The IceBreaker

NUTMEG CURLING at Wonderland of Ice, Greenwood Park
P.O. Box 5125, Bridgeport, CT 06610
www.nutmegcurling.com
203.339.7300

Santa acted naughty (but he talked nice)! Read about the Nutmeg Christmas party on page 7

On the Bonspiel Trail

Pisces at Nutmeg:
On November 11 & 12, 2006, twelve curlers from the Cape Cod Curling Club competed in a friendly match against the Nutmeg Curling Club. This was the first friendly held at Nutmeg inour new facility.

After competition Saturday, Nutmeg was ahead by one stone. Sunday, Cape Cod won all their matches and the final score was 46-30.

The Pisces competition began in 1969 when four Nutmeg members went up to Falmouth and played on hockey ice with people from the newly formed Cape Cod Curling Club. The friendly has been played off and on over the past thirty some years.

Many thanks to all the members who participated, brought and prepared food, and helped clean up. A very good time was enjoyed by Cape Cod and Nutmeggers.

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Message From the President

Nutmeggers:

Our first full season in our new facility has just started. Twelve months of social events and loads of curling opportunities. In coming weeks there will be a number of instructional opportunities for us to shake the rust off our curling skills and for new curlers to hone their newly acquired skills. The Ray Turnbull clinic will be followed by in-house instructional sessions on strategy and the finer points of the game. This is appropriate for all levels of curlers.

This is the bonspiel season! If you are an experienced curler, invite new curlers to join you for a weekend of curling at a nearby club. This is an important component of our membership development. If you are a new curler and would like to attend a bonspiel, don't hesitate. You are qualified, more than welcome and would otherwise be missing an essential part of the curling experience. Let your skip, your league chairs, a board member or a more experienced member know that you would like to bonspiel. Also check out the Grand National (GNCC) bonspiel calendar to see what events are coming up.

If you would like to become a competitive curler but are still learning, consider playing in a five year and

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President's Letter (Continued)

under tournament. These events are for new curlers with less than five years experience. You should contact Jeff Hannon or Jennifer Stannard and express your interest.

We are also in Golden Handle season. Your "This Week at Nutmeg Curling Club" bulletin invites everyone to get involved in the Golden Handle planning. This has, in years past, been the premier mixed bonspiel in New England. It is fabulous; a great place to meet new curling friends and there's good food, very competitive curling and wonderful entertainment. It takes everyone in a volunteer club to stage such an event. Please respond to Jill Owens, Sally Mackenzie or Jennifer Stannard as organizers to volunteer your time and talents to make this a huge success.

The 2007 message to the curling world is that Nutmeg is back! We are back with a resurgent membership, back on the bonspiel circuit and back with the spirit and enthusiasm that has made Nutmeg a legend in curling circles. I urge everyone to climb aboard and make the most of every opportunity.

George Bagley

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**George Bagley** gbagley@soundcommercial.com
Vice-President	**Donna Purkey** dbpurkey@optonline.net
Treasurer	**Charlie Mack** mackchas@optonline.net
Secretary	**Laura King** laura.king@xerox.com
IceBreaker Editors	**Terry & Pam Smith** terencesmith@smithsresearch.net pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net

Below is the club Wish List.
If you are interested in donating any of these items to the club, please contact one of the club officers or send an email to ctcurlers@aol.com. Of course, cash donations are always appreciated and are tax deductible.

- Benches on ice at home end
- Large (huge) clock for ice house
- Cabinets & shelving for the bar
- Second Bulletin Board
- Merchandise display case
- Satellite television for warm room for curling coverage
- Defibrillator for first aid
- Fire Extinguishers

College Open House

Do you know any College students who would like to try curling?

We will be holding a College Open House on Sunday February 4th from 3 to 6PM to introduce everyone to the sport of curling. Certified instructors will teach the basics on the ice and everyone will then actually play a short game. All equipment is provided.

The Open House will be FREE to all college students and staff. Even better then that - we'll provide pizza, subs and refreshments for anyone who stops by.

If you know anyone who would like to attend, please have them contact me.
Jim Meinhold
jmeinhol@optonline.net
203-761-9305

Important Club Dates

January 24, 2007	Women's Two Brooms Competition with Ardsley
February 1-4	Club Open Bonspiel
February 4, 2007	College Open House
February 4, 2007	Superbowl Party
March 15-18, 2007	Golden Handle Bonspiel
March 29-April 1, 2007	Blarney Stone Club Bonspiel

Club Championship Bonspiel

Calling all Nutmeggers to join us in this year's Club Championship Bonspiel which will be held the first weekend in February.

