

United States

Curling News

Official publication of the United States Curling Association

Established 1945

Dedicated
in memory of
Frank & China
Rhyme

Meet the President

Jim Pleasants takes
USCA reigns, P. 12

'Jamaica Me Crazy'

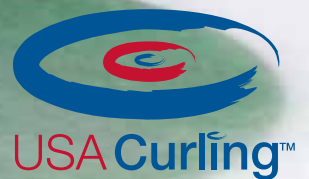
USWCA Senior
Bonspiel, P. 28

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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inaugural award**

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2012 Coach of the Year



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Change often is both exciting & challenging

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By Terry Kolesar, Editor

Well, here it is ... gulp ... the first edition of the *U.S. Curling News* magazine. How do you like it so far? (Second big gulp as I hold my breath for displeasure or praise.)

The *Curling News* will now be mailed quarterly with two additional digital editions in the summer that we hope to jam-pack full of useful information for you to digest during the season and in the "off" months. The four print issues also will have electronic editions that are compatible with tablet devices so if you currently receive our bi-monthly electronic newsletter *Stone Soup*, you will automatically get the electronic version of the *Curling News* in your e-mail inbox. If you are scratching your head wondering what the heck *Stone Soup* is, you are not on the distribution list or it is getting stuck in your SPAM filter so send me an e-mail to sign up (terry.kolesar@usacurl.org). We are excited to unveil the *U.S. Curling News* app as well, which brings the *U.S. Curling News* brand to life in a new format for your iPhone, Android or Kindle. You can download the app now by following the link from our home page, www.usacurl.org.

The *Curling News* has always been a labor of love for me due to my background in journalism and newspaper writing/layout. The new magazine layout only will increase this through new challenges and excitement. I've had to learn many new things since the templates arrived from Quad Graphics just a few weeks ago. It just proves that you can teach an old dog new tricks. I'd like to thank the many volunteer contributors who pen columns, design comic strips and organize events that are submitted for inclusion in the *Curling News*. Some of these folks have been contributing long before I came onto this job. In particular, Tom Michael's "Cocky Rocky" comic strip on Page 21 and Richard Maskel's "Rocket Exhaust," which is featured on Page 16 of this issue. We will continue to make improvements and take suggestions for content. Thanks for coming on this new adventure with us.

We had a new face join us at the national office last month as a Member Services intern was introduced. Normally when we talk about in-turns at the office, it is the curling term but this time we mean a paid assistant. So, if



you call the office and a man answers, who is not Rick (he is out-numbered by women here 5:1, err, 5:2 now) it is our intern Ryan Maier. For more information on Ryan, turn to Page 7.

As the leaves turn to colorful shades of red and gold and the Canada geese start to honk outside my office window as they make the journey south, I'm further reminded that a new curling season is already in full swing and a very busy summer has come to a close. It's time to dust off my curling shoes and broom and think about joining a league again. Or, maybe I'll just bonpsiel this season and never practice. Maybe I'll master my out-turn. (My former skip is laughing at that right now.) Either way, see you all along the ice or maybe even on it. Have a great curling season. ■

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is proud to recognize the
following sponsors who support
our sport and organization:



// DEDICATION

David and Jan Carlson of Portage, Wis., have made a generous cash donation to the USCA in memory of Frank and Mary "China" Rhyme. They have hopes that others in the curling family may join them in honoring the Rhymes' contribution to the sport of curling and their long-time positions as publishers, editors, and "all-everythings" for *The Curling News*.

The Curling News, a successor to *The North American Curling News*, was a labor of passion and devotion for the Rhymes. In 1991, the Rhymes transferred responsibility for *The Curling News* to the USCA. The USCA has con-

tinued the Rhymes' work through the *United States Curling News*.

To further the vibrancy and relevancy of the *United States Curling News* as a premier means of communicating with the curling family across the United States, the USCA has embarked upon a transition to a glossy, 32-page magazine format with digital and social media components.

It is in acknowledgment of the Rhymes that the first issue of this magazine is dedicated to the memories of Frank and Mary "China" Rhyme.

// REPORTS FROM THE WARM ROOM

Volunteer spirit is alive and well

By Kim Nawyn, USCA Growth & Development Manager

The volunteer spirit is prevalent in the curling community. Without volunteers, most clubs would not have ice, leagues would not get organized, and bonspiels would become a thing of the past. During the 2011-12 season, the United States Curling Association (USCA) launched the Volunteer of the Year Award program to recognize the importance of volunteerism in the sport. Jerome Larson, former USCA Vice President of Member Services, was the driving force behind this initiative. Larson explained his reasoning for the development of the award: “The United States Curling Association annually recognizes the Athlete of the Year, Team of the Year, various championship participants and winners, and Hall of Fame recipients. Up until now, the volunteer quotient, which is the lifeblood of every successful club, has not been recognized.”

While only one individual can be named Volunteer of the Year (See article by Terry Kolesar on Page 10), the pool of applications submitted by clubs truly exemplified the spirit of volunteerism that the USCA was hoping to recognize. Jim Shlimovitz, for example, is a 20-year veteran of the Portage Curling Club. In addition to serving as a member of the board of his club and overseeing operations and maintenance, Shlimovitz spent countless hours over the past season running one of the largest junior programs in the country and coaching junior teams. Moreover, without Shlimovitz’s persistence and commitment, the elite junior curling camp held at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center (DePere, Wis.) in July 2012 would not have been possible. The camp, which featured 2010 Olympic Coach Phill Drobnick, and 2010 Olympian Chris Plys, served as a pilot for a USCA junior high performance camp which may be replicated in other regions next summer.

Another nominee with a passion for creating opportunities for youth curlers is Colleen Buyers of the San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club (SFBACC). Since she first learned to curl in January 2008, SFBACC president Brian Patrick said, “[Colleen] has worked tirelessly to initiate a youth program in our club.” Buyers has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club in Oakland and other organizations to arrange for free learn-to-curl sessions for youth who would not otherwise have access to the sport. On top of her work with young people: “Colleen has been instrumental in maintaining our club’s growth through the post-Olympic slump. Her determination has allowed us to begin curling in a new facility in a major population hub.” Chris Delauder, a director at SFBACC, noted “at least 2/3 of our 200+ person membership were only able to join as a direct result of her initiatives to grow the sport.”

Like Buyers, Mikel Coulter of the Columbus Curling Club and Jason Jorski of the Oklahoma Curling Club are prime examples of how newer curlers can make a big impact. Coulter offered his skills as an architect to help complete a building project when he was a first-year curler and has played a key role in club operations ever since. Club president Gordon Webster noted, “Mikel has led the ice committee in the last year to come up with various improvements to our ice system, including a homemade de-ionizing water system for pebbling, rain water collection tanks for flooding, and has helped Ice King

in testing controller parts on our new scraper.” Jason Jorski began volunteering at the club in Oklahoma since his first night on the ice in 2010. From that point in time, Jason has developed the club website and served as webmaster, designed club T-shirts and jackets, and worked tirelessly to make the best ice possible for the club. Club member Gail Yanko notes: “He is always at the rink before anyone else setting up the hockey ice for four sheets of curling ... He is also the last to leave after all of the equipment is back in its place.”

Experienced curlers Bruce Irvin and Richard Collins were heavily involved in club development efforts during the 2011-12 season. Irvin put countless hours into the Evergreen Curling Club’s Dedicated Ice in a Year (DIY) initiative and was instrumental in securing a loan from the World Curling Federation. Steve Liske, Evergreen’s past president, said, “Bruce led the search for the appropriate site for our new club, and [worked] with the landlord to secure a lease agreement, and the local jurisdiction for permits.” Evergreen Curling Club is scheduled to open their new rink in Beaverton, Ore., this October. The Curling Club of Virginia credits Collins with playing a key role in helping a “fledgling group of curling enthusiasts” begin curling. With 12 years of experience in the sport, Collins helped the club obtain rocks, advertise and host several learn-to-curl events, establish a league, create a procedure for setting up the arena for curling each night, organize league championships, and start a broomstacking tradition. He is currently the club’s representative to their regional association.

Last but certainly not least, Bobby Damkroeger of Curl Mesabi, better known as Bobby D., “spends more time at the club during the curling season than he does at home.” According to club president, Jim Newman, “If there is work to be done, he looks and asks to help.” Damkroeger has done everything from chair national events and run fundraisers to kitchen and club room cleanup after leagues. No job is too big or too small. While it might be easy to take someone who is so willing to give of his time for granted, Rory Malner, vice president of Curl Mesabi, observed, “Quite simply, he is the ultimate volunteer and is one of the big reasons our club is as successful as it is.”

These individuals and the many others like them in clubs across the nation should serve as an inspiration. Whether it be running a league or helping out in the kitchen for a few hours at an annual bonspiel, all curlers have skills and abilities that can contribute to the success of their clubs. Since new curlers may find seeking out volunteer opportunities a little intimidating, try reaching out to them. Volunteering is an effective way to help newer members feel more like part of the organization. For clubs without official volunteer recognition procedures, Larson hopes the national award will inspire members to set up their own programs. Larson notes, “The volunteer appreciation night can be a significant tool that a club could use to retain and re-motivate their volunteer workforce.” ■



‘Wax on, wax off’

Winning consistently means playing consistently

By Dave Jensen, Chairman, USCA Youth Committee

I recently had the pleasure of coaching a team of fine young men at the Fort Wayne Cash 'Spiel. They are a new team, but all of them are very experienced curlers – in fact, they all finished in the top four at Junior Nationals last year. Good curlers who were playing together as a team for the first time. Their hometowns are spread throughout the country, making it unlikely they will practice much together this year. They were, however, chomping at the bit to win their first cash 'spiel. Imagine the look in their eyes when I told them in our pre-event meeting that I didn't care if they won any games that weekend.

That wasn't the goal. Their goal for the year of course is to win Junior Nationals and get to the Junior Worlds. This was the outcome goal they had established for their team. However, given their lack of opportunity to practice together, my goal for them that weekend was to put in place all the team systems necessary for them to achieve their goal. It was my process goal for them that weekend. You see, you can't win consistently until you play consistently. Those weekend goals – throw the same split times on takeouts, throw the same number of rotations with both in-turns and out-turns. Put in place a system for communication, and script for between-end meetings, and a way to keep the team at an even keel mentally. Team meetings? Counting rotations? Matching weights? Are you kidding? For me, their reaction conjured up memories of the “Karate Kid.”

Do you remember the “Karate Kid?” Daniel was the young man who wanted to learn karate from the old master Mr. Miyagi after being bullied at school. At first Daniel thought Mr. Miyagi was more interested in having him paint fences and wax cars than in teaching him karate, but he came to learn that all the motions in painting and waxing were vital to the sport of self-defense.

Sure, four good curlers will win their share of games based purely on talent, but if they are to win consistently they need to pay attention to the



details that allow them to play consistently as a team. You can't just play games, you have to practice, too. All games do is tell you what you need to

practice. Practice is the foundation for success. Kevin Martin says the success of his team is based on the fact that they probably practice more than any other team, and by practice I don't mean throwing draws to the four-foot on your home ice. It's more intentional than that. They work on those competencies that keep them performing consistently, and that's what wins championships. Those are process goals, and every team, and I mean every team, would benefit from having them.

In curling, there are so many things that can go wrong that are outside of your control. They could very easily negate your goal of winning the game, winning the bonspiel, or winning the championship. The weekend or the season could end in disappointment. However, if you put less emphasis on that end goal (outcome) and start placing more weight on smaller goals (process), you'll likely end up much more satisfied. At the end of the day you'll do better in your event because of the confidence you have built.

Your team probably has the same goal for the season as every other team. Implementing process goals in everything you do this season will set your team apart from the others who are simply playing the game. Have a great season, everyone.

Member Services intern hired

USA Curling welcomed Ryan Maier (Green Bay, Wis.) as the first Member Services intern this September. Maier is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, majoring in communications and public relations with a minor in business studies. As a third-generation curler who became active in the sport at the age of 12, he has a strong understanding of the game and its culture.

The Member Services internship was developed by Growth & Development Manager Kim Nawyn, as part of USA Curling's commitment to improving customer service to member clubs. Among other things, Maier will work to support the various educational programs, respond to requests for information and materials, and provide administrative assistance for the club insurance program.

// CERTIFICATIONS

Level I Instructor

Tom Haferman, *Tri-City Curling Club*
 Chris Nazar, *Kansas City Curling Club*
 Allison Peterson, *San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club*
 Joe Smith, *Wine Country Curling Club*
 Rebecca Thompson, *Oklahoma Curling Club*
 Chris Viau, *Stevens Point Curling Club*

Level II Instructor

Richard Lazarowich, *San Francisco Bay Area Curling Club*

Level I Official

Ricardo Bulala, *Chesapeake Curling Club*
 Cynthia R. Bush, *Philadelphia Curling Club*
 Michael Eickbush, *Granite Curling Club*
 Annette Streiff, *St. Paul Curling Club*

Level II Official

Glen Novak, *Duluth Curling Club*
 Yvonne Novak, *Duluth Curling Club*
 Annette Streiff, *St. Paul Curling Club*

Why Stevens Point?

National office's roots remain in Wisconsin

By David Garber, dj.garber@charter.net

United States Curling Association staff are asked, surprisingly often, why are you in Stevens Point? One staff member suggested I write about how the office came to be in Stevens Point, Wis., a town of 26,700 on the Wisconsin River, right in the center of the state. The short answer is – the office is in Stevens Point because I am in Stevens Point. I have added a bit more history below.

