President’s Message

Dear Fellow UCC Members:

As many of you know, we have been experiencing increasingly more complex issues with our ice plant over the last several years, including some significant difficulties last year, as a result of deferred maintenance. Fortunately, we were able to finish last season without incident. This past summer we hired Johnson Control to carry out routine and regular maintenance of our ice plant. The first order of business was inspection of our equipment to identify needed repairs or maintenance issues. During the inspection and routine maintenance, several issues with our system were discovered. The necessary repairs were made, some additional recommendations were made, and we were able to install our ice in a timely manner.

As we have moved forward with various repairs, it has become clear that our ice plant is quickly approaching the end of its reliable and useful lifespan – our equipment is about 40 years old and the average lifespan for the equipment is about 25 years. Given the issues that we encountered last season, the number of difficulties we have already had this year, and the mounting cost of maintaining this unit, the Board of Directors and some members of the ice crew are currently gathering information on the expected cost of full repair, refurbishment, replacement with a purchased refurbished unit, and replacement with a new unit.

Our goal is to find the most cost effective way to put an ice plant in place that will be reliable and will serve us for years to come. As information becomes available, I will share it with the membership. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me, members of the Board, Dave Mitchell or Charlie Schatz.

I strongly urge everyone to thank the ice crew for the effort that they have put into installing and maintaining the ice so far this season. In addition, if you are willing to help out the crew, please consider doing so, it will be greatly appreciated by all. —Julie Chanatry, President
THE ICE CREW WANTS YOU!!

Come join the real Order of the Phoenix!

Be the envy of all your friends! Find out how we install the run on Sheet 2 each year! Get a very occasional free drink! Learn the secret Ice Crew Handshake!

Earn A FREE Jacket!!

Must be able to answer questions for which you don’t have answers. Must be able to deflect criticism with grace. Must be able to handle a shovel. Being able to walk backwards is a plus, not a must.
Ladies Evening Leagues – Second-Half Sign Up

Hello Ladies, it is time to start thinking about the evening leagues for the spring. The sign-up form for the second-half leagues is below. Leagues take the ice at 5:45 pm on Monday and Wednesdays this half. Please sign-up for one (or two evenings) and also encourage new curlers to join one of these evening leagues.

WOMEN’S EVENING LEAGUES 2nd half Jan 7 – March 20, 2011
Name:_____________________________________________
Tel: (home)__________(work)_________(cell)____________
email__________________________

MONDAYS 5:45pm *(Lambert-Grant)*: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 (if necessary). March 19 (playoff, if necessary) *(   )curl  (   )sub  (   )sorry, not curling Mondays

WEDNESDAYS 5:45pm *(Glenpladdie)*: Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, March 6, 13, 20, (if necessary). March 21 (playoff, if necessary) *(   )curl  (   )sub  (   )sorry, not curling Wednesdays

Reply Deadline December 19, 2012
Send via email to Audrey.foote@gmail.com or U. S. Mail to:
Audrey Foote
221 Washington Drive
New Hartford, NY 13413
ATTENTION ALL NEW AND USED MEMBERS

IT’S TIME FOR THE FRIENDLY EARLY BIRD BONSPIEL

For our new members, it is a great chance to curl in a 3 day fun and relaxing event. This is an individual sign up bonspiel so the Mixed Events Committee will form the teams.

Every curler will win a prize with the two top teams winning pins. Snacks will be provided after each game. A full breakfast buffet provided by Dominick will be served after the Sunday Finals and the Awards Presentation.

Curling Only: $12  Buffet Only: $10  Both: $20

Draw Schedules
Thursday, November 29:
6:30 PM  Six End Game
Saturday, December 1:
11:00 AM  Six End Game
Sunday, December 2:
Finals at 9:00 AM  Eight End Game

The Friendly Early Bird is limited to 48 curlers so don’t be left out in the COLD.

Keep a sharp eye out for the Sign Up Sheet on the Mixed Events Board.

Chairs: Ben Gaetano & Eileen Sunderhaft
Co-Chairs: Joel & Dawn Scherer
MEN’S LADDER SIGN UP

The signup sheets for the 2013 Men’s Ladder is posted in the Men’s Locker Room. Please sign up for as many nights as possible so we will have teams for all skips currently in the ladder.

This year there will be three events as follows:

- Garber Monday 8 PM
- Allen Tuesday 7 PM
- Sims Wednesday 8 PM

Remember to indicate the number of events you would like to curl in and mark all the events you would be available to curl. See the instructions and examples next to the signup sheets.

New curlers are encouraged to sign up for men’s leagues. Please ask me or someone on the Men’s Committee about signing up if you are a new curler and have questions. The more you curl the better curler you become.

Skips, please mark the skips signup sheet indicating whether you plan on skipping in the ladder this year. If you are eligible to be a returning skip and would like to re-enter the ladder, please sign up on the skips signup sheet under returning skips.

Sign up deadline is Friday December 7th.

Curling begins Wednesday January 2nd and runs for 11 weeks.

Draft dates are as follows:

- Sims Wednesday December 12.
- Allen Monday December 17.
- Garber Wednesday December 19.

All drafts are at 7 PM at the club.

Thanks
Jerry Stevens
Men’s Ladder Chairman
The Calder Conley Hurd Committee, in conjunction with Bent Broom Productions is proud to announce:

The 2015 Calder Conley Hurd theme will be **Game Show**!

This year, 13 is lucky (no whammies)!!! Consolation Prizes are being procured! So brush up on your trivia, have your buzzers at the ready, and please don’t chim in unless you think you know the answer!

Saturday’s Feast will feature tomfoolery, and dinner guests are encouraged to wear their tackiest suits and showiest dresses, or make like you’re appearing on your favorite game show!
2013 Daytime Mixed Fun League
Tuesdays, January 8 – March 19
Joyce Shaffer, Chair

Everyone (including Plate Glass Plus members) is welcome to play on Tuesday Morning, 9:45 AM, in the Mixed Fun League. Games will be 6 or 8 ends depending on the Happy Hour Schedule. Season-ending luncheon at the Yahnundasis Golf and Country Club. If games end in a tie, there will be no playoffs. Winners will be determined on points. Category “A” & “B” women will skip teams. Chair will organize teams making every effort to keep teams compatible. Must have an even number of teams so that we can have positional play. Five-person teams may be assigned so that everyone can play.

SIGN UP ON THE MIXED BULLETEN BOARD, deadline Thursday, December 20.

BOERGER HAPPY HOUR
Co-Chairs: Gary and Susan Fountain

Come join us at 4 PM on Thursdays for some relaxed curling, fun conversations and the cherished prizes. Please indicate your position preference (1,2,3,4)

Cut off date Dec 27th

NAME_____________________________ Tel ________________________

Skip _