As you would expect, the Club Championship is one of our most cherished events. The winners get their names engraved on the Championship plaque which will honor their accomplishment for generations of curlers yet to come.

The event includes all members of the club! Teams will be put together so all you need to do is let us know that you would like to participate. Depending on the number of teams, competition will start either Thursday or Friday evening. We expect all teams will curl at least 3 games.

Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch will be provided as well as Continental Breakfasts for any early morning draws. There will be a $10 entry fee to cover the cost of food. A highlight will be the Club Dinner on Saturday evening in the Bridgeport area. All curlers are encouraged to attend with spouses and MOP's (Meaningful Other People) - dinner cost will be provided at a later date once we have an idea on numbers.

So please let us know you'd like to be put on a team – either send an email or sign-up at the club. If you can't make all the games – don't worry – we'll have subs that can fill in for you. Just tell us when you can curl and we'll do the rest. We need everybody - even folks that can only play on 1 day! We also need volunteers to help with food setup/cleanup for Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch.

Many thanks for your support- we look forward to a great first Club Championship at our wonderful new club.
Jim Meinhold jmeinhol@optonline.net
Jennifer Stannard jenniferstannard@hotmail.com
John Tarleton jwtarleton@hotmail.com

Bonspiels for ONLY NEW curlers

– 5 Years and under curling experience

The GNCC holds a bonspiel for Men, Women and Mixed teams each year for curlers with less than five years of experience. These events are a great way to get out and experience curling at other clubs and meet new friends. The Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) is an organization of all the curling clubs on the East Coast. Much more information about the GNCC can be found at www.gncc.org including a listing of all the clubs and a calendar of all the bonspiels. All of the bonspiels require that a curler has five years or less curling experience. This includes any curling done as a junior or any curling done anywhere in the world.

The Men's bonspiel is the Francis Dykes and will be held at the Rochester (NY) curling club from February 8 to 11. The Mixed bonspiel is the Kayser and will be held at Broomstones (Wayland, MA) curling club from February 22 to 25. The Women's bonspiel is the Women's Challenge and will be held at Belfast (ME) curling club from March 15 to 18. The GNCC website has a link to all the events from the calendar as well as the clubs hosting the events.

For additional information on any of these events, ask one of the experienced curlers. Most of the curlers at Nutmeg have participated in these events and all will tell you they are a great way to experience the friendship of curling. If anyone has any interest in putting a team together for one of the events and would like some assistance – please contact Jeff Hannon at jeff_hannon@juno.com

Bonspiel News (Continued)

Winners of 3rd Event (Mad Anthony Wayne) at the Harvest Bonspiel held at the Philadelphia Curling Club November 16-19th 2006. l to r: Marty Finan (Philadelphia CC), Sally Hannon, Jeff Hannon (Nutmeg CC), Nancy Ellis (Philadelphia CC)

Harvest Bonspiel

Jeff and Sally Hannon curled in the Harvest Bonspiel for their 8th year in a row. This bonspiel is a very special event to them since this is where they first met 8 years ago!!! That's right – they met while curling against each other in this bonspiel, were found kissing on the steps 3 hours later then were married 1 year later!!! They have won the 1st, 2nd, and 4th event previously and with this years 3rd event win it has given them a Quadruple crown at the Harvest!!

Norfolk Curling's Calder Trophy

To find The Norfolk Curling Club one needs only travel up Route 8 as far as it goes, turn right to follow a road to Norfolk Green and go back 50 years in time.

Aye, about this time each year, 20 curling teams gather from accoss the Northeast and MidAtlantic to compete in the backwoods at the Norfolk Bonspiel. Local Curling Legend Star Child led his own Great Mountain Forest Team to victory in the Second Event.

Participants in the men's competition annually vie for the Calder Trophy, named for John Walcott Calder, Mr. Childs' grandfather and the inspiration for the Norfolk Curling Club, according to club President George Dyer. Teams hailing from Boston, New Jersey, Maryland, New York and Cape Cod gathered to help celebrate the Norfolk Curling Club's 50th anniversary. The tournament lasted from Thursday night through Sunday afternoon.

Team Haggis was proud to hoist The Nutmeg Curling Club banner in the venerable Norfolk Curling Club: Charlie Mack (Skip), Ken Donnelly (vice), Terry Smith (2nd). "Cleve Cleveland, an orginal member of Team Haggis, was not able to make the event," Mr. Smith said. "His absence was lamentable."