In the late 1950s, during the last pre-Olympic boom in U.S. curling club building, two-sheet clubs were built in Two Rivers, Green Bay, Port Edwards and Stevens Point (four clubs within 100 miles of one another). Point has a diverse economic base, including education (the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, with more than 9,000 students); insurance (Sentry, with more than 2,000 local employees); and several paper mills. My father became a charter member of the Stevens Point Curling Club. Shortly after, he had become totally enamored of the game, and taught me to curl at age 12 as well as my mother and brother. As is so common in the roaring game, curling quickly became a family affair for us.

Jump to the early 1980s

The USCA board of directors, since its founding in 1959, had been 100 percent volunteer-operated. Gradually, activities and subsequent workload increased. Since the 1970s the board had talked about hiring an executive director to handle administrative matters, market the USCA to sponsors, and promote the USCA to the sports media.

The USCA's annual budget in 1984 was about \$100,000, mostly to fund men's, women's, mixed and junior men's championships, and world-team travel. This left little for paid staff and office space. Eventually, and with trepidation about affordability, the USCA decided to hire an executive director on a quarter-time, independent contractor basis, with a small expense budget. The position was advertised in the May 1985, *North American Curling News*, with a budget including a \$15,000 fee plus \$15,000 for office rent and expenses. I responded. I had just changed careers at that time, hanging a shingle as a marketing consultant. The USCA position seemed to be a chance to acquire a client whose success meant a lot to me. Of 12 applicants, three persons, including me, were invited by the USCA Executive Committee for interviews in late August, at the Executive's then-customary meeting place, the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago.

Two weeks later, I got a call from Bill Pattinson, long-time USCA treasurer and later USCA president, and a key executive for the 1989 Milwaukee World Curling Championships. Bill had good news. He offered me the position. He also asked, "but would you take 10 and 10?" I said "yes." This meant that Bill, a charming man who was also frugal, had just cost me \$10,000. (Bill's frugality was one reason the 1989 Milwaukee Worlds made a stunning profit even with very modest attendance. Remember the late Doug Maxwell introducing the crowd to the players one early morning draw? But I digress, even if parenthetically.)

So in September of 1985, during the full board meeting, I signed a one

and a half page contract with USCA President Bob Hardy and went to work, after that on an annual handshake basis.

As it happened, my wife, Ann, had started an ad agency in 1979. Some of my now-whittled expense budget allowed me to rent a 12-foot-square

room in her office suite, including access to her telephone system, copier, fax machine, office furniture and access to her graphic art staff. The latter helped me develop a new USCA identity brochure, for recruiting curlers and sponsors. In addition, I had a small travel account to get me to meetings at nationals. The first year, Bob Hardy approved attendance at the 1986 Worlds in Toronto "so you can see a complete curling cycle." My next worlds was 1989 in Milwaukee, where I stayed at the sumptuous Exel Inn somewhere north and commuted daily to the Mecca downtown. My budget finally allowed attendance at overseas worlds in 1992, when I had the dual role as E.D. and Editor, *U.S. Curling News*.

The Sandy Robinson era

The next year, the 1986-87 season, was a year of great fortune for me and the USCA as Sandy Robinson joined us, also quarter-time, as administrative assistant. Little did I know that Sandy's tenure at the USCA would be longer than mine, her role growing into USCA controller.

The USCA budget grew gradually. The Patron Pin Program was a great success, peaking at \$94,000 in 1994 under Warren (and Jannette) Lowe. The USCA became an affiliated member of the U.S. Olympic Committee in the late 1980s, led by the late Bill McNelly and Tom Satrom. USOC grants allowed Curl USA to get started, under technical direction of the late Bill Farbelow. The USCA now had a division to train curlers, coaches, instructors and umpires.

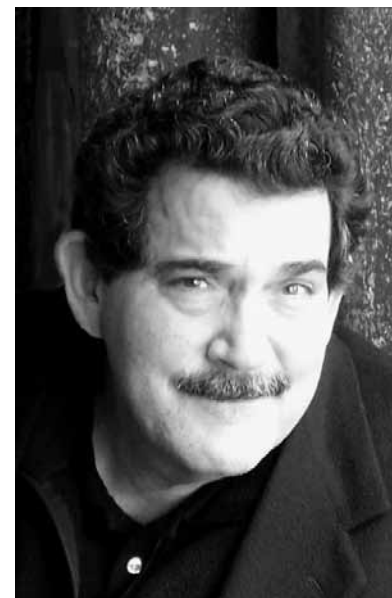
With Olympic medal status in 1992 came more money, and more responsibilities. In 1995, staff was expanded with similar positions as we see today.

Why still in Stevens Point?

Over the years, there are recurrent discussions about the best location for the USCA office. Offers have been made to house the USCA, but never during my tenure did the cost-benefit relationship come close to matching that of Stevens Point. There are arguments that the USCA would receive more funding if its office were in Colorado Springs (home of the U.S. Olympic Committee). I very much doubt that was the case, at least through 2006, and I am certain the office costs would be much greater.

One disadvantage of Stevens Point is that its airport is not a hub, and requires some extra time and expense for air travel.

One valid argument in Stevens Point's favor is its central location in the American curling community. If one studies the map of curling clubs in the USA, Stevens Point was in 1985 and remains today pretty much central, both east-west and north-south. ■



Will you make the right choice?

Tactics vs. Techniques – Intro to basic strategy

By Jon Mielke, Chairman, USCA Training & Instruction Committee

Most of my previous articles have focused on mechanical techniques related to a sound delivery and effective sweeping. It is important to remember, however, that you can lose a game even if your team shoots 100 percent. Making a shot that was ill-advised can be as costly as missing a shot, and it could cost you the game. Conversely, if you call a smart game, you can win, even if the other team out-shoots you.

Good strategy starts with having a game plan and a goal for every end. In terms of a goal for each end, skips should always start their thought process with basic curling strategy – when you have the hammer, score two or more or blank the end (and keep the hammer), and when they have the hammer, steal or force the other team to settle for a single point. If you always score two with the hammer and the other team never gets more than one when they have the hammer, you will win every time.

As simple as that strategy sounds, it is certainly easier said than done, plus there are exceptions to every rule. To help skips wade through all the strategy and shot calling possibilities, remember the acronym “SHEETZ:”

- Score – what is the score? If you are way ahead or way behind, you may need to adjust your strategy to be more aggressive or defensive.
- Hammer – who has the hammer? You can take more chances if you have the hammer. If they have the hammer, being aggressive may send you to the warm room early.
- End – what end are you playing? Do you have several ends to play or are you near the end of the game? Where you are in the game will impact your approach to the end.
- Environment – how is the ice? Is it keen or heavy or is it changing during the game? Are there runs or falls? How are the rocks? Are they evenly matched or are there some bad ones and, if so, who is throwing them? These and several other factors may influence what shot you call and how an end is played.
- Team – What is your team good at – hits or draws? Don’t call shots that a teammate is not capable of making, and try to force opposing players to play shots that they struggle with. What is your team’s mentality? Are you a defensive team or are you aggressive? Play to your strengths and their weaknesses.
- Zone – use the free guard zone to your advantage. Teams can pursue an offensive or defensive style of play if they understand and use the free guard zone. Strategic shot calling, by itself, will not make this happen. Team members must be able to make the shots. It takes both sound strategy and shot-making to win hard-fought games.

Here is an example of how “SHEETZ” considerations may impact your strategy for an end. Let’s assume that you are playing the seventh end of an eight-end game. You are up by two points and have the hammer. With the final shot, your skip is looking at an empty house. Do you throw it through to blank the end and keep the hammer, or do you draw for a single point?



Basic strategy would tell you to throw it through and keep the hammer. Personally, however, I would take a single

point. Here is why. If we take the point, we will be up by three playing the last end. Even more importantly, we will throw first in the eighth end. Throwing first allows us to dictate how the end will be played. We can throw up a center guard, or we can throw into the house, or we can throw it through.

You definitely would not throw a center guard. There is an old saying – “When you are up, guards are not.” A guard is an offensive move and you do not need offense when you are up three points playing the last end. If you throw a guard, it is a rock that they might be able to use to score a big end. Conversely, if you throw a rock to the top of the 4-foot, what are they going to do? Hopefully, they panic and decide to hit it. Then you are into a takeout game and they will never get three, unless your team misses lots of hits. If they throw a corner guard, you can throw another rock into the rings and now they have two rocks to deal with before they can even think about scoring three.

Let’s go back and assume that you decided to blank the seventh end and keep the hammer. Now they get to go first. They are going to throw a center guard. You will probably play a tick to open up the middle or you might just play to come around the center guard. They are going to throw more guards with their next couple shots and there will probably be lots of rocks in play before you can start hitting with your second’s stones. Now you are into a potentially messy end – just what you wanted to avoid. Remember – sometimes one is enough.

The moral of the story – start with basic curling strategy and use “SHEETZ” to establish a goal for the end you are playing, but also be looking ahead an end or two to figure out where you would like to be. Determine what you would like to have happen (Plan A) and what is an acceptable alternative (Plan B). You should also determine what is totally unacceptable so you can play to avoid that outcome. If you do not have a plan, you are planning to fail. The free guard zone rule is something that warrants a whole separate article. Most curlers know what the rule says, but many do not know how to use it to generate offense or to play defensively. To play smart, you need to know. That will be the subject of my next column.

Until next time – good curling! ■

(The acronym “SHEET” was originally conceived by Wisconsin’s Lynita Delaney. Sandra McMakin, the current chairwoman of the USCA’s Training and Instruction Committee, suggested adding the “Z” to emphasize the importance of the free guard zone. The acronym “SHEETZ” has been formally adopted by the Instruction and Training Committee for use in all of its instructional programs. It replaces “HI SEA” – Hammer, Ice, Score, End, and Abilities.



2012 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Doug Brugler (below) has given many curling lessons since he first picked up a broom 20 years ago at the club in Rochester, N.Y.

by Terry Kolesar, Editor
Submitted photos

Swept up in volunteering

Rochester's Doug Brugler named USA Curling's inaugural recipient of Volunteer of the Year Award

Doug Brugler (Rochester, N.Y.) has been named USA Curling's inaugural recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award for his significant contributions through volunteerism to grow the sport at the Rochester Curling Club and throughout the curling community. Brugler was selected from among a pool of impressive candidates for the national award by the USA Curling Volunteer of the Year Award Selection Committee.

Volunteering is a significant part of Brugler's daily life and personal ethos. "For many, the game of curling is an addiction and a great way to meet interesting people from many walks of life. But USA curling clubs require the volunteer efforts of many members to keep the facility in good condition, the ice in top shape and the season's programs all running smoothly," he said. "I find that curling volunteers get both a great experience and opportunity to learn new skills or improve on existing talents. Considering these things, I am very surprised and touched to learn of this award. It is a great honor, but I only represent the very many others in U.S. curling clubs – past and present – whose efforts deserve recognition."

Brugler took up curling more than 20 years ago at the club in Rochester. “I had apparently lived just a few miles from the club for many years and did not even know it existed or what curling actually was,” he said. “The adults must have liked curling more than the kids, and I joined the Rochester club with a few of my friends the following season.”

Brugler was nominated by fellow club members for his commitment to a variety of curling club activities, including serving as the main coordinator for scheduling and instructing outside groups (youth, business, organizations, family groups), giving up many hours of his free time to make the events successful.

“Doug has shown great patience in passing along the history and fundamentals of the sport when working with these groups,” said John Yaworski, Rochester club president, in his club’s nomination form in support of Brugler. “He sacrificed many a weekend in hosting and instructing these groups, often doing two to four groups per day.” In the process, Brugler has recruited more than 50 club members to volunteer during the Learn to Curl events. The successful events have helped the club raise more than \$92,000 in the past two seasons by bringing in more than 190 groups.

Brugler also played an instrumental role in the club’s refrigeration sys-

tem replacement project, a two-year project that was a labor of love as Brugler supervised the removal of the old system, which was donated to the Pittsburgh Curling Club, and implementation of the new system.

Brugler can also be found working on the ice, stocking the bar and picking up tools to do any maintenance work around the club to keep things running smoothly.

According to Mike Egan, fellow club member, “Doug is a valuable resource both on and off the ice. He is a great ambassador for the club and the sport and always embodies the spirit of curling.”

A retired engineer, Brugler has always been intrigued by the sport. “For me, curling is a fascination on very many levels, beyond the challenge of the skills, strategy and physics of the game itself,” Brugler said. “As a former youth sports coach and now ‘Professor of Curling’ for a local university, instructing new curlers is always a rewarding experience. By coordinating the club’s extensive team of other instructors, we have been able to introduce many thousands to the joy of curling, while earning the club some much-needed cash at the same time. And the best part of that is the chance to help spend some of it on projects to improve our facility.”

Brugler squeezes in all his volunteer hours while juggling his daily life as a husband and father of two grown children. He also volunteers for the local ambulance service as an emergency medical technician and treasurer.

“My wife is very tolerant, most of the time, when I am involved in curling activities. Our adult son and daughter have enjoyed curling a few times with groups of their friends and maybe someday will join a league with me.”

Brugler was previously honored for his volunteer efforts by the Rochester club with the Bob Scheiber Behind the Scenes Award. ■



Do you know a great volunteer like Doug Brugler in your club? To learn more about the 2012 USA Curling Volunteer of the Year nominees, check out Kim Nawyn’s column on Page 5. Have a great volunteer to nominate? USA Curling is now accepting applications for the 2013 USA Curling Volunteer of the Year through June 1. Please visit www.usacurl.org/goodcurling to learn more. USA Curling would like to thank Jerome Larson for generously donating the awards (shown above) for the first five years of this program. The first Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Doug Brugler, and the nominees profiled in Nawyn’s article are featured in a USCA club poster this season.

