close to what we had played with the previous week in Bridgeport; lots of swing. There were many shots which ended up curling up to 5 foot, and provided many exciting moments in a lot of the matchups.

The layout of the warm room was spacious and terrific, an 'L ' shaped facility with glass on rear and left sides of ice, perfect for viewing. The wing behind sheets provided the rink entry, more or less a loading dock for on deck draws. This area was lined with multiple trophy cabinetry and a handful of sofas to kick back and fireplace. Best spot to watch the matches from.

The other wing ran alongside the length of the rink with full glass, which provided the Bar and six tables for the twelve teams which just came off the ice to congregate. This area was great for viewing during the post game. There are additional banquet tables along the six, which can combined seat up to a couple hundred.

The remainder of the lounge included a dance floor for the band, dj, karaoke with a large screen TV which featured an ongoing Guitar Hero contest for cash prizes. Boat Races were run for cash prizes as well. Canadian Dice games broke out (for cash) at tables constantly throughout weekend, and this is where most of the meals and partying took place. This is where the mayhem breaks. Intoxication; dancing, sometimes fresh; rock racing; more intoxication; outrageous renditions of karaoke to must see; visits from hotel managers late night; hotel lobby fountain swimming; acting a bit irresponsible before becoming a grown up again on Monday. There generally isn't much warning at all just before something outrageous is about to occur; or so it seems when I become involved. Too many laughs; exhaustingly fun.

The people. Phenomenal in every aspect. After two years of Five/Under Bonspiels, thrilled to acquaint with what really turns out to seem as an extension to our very own club roster; one big community. These folks remember us from year to year and place to place, just as going back to our leagues in the weekly play. Some of them have offered to host us if/when we go to their club to play. Some have offered invites to off season picnics and parties in their home towns. Every club we have visited has provided us great hospitality and party atmosphere.

Only remaining three more years eligible for these Bonspiels, I cannot call upon those eligible more strongly to get to these events, either to play or just partake in the festivities. You just won't believe it until you see it. So, pack your weekend bag, get a couple hundred bucks together, get yourself Thursday/Friday off from work and let's go. Ask those who have gone; they'll tell you.

— Mike "Pinto" Hope

Bonspieling

By Jeff Hannon (GNCC gadabout)

The curling season is over so what better way to spend the summer but planning your bonspiel schedule. A bonspiel is a tournament held at a curling club and attended by teams from any club. There are four categories of bonspiels, men's, women's, mixed and open. A mixed spiel has two members of each gender on the team and they must alternate in throwing of rocks unless you happen to play with Rob. An open format allows any team to enter with no restrictions on gender. Form a team of your friends and pick a bonspiel.

The GNCC website has the bonspiel calendar for all the clubs on the East coast (www.gncc.org). This is a good place to start to find info about a bonspiel, most clubs have a website where you can find information about their bonspiels, entry forms and any special rates with local hotels.

So what should you expect from a bonspiel. Bonspiels will usually start are on a Thursday and end on Sunday. Some will have a Friday start for out of town teams. Most have a three game guarantee which means you play three games even if you lose them all. If you keep winning then you get more games sometimes up to seven depending on the draw so it is possible to play three games in one day. Most bonspiels also have multiple "events" meaning that losing a game drops you to a lower level event. The first event final is two teams that have won all their games, second event is two teams that have lost one. As the bonspiel wears on, you may end up in the "l-out" bracket

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2007/2008 League Results

Monday Night Men's

Jim Meinhold's team of Dick Montgomery, Mike Hope and Mike Davis-Burchat won the lst half of the Mon. Night Men's League. Their reward was a pat on the back and a hand shake.

In the second half of league play, 10 teams competed for the A.J. Weith Memorial Trophy. In the first half of the seasons competition, Derek Surka's team had a medicore four and four record, but when it came time for medal play, they got serious and won the event with a Nine and zero record. His team was Karl Bockley, Barry Strobel, and Chris Conley.

Rob Chebetar's team of Dave Hirx, Alf Winter, and Mike Fromm came second with a 7 and 2 record.

We had good, strong competition on Monday Nights and are looking forward to more men joining this fun league next year.