Jeff Hannon, a Nutmegger, participated in the Calder Trophy competition on the Potomac Curling Club of Maryland team. Jeff played with Mike Fry, George Shirk, Michael Campbell all of Potomac They lost in the semi-finals of the first event.

Plainfield/Nutmeg Friendly

The friendly competition between Plainfield Curling Club and Nutmeg Curling Club was held December 17, 2006. Fifteen curlers from Plainfield Curling Club curled against thirty Nutmeggers.
At the end of the first round Nutmeg was ahead 15-8. At the end of the competitiion the score was 48-34 in favor of Plainfield.

This is the first of a continuing competition with Plainfield and will be called "The Bridge"event. On the plaque is a sketch of the George Washington Bridge with plates to be engraved by the winning club.

Next curling season "The Bridge" will be held at the Plainfield Curling Club-South Plainfield, NJ.

Many thanks to the Nutmeggers who curled and also brought cookies.

Joanna Owens, Chair

Gloamin' Gaels Bonspiel:

Donna Purkey's rink of Jennifer Stannard, Bobbie Stoll and Gail Cosman curled in the Chicago Curling Club women's bonspiel in Northbrook , Illinois. The Nutmeg Rink won the Fourth Event with an overall record of 2/2. Highlights of the trip included shopping shortly after landing to replace checked luggage items that were not seen until the Sunday evening return to O'hare Airport for the trip home. The curlers were very happy that they had their curling shoes in the carry-on bags, well, almost all of them did!
Jennifer Stannard

A Big Nutmeg Welcome

We welcome the more than 55 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.

Sylvia & Frank Aulenti

Andy Sherriff

Alison Danzberger

Elly Bockley

Jay Buss

Sarah Hirx

Jayne Beattie

Sharon Giese

Cheri & Adam Bisson

Anne Palmer

Mike Hope

Nutmeg Curling Club

David Hirx

Directory Update

A new member directory is included as an attachment.

Jim Furnivall

Christina McGurrin

Karl Bockley

Joanne & Dale Parsons

Maura Faughnan

Rob Reihl

Marie Lavigne

Don Nicholson

Ann Karrick

John Tarleton

Lee Paine

Alan Tonges

Sue & Robert Kancir

Phil Meagher

Jenn Sherriff

MaryRose & Jeff McGregor

Victor Vega

Larry Keough

Melissa Sandford

Howard Palmer

Carl Larouche

Fran Tartamella

Ask Rocky & Broomhilda: Curling advice for the loved and lovelorn

Dear Rocky & BH-
I love curling! I curl every night at Nutmeg that I can and on the weekends too. With all of this curling I think I should be a Skip. But I'm not. What gives?
Signed,
Hog-Skip and Jump

Dear Hog-Skip,
Sooo glad that you love curling. It keeps those mid-winter blues away! A good Skip takes years to create. In most clubs, new members would play in the front end for a few years and then, move up to Vice and Skip. First, a curler needs to master their shotmaking and sweeping skills. Later, they learn to 'read' the ice. Where are the runs, how much does it bend, etc. Then, to begin to understand the strategic components- when to draw, when to sit in front of the tee, why leaving a counter above the tee on the eight foot can set your opposing team up for a winning shot, etc. Last, they must master the rules so that they can address any infractions- intentional or not- that might occur during the game. Lots to learn, lots to master all along the way. Nutmeg, because we have so many new members, provides the opportunity for brand spanking new curlers to play in almost all positions but usually, the more experienced players are in the third and Skip positions. My advice is, master the positions you're playing and get ready to Skip when called to.
Broomhilda

Hey, Hog-Skip!
That's great that you're so engaged. I've seen you and you're pretty good! Broomhilda's right but , why not get a team together of curlers with 5 or less years curling experience? Then, you can Skip and prepare for competitions with rinks from other clubs that have like experience. Ask any of the oldies and they'll get a team together so you can practice here at Nutmeg before heading out into competition. There's a Men's Event in Rochester Feb 8-11 (entries due by 1/15), a Mixed Event outside of Boston February 21-25 (entry due Feb 1) , and a Women's event in Belfast, Maine March 21-25. These events circulate throughout the GNCC (our region) every year. Note that you'll have to learn the rules and such as Broomie referenced above. There's a book at the club.
Rocky

What happened to my stone?
Dear Rocky,
I threw a perfect take-out last night and just as it got to the house it took a sharp right turn and totally missed. My Skip was not happy but, I threw it just right. Does the color of the house affect the shots?
Signed,
Puzzled

