The IceBreaker

Nutmeg Curling Club
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On the Bonspiel Trail

Golden Handle Master of Ceremonies, Rob "The Duke" Reihl and "The Mayor" George Bagley . See Page 4

GOBs vs IHG

The Good Old Boys of Nutmeg won the annual competition against the Ice House Gang of Ardsley for the 2008-09 season.

After the December 2008 meet at Ardsley, Nutmeg had a 9 stone lead. March 6, 2009 at Nutmeg Curling Club, the GOBs won all three games to win the annual event 57 to 24. Nutmeg players were Jim Meinhold, Bill Brautigam, Jack Miller, Howard Palmer, George Bagley, Trevor Davey, Jay Buss, Angelo Marascuilo, Chuck Owens, Brian Casl, and Gary Suslavich.

This was the 21st year for this friendly competition, Ardsley has won 12 times, Nutmeg 9.

- Chuck Owens

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Message From the President

Dear Nutmeggers-

Our 'on ice' activities are drawing to a close with the Blarney Stone. The ice has been wonderful from start to finish this year due to the efforts of our Ice Crew and the extraordinary 'early ice' this season, but now, we 'pull the plug' and it all melts- really! The Social Committee will soon announce off-ice events throughout the Summer, plan to attend these 'reunions' and stay in touch!

This has been a wonderful season for Nutmeg. Joseph Smith put together a women's team representing the GNCC skipped by our own Charrissa Lin. Placing third in the East won them a berth at the National Olympic Qualifiers where Joseph & Diane Muldowney coached the team throughout the competition. In support, fellow Nutmegger's trekked out to Broomfield, CO with banner in hand and were treated to some excellent curling! At the USCA's request we submitted a video for amalgamation into a composite salute to US curling for the event. Imagine our surprise as the Jumbotron opening in Colorado was Nutmeg! Nutmeg's video will be shown at the Blarney Stone. The national video will be at the Annual meeting- thanks to Joel Leneker for finding the resources to pull this off.

Charrissa and Derek Surka teamed with curlers from Potomac for the GNCC Mixed winning the event which sent them to the National's in Wisconsin. Donna Purkey and I competed on separate teams in the Senior

Continued on Page 2

President's Letter (Continued)

Nationals; each team losing to the winning rink from Seattle. My team once again coming in second- no trip to New Zealand this year!

Jeff Hannon's rink of Derek Surka, Angelo Marasciulo and Joel Leneker made it to the Men's Club Nationals having many a close game with teams from across the country!

Thanks to all of the above getting Nutmeg's name once again into the National and Club National competitive levels. Thanks go to each of you who participated in another club's bonspiel. The true spirit of curling is to support each other and, Nutmeg did that at more bonspiels and events this year. Greatly appreciated by other clubs, fun for the Nutmeggers, and will help to draw more curlers to our events.

The junior program is really hitting its stride as they venture out to area bonspiels. We have in fact tripled the size of the youth programs with two days devoted to the High School program and one to middle schoolers- great progress in the span of 3 years.

The Golden Handle rolled into town in a stretch limo as Don Corleone, the Duke and others made their presence felt in Bridgeport! With murder, mayhem, and a violin or two Rob Reihl & Pam Moan ran an excellent & profitable event supported by many Nutmeg volunteers.

The Blarney Stone will close our on-ice action with climactic finals on Sunday and the Pull the Plug party. I hope to see you all there for broom-ball and a cook-out!

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting and Silent Auction on May 16th at Testo's. If you can't stay for dinner, join us for cocktails (RSVP please) and to make a bid or two. The next season will be here quickly, we are a volunteer club needing all to 'pitch in' and makes things work. Ask what you can do for your curling club as we approach our 50th anniversary!!!

See you at the Blarney! - Jennifer

In Memoriam

A. Roland (Bob) Will, a member of Nutmeg Curling Club for almost 50 years, died February 20, 2009.

Bob was a friend of curling for many years. He was a charter member of the Nutmeg Curling Club and was President when the first club was built in 1963 in Darien, CT. He made significant contributions to the current club location, and during construction, made weekly visits to follow the progress.

Bob also served as President of the GNCC. He had received international and national recognition for his many contributions to curling.