Congratulations!

**Jennifer
Stannard
2011-12
Circuit
Champion**



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Thank you to last year’s Circuit sponsors:



Message from the President

By James Pleasants, USCA President

When I was elected president of the United States Curling Association in April, I told the Board my theme would be: “United by the love of curling.” I have little patience for people who want to divide our curling community into elite curlers and grass roots curlers, or divide us by geography. As someone who was raised in the Midwest, went to school in New York, and now lives and curls in Seattle, and someone who has curled at the worlds but still has my trophy for winning the “B” event in my first club ‘spiel, I think we sometimes exaggerate our differences and forget that our love of the great game is a much more important unifier than any of those other categories that try to divide us.

We face a continuing challenge involving our need to change our governance structure. Our current structure was adopted when we were an all-volunteer organization with a small budget, and curling was not an Olympic sport. Now we have a full-time staff of seven-plus with all the responsibility and accountability that goes with being the National Governing Body (NGB) for curling. Change is never easy, but a broad group of representatives of varying points of view has been at work this summer and fall, to build a consensus for a new structure that will make us more effective and accountable. Stay tuned.

One change this year that you have already noticed if you are reading this: a new format for the *Curling News*, as a result of our partnership with Quad Graphics. We hope you find this a more inviting and interesting way to get your curling news. We are also working on improvements to our web site, and other increasingly popular forms of digital communication, as we get

ready for the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for curling, in Fargo in November 2013.

Curling continues to grow in the U.S., with four new dedicated facilities scheduled to open this year: two in Wisconsin (Wausau and Milwaukee), one in Portland, Ore., and a combined hockey/curling facility in Blaine, Minn. We are happy to be able to help these clubs, with a loan to Portland and stones for Blaine, both through partnerships with the World Curling Federation. Arena curling is moving curling into new areas of the country, and we now have about as many arena clubs as dedicated clubs. In recognition of this, we will be adding a new USCA championship in late spring, focusing specifically on arena curlers.

We have a new staff person, Kim Nawyn, who is specifically tasked with helping the growth and development of our member clubs. Look for a new initiative on grass roots training of instructors to help clubs develop and retain new curlers. There are also new training and coaching materials available, and our high performance program is taking off in its second year under the leadership of Derek Brown.

As we prepare to step onto bright, clean ice for the start of another curling season, take a few minutes to reflect on all that the game has given you, and plan to give back to your club, and especially to newer curlers with a friendly word of encouragement and support.

Good curling. ■



// IN MEMORIAM

By David Garber, Emeritus Editor

John Robert “Doc” Curtis, 97, died Aug. 12, 2012. Doc was a stalwart curler in Portage (Wis.) from 1926 to 2011. For 85 years, Doc had been a great fellow on and off the ice. A gentleman and a scholar, Doc was a font of knowledge about curling in the Midwest, and in 2007 he researched, authored and published “A Military History of Portage, 1673-1975.”

I last saw Doc a couple of years ago at the Portage club during a national event hosted there. Doc, about 95 then, was hanging with a centenarian fellow curler, the late Forrest Mosley, watching the games and having a great time. As I recall, one or both had driven their own cars to view the curling, and both were sharp as tacks. I felt compelled to write up that anecdote in a previous *Curling News*.

Son Mark Curtis recalls that Doc “was very proud of the fact that he was an early junior curler” and “he was always very much concerned with the traditions of curling.” It was a combination of these two affinities that led the Curtis family to establish, in 1993, and to fund annually since then, the Curtis Cup Awards for Sportsmanship at the USCA Junior National Championships. The Curtis Cups are awarded, by peer vote, to the junior women’s and men’s nationals teams that best exemplify the Spirit of Curling both on and off the ice.

Doc excelled as a curler for more than 80 years, representing Wisconsin

in the 1957 and 1960 National Championship, and was a member of the oldest team in the U.S. Senior National Men’s Bonspiel. Off the ice, he was a long-time civic leader in Portage, and was president of the Madison Area Technical College board. He was honored as the Portage Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 1991, and in 2006 was inducted in to the Portage High School Hall of Fame. Doc was a veterinarian.

Bob “Doc” Curtis is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathryn, and children Martha Longbrake, Eleanor Voigt, and veteran curlers Mark and Susan Curtis, now curling in Rogers, Ark. (Susan is a multiple winner of the USCA Senior Women’s Nationals); grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. ■



// COLLEGE CURLING

College curling begins a bold new season

by Gordon Maclean, Chairman, College Curling National Championship

For the first time, college curling is headed to a National Championship based on merit. Sixteen schools will be invited to participate at the U.S. College and University College Championship to be held March 8-10 in Duluth, Minn.

Guidelines detailing the entire process were published in September and will be found online on Facebook at “US University Club and Varsity Curling” and on our new website www.colleg-ecurlingusa.org. (Please note that our old website will still be active and will automatically redirect you to the new site.)

In brief, schools earn points by participating in college-only curling events; either head-to-head, triangular, quad, or larger round robin events or traditional bonspiel format events. Schools can also earn points by hosting events. Automatic berths can be earned by winning events that meet certain minimum field size requirements. Schools with the most points will be invited to participate in the National Championship.

Spots at the National Championship will be awarded to a school rather than to a particular team of four individuals.

For further information on the U.S. College and University College Championship, contact Gordon Maclean at president@coppercountrycurlingclub.com, or call 906-482-6788.

College bonspiels on tap

The University of Tennessee will be hosting a college-only bonspiel at the Columbus (Ohio) Curling Club, the weekend of Oct. 5-7. So far Tennessee and Butler have teams entered. There are 16 spaces available; cost is \$150 per team. Contact Kevin Spellman, 502-523-5844, or kspellma@utk.edu.

The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Curling Club is working with the Rochester Curling Club to host an early season bonspiel, Nov. 9-11. The first draw is tentatively set for 4 p.m. on Nov. 9. The bonspiel has 24 slots available, with teams from RIT, Colgate, Boston, and Villanova already entered. Entry Fee is \$150 per team. Contact Steve Noble at, 315-399-2591, spn4788@rit.edu or ritcurling@gmail.com for further information.

The University of Wisconsin-Superior and University of Wisconsin-Barron County are combining forces to host a college-only, open bonspiel format event at the Rice Lake Curling Club, Dec. 1-2. The first draw will be at 8 a.m. on



Dec. 1. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Eight teams participated at last year's event; the goal for 2012 is to have 16 teams. Current participants include Nebraska, UW-Superior, Tennessee, UW-Madison, UW-Green Bay, and Carroll University. For further information, contact Tony Nelson, 715-418-0454, tnelson18@uwsuper.edu or Scott Sharp, 715-296-0662, gunner2878@yahoo.com.

Colgate University will be hosting a college-only bonspiel at the Utica (N.Y.) Curling Club the weekend of Feb. 9. Colgate, Hamilton and SUNY are currently entered. There are 16 spots available for this event; the cost is \$25 per person. For more information, contact Mary Jane Walsh at 315-228-6194, or mwalsh@colgate.edu. ■

Three new directors join USCA Board of Directors

Jennifer Stannard (Stamford, Conn.), Jeff Hannon (Norwalk, Conn.) and Nick Kitinski (Burbank, Calif.) were recently elected to the United States Curling Association Board of Directors.

Stannard, a member of the Nutmeg Curling Club, joins the Board of Directors as the representative for the United States Women's Curling Association. Stannard, a past president of the USWCA, joins the board with an extensive leadership background from service on the Nutmeg Curling Club's board and within the club as well as within other areas of interest, including the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Trinity Episcopal Church.

An account executive with Aetna Life Insurance, Stannard graduated from Central Connecticut University. She began curling in 1992 at the Nutmeg club. She has one son, Eric, who curled as a junior but assignments with the Unit-

ed States Navy have prevented him from curling much since. In her free time when she is not curling, Stannard enjoys singing and golfing.

Hannon joins the Board of Directors representing the Grand National region. A member of the Nutmeg and Plainfield curling clubs, Hannon began curling in 1994 at the Plainfield club in New Jersey. A graduate of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a degree in computer science, Hannon works as a management consultant. His wife, Sally Mackenzie, also curls and has held many leadership positions within the Grand National region. Hannon serves as Nutmeg's head ice technician and has served on its board of directors. In addition, Hannon has chaired the mixed competition for the GNCC and coached at several national championship events. In his free time, Hannon enjoys fishing.

Kitinski joins the board representing the

Mountain Pacific region. He is a member of the Las Vegas Curling Club and has been instrumental in the formation of several clubs in the MoPac region, most recently the one in Las Vegas. Kitinski was the founder of the Hollywood Curling Club in Panorama, Calif., and served as its president for three years. He also served as president of the MoPac region for two years. Kitinski, who works as a sound engineer and earned degrees in electrical engineering, economics and cinema, helped the USCA create the “Dare to Curl” video in 2011. He currently serves as chairman of the USCA's Club and Membership Development Committee. He is a Level II official and Level II instructor.

A complete list of the USCA Board of Directors can be found on Page 4. ■



Keith Dropkin (left) coached sons (from left) Stephen and Korey, with the help of wife/assistant coach Shelley, to a “dream season.” Keith Dropkin has been named the 2012 USA Curling Developmental Coach of the Year.

Coaching Excellence

Steve Brown, Keith Dropkin honored with USA Curling awards

by Terry Kolesar, Editor

Photos By World Curling Federation & the Dropkin family

Wisconsin’s Steve Brown (Monona, Wis.) has been named 2012 USA Curling Coach of the Year and Keith Dropkin (Southborough, Mass.) has been honored as the association’s Developmental Coach of the Year.

Brown was nominated for his work as national coach with the U.S. wheelchair curling team. The team, led by 2010 Paralympian Patrick McDonald (Madison, Wis.), finished fifth at the 2012 World Wheelchair Championship and solidified a berth for USA in the 2013 world event as well as the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

“The camaraderie and enthusiasm the athletes bring forward is infectious, and really makes it fun to be around them,” Brown said. “Each of them has gone through some life-changing hardships as a result of the injuries or disease that led to their disability, but as a person they are resilient and overcome the adversity and obstacles presented to them.”

This is the second time Brown, 65, has been honored as USA Curling’s Coach of the Year. He was previously named in 1996 as the inaugural recipient of the award. “Like able-body athletes, they have a passion to compete and be the best they can be. We train hard and spend countless hours on the ice perfecting their skills, but when it’s all said and done, I feel like I have learned far more from them about life than I can ever teach them,” said Brown, who owns Steve’s Curling Supplies in Madison, Wis.

A highly successful curler with many national titles and world championship medals, Brown also was inducted into the USA Curling Hall of Fame in 1998. Brown has been an integral part of the U.S. wheelchair curling program since 2005, including two Paralympic Winter Games (2006, 2010) and countless camps and practice sessions.

“From a performance point of view, the highlight of the season was to have them play so well at the worlds in South Korea and qualify for the Paralympics in Sochi, Russia, in 2014, as that was our primary goal from the start of the season,” Brown said. “But, my highlight was knowing that this really happened because of hundreds of hours of hard work and dedication from my entire staff of Marc DePerno, Rusty Schieber, volunteer help from Tony Colacchio, and my wife, Diane, who supports me being gone much of the season, as well as the five team members and all the other wheelchair athletes that did not make the world team. This team had far less world experience than some of our prior teams, and were major underdogs going into the season. By pulling together, staying positive at all times, and believing in each other, they proved they were winners and a team to be reckoned with in the future.”

Dropkin, 55, was nominated for his work with Stephen Dropkin’s junior team as well as Corey Dropkin’s team for its successes at the inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games. The Dropkin brothers and teammates Thomas Howell III (Brick, N.J.), Derek Corbett (Rochester, N.Y.) and Cameron Ross (Princeton Junction, N.J.) went on to finish fifth at the 2012 World Junior Championships in Sweden.

A Developmental Coach of the Year nominee is coach of a youth club, high school or junior-level coach, or a coach directly responsible for coaching athletes to the junior and/or elite level.

A current member of the Broomstones Curling Club in Massachusetts, Dropkin began curling in 1975 in Schenectady, N.Y., while attending Union College. The sport was offered as an intramural activity and was created from a donation by Laurence Achilles, who had contributed funds for the school to build a hockey arena. As a longtime curler, Achilles included a requirement in the gift that the college provide curling facilities as part of the new construction, Dropkin said.

“I was among the first on campus to take an interest in the sport and benefited greatly from the encouragement of an experienced junior curler, Stephen Breitenfeld, then a freshman (and now a Broomstones member) who took it

upon himself to support the school and sport by providing instruction to all of us newbies,” said Dropkin, who works as chief financial officer at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, a small nonprofit college in Boston. “In hindsight, Steve demonstrated all the civic qualities at a young age that my wife, Shelley, and I would go on to teach to subsequent generations of new curlers of all ages.”

The Dropkin rink experienced a high degree of success in 2011-12, highlighted by the team’s championship title run at the 2012 Junior Nationals and Corey Dropkin’s bronze medal in mixed doubles at the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Austria. Corey Dropkin also was honored as USA Curling’s Male Athlete of the Year for 2012.