Chair - Chuck Owens

Competitive league

The Tuesday night competitive league had 8 teams this season. The winning team was Derek Surka, Charrissa Lin, Allan Alward and Leslie Reiter. They finished the double round robin session with a record of 11-2.

The league is comprised of teams entered by the skip. This league will expand next year to include more teams. Returning skips will have a spot reserved for them in the league. If more new teams enter than there are available spots, a playoff will be held early in the season to determine entry.

Wednesday Night Women

First Session - November 14-December 19. - Thistle Event

Six teams participated in a round robin. Won by team Joanna Owens, Heidi Follin, JoDupree & Heather Mercik

Second Session -January 2 - February 13 - Eve's Challenge

Seven teams participated in a round robin with a three way tie between Bobbie Stoll, Jill Owens & Joanna Owens.

Since Team Stoll- Bobbie Stoll, Pam Smith, Deanna Beeby and Maura Cockey- beat the other two during competition they were declared the winner of the Eve's Challenge. Apple pins were handed out at the Women's Annual dinner and their names will be added to the Eve's Challenge plaque.

Many thanks to Bobbie Stoll and assistant Laura King for seeing that the ice was ready for playing.

Chair - Joanna Owens

Thursday League

The Open League has two different goals: It enables newer curlers to play in advanced positions while benefitting from an experienced team member for 'coaching' and, provides the opportunity for '5 and under' teams to compete together in the league.

The winners this season had impressive results:

Winning teams:
Fall- Skip- Mark Malkin, Vice- Angelo Marasciulo, Second- Lee Cockey, Lead- Maura Cockey

Winter- Skip- Dave Hirx, Vice- Peter DeJong, Second- Sarah Hirx Lead- Michael Yeager

Congratulations to all!

Chair - Jennifer Stannard

TGIF Friday Night Fun League

Scores from league play from January 4 to March 21, were calculated to win the Mesters Award for first place and the TGIF Award for second place.

The friday night league is different than all others, since members are on revolving teams in pairs that change each week --instead of a team of 4 continuous people. There is a Skip & Vice pair as well as Second & Lead pair, and half the fun is curling with different people each week! This is a very social fun league, and we encourage all new curlers to join us next year! Come meet new friends and wind down from the week with some casual fun.

Congratulations to you winners!

Mixed Mester Award: Micky Manicatide S; Barbara Manicatide V; Bill Brautigam 2; Nancy Brautigam L

TGIF Award: Jill Owens S; Alan Tonges V; Anne Palmer 2 Howard Palmer L

Chairs - Heide & Scott Follin

Saturday Morning League

Twenty-four Nutmeg curlers participated in the Saturday morning curling league. Because many were new curlers, much of the early sessions were devoted to individual instruction, on-ice instruction during games and informational

sessions following the games. There were many "teaching moments" involving rule interpretation, game management and strategy. We concluded the January-March league play with a spot curling competition followed by breakfast in the warm room.

On most Saturdays we filled two and sometimes three sheets. Teams were established half way through the season but there were frequent substitutions allowing experienced curlers to play with the less experienced. The learning curve for the new curlers was huge and the level of curling increased to the point where many new curlers felt comfortable participating in the Club Championship, the Blarney Stone and our regular leagues. We had tons of fun and made many new friends. Everyone who participated is looking forward to October. Saturday curling rocks!

Chair - George Bagley

Sunday Afternoon League
Illinois CROCs (Crystal Rink Old Time Curling Society)

With an emphasis on the social aspects of curling, the Sunday Afternoon CROCs welcomes curlers of all levels. This season we had great competition, with the potential for a 3-way tie after the last day of league play. But Chuck Owens' team of Pam Smith, Barbara Manicatide, and Jerry Cunningham pulled off a win and got the trophy.

Chairs -Terry & Pam Smith
Andy & Jenn Sherriff

Achilles New Member Bonspiel

The Achilles New Member Bonspiel was held Saturday, January 2 with 24 new members and 2nd year "old timers".

The winners this year of the Achilles Medal are Britt Bisson, Jennifer Gibson, Tim and MaryAnn Lynn. Second place was Karl Bockley, Fran Tartamella, Danielle Fraser and Diane Smith. Third place was Joseph Smith, Dan Mahoney, Lee & Maura Cockey.