Bob was given the first Nutmeg Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

IceBreaker Submissions

The next edition of the iceBreaker will be published on June 5. Please submit any articles, news items or photos via email to pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net.

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**Jennifer Stannard** jenniferstannard@hotmail.com
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Upcoming Club Dates

April 3-5	The Blarney Stone - In-House Bonspiel
Saturday, April 4	The Blarney Dinner - With League Awards
Sunday, April 5	Pull The Plug Party
Saturday, May 16	Annual Meeting & Silent Auction

Be sure to visit www.nutmegcurling.com and click on calendar for more activities!

50th Nutmeg Turns 50!!!

Nutmeg will celebrate our 50th year in 2010. You'll hear more as we approach the season with activities and celebrations planned.

Club members should be ready to vote on the 50th Anniversary pin designs submitted by Nutmeggers. The designs will be 'on view' during the Blarney Stone (April 1 - 4)! (Winner announced at the Annual Meeting.)

Fenson Fundraiser

The Bemidji Curling Community is helping to raise funds to help the Fenson family, Bob Fenson (father of Olympic Curler Pete Fenson) suffered a stroke this Fall and the expenses are overwhelming.

Bob is a long-time curler, VP of the USCA, General Manager & iceman in Bemidji, coach and competitor on national championship teams who has been very active in the national curling community.

Tickets are $5 each and the drawing will be held at the Bemidji Curling Club on April 15th.

Prizes:
Custom Built curling theme fire ring
Henry 'Golden Boy' rifle
Astrostart 613 remote starter
More to be added
If interested see or contact Jennifer Stannard, we have a limited number of tickets and all will be returned to Joe Polo on April 8th.

Can You Name the Flags on the Ice?

At the recent GNCC Sr. Men's Championship, Don Baird, Plainfield Curling Club, named them all. So, if you want to take the test and check your answers look on Page 9.
From left to right, starting on the outside wall and ending with the warm room wall:

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7. 8.

9. 10.

11. 12. 13. 14.

15. 16. 17.

18. 19. 20.

44th Annual Golden Handle Bonspiel

The 2009 Golden Handle, mixed bonspiel was held March 12 -15, 2009, at the Nutmeg Curling Club, at Bridgeport's Wonderland of Ice. The theme for the event was the '40's gangster genre, made modern by TV's, "Sopranos". Our mob-style décor included a bullet-riddled cardboard car front, from the 40's, "bullet holes" (the adhesive kind) on the warm room glass, Italian wine and grapes – along with some real garlic throughout the warm room, and bar-tenders who wore mob-style black attire and matching fedoras!

The menu served throughout the event was patterned after the traditional, "Italian-feast-that-never-ends"! It included a lasagna dinner on Friday night, accompanied by a roving accordion and string duet, who played a 2-hour medley of Italian favorites; anti-pasta breakfasts including pulled pork and chef salads; and pasta fagioli available around the clock! Lucibello's Bakery, of New Haven, provided 15 pounds of their world famous Italian Cookies, and thin crust pizza for lunch on Saturday enhanced the ethnically charged menu!

Saturday evening featured a "wise-guy" cocktail party by the pool at the host, Marriott Courtyard, in Shelton, followed by "The Godfather's

New members of the Golden Handle "Decade Club", Kathy Morley and Nancy Clancy

The Bar Gang: Chuck Owens, Jill Owens , Maura Faughnan, and Jim O'Boyle

Photos Courtesy of Pam Moan

Annual Gala" murder-mystery dinner, performed by Ginamarie Entertainment, based in Trumbull, and featuring (in addition to *Tony* and *Tootsie*) Nutmeg's own, George Bagley, as "*The Crooked Mayor*", Dave Hirx as "*The Squeaky Clean Governor*", Joseph Smith as "*Chicago's Bud O'Banyan*", Rob Reihl as "*Duke, the Movie Producer from Hollywood*", Sally McKenzie as "*Mama Rosa, the Godfather's Sister*", and a special performance by Norfolk Curling Club's Tommy Spada as *"Father Guido Sarducci"!*

The murder-mystery and dinner were followed by 2-1/2 hours of dancing to the live music of "Out of Touch", featuring Nutmeg's own Frank Aulenti on drums.