“The past year was so full of incredible experiences. It really began with the guys being selected into the high performance program. A friend remarked that teams gain new confidence when others take notice. And did the guys ever gain confidence ... from their first time at an HP camp being told that they should consider themselves members of Team USA and representing their country every time they step on the ice,” Dropkin said about the team. “Having them achieve repeated success in winning a series of events through the fall training season, including being ranked number one on the Ontario Junior Curling Tour for more than two months, was incredibly rewarding. Having the team win the junior national championship with an undefeated record and qualify for Junior Worlds was the storybook culmination of a 10-year journey.”

The junior men’s team started its competitive season by winning the Fort Wayne Summerspiel in Indiana and sped forward quickly with key wins on the Ontario Junior Curling Tour and then on to Junior Nationals and Junior Worlds in Sweden.

“Of course, that was only half the story of our season to remember. Woven into the fabric of our training schedule were a series of prep events for a junior mixed team aiming to qualify for the inaugural Youth Winter Olympics,” Dropkin said of Corey’s team, which included Howell and the Anderson twins – Sarah and Taylor from the Philadelphia Curling Club.

“By the time we got to the U.S. Trials, the team was gaining confidence that they could achieve their goals. Winning that playdown was perhaps the greatest feeling these athletes had experienced in their young lives up to that point, and being there for them each step of the way as their coach was every bit as wonderful. I believe



2012 USA Curling Coach of the Year Steve Brown (back) is a pivotal part of the U.S. wheelchair curling program.

putting on the USA jacket for the very first time is such a special moment for any athlete, and it is just as special for a coach. And, doing it in an Olympic environment makes it an experience that they, and I, will never forget.”

Having the opportunity to coach two sons to a high level of curling is something Dropkin cherishes. “We have been so fortunate to share in this experience as a family,” he said. “To find an activity in which we all have a common passion for has been a rare opportunity. The extent of travel has indeed been grueling at times, but wonderful nonetheless because we’ve done it as a family.” ■

National Wheelchair Team to be selected this fall

The individual tryouts for Team USA for the 2013 World Wheelchair Championship will take place Oct. 18-21 at the Madison Curling Club in Wisconsin. Stop on by and check out this great event, meet our Paralympic hopefuls, and see Coach Brown in action!

Reflections on the curling life of Mary 'China' Rhyme

by David Garber, Curling News Editor Emeritus

(Editor's note: Please refer to the cover story in the July, 2012 e-edition of the U.S. Curling News. Much of the content of that story regarding the North American Curling News applies equally to China.)

It is sad to hear of China Rhyme's passing, at 88, so soon after Frank. At the same time, it is satisfying to consider China's long and productive life. The sport of curling was a major part of China's life. It is through curling that China's and Frank's and my paths crossed in a major way, decades ago, to work on curling and to enjoy curling around ice houses across North America and Europe.

I can't recall when I first met the Rhymes. It could have been as early as the 1960s, when I curled as a teenager, with my dad, in a "home and home" series with Portage curlers. Our club, Stevens Point, was founded by a Portage native, Howard Woodside. But for certain, I started working with China in 1985, when I was hired by the United States Curling Association. From the start, it was evident that China and Frank would use their influence as publishers and opinion leaders to support the fledgling national office, just as they had always worked to support curling at the local, Wisconsin and national levels. China was skilled—and she was both businesslike and sociable—at the appropriate times!

I heard stories from several USCA veterans that the Rhymes had stepped up to save the struggling *North American Curling News* in 1979. Not that China ever mentioned that, or ever mentioned to me that she had a degree in journalism from the UW. China exemplified my parents' generation—hard working, successful, yet modest. The *Curling News* thrived under China's editorship. China asked me to contribute a column, which I appreciated and enjoyed. When in 1991 China and Frank retired, I was fortunate to assume the editor duties. During the transition and for years afterward, this warm and dedicated couple was extremely and consistently helpful, including generous provision of valuable, candid advice. I will be ever grateful to China and Frank Rhyme for their friendship and support.

In later years, appropriately, the USCA honored China and Frank with its *Bruce Bennett Media Award* for their lifetime of contributions to curling.

China's passing reminds us of her great legacy of support for curling in many forms and places, from kids to world champions. ■

// IN MEMORIAM

Mary "China" Rhyme (nee Chynoweth) died August 15, 2012, at her home in Portage, Wisconsin. China was born in New York, living in Staten Island until age 10. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1945 with a degree in Journalism. China worked at the then-*Milwaukee Journal* on the society page. She met Frank Rhyme at a friend's wedding and married Frank in 1948, settling in Portage. Frank died on June 3, 2012. China was active in the community, especially as a two-term president of the school board; China golfed and curled well into her 80s. She was co-owner and editor of the *North American Curling News* from 1979-1991. China is survived by sons William, Richard and Robert, and daughters Margaret and Nancy. Memorials may be made to the Portage Public Library Fundraising Campaign.



Wisconsin curlers Frank and Mary "China" Rhyme were the original publishers of the U.S. Curling News. Both passed away this summer.



rocket exhaust

By Richard Maskel

Top 10 Complaints Made About Sherlock Holmes By His Former Teammates

10. Ends up fouling way too many key shots when that pesky trademark deerstalker cap invariably falls off his head and lands on top of the stone that he is sweeping.
9. Will outright reject any suggestion that his so-called "seven-percent solution" should be subjected to testing as a potential performance-enhancing substance.
8. Never quite comprehends that all the astute observation, deductive reasoning, and forensic skills in the world will not matter much if you cannot make a simple outturn takeout to save your life.
7. Refuses to go on any out-of-town bonspiels unless that insufferable sidekick-cum-scribe of his, Dr. John H. Watson, gets to play third.
6. Cannot get through a single strategy session without drawing everyone's attention to the "curious incident of the icemaker in the night-time."
5. Keeps deducing that all of his misses are the result of "picks" caused by tiny, almost imperceptible stray hairs left behind by an extremely rare species of albino feline that is reputed to exclusively inhabit the interiors of ice-related sports facilities in various northern climes.
4. Insists on referring to the Halloween Spiel as "The Adventure of the Hard-Partying, Bizarrely Costumed, Trick-or-Treating Curlers."
3. Takes perverse pleasure in needling defeated opponents by frequently interjecting his signature catchphrase, "Elementary strategy, my dear Watson," into the post-game discussion.
2. Opines that the sensor handles may actually be a sinister invention devised by a certain "Professor James Moriarty" who has a nefarious scheme to secretly undermine the very rules of the game and thereby gain unchallenged global supremacy over his rivals on the ice.
1. Supposed to be a world-famous master sleuth, but cannot solve the relatively "no-brainer" mystery of who is responsible for all those "stolen ends" that his teams seem to surrender whenever he happens to be skipping.

Brooms Up Curling Supplies named presenting sponsor of 2013 National Championships

By Harry Maier, 2013 National Championships Committee

A national supplier of curling equipment has been named the presenting sponsor for the 2013 U.S. National Championships, which will be held at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Green Bay, Wis., next February.

Bill Rhyme and Don Chilson, 2013 Nationals co-chairmen, reported that Brooms Up Curling Supplies, Woodbury, Conn., will be the primary financial sponsor for the event.

The tournament will bring to the area the top 10 men's and top 10 women's curling teams from across the country. The tournament is scheduled Feb. 9-16, 2013. Brooms Up Curling Supplies represents nearly every major manufacturer of curling equipment including Asham, BalancePlus, Goldline, Olson and The Curling Company.

"The Suslavich family and their business, Brooms Up, has been and continues to be a very supportive sponsor of USA Curling in many areas, and their further support of the 2013 Nationals through a sponsorship agree-

ment with the host committee is just great to see. Hosting an event of this magnitude is no small task, and the Brooms Up sponsorship will surely help both the bottom line and championship atmosphere for the Green Bay host committee, as well as the services for competitors," said Rick Patzke, chief operating officer for USA Curling.

The company is owned and operated by Gary and Megan Suslavich and their children, Abbey and Kent. "As a company which has experienced the genuine values of this sport, we stand behind our athletes as they achieve their Olympic dreams," Megan Suslavich said.

The winners of the 2013 Nationals will represent the U.S. at the 2013 World Championships and earn berths into the 2014 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Curling next fall in Fargo, N.D. ■



National Championships sweep into Green Bay

By Harry Maier, 2013 National Championships Committee

What goes around comes around. That's the story of the Green Bay Curling Club, a neophyte organization in 1959 that hosted the third annual U.S. Men's National Curling Championship.

The club is hosting it again; this time it is the 2013 national tournament, which will include the top 10 men's and top 10 women's teams from across the country.

Joining the Green Bay club in this project are the Cornerstone Community Ice Center, site of the tournament games, and the Brown County Visitor and Convention Bureau.

There wasn't much of a selection process for hosting the championships in the early days.

Story is that Walter Selck, Chicago, then president of the U.S. Men's Curling Association, was driving through Green Bay and spotted the newly-constructed Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena. It was right alongside of Highway 41, now Lombardi Avenue and just east of Lambeau Field.

The decision was made and Selck contacted the Green Bay Curling Club, which had been organized in 1958 and was curling on Sunday nights at the arena.

In the 1959 program, Selck wrote: "We are fortunate indeed, to have been able to conduct this championship here in Green Bay and I would like to express the appreciation of all our curlers to the city officials and other individuals who have been so helpful in our arrangements. We could not have been more warmly welcomed than we have been here and I am sure we would like to come back again."

In those early years, the championship event was sponsored by Marshall Field & Co., and Hughston M. McBain, chairman of its board and a curler.

The third tournament brought teams from North Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, Connecticut, Michigan, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, Alaska and Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin foursome included William James, Bernard Samuels, Carl Lucas and Doug Bogue, all of the Portage Curling Club. After a few opening draws, Bogue raised some concern over the condition of the ice. He maintained that the heat from the arena's overhead lights was affecting the condition of the stones. One set of rocks had white handles and covers, the other black handles and covers.

Bogue said the black stones absorbed heat, while the white stones reflected heat, which meant that one stone would travel faster and far-



ther than the other if each had the same weight.

His issue was never resolved, but the ice officials did concede a point and covered the stones between draws and slightly dimmed the lights during the games. The games continued with the Fran Kleffman team of Hibbing, Minn., ultimately recording an 8-1 mark with its only loss to North Dakota, which finished second.

In the final game, Kleffman topped the Bogue rink of Wisconsin, 11-4. Wisconsin finished third. This was the second national title for Kleffman, having won the first national championships in Detroit, Mich.

In 2013, the Green Bay Curling Club will be joined by the Cornerstone Community Ice Center hosting the Nationals. There will be five sheets of ice and seating for 2,000. The facility is the home ice for the St. Norbert College hockey team, Division III national champions. ■

Many playdown changes in place for 2012-13 season

by Dawn Leurquin, Event Services Manager

With the 2012-13 playdown season about to get underway, please take note of a few championship-related updates that were announced this summer via the USA Curling website.

Early Registration Discount

An early registration discount will be applied to any entries completed prior to two weeks before the event deadline. This can save teams up to \$40 if all team members take advantage of his or her \$10 savings, bringing the entry fee back down to the previous season's cost.

USCA National Championships Incentive Pool

At the 2013 USA Curling National Championships, the top three men's and women's teams will earn incentive payments for their performances on the ice. First place will earn a team \$2,500 with the runner-up earning \$1,500 and the bronze medalists taking home \$1,000.

New Refund/Withdrawal Policy

A new policy for entry-fee refunds following a withdrawal is in effect for the 2012-13 season. Written requests for refunds are still required. Refund requests may be granted only under the following circumstances:

- Cancellation of an event due to insufficient number of teams.
- Verifiable online registration "system" errors.
- A player registered and was subsequently determined to be ineligible because his or her club is not a USCA member club.

Certain hardship exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Junior National Berth Allocations

Berths to the USA Curling Junior National Championships will be allocated differently this season. A playoff will take place this fall between the two men's and two women's junior teams that are part of the High Performance Program. The winning sides will earn automatic berths into the 2013 Junior Nationals. Per usual, 10 men's and 10 women's teams will compete at the Junior Nationals. Berths will be determined accordingly:

- Nine states/regions are allocated berths in the Junior Nationals. The High Performance (HP) playoff winner will be allocated one berth in the Junior Nationals.

- The team that advances from the HP playoff will be known as the HP Team, will not be considered to represent a state or region, and will not be considered when the fill policy is applied.

- In the event that one or more regions are unable to field a team, the vacant slot(s) will be filled to a total of 10 teams using the current fill policy.

End of Travel Stipends

In breaking from past practice, there will not be travel stipends paid to teams participating in 2012-13 championship playdown events.

Registration sites now open for playdowns

All registration sites are currently open for the 2012-13 playdowns. Please visit the USA Curling website and click on the "Register for Playdowns" link. Remember, you can save money if you register early.

**Please note that once the 2012-13 USA Curling Rules Booklet is made available, any information in the official Rules Book will be the final information.

// CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

2013 JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Event dates & site: Jan. 26-Feb. 2, Broomstones Curling Club, Wayland, Mass.

Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Dec. 12, 2012

Junior Nationals chairwomen: Jennifer Leichter (f.leichter@comcast.net)

& Karyn Cousins (kcousins@atlanticretailing.com)

Regional playdown dates & locations:

Alaska, Dec. 14-16, Fairbanks, Alaska

Wisconsin, Dec. 26-30, Portage, Wis.

Great Lakes, Dec. 27-28, Midland, Mich.

Illinois, Dec. 27-28, Highland Park, Ill.

Minnesota, Dec. 27-30, Grand Rapids, Minn.

Washington, Dec. 27-30, Seattle, Wash.

Grand National, Dec. 27-31, Laurel, Md.

North Dakota, Dec. 28-30, Fargo, N.D.