Dear Puzzled-
What probably happened is that there was a piece of debris on the ice that your stone hit. That's why we must all work to keep the ice clean. Be sure that your curling shoes are clean before you walk into the ice area, clean your brooms between ends, and please don't wear clothing that sheds onto the ice.
Rocky

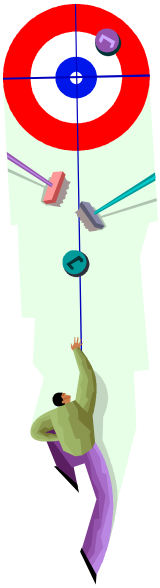
Dear Puzzled,
I'm sure that your Skip was just frustrated, as were you, by the good shot going astray at the last minute. We've all seen it happen! To answer your question (which I note Rocky did not) the colors that denote the house do not affect the stones. They are frozen well under the ice and do not affect the surface. Another thing that can make stones do odd things is a wee bit of ice on the bottom of the rock. Always clean the bottom of your stone before you deliver it.
Broomhilda

Nutmeg Christmas Party

The heart of the Nutmeg Curling Club could be heard and felt at the Christmas Party. "Carla Kelly (co-chair), and Terrie Allen (co-chair) did a wonderful job of rekindling the fellowship that is a hallmark of the annual Christmas Party," according to George Bagley, president of the Nutmeg Curling Club.

(Right) Jennifer Stannard and George Bagley gave their own rendition of the poem: "Twas The Night Before Christmas".

(Left) Jolly ole St. Nick and Ms. Claus arrived at the party riding on the ice scaper machine – being pulled by four very fetching reindeer.



Ice, Glorious Ice

- Submitted by AIG (anal ice guy)

Being the AIG, I thought I would start a regular column about curling, ice and comments I hear. I won't go into great detail about the making of ice or the IceBreaker would be a hundred pages. So let's start with the most fearful comment for an AIG.

"It's falling". No. When someone makes this statement on the ice, the rock they threw is traveling away from the intended line of delivery and curl and they are usually blaming the ice. "Falling" can actually happen for a variety of reasons. Typically this occurs along the edge of the sheet due to the ice being lower there than in the middle. On our ice the reason is different, our ice is unforgiving. Unforgiving ice means that the ice is very level – we know it is level since it is been measured many times. Forgiving ice is usually ice that is dished so the sides are higher then the middle, therefore when you throw a rock with a flipped handle it will always come back. Most likely a rock that is said to be "falling" was thrown with an outward motion (flipped handle). So again, no it's not "falling" it was thrown in that direction. I would be more then happy to show you an example of this out on the ice anytime.

"Lost the handle". The rock has stopped rotating and is now taking a staggering drunk path down the ice. Our rocks need a "positive" handle because they are "sharp". [Technical AIG rock babble]. Basically, the rock needs to be thrown so that it rotates about 3 times as it goes the length of the ice. Less rotation is known as a lazy handle and the sharpness of the rocks increases the friction so the rock stops rotating. Of course, too many rotations, say 5, will cause the rock not to curl as much. Rocks losing handles also will increase later in the game as the pebble wears down or flat spots occur (see below).

"It is slow/fast". This can be confusing for the newer curler because the term is the opposite of the speed of the rock. Slow ice means that the stone must be thrown harder and takes less time to reach the house. Fast ice is just the opposite, less effort is required to throw the stone and the time to reach the house is longer. The term slow or fast refers to the ice not the stone. The factor that comes into play here again is friction. Our ice will start a little slow and then speed up as the game progresses.

Here are a couple of things to remember to help our ice. Please don't kneel after you have delivered the stone. It takes only a couple of seconds for your knee to melt the ice and cause a flat spot which will affect any rock that runs over it. Please keep your curling shoes clean by not wearing them outside of the club. Bring your shoes with you and change into them when you arrive at the club. That is a good start. Submit suggestions for future columns when you see me. I can usually be found lurking in the back room.

Member Responsibilities

It is every member's responsibility to clean up after themselves, and all the general areas when they need it – the kitchen, warm room, ice shed and locker rooms.

We will have many new curlers this year and they will need your support and understanding as they learn the ropes of curling and the Nutmeg Curling Club. When you see a new face in the warm room or on the ice, take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to Nutmeg.

It is a duty of each of us to also introduce new people to the etiquette and Spirit of Curling. Remembering that most people are used to 'in your face' sports attitude, please be a role model for curling sportsmanship and when you see something being done contrary to the Grand Old Game, gently and diplomatically teach as you speak!

League Curling

Responsibilities of Skip

1.Notify his/her rink that they will be curling with you and the day and time.