1st Event Winners l to r: Sharon Cutter, Broomstones; Karl Bockley, Nutmeg; Stephanie Torta, Broomstones; Rob Chebetar, Nutmeg

Frank Aulenti

Competition among the 18 teams was fierce throughout the bonspiel. Nutmeg had two registered teams who were entered by way of a playdown, held in late December. The finals of the 3rd and 4th events kicked off on Sunday at 9:00 a.m., with the 1st, 2nd and 5th event finalists piped on by Sue Bannay's bagpipes, immediately afterward. The 2009 Golden Handle, 1st Event Winner was the rink out of Broomstones, skipped by Rob Chebetar (Nutmeg).

Pam and Terry Smith with teammates Barb and Kenny Thomson

Special thanks to all of the Nutmeg members who assisted during the event, and to the committee members who worked diligently to make sure that the 2009 Golden Handle was enjoyed by all of those who attended!
Robert Reihl

On the Bonspiel Trail *(Continued From Page 1)*

A Great Event

Nutmeg hosted the GNCC Sr. Men's Championship January 29-February 1, 2009. From all reports, it was a great success.

Twenty-two teams from 16 different GNCC Curling Clubs participated in this 4 event competition.

Team Waters from Philadelphia beat Team Graves from Broomstones to win the first event — The Nutmeg Stone. The game was tied coming home and the winner was decided on the last stone in the eight end, a great game, and viewed by a large warm room audience.

The Nutmeg Team, skipped by George Bagley, won 3 and lost only 1 game, and won the 4th event — CROCS Scuttle. Their only loss was to the 1st Event winning Philadelphia team. George's team was: Vice Jim Meinhold, 2nd Trevor Davey, lead Jack Miller.

All the volunteers did a great job to make this a very successful event. Nutmeg received many compliments for a "job well done". Some quotes from participants: "back from a most successful 22 team Senior Men's Championship at Nutmeg. It was very classy with a prime rib banquet with entertainment... The Ice was superb and club members provided great food at the club: Another, "Once again please convey my best wishes to everyone who pitched in at Nutmeg to make all of the curlers so welcomed and so well taken care of on and off the ice. We were extremely impressed by the professionalism of the virtually all woman ice crew. You have achieved great things there in Bridgeport and your growing young membership is a great testament to the dedication of Nutmeg curlers who hung in there to see the project through."

Nutmeg originated this event and it was first held at Nutmeg in 1981....

....It all started at Nutmeg in 1981

To create more interest and give a new twist to GNCC Men's Bonspiels, Nutmeg Curling Club held the first Senior Men's Bonspiel in the late 1970s.

It was a success, and in 1980, at the GNCC annual meeting, Nutmeg Vice President, Gordon Poirier recommended that it become an annual GNCC sponsored event. It was accepted by the GNCC and the Nutmeg Board of Directors deeded the four event trophies and award pins to the GNCC. The trophies were: The Nutmeg Stone, Bartlett Medal, Ardsley Shield and the CROCS Scuttle.

It was also stipulated that the "Men's Senior Bonspiel be held at Nutmeg on odd years and at other GNCC Clubs on even years. The CROCS Scuttle is contested only on odd years at Nutmeg." The popularity of the event grew and the odd year requirement was dropped, also the CROCS Scuttle became a permanent 4th event award. So, the first official GNCC Senior Men's Bonspiel was held at Nutmeg Curling Club in February, 1981.

Also, in 1981...

•Ronald Regan became US President
•Muhammed Ali retired with a career record of 55 wins, 5 defeats
•Lady Diana Spenser married Charles, Prince of Wales
•Post it Notes were launched by 3M Corp
•Movie "On Golden Pond" was released
•Dow Jones Average year end close was 875
•Interest rates at year end were 15.75%
•Gallon of gas cost $1.25
•Walter Baggett, Ardsley Curling Club was 36

— Chuck Owens

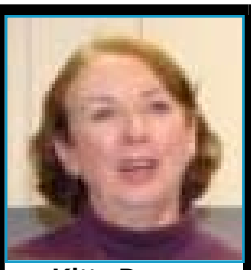
A Big Nutmeg Welcome

We welcome all the new Nutmeg members. Here are some of the new (and hopefully now familiar) faces you've seen around the club. Don't worry, if you don't see your photo here, we'll be tracking you down for the next edition of the IceBreaker.