Colorado/Nebraska/At-Large/Mountain Pacific, TBA

2013 CLUB NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Event dates & site: March 2-9, Exmoor Curling Club, Highland Park, Ill.

Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Jan. 9, 2013*

Club Nationals chairman: Russ Armstrong (russellarmstrong@sbcglobal.net)

Regional playdown dates & locations:

Grand National Men's, Dec. 6-9, Brookline, Mass.*

Wisconsin, Dec. 13-16, Appleton, Wis.*

Washington, Dec. 15-17, Seattle, Wash.*

North Dakota, Jan. 10-13, Bismarck, N.D.*

Mountain Pacific Women's, Jan. 11-13, Portland, Ore.

Illinois, Jan. 17-20, Chicago, Ill.

Colorado/Nebraska/At-Large, Jan. 17-20, Chicago, Ill.

Great Lakes, Jan. 18-20, Columbus, Ohio

Mountain Pacific Men's, Jan. 18-21, Portland, Ore.

Grand National Women's Club Nationals Playdown, Jan. 24-27, Petersham, Mass.

Alaska Club Nationals Playdowns, Feb. 1-3, Fairbanks, Alaska

*denotes region with an early registration date

2013 MIXED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Event dates & site: March 16-23, Willmar Curling Club, Willmar, Minn.

Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Jan. 23, 2013

Chairman: Matt Proehl (mattproehl@gmail.com)

Regional playdown dates & locations:

Illinois, Jan. 25-27, Highland Park, Ill.

Colorado/Nebraska/At-Large, Jan. 25-27, Highland Park, Ill.

Mountain Pacific, Feb. 1-3, Portland, Ore.

Washington, Feb. 2-3, Seattle, Wash.

Great Lakes, Feb. 8-10, Midland, Mich.

Alaska, Feb. 9-10, Anchorage, Alaska

Grand National, Feb. 21-24, South Plainfield, N.J.

Minnesota, Feb. 22-24, Brainerd, Minn.

North Dakota, Feb. 22-24, Minot, N.D.

Wisconsin, Feb. 22-24, Janesville, Wis.

2013 U.S. MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Event dates & site: Dec. 6-9, Capital Curling Club, Bismarck, N.D.

Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Oct. 31

Event chairman: John Kram (jkcurler@hotmail.com)

// CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

2013 U.S. WHEELCHAIR TEAM SELECTION

Event dates & site: Oct. 18-21, Madison Curling Club, McFarland, Wis.
 Entry deadline: This deadline has now passed
 Event chairmen: Steve Brown (steve.brown@usacurl.org) & Marc Deperno (marc.deperno@usacurl.org)

2013 U.S. SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Event dates & site: Jan. 23-27, Fairbanks Curling Club, Fairbanks, Alaska
 Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Nov. 28
 Event chairmen: Bill Gryder (gryder@gci.net) & Leland Rich (leland@ecsalaska.com)

2013 U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Event dates & site: Feb. 9-16, Cornerstone Community Ice Center, Green Bay, Wis.

Entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Nov. 14

Event chairpersons: Bill & JJ Rhyme (rhyme@new.rr.com)

Qualifying events:

- U.S. Nationals Men's Challenge Round, Jan. 2-6, Hibbing, Minn.

Chairmen: Derek Gabardi (dgabardi@gmail.com)

& Shawn Rojeski (jeski@virginiamn.com)

- U.S. Nationals Women's Challenge Round, Jan. 16-20, Seattle, Wash.

Chairpersons: Benj Guzman (benj.guzman@gmail.com)

& Mary Melton (mmelton2@verizon.net)

OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

U.S. Women's Curling Association Senior National Bonspiel, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, South Euclid, Ohio

Continental Cup, Jan. 10-13, Penticton, British Columbia

USWCA National Bonspiel, Feb. 13-17, Portage, Wis.

U.S. Senior Men's Curling Association Bonspiel, Feb. 21-24, 5 Wisconsin clubs

2013 World Wheelchair Championship, Feb. 16-23, Sochi, Russia

2013 World Junior Championships, Feb. 28-March 10, Sochi, Russia

2013 U.S. College Curling National Championships, March 8-10, Duluth, Minn.

2013 World Women's Championship, March 16-24, Riga, Latvia

2013 World Men's Championship, March 30-April 7, Victoria, British Columbia

2013 World Senior Championships, April 13-20, Fredericton, New Brunswick

2013 World Mixed Doubles Championship, April 13-20, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Five clubs set to host National Senior Men's Bonspiel

by Mark Kretzmann, USSMCA Senior Bonspiel Committee

Wisconsin's Columbia County boasts a curling tradition that is hard to match. The county is home to five curling clubs—Arlington, Lodi, Pardeeville, Portage, and Poynette—four of which date back to the 1800s, when curling was an exclusively outdoor sport. The clubs are all within a short driving distance of each other and offer a total of 13 sheets.

The five clubs will jointly host the 37th U.S. Senior Men's National Bonspiel next Feb. 21-24. The bonspiel is sponsored by the U.S. Senior Men's Curling Association (USSMCA) and is open to curlers age 55 and up. At least two curlers on each team must belong to the same USCA member club. The first 64 teams to submit complete registrations will be guaranteed a place in the bonspiel.

The event is actually composed of three separate championships: the 16 oldest teams, with every member being at least 68 years old, will compete for the Masters Championship; the next 16 oldest teams, with every member being at least 63 years old, will compete for the Super Senior Championship, and the remaining 32 teams will be in the Senior Championship. Any team can request to play in the Senior Championship regardless of age.

The bonspiel provides a great opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and play in some of these smaller clubs that have such a long curling tradition. Complete information can be found at the Poynette Curling Club website at www.poynettecurlingclub.com, and questions can be directed to Mark Kretzmann at ussmca2013@gmail.com. ■

Volunteer statisticians needed for 2013 Nationals

Volunteers are needed to record curling shot statistics for the 2013 USA Curling National Championships Feb. 9-16 in Green Bay, Wis.

Recording curling statistics involves taking notes on every shot thrown during a game, for both teams on a particular sheet. The notes are entered on a computerized form, which simply involves moving the cursor to the particulars of each shot and clicking the mouse.

Some of the information you enter for each shot is the handle of the stone, the type of shot (draw, guard, take out, etc.), how much the stone was swept, and finally giving the shot a score of 0 to 5 based on how well the shot satisfied the skip's call.

No prior experience recording curling stats is required; you will receive training on the software and guidelines for scoring a shot before starting.

What you do need is a good working knowledge of the game and its strategies, enough that you can anticipate what the skip is asking for based on the current placement of stones on the ice, placement of the broom, the called handle, the end, and the score. You also need the eye-hand coordination to mark the shot characteristics on the computer screen in a timely fashion, and judge the score of the shot, all before the opponents' next stone.

What you get in return is free entry into the game, and an experience that will forever change how you watch curling as a spectator. We will need volunteers for the entire week of the competition. Our goal is to cover every game of every draw. If you cannot volunteer for the entire week, we welcome any time you can give (especially those early morning draws mid-week).

If you have questions, feel free to contact Gordon Maclean, 906-482-6788 or gmaclean@starband.net. ■

// CAMPS & CLINICS

OCT. 14

Level I instructor clinic, Exmoor CC, Highland Park, Ill.

OCT. 19-20

No Boundaries Junior Curling Camp, Capital Curling Club, Bismarck, N.D.

OCT. 20

Level I instructor clinic, Tri-City Curling Club, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

Creating a legacy of sustained curling success through coaching and sport education

By Scott Higgins, Director Sport Education/Coach Development, USA Curling High Performance Program

Recently, the Executive Committee of the U.S. Curling Association (USCA) Board of Directors signed off on three strategic recommendations from the USA Curling Sport Education, Growth and Development, and High Performance programs.

The recommendations focused on improving the training and certification opportunities for USCA coaches. Each strategy represented a step toward improving the pathway for coach certification and education, streamlining coach and athlete development, and building greater value for the role of the coach within the sport of curling. These recommendations were developed by a USA Curling Coaches Working Group and, when fully deployed, are expected to capitalize on a series of tactics that promote a more comprehensive plan for curling coach education/certification and development within the sport in the United States.

The three key strategic recommendations and plan are to:

- Deliver a standardized model for training and certifying curling coaches at the youth, junior and national levels of athlete development and competition.

- Deliver a campaign that will increase the awareness and improve understanding and the demand for quality coaching and education resources in the sport.

- Create ongoing professional development opportunities to grow the pool of U.S. coaches to have a minimum level of curling knowledge, expertise, and experience.

The key to delivering on these strategies is recognizing the need to improve coaching capability here and now, and at the same time purposefully develop the people, systems and processes that will see our coaches, athletes, and teams continue to win tomorrow. The long-term goal is to ensure that our present and future athletes continue to have the coaching they need to continue to win medals at Olympics and world championships and develop a life-long enjoyment of the sport.

To make this happen, in the short- and long-term, we will leverage the formation of a new USA Curling Coaches Association and the strength of two newly formed, important three-year partnerships with The American Sport Education Program (ASEP) and The Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). When accessible later this year, each organization will begin providing core 'standardized' educational content. Coaches, athletes, and members will be provided access to online resources to begin the revised education/certification process to become a certified USA Curling coach.

We'll also be launching the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Curling Safe Sport Program to achieve a requirement that all National Governing Bodies have a safe-sport policy in place by 2014. The USA Curling and USOC Safe Sport Program is designed to provide guidelines for the curling community on the welfare and training of young athletes in a safe and secure environment free from physical and sexual misconduct in sport.

A revised USA Curling coaching structure will focus on the direct education and certification of coaches at the most common levels of player development in the United States. These are the 'youth,' 'junior,' and 'national'

levels. An adult coach certification is also under consideration as a pathway to coaching for 'retiring' athletes. In deploying the revised structure, we hope to increase the opportunity for athletes to perform better and deliver to coaches both the confidence and the skills they need at each level through targeted, specific support and education aligned to each player's level of personal and sport development.

The approval by the USCA Executive Committee to create a USA Curling Coaches Association will help centralize and bring the collective expertise of coaches at all levels – youth, junior and national – into a national dialogue and framework. The association will provide the opportunity for targeted communication, direct coaching support, greater collaboration and specialized learning at every level—notably, within the revised national coaching structure.

Ongoing education will be essential for coaches, too. Therefore, moving forward the USCA High Performance staff will continue to work closely with National Team Program funded and Project 2018 coaches, and the USCA will seek to invest strategically in coaches within the greater community when opportunities arise. Coaches are our greatest asset and link to competitive success, and we must look to develop and invest in them in real, meaningful, and significant ways.

This investment has already begun, kicking off over a weekend this past May during which a group of experienced coaches and world-class athletes were brought together to work with three-time Olympic coach and co-author of "The Five Elements of Curling Technique," Rodger Schmidt; USA Curling High Performance Director Derek Brown, and National Team Program Coaches Scott Baird, Phill Drobnick and John Benton. In addition to learning more about the training model developed by Schmidt and used in the National Team Program, the group collaborated to develop on-ice drills and progressions within each element for use with youth, junior and adult curlers.

The lessons learned from this experience were subsequently incorporated into a pilot elite junior camp that was held at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Green Bay in July. Thirty-six junior athletes, including current USCA junior national champions, a state champion team from Alaska, and curlers from both coasts, worked with top coaches to fine-tune their deliveries and discuss problems specific to their teams. The instructors and coaches included 2010 Olympian Chris Plys; 2010 Olympic Team coaches Phill Drobnick and Wally Henry; Jim Dexter, and several individuals who had attended the May workshop in St. Paul, including Clark Raven, Tom Violette, Jim Schlimovitz and Lucas Ostrowski.

One junior coach, new to the program and material, but working along-



side national team and Five Elements clinic staff stated the following: “The camp is an amazing success – way beyond my best hopes. I have never seen such unanimous agreement by campers and coaches that this is a huge benefit to everyone involved. I have NEVER seen my team so engaged and happy at a curling camp – in fact, I cannot identify any curler who is not enjoying this experience.”