2.Having his/her rink present and ready to curl at the appointed time.

Responsibilities of Vice-Skip

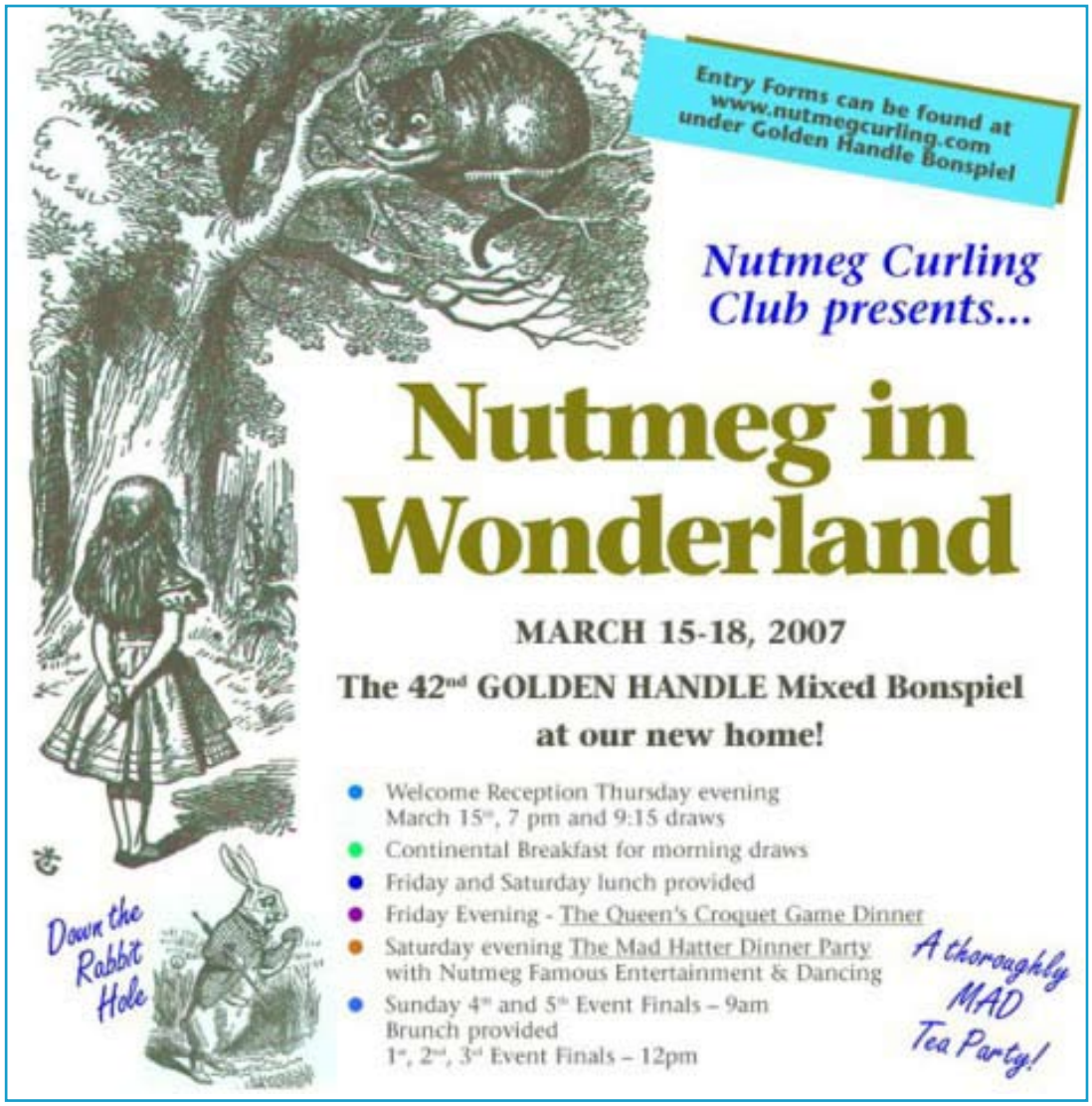
1.Positing the score at the completion of each end and measuring stones when necessary to determine scoring.

2.Posting the score of the match (if his/her rink is the winner)

3.Ensuring that the scores of the match are entered on the draw sheet (if his/her rinks is the winner)

Responsibilities of Rink Members

1.Knowing when he/she is to curl and being on hand at the appointed time.

2.Obtaining a sub when he/she will not be able to make a match.

3.Notifying his/her skip when he/she will be absent for a match and who the sub is.