Annalisa Chapman

Judy Raynes

Robert Kwan


Kitty Davey

Dee McLenithan

Michael Norquist

Jeremy Beaulieu

Christen Bossu

Gideon Bradburn

Marianne Roggemann

Directory Update

A member directory is in the works!

Kelly Quatrella

Michelle Bourque

Nutmeg Curling Club

Rod Williams

Portia Elmer

Katie Simms

Megan Suslavich

Katie Allen

Jim O'Boyle

Rob Bruce

Trevor Davey

Pam Moan

Gary Suslavich

Mary Watters

Jaclyn Otterspoor

Nigel Lucas

Jon Langille

Katie Murphy

Jason Lee

Kyle Slover

Amy Vensel

From the Junior Bonspiel Trail:

The year ended on a high note for our Nutmeg Juniors who participated in a Bantam Bonspiel at Broomstones Curling Club on March 28 & 29. In past years, we were lucky to have just one team present. At this Bantam Bonspiel however, our Nutmeg club was represented by nine Juniors, including Libby Brundage, Miles Hogarth, Alex Howland, Elizabeth Howland, Jay Montesano, Abby Morley, Abbey Suslavich, Kent Suslavich and Emily Winter. As our kids have competed at Ardsley, Broomstones, Cape Cod, Philly, Plainfield, and Schenectady during this past year, we've heard time and again that it's great to have our Nutmeg Juniors participating at Bonspiels!

Fun was had by all who participated at the Bantam Bonspiel at Broomstones in March with finalists in the Second and Third Events and Winner in the Fourth Event by our Nutmeg Juniors.

High School Wrap Up

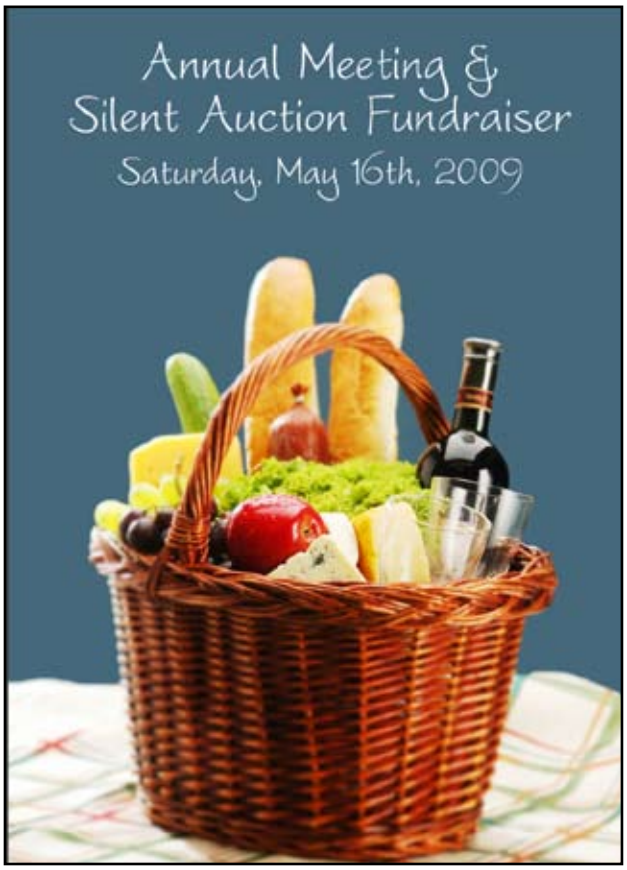
Left to right: Miles Hogarth, Emily Winter, Jay Montesano, Libby Brundage (Skip).

The state wide High School League culminated in March with trophies awarded to the following Junior curlers:

Connecticut High School State Championship Team: Libby Brundage (s), Miles Hogarth, Jay Montesano, Emily Winter.

Championship Finalist: Hal Malone (s), Jack Furnivall, Matt Schneider, Andrew Vojt

Consolation Game Winner: Tim Salerno (s), Jake DeLuca, Wesley Douglass, Hilary Nigrosh.