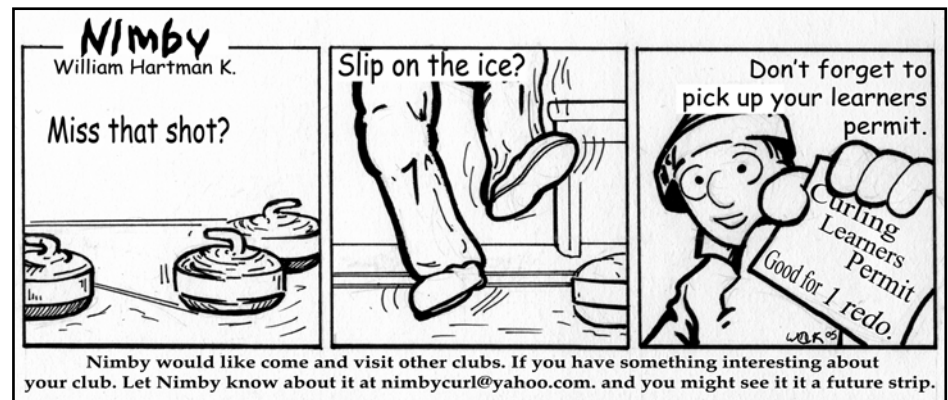
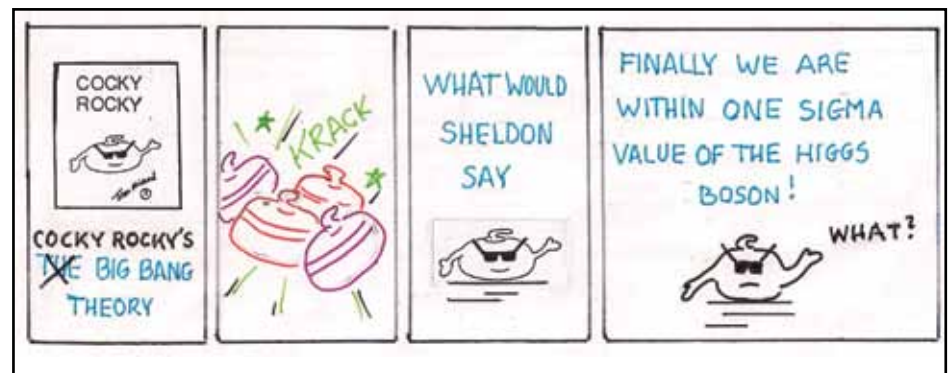
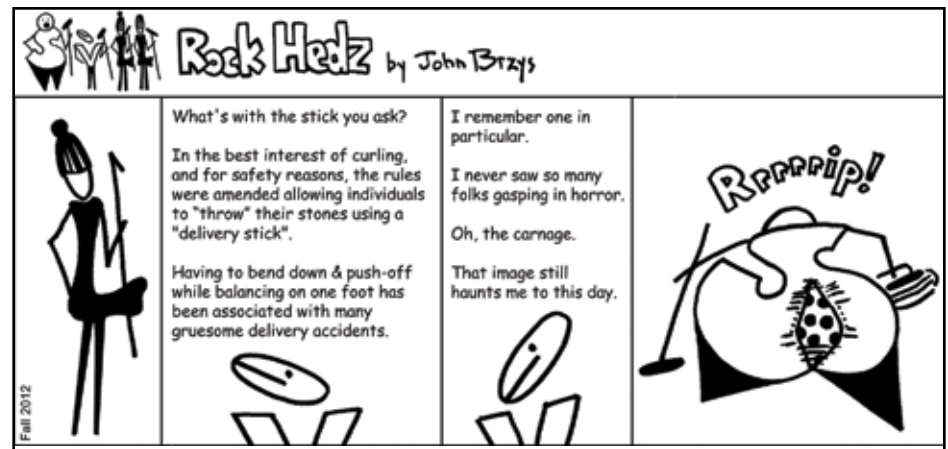
At the end of September, USA Curling’s investment in developing coaches and resources continued with a pilot program focused on adult curlers introduced at the Nutmeg Curling Club in Bridgeport, Conn. Coaches Wayne Anderson and Clark Raven from the Grand National region worked alongside a USA Curling coaching team of Rodger Schmidt, Phill Drobnick, Caitlin Maroldo, and 2010 Olympians John Benton and Chris Plys.

To summarize, a standardized educational framework, coaches association, and coaching structure will help USA Curling, as the Olympic governing body in the sport, elevate the role of coaches; create greater demand and awareness for high quality coaching, and promote greater consistency of coaching approaches within the U.S. curling community.

However, we do not plan to stop here. The staff and Coaches Working Group will be evaluating how to better recognize the efforts of individuals within all sectors of the coaching community and, by capitalizing on suggestions from the junior coaching community, revisit how we can better recognize the efforts of individuals through the development of a peer-based recognition program annually and at select championship events.

In closing, and not to be overlooked, developing coaching capability as well as educational resources takes time – in fact, developing great coaches takes as much time, commitment and focus as developing great athletes! It is fair to ask, “How, will we know that we’ve been successful?” As we look toward the future, the USCA wants to see an increased interest in coaching in the curling community, marked by significantly greater numbers of coaches who become members of the Coaches Association; are engaged in the revised coaching education program at all levels, and whose athletes and teams either begin or continue to win medals at the Olympic, Youth Olympic, World Junior and World Curling Championship events. Most importantly, the goal is to see new curlers young and old enjoying the sport and participating in it for a lifetime. ■

// COMICS



// EIGHT-ENDER

Bowling Green

On April 14, 2012, the Williams rink made history at the Bowling Green Curling Club in Bowling Green, Ohio, during the club’s USWCA All-American event. The eight-ender is the second in the club’s 44-year history, but the first scored by club members. Second-year curler Jennifer Williams skipped while delivering lead rocks, Sharon Gargasz threw skip rocks, Scott Helle threw vice rocks, and Tim Polesovsky threw second rocks.

// **BONSPIEL RESULTS**

WI High School Championships

Feb. 16-18 // Portage, Wis.

EVENT	TEAM
Champion, Boys—Portage	Rob Shlimovitz, Ben Vorpahl, Mike Clemmons, P.J. Kornaus
Runner-up—Eau Claire	Henry McMahon, Kyle Hangartner, Frank McMahon, Dalton Hoepner, Brad Hass
Champion, Girls—Medford	Dani Tingo, Heather Lindahl, Hannah Grunewald, Katie Homeyer
Runner-up—Wausau West	Melissa Sandquist, Calla Buttke, Michaela Gunseor, Alanna Witter, Ashley Kumen



Winners of the Cape Cod Junior Summerspiel were (l-r) Truman Dunkley, Austin Sylvester, William Perry and Dalius Kleinas of Cape Cod.



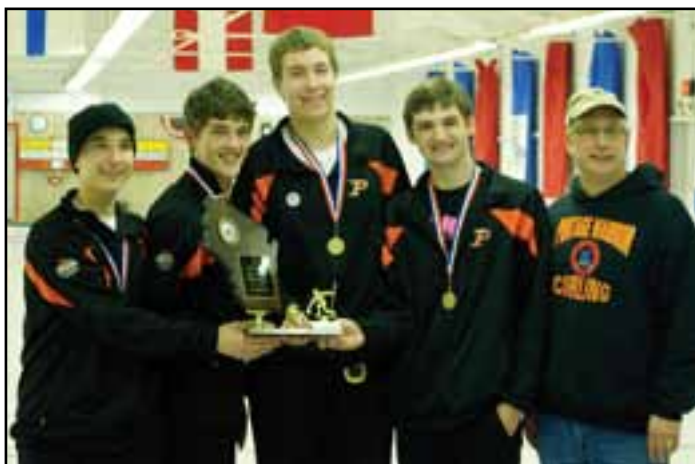
Winners of the Cape Cod Men's Summerspiel were (l-r) James Grattan, Kevin Boyle, Spencer Mawhinney and Jeff Lacey of Gage, New Brunswick.



Winners of the Cape Cod Mixed Summerspiel were (l-r) Jamie Hutchinson, Sam Chandler, Monica Walker and Dayton Neill of the Brae Burn Curling Club.



Winners of the Cape Cod Wheelchair Summerspiel were Scotland's team of (l-r) Aileen Neilson, Gregor Ewan, Jim Gault, Ian Donaldson, Gill Keith and Tony Zummack (coach).



Winners of the Wisconsin State Boys High School Curling Championship were (l-r) Rob Shlimovitz, Ben Vorpahl, Mike Clemmons, P.J. Kornaus and Coach Joel Caulum.



Winners of the Wisconsin State Girls High School Curling Championship were (l-r) Dani Tingo, Heather Lindahl, Hannah Grunewald and Katie Homeyer.

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// BONSPIEL CALENDAR

Most events below are listed Friday through Sunday but some may begin earlier. Check the club's website or the registration form for more information.

Key: O=Open M=Men's W=Women's St=Stick

Wc=Wheelchair J=Junior Col=College X=Mixed C=Cashspiel

OCT. 12-14

Aspen, CO O
St. Paul, MN OC
Potomac, MD O
Anchorage, AK O
Petersham, MA O

Schenectady, NY M
Waupaca, WI W
Wauwatosa, WI O
Detroit, MI M
Duluth, MN M
Eau Claire, WI O
Granite, WA O
Lodi, WI M

NOV. 23-25

Duluth, MN MW
Fairbanks, AK O
Granite, WA O
St. Paul, MN O
Philadelphia, PA O
St. Paul, MN W
Willmar, MN O

OCT. 19-21

Capital, ND J
Chicago, IL O
Poynette, WI O

NOV. 30-DEC. 2

Brainerd Lakes, MN O
Broomstones, MA W
Chicago, IL SM
Columbus, OH O
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND O
Madison, WI OC
Mankato, MN J
Mayfield, OH SW
Milwaukee, WI W
Nutmeg, CT M
Rochester, NY O
Chicago, IL M
Heather, MN X
Hibbing, MN M
Marshfield, WI W
Rice Lake, WI X
St. Paul, MN O
Utica, NY M
Waupaca, WI M
Wausau, WI J

OCT. 25-27

Anchorage, AK O
Broomstones, MA XD
Capital, ND O
Cook County, MN O
Granite, WA M
Kettle Moraine, WI W
Las Vegas, NV O
Midland, MI O
Madison, WI O
Rochester, NY O
Vikingland, MN O

JAN. 11-13

Chicago, IL M
Heather, MN X
Hibbing, MN M
Marshfield, WI W
Rice Lake, WI X
St. Paul, MN O
Utica, NY M
Waupaca, WI M
Wausau, WI J

JAN. 18-20

Anchorage, AK O
Belfast, ME X
Blackhawk, WI X
Broomstones, MA M
Chesapeake, MD O
Copper Country, MI O
Duluth, MN J
Itasca, MN J
Marshfield, WI M
Mayfield, OH W
Plainfield, NJ O
Portage, WI J
Rochester, NY W
Superior, WI X
Two Harbors, MN M
Wausau, WI W
Wauwatosa, WI WM

NOV. 2-4

Anchorage, AK O
Blackhawk, WI W
Nashua, NH O
Potomac, MD J
Racine, WI M
Schenectady, NY W

DEC. 7-9

Anchorage, AK X
Appleton, WI X
Barrow, AK O
Detroit, MI SM
Exmoor, IL M
Fairbanks, AK O
Granite, WA O
Itasca, MN O
Madison, WI J
Schenectady, NY M
Utica, NY Wc
Waupaca, WI SM

NOV. 9-11

Belfast, ME O
Exmoor, IL X
Fairbanks, AK O
Grafton, ND X
Granite, WA O
Mayfield, OH M
Rice Lake, WI W
Rochester, NY Col
St. Paul, MN XD
St. Paul, MN St
Superior, WI O
Utica, NY M
Wauwatosa, WI St

DEC. 14-16

Chesapeake, MD W
Waltham, IL O
Dec. 26-28
Heather, MN X

JAN. 22-23

Exmoor, IL W

DEC. 28-30

Fairbanks, AK O
Las Vegas, NV O

JAN. 25-27

Arlington, WI M
Boise, ID O
Capital, ND O
Cleveland, OH X
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND O
Granite, WA W
Hibbing, MN X
Nashua, NH SM
St. Paul, MN X
Two Harbors, MN O
Waupaca, WI M

DEC. 31

Charlotte, NC O

JAN. 4-6

Appleton, WI M
Chicago, IL W

// BONSPIEL RESULTS



Winners of the Lazy Daze of Summerspiel were (l-r) Joel Dietz, Tyler George, Kevin Johnson and Kenney White.

Lazy Daze of Summerspiel

Aug. 24-26 // Rice Lake, Wis.

EVENT	TEAM
1EW–Madison	Joel Dietz, Tyler George, Kevin Johnson, Kenney White
1ERU–Duluth	Seppo Sormunen, Roger Hendrickson, Doug Cameron, Kris Cameron
2EW–Kinross, SCO	Derek Brown, Mark Swandby, David Carlson, Mark Kretzmann
2ERU–St. Paul	Peter Stolt, Maureen Stolt, Bryan Hanson, Vicky Forconi
3EW–Duluth	Aileen Sormunen, Amanda McLean, Sara Shuster, Clay Dueland
3ERU–Madison	Craig Lee, Garret Perry, Tony Roth, Bruce Garner
4EW–St. Paul	Randy Cumming, Mark Faltese, Vince Bernet, John Eustice
4ERU–St. Paul	Aaron Nunberg, Zac Owens, Scott Willard, Adam Brodd



Winners of the Fort Wayne Summerspiel, Open Division were (l-r) Michael Vorsberg, Sean Loughran, Sue Gleason and Brenda Mason.

Fort Wayne Summerspiel

Aug. 17-19 // Fort Wayne, Ind.

EVENT-5 & UNDER	TEAM
1EW–Columbus	Craig Wickman, Ryan Greene, Bryan Wilson, Adam Huffman
1ERU–Fort Wayne	Andrew Nottingham, Dan McCoy, Tom Israel, Phil Mussallem
EVENT-OPEN	TEAM
1EW–Midland	Brenda Mason, Sue Gleason, Sean Lougran, Michael Vosberg
1ERU–Weston, ONT	Aaron Clark, Kristina Clark, Donald McGillivray, Kristina McGillivray
EVENT-CASHSPIEL	TEAM
1EW–Highland, ONT	Scott McDonald, Chris Jay, David Easter, Jordan Moreau
1ERU–Broomstones	Korey Dropkin, Mark Fenner, Connor Hoge, Alex Fenson



Winners of the Fort Wayne Summerspiel, Cashspiel Division were (l-r) Jordan Moreau, David Easter, Chris Jay and Scott McDonald.



Winners of the Fort Wayne Summerspiel, Five & Under Division were (l-r) Ryan Greene, Bryan Wilson, Adam Huffman and Craig Wickman.

// BONSPIEL RESULTS



Winners of the Cape Cod Women's Summerspiel were (l-r) Dorothy Szymaszek, Bette Sovik, Lisa Nieradka and Fay Navratil of the Amherst Curling Club.



Winners of the Hollywood Blockbuster Summerspiel, Five & Under Division were (l-r) Paul Mendoza, Tim Mendoza, Ryan Berdan and Matt Gamboa.

Hollywood Blockbuster

June 29-July 1 // Hollywood CC, Panorama City, Calif.

EVENT	TEAM
1EW-Hollywood	Paul Mendoza, Ryan Berdan, Matt Gamboa, Tim Mendoza
1ERU-Wine Country	Bob Kuhl, David Holt, AnnMarie Holt, Cindy Ronzoni
2EW-Ogden	Charles Taggart, Mark Rubey, Ben Womack, Neil Womack
2ERU-Hollywood	Casey Fox, Jon Neill, Greg Capp, Paul Garibaldi
3EW-Hollywood	Marissa Messier, Cindy Wood, Jennifer Gamboa, Donna Umali Mendoza
3ERU-Hollywood	Richard Cruz, Jeff Johnson, John George, Ashlee George
4EW-San Francisco	Bill McMorris, Chris DeLauder, Kevin Ryan, Dana Kleveland
4ERU-Ogden	Kyle Bauman, Lucinda Tutterow, Barbara Harmon, Breanna Arrowsmith

// BONSPIEL CALENDAR

JAN. 29-30

Itasca, MN SM

FEB. 1-3

Crosby, ND M
 Detroit, MI W
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND J
 Kettle Moraine, WI O
 Mankato, MN M
 Minot, ND X
 Nashua, NH W
 Rice Lake, WI M
 Schenectady, NY O
 St. Paul, MN O
 Waupaca, WI O
 Wausau, WI MWXJ

FEB. 8-10

Chicago, IL X
 Detroit Lakes, MN O
 Itasca, MN X
 Plainfield, NJ J
 Racine, WI X
 St. Paul, MN J
 Wausau, WI M

FEB. 15-17

Belfast, ME M
 Duluth, MN MW
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND O
 Heather, MN M
 Portage, WI W
 Potomac, MD M
 Utica, NY X
 Waltham, IL M
 Wausau, WI J
 Wauwatosa, WI O

FEB. 22-24

Anchorage, AK O
 Broomstones, MA Col
 Cook County, MN X
 Green Bay, WI M
 Heather, MN W
 Kettle Moraine, WI X
 Lewiston, MI O
 Madison, WI O
 Mayfield, OH X
 Nutmeg, CT J
 Plainfield, NJ SX
 St. Paul, MN M
 Utica, NY X

MARCH 1-3

Appleton, WI St
 Detroit, MI O
 Grafton, ND W
 Itasca, MN J
 La Crosse, WI O
 Marshfield, WI X
 Nashua, NH M
 Schenectady, NY J
 Superior, WI O
 Tri-City, WI M
 Two Harbors, MN O
 Vikingland, MN O
 Waltham, IL X

MARCH 8-10

Cook County, MN O
 Granite, WA W
 Green Bay, WI W
 Hibbing, MN W
 Plainfield, NJ M
 St. Paul, MN W
 Stevens Point, WI M
 Wauwatosa, WI M

MARCH 15-17

Belfast, ME O
 Broomstones, MA J
 Crosby, ND O
 Duluth, MN X
 Granite, WA J
 Green Bay, WI J
 Kettle Moraine, WI M
 Lodi, WI X
 Nutmeg, CT O
 Superior, WI J

MARCH 22-24

Arlington, WI SM
 Blackhawk, WI M
 Columbus, OH M
 Curl Mesabi, MN M
 Grafton, ND M
 Green Bay, WI X
 Itasca, MN O
 Missoula, MT O
 Potomac, MD O
 Stevens Point, WI X

APRIL 1-2

Hibbing, MN SM

APRIL 5-7

Fairbanks, AK O
 Hibbing, MN M
 Mankato, MN X
 Minot, ND O
 Petersham, MA X
 Rochester, NY O
 Two Harbors, MN X
 April 12-14
 Anchorage, AK O
 Granite, WA O
 Plainfield, NJ O
 Poynette, WI O

APRIL 19-21

Coyotes, AZ O

MAY 3-5

Ogden, UT O

MAY 24-26

San Francisco, CA O

JUNE 7-9

Granite, WA O

JULY 5-7

Hollywood, CA O

JULY 11-14

Cape Cod, MA X

JULY 14-17

Cape Cod, MA W

JULY 18-21

Capital, ND O
 Cape Cod, MA M

JULY 21-25

Cape Cod, MA Wc

JULY 25-27

Cape Cod, MA J

JULY 26-28

Anthracite, PA O

AUG. 2-4

Triangle, NC O

AUG. 30-SEPT. 1

Wine Country, CA O

Matzke takes over USWCA reigns

I am honored to have been selected as the President of the United States Women's Curling Association for 2012. So many great presidents have preceded me and laid the groundwork for what we enjoy today. They have been a great example for me to emulate and it is a privilege to be among them.

Curling was introduced to our family by USWCA Past President Diane Firari. My husband, Paul, joined first. At that time, I was busy raising five children and doing 30-plus art shows a year. Six years later, I finally took the time. I joined the Madison Curling Club and was quickly curling several nights a week. Our youngest son, who has a crazy sense of humor and was a teenager at the time, told everyone who would listen that curling was a cult. He said once his parents joined he never saw them again. One time he left a message on our answering machine saying he was a curling orphan and his parents would be back in April. If you needed to reach them, call the Madison Curling Club, 608-838-Kurl!

Serving on the board of the Madison Curling club for four years, and as the president in 2001-02, was a wonderful opportunity to work alongside my fellow curlers. Working with the USWCA through the years has proven the same.

The first USWCA committee I worked on was the Public Relations Committee. I was asked to

develop a pin as a fundraising opportunity. My training was in commercial art at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, the University of Wisconsin in Madison and AGB Graphics in Madison. My career as an artist has primarily been in pen and ink, watercolor and copperplate etching mediums with subjects such as barns, covered bridges and lighthouses. Structures of the vanishing American landscape have always fascinated me. The prospect of combining my artistic talent and curling was exciting! I have been creating a pin every year for the past 13 years.

The Promotional Sales Committee was spun off of the PR committee and I became its first chair. Through the years the funds we have raised have enabled us to support the Junior Curling Equipment Program, Women's Curling Development Fund, The Scot Tour and Friendship Tours, and funded our first USWCA brochure. These accomplishments are a direct result of the hard work of our committees and something for us all to be proud of. This is the place to be if you have a heart for grassroots curling.

The amount of growth that has taken place in the USWCA over the past 10 years is impressive. My focus for this next year will be to continue in this tradition while utilizing tools such as our website. We will strive to increase its effectiveness both for our members and for the curling



Matzke

community in general. It is my hope that soon we will be able to sell all of our great merchandise online ... worldwide!

Curling has enriched my life and my marriage in more ways than I could ever have imagined. It is one of the reasons I am so passionate about giving back to this sport. I look forward to working alongside all of our committee volunteers for continued growth and success of the USWCA.

Good Curling everyone!

USWCA junior bonspiel schedule set

By Leslie Armstrong,
USWCA Junior Bonspiel Chair

The junior curling season is quickly approaching and the USWCA has three fantastic sites for this year's events. The USWCA-sponsored 'spiels are a great opportunity to enjoy the game of curling at an experience-appropriate level because the 'spiels have developmental and competitive divisions. One of last year's events even had a third division for the very novice curlers.

Not only does everyone get to enjoy the game in a great atmosphere, but the kids make new curling friends and carry on the traditions of the gentleman's game while learning valuable lessons on the ice. The juniors seem to improve with every game they play, and it is an inspiration to watch how they develop.

The West USWCA Junior Bonspiel will be held in New York at the Utica Curling Club Jan. 19-20 with Susan Williams as chairwoman. For more information, you can contact her at susanwilliams134@gmail.com or call 315-339-0790.

The Central Region bonspiel will be hosted Jan. 18-20 in Portage, Wis. The chair of the Portage 'spiel is Jim Shlimovitz, who can be reached at 608-742-8470 or juniors@portagecurling.com.

The Heather Curling Club in Mapleton, Minn., will be hosting the West Region March 8-10. The chairwoman for that event is Sue Jaeger, who can be reached at 507-327-5647 or mseej@myclearwave.net.

Please plan on sending your junior curlers to these USWCA-sponsored events this season. It is an important step in development to be compet-



ing at different clubs. If your club is interested in hosting an event, please contact me at flingtime@comcast.net or 847-708-8050. We really appreciate the efforts of all the clubs and volunteers that make these events happen. Last year was a record-setting year for attendance at junior bonspiels. Let's keep up the good work.

The Circuit: Last season's winners, new season launched

By: Tracy Lawless, USWCA Circuit Chair

The USWCA is pleased to announce the 2011-12 Women's Circuit winners:

Congratulations go to Jennifer Stannard of the Nutmeg Curling Club in Bridgeport, Conn., who was first in the East Region and took first place nationally with 1,275 points!

Regional winners are Debra Moulton with (570 points) of the Exmoor Curling Club (Central/West Regions combined), and a tie between the mother/daughter team of Star and Nicole Piffner (1,175 points each) of the Madison Curling Club.

The Regional winners received a cash prize, a scholarship to The Circuit's Premier Sponsor 'Hot Shot's Curling Camp' and a Hot Shot's jacket. They will also receive a gift certificate from sponsor Broom's Up Curling Supplies.

All prize monies are distributed to the top finishers in each region. Rounding out the top three in each region: Jayne Beattie and Naida Leslie from the East; Anne Crandall, Sherry Anne Robinson and Tracy Lawless from West/Central; and Carol Stevenson and Kathy Hyslop from Wisconsin. Other participants in each region received cash awards totaling \$4,000. Stannard, as the National Winner, will also receive the USWCA Circuit trophy donated by Hot Shot's Curling.

Women across the country have participated on the Circuit, open to all USWCA women members. Clubs support women's curling by adding their bonspiel to the Circuit. The USWCA publicizes these bonspiels in flyers and on their website. Bonspiels run as usual but the results of each Circuit Curler are tabulated for regional and national points (limited to a max of three event totals). National winner Jennifer Stannard said, "My friends and I had so much fun just curling in the various bonspiels and charting our progress- winning was an unexpected bonus!"

The 2012-13 season is forming up nicely with Kettle Moraine's Fall Fling, Blackhawk's First Chance, Schenectady's Carosella, Broomstones' Silver Bells, Milwaukee Women's (first women's 'spiel at new club), and the Exmoor Highlander Women's, already a part of this year's Circuit Season.

Sponsors Hot Shot's Curling and Rock It Gurl have continued their support for the upcoming season and Debbie McCormick of Goldline has become a regional sponsor for Wisconsin. "The Goldline Mobile Pro Shop is excited to be a part of the USWCA Circuit. It is an honor for me to have the



2011-12 National Circuit Winner Jennifer Stannard (standing, far right) along with the other East Region winners (back, l-r) Jayne Beattie, Naida Leslie and team member Terrie Allen (seated).

opportunity to help promote and support woman of all ages in the amazing sport of curling. I look forward to seeing the sport grow once again this curling season. Good curling to all," said McCormick, a proud USWCA member.

USWCA Circuit Chairwoman Tracy Lawless said, "We are thrilled to have Debbie as an Olympian, national and world champion support our efforts to promote and develop women's curling. That's what curling is all about." USWCA member clubs can add their women's bonspiels to the Circuit, and women can sign up through their club USWCA rep, or get forms on the website at www.uswca.org. ■

Prepare for 'crazy' as Mayfield hosts Senior Bonspiel

By: Cheryl Drake, Publicity, USWCA 2012
Senior Women's Bonspiel

Senior Women will Be "Jammin'" at the 31st Annual USWCA Senior Women's Bonspiel—"Jamaica Me Crazy"—hosted by the Mayfield Curling Club in South Euclid (Cleveland), Ohio Nov. 28-Dec. 2. Twenty-four teams from the four regions of the United States Women's Curling Association will be participating. Mayfield Curling Club members will be extending their Mayfield hospitality as they put on their Rastafarian costumes and turn up the Reggae music for lots of tropical fun, festive parties, scrumptious Jamaican food and beverages, and, of course, good curling.

The festivities begin on Wednesday night with the opening ceremony and the kit party followed



on Thursday by curling and the beach (house) party at a special location with a great view of

"tropical" Lake Erie. On Friday there will be curling and the banquet at the beautiful Mayfield Sand Ridge Club House. The weekend will wrap up with more curling on Saturday and the finals on Sunday.

Mayfield is especially delighted to be hosting this event as part of their season-long celebration of their 50th anniversary. It's going to be a "crazy" time in Cleveland. For more details about the bonspiel, visit the USWCA website at www.uswca.org.

Applications for teams to compete in the 2012 bonspiel closed on Sept. 7. Plan now to put a team together and submit an application (deadline to be determined) for the 32nd Annual Senior Women's Bonspiel, Nov. 20-24, 2013, at the Itasca Curling Club in Grand Rapids, Minn. ■

Liaisons are your links to the USWCA

By Shelley Dropkin, USWCA First Vice President

The USWCA strives to promote the sport of curling throughout the United States and to enhance communication between our nations's curling clubs. One of the avenues the organization uses to provide direct communication is through member club representatives.

Each USWCA member club has an elected representative, and within each region one representative serves as a regional liaison. The role of the area liaison includes:

- Personal connection linking the individual clubs and their representative with the USWCA organization.
- Communication to the representatives ensuring regular updates, reminders and general information via e-mails, conference calls and information on the website.
- Holder and/or coordinator of shared USWCA materials such as banners and signage.

■ Reaching out to clubs in their area with information about the benefits of USWCA membership.

■ Mentoring – being available to help the representatives in their area with questions and concerns that may exist, as well as providing general support.

This helps to ensure direct communication and feedback, and aides in identifying areas where the USWCA can help and support its member clubs.

If you want additional information about becoming a USWCA representative or would like to connect with a regional liaison, here is the information for your area:

- East: Elaine Ritchie/Lee Ladd, EastLiaison@uswca.org
- Central: Lorrie Michaels, CtrlLiaison@uswca.org
- Wisconsin: Mary Beth Goelzer, WisLiaison@uswca.org
- West I: Diane Davis, WestILiaison@uswca.org
- West II: Kelly Stevens, WestIIILiaison@uswca.org

Make plans to play in a five-and-under bonspiel this year

By Millie Buege,

USWCA 5-Year & Under Chairwoman

If you have curled for five years or less, this bonspiel is for you. The USWCA sponsors both the 5-Year-and-Under Women's Challenge and Open Event specifically for new and newer curlers. This is a perfect opportunity for less experienced curlers to participate in a bonspiel with curlers who have similar skills and play positions they normally would not play. The USWCA provides an impressive traveling plaque for the bonspiel winners, as well as beautiful pins for the winners and runners-up of four events.

To be eligible, participants must have five or less years of experience. Membership in the USWCA is not necessary, but in order to host the event, the club must be a USWCA member.

The Women's Challenge is open only to women. The newer 5-Year and Under Open Event can have teams of any combination; all women, all men, or a mixture of both genders. Composite teams with curlers from different clubs also are eligible.

Five-Year-and-Under Bonspiels are held nationwide. To find out more about the one in your region, check the USWCA website at www.uswca.org

and click on the USWCA Bonspiel link or check with the USWCA representative from your club. For additional information and guidelines, please contact Millie Buege, 5-Year-and-Under Chairwoman at 5yrandUnder@USWCA.org.

Any club wishing to host either of these events should inform their USWCA representative or contact Buege directly.

This is a great opportunity for the host clubs and less experienced curlers to share in the fun and friendly competition that distinguishes curling from all other sports.

Benefits of USWCA membership are endless

By: Twila Yednock

USWCA Membership Chair

The USWCA continues to welcome the newest curling clubs across the United States, with our newest members The Denver Curling Club based at the Ice Ranch arena in Littleton, Colorado, and the Charlotte Centre Curling Club curls at the Extreme Ice Center arena in Indian Trail, North Carolina, which serves the Greater Charlotte area.

There are many benefits to belonging to the USWCA. We are proud to have a representa-

tive from every member club as a voting member of the board. This participation provides an exchange of ideas and support for clubs across the United States and our mission – To develop, nurture and promote the sport of curling among today's women and all youth. In addition, the USWCA welcomes men who wish to support our organization and achieve extra ice time with our intra-club events and bonspiels.

Some of the important benefits of USWCA membership are:

- National and the Senior National Bonspiels

- USWCA regional 5-year & under and junior curling events

- Junior program equipment assistance

- Women's Curling Development Fund for support of women and youth Curling

- Incoming and outgoing Scot and Friendship tours

- The Circuit – the newest USWCA sponsored competition

Our history is impressive and we are proud of it. After more than 60 years, membership in the USWCA is still the “best deal on ice!”

Get your All-American event on the calendar

By: Judi Page, USWCA All-American chairwoman

As the new curling season approaches, it is time to put your All-American event on your club calendar if it isn't already in place.

This event affords experienced as well as new curlers a chance to get a taste of being part of a national bonspiel on their own ice. Clubs report their women, as well as some male curlers, have a wonderful time sharing an event that is celebrated across the United States.

Each club has the flexibility to work the event into the club schedule where it is convenient. The USWCA will provide award pins for the winners of each All-American event. If you are a member club of the USWCA and have the time to play and meet the regulation requirements to take part in this event, it is well worth sharing this opportunity with your members. Go to the USWCA's website, www.uswca.org, and select USWCA Bonspiels/All-American or e-mail Yr5andUnder@uswca.org for details. ■

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Portage ready for 65th National Bonspiel

By: Michele Kornaus

USWCA National Bonspiel On-site Chair

The 65th USWCA National Bonspiel “Dazzled on Ice” will be held Feb. 13-17 at the Portage Curling Club in Portage, Wis. The newly remodeled Best Western Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Portage (and only minutes from the curling venue) will be the headquarters for the event. A “Kit Party” will kick off the event the evening of Feb.13. Curling competition will commence early on Feb. 14 and continue through Feb. 17. All games will be 10 ends. The finals are scheduled for Sunday afternoon with the awards ceremony to follow.

The Portage Curling Club is honored and very excited about hosting the 65th anniversary of this time honored event. The 32-team event has been in the planning stages since the summer of 2011 and the Portage Curling Club members and the

Portage community are looking forward to welcoming USWCA member teams from across the country.

Formal invitations from the Portage Curling Club to all USWCA member clubs/club reps were being sent out after the USWCA fall board meeting, which took place Sept. 22-23 in Madison, Wis. All USWCA member clubs (in good standing) are eligible and invited to enter a team(s). All USWCA female members who have reached their 21st birthday by Jan. 1, 2013, are invited to enter as well. The fee for the event is \$320 per team and the deadline date for entry fees and rosters is Dec. 14. Those clubs with more than one team entered should determine their team’s order of eligibility (i.e., ranking) by Jan. 4, 2013. Single entries are invited and encouraged in the event composite teams are needed.

Watch for the arrival of the official bonspiel invitation and/or contact your USWCA rep to noti-



fy her of your interest to participate. Information will be on the USWCA website (www.uswca.org) and you may also contact the Portage Curling Club on-site chairwoman of the event, Michele Kornaus, at makornaus@aol.com for questions or concerns. ■

2012 Senior Friendship Tour ready to depart

By: Charlene Fitzgerald, USWCA Senior Friendship Tour Publicity Chair

It is almost time for the 2012 Senior Friendship Tour to depart for British Columbia. There are 16 ladies from all across the United States who are getting ready to set out on an international curling competition.

The Tour will arrive in Victoria, B.C., on Oct. 31 where some of these ladies will meet for the very first time and then embark on a once-in-a-lifetime curling experience. They will curl in five or six clubs in Victoria and then travel to Vancouver for the remainder of their 12-day trip.

There will be four teams, made up of the 16 curlers from different regions of the USWCA.

The Red Team is Coco Wellington from Cape Cod, the captain of the Friendship Tour ladies; Jackie Shuster from Chisholm, Minn.; Anne Vanic from Mayfield, Ohio; and Paul Kalke from Racine, Wis. Blue team includes Myrna Mackinnon from Arden Hills, Minn.; Lisa McCann from Philadelphia; Susan Tortorelli from Detroit; and Nancy Myers from Aksarben, Neb. Black team is composed of Carla Lynch from Madison, Wis.; Karen Hamilton from Columbus, Ohio; Wendy Berger

from Albany, N.Y.; and Reilly Mannery from Seattle’s Granite club. The fourth is the Green team of Laurie Rahn from Exmoor, Ill.; Molly Jensen from St. Paul, Minn.; Martha Mazzarella from Bowling Green, Ohio; and Joan Partridge from The County Club in Massachusetts.

You can follow the tour by logging onto the USWCA Friendship Tour page (<https://www.facebook.com/Uswca2012FriendshipTour>)

Once the tours starts sign on and see the places they have been, check out the photos and keep track of their win/loss record. And, most importantly, cheer them on!

The USWCA Canadian Senior Women’s Friendship Tour is a competition with a six-year rotation. Every six years the Canadian women curl in the U.S., and every six years the U.S. women curl in Canada. The last time the U.S. curled in Manitoba in 2006 and the next time the U.S. will curl in Canada will be 2018. If you are eligible and at least 50 years old at that time, be sure to apply for the Tour. It is a truly wonderful competition. To learn more go to www.uswca.org. Roberta Crain is the chairlady of the USWCA Sr. Women’s Friendship Tour. ■

Looking for gift ideas? Check out what the USWCA has to offer

By: Nancy Seitz

USWCA Promotions Chair

A hot new jacket color scheme leads off the USWCA clothing line this season! With black as the basic color and hot pink, orange, powder blue and green as available accents, the USWCA moves forward from the red, white and blue theme in these new polar fleece jackets for women. While those are still available, the new colors are expected to be popular as so many curlers wear black curling pants and are looking for a bit of color to ‘pop’ on the ice. The jacket will debut at the USWCA fall meeting in Madison.

A new pin in the USWCA lineup is the USWCA logo pin! The pin sports the new USWCA logo adopted in 2008 and was requested by USWCA members to use as a thank you, trading pin or token. Keep an eye on the USWCA website for curling jewelry, clothing and gifts that are very unique!

New items will be available through order forms on www.uswca.org or through your club’s USWCA rep. ■

Looking forward to the winter

By Ben Tucker, tuck@usacurl.org

Welcome to the back page of the new-look, fancy-pants and jazzy edition of the *U.S. Curling News*. Well, I was told that it was going to be all fancy-pants. My cruel and dictatorial editor is certainly jazzed about it. I hope the new look is all that she hoped it to be and that we curlers appreciate the upgrade.

Speaking of my uber-mean boss, the editor did not give me extra time to write this column ... nor did she give me leave to skip an issue. I am currently in the middle of harvest on the farm and it is keeping me pretty busy. Yet I got the distinct impression from Herr Kolesar that her deadlines should be spelled "DEADline."

So while it may be October when you are reading this and your thoughts have turned firmly toward the rapidly approaching curling season, I am typing it amid an early September heat wave. A normal person would have trouble turning his or her thoughts to the roaring game. Fortunately, I am far removed from being normal. (*Editor's note: Very true*) I, too, have my thoughts turned firmly toward the rapidly approaching curling season.

I am already looking forward to playdowns. I am really looking forward to Men's and Women's Nationals in Green Bay (the home of the evil and hated Packers). I am looking forward to watching some 'spiels. I am looking forward to seeing my curling friends once again. It has been too long of a summer and it has been way too hot. I am looking forward to spending some time on the ice.

When a new season draws near, one thing that I always look forward to is teaching some new people how to curl. It makes me feel like I am giving something back to the game if I can get them to throw a decent stone and sweep a little bit.

If you end up with a newbie on your team, here are some thoughts to encourage you: Remember to be overly supportive. Hoot and holler if they make even the most routine shot or do a good job of sweeping your shot. Don't doom the newbie by only giving them draws. It is true that the league team that calls the most number of draw shots will generally win. It is also true that giving a newbie a takeout will cause them to lose their draw weight for a couple of stones. It remains true, however, that giving a newbie only draws will doom them to being a mediocre player who can't make a hit. It also remains true that takeouts are wicked-awesome-fun and a newbie will grin until his or her face hurts when they make their first one ... especially if you hoot and holler. This first successful takeout might come a bit sooner if somebody on your team volunteers to show up for a couple of practice sessions for the new teammate.

Another good tip for those of you with a new curler on your team would be to direct them to the USCA website where the newbie could read all of Jon Mielke's past columns. That is not to say that Jon is the smartest guy in the world (he fell off his own roof this summer ... breaking many bones and bruising up his face to the extent that he was practically unrecognizable, which was a temporary improvement on his usual appearance). What I do mean to say is that: Jon knows his stuff when it comes to curling, he's a great guy, he's a long-time friend and his columns are a goldmine to new curlers.

Mielke has been writing a lot about sweeping lately. I would like to rephrase one of his points: When sweeping on the shooter's left, the sweeper's left hand should be on the end of the broom handle. When sweeping on the shooter's right side, the right hand should be on the end of the broom handle. It is important that we try to teach rookies to sweep from both sides of the rock because having two sweepers on the same side of the rock is stupid. It is equally important that correct hand is high on the broom.

Why is this? Are we not going down the ice sideways? Does it matter? Yes, it does matter.



First, we are not going down the ice sideways. While not totally square to the sheet, the broom belongs between the sweeper's body and the skip. While the rock is moving along at a good clip, which hand is high and which hand is low makes little difference. When the rock slows, however, the sweepers that have the "inside" hand higher will end up walking down the ice backward! Watch and see for yourself. If a sweeper ends up walking backward once the rock slows, the wrong hand is high. Don't doom your beginners to walking backward into a crowded house. Teach them the right way to sweep.

For the Good of the Game:

Many of you may have missed the "Online Only" edition of the *U.S. Curling News* this summer. I strongly suggest that you surf around and check it out. In particular, I urge you to read about the passing of Frank Rhyme. I did not know Frank well, but he was an important part of USA curling for a very long time. The article was written by Frank's friend and *U.S. Curling News* Senior Columnist, Dave Garber. It is very, very well written. Since then, Frank's wife, China, also passed away, at age 88; she and Frank were a great team for curling. My condolences to all of Frank and China's family and their many friends.

As the season begins, start to stretch weeks before you play. It will help. What might surprise you is that stretching a lot AFTER your first game will lessen the aches of muscles that went unused through the summer.

Remember to schedule some out-of-town bonspiels. Remember that the MCA bonspiel in Winnipeg is having its 125th anniversary and should be huge. Remember to be a good teammate, and remember to teach the new players some curling etiquette. Remember to drop me an e-mail (tuck@usacurl.org) when you get time. If you have lots of extra time, e-mail my dictatorial editor and tell her to be nice to me.

– Ben Tucker (but my curling friends call me Tuck)

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