The winners will have their name engraved on The Achilles Trophy named after Lawrence Achilles a major donor to the Nutmeg Curling Club in the early 1960's.

Bonspieling (Continued From Page 5)

where losing eliminates your team, hence "loser – out". Most bonspiels will also provide meals during the tournament. Sometimes these are even offsite dinners such as the Golden Handle. For those that enjoy an adult beverage, the bar prices at most GNCC clubs are reasonable with a few exceptions. Some bonspiels are fun filled events where the competition is not taken too seriously others are more competitive in nature with teams warming up for National playdowns. The early season bonspiels at Plainfield and Potomac are fun events where everyone is getting their curling legs under them. Both clubs also provide wonderful hospitality and friendliness toward the newer curler.

How to get on a team or get a team to go to a bonspiel, ask other people. Even if you don't want to skip a team, approach other members and say, hey let's go to Plainfield and you can even skip. Or maybe not as that may scare them away. Most bonspiels will let you change the lineup of the team after a loss. So, maybe you can have a different skip if things aren't working out.

Why are bonspiels important? Because they are fun, you get to meet new friends and see other curling clubs. It is also important to support the other clubs in the GNCC by attending their spiels which provides incentive for them to attend our bonspiels.

The Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone weekend, including the 2007-2008 Awards Dinner, and The Pull-The-Plug Party, were a raving success!

I am happy to report that our weekend long event was filled with laughter, spirited competition, great shots (of assorted variety!), and most importantly a resounding sense of enjoyment among ALL of those who attended!

This year's Blarney Stone was captured by the 1st Event Winning rink of Derek Surka... (there's a surprise!), with The Elly Bockley Rink putting up a noble challenge in the final.

The 2nd Event Winner was the Angelo Marasciulo Rink, defeating the Charissa Lin Rink (ably skipped by Jeff H. in the Final); and, in the 3rd Event, Rob Reihl's rink managed to squeak by dead-eye Steve Mannik's for the win.

The German Club played host to a full Lorch Room, Nutmeg gathering, as Sally presented the historical meaningfulness of the various leagues that are competed in throughout the year. Each of the league's Chairperson (or their designeee) presented the plaque and award pins to the winning rinks. While the quarters were a bit tight, the Nutmeggers enjoyed a festive, family atmosphere to suitably wrap up the season!

The weather was fabulous for the Pull-The-Plug barbecue, which was attended by nearly 100, beginning just after the Finalists were piped on for an exciting final. Nearly half of the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to cheer for the Canadian Women, live, as Jennifer Jones' rink captured their 2008 Ford World Championship! And, we even got to see Lisa Fedick finally break out her world-reknowned, gold-bladed ice skates for her innaugural performance around the curling club.

Thanks to all who worked on this event, and to all who participated, and I can't wait to be a worthy assistant to whoever wins the fabulous opportunity to Chair this most culminating event, at the completion of our next...and coming season!

— Rob Reihl

LIKE TO TAKE PHOTOS?

We're looking for camera buffs to assign as the "Official" photographer at Nutmeg events — That way, we can be sure to include photos on the web, in the IceBreaker and in the club archives.

Contact Pam or Terry:
pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net
terencesmith@smithsresearch.net

2008 Golden Handle

The 43rd Golden Handle, and the second in our new home, was a great success in terms of team participation, competitive mixed curling, club participation & volunteers and financial results.
Twenty teams participated over four days competing in five brackets. The play was often very competitive and provided great spectating for our members and guests. Our "Greatest Show on Earth" theme provided for great entertainment opportunities and wonderful decorations as the warm room was transformed into the "Big Top".
A highlight of the weekend was the Saturday night banquet which included live music & dancing, a wonderful dinner and a memorable "three ring circus" performance by the Nutmeg Players. Spectators also enjoyed the pageantry of the Sunday final matches when all participants were piped onto the ice in the Gallic traditions of the game.
The event raised over $3,500 for the club and has helped to reestablish the Golden Handle as one of the premier mixed curling events on the east coast. Many thanks to our many club volunteers who provided food, tended bar, acted as warm room hosts, decorated, prepared the ice, provided our circus entertainment and supported the many teams from behind the glass. Collectively we made this a memorable event and one of the most successful Golden Handles ever.

—George Bagley