2009 Connecticut High School Champions

Nutmeg's 2009 **Binner Award** went to two high school students **Tim Salerno** and **Billy Dunne**. The Binner Award is bestowed upon a Junior Curler who best exemplifies the Spirit of Curling as demonstrated by:

1. Good sportsmanship.
2. Honorable conduct both on and off the ice.
3. Willingness to assist other Youth Curlers and promote the game of Curling.
4. Interpretation and application of the rules of the game.

Billy Dunne (left) is awarded the Binner Award by Hilary Nigrosh and Jim Meinhold.

High School Senior Tim Salerno receives the Binner Award for 2009.

Can You Name the Flags on the Ice? (answers)

1. *Scottish Royal Standard*
2. *Netherlands*
3. *British Columbia, Canada*
4. *France*
5. *Ireland*
6. *Olympic*
7. *Switzerland*
8. *Sweden*
9. *USA*
10. *Connecticut*
11. *Nova Scotia, Canada*
12. *Serbia*
13. *England*
14. *Australia*
15. *Germany*
16. *United Kingdom*
17. *Albera, Canada*
18. *CAnada*
19. *GNCC*
20. *Scotland*

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7. 8.

9. 10.

11. 12. 13. 14.

15. 16. 17.

18. 19. 20.

More From the Bonspiel Trail

Nutmeg Invades Toronto

Peter DeJong, Jim O'Boyle and Chris Conley headed north of the border to play in the 22nd Annual "Do It On The Ice" Gay and Lesbian Bonspiel held at the Royal Canadian Curling Club in Toronto the weekend of March 6th. Playing as team US-Eh, Pete (Skip) and Jim (Vice) joined up with two friends from Toronto, while Chris joined another Toronto team at Lead. This was Pete and Jim's 5th time at the spiel and Chris' first.

A points-based round robin format was the order of the day for the first three games. Team US-Eh went 2-0-1 and managed to score enough points to get into the A event quarterfinals while Chris' went 1-2 to get into the "D" event quarters. The A event quarters was a dramatic Saturday night affair with Team US-Eh taking an early 6-0 lead on a fierce and talented Toronto team thanks to a four rock steal in the third end that any Skip would dream of, but perhaps not so early on in the game. Toronto fought back to get within 2 but Team US-Eh held on in the 8th and won 8-6 in a well played game by both teams. The A event semis on Sunday morning was a tough match against the current Canadian National G&L Champions and Team US-Eh held their own for 6 ends but came up short. Chris' team was eliminated in an excellent match on Sunday morning in the D event quarters. Team US-Eh ended up as A event consolation event finalists and were awarded $400 for their efforts. After the finals on Sunday, a banquet and awards ceremony ensued followed by everyone running to the local fabulous pub to watch the early rounds of the Brier.

This year's tournament had 48 teams with players from Montreal, Ottawa, London (Ont.), Toronto, and of course, 3 Connecticut Yankees. The Nutmeg banner was well represented with all three Nutmeggers curling on Sunday morning. In the end, meeting new friends, seeing old friends and doing the best that you can was really the name of the game, as it should be.

-Peter DeJong

Look & Play Your Best!

Special Prices on the NEJ Apparel Site!

Going to a bonspiel and want matching shirts?

Log on and check out what's available!

www.nejinc.com/nutmegcurlingclub

(You must log into the site to be able to see our pricing)
You can email our contact Alison Danzberger:
adanzberger@chaseedward.com or call to discuss at 203.463.3328

Three logos to choose from:
❶ Curling Man: $2.50 ❷ Women's Logo: $2.50
❸ Nutmeg Laurel Wreath: $4.50
Logo cost and shipping is added to all orders and shipped to you direct! Order with a friend and save on shipping!

Women's Pima Cotton Zip Vest -- Sale $27.50

Women's Pima Cotton Interlock Zip Mock Sweatshirt -- Sale $27.50

SALE ITEMS INCLUDE:

Men's Cotton Crew Fleece Sweatshirt -- Sale $15

Man's Polar Fleece Vest -- Sale $22.50

Men's 2- Button Cotton Reverse Fleece Sweat-- $18

To order all Nutmeg Jackets, vests, turtlenecks, anything you see in the cabinet:
Contact Heide Follin, bigwave2@optonline.net or David Hirx at david.hirx@gmail.com
Feel free to try on anything we have, all is for sale right off the rack or we'll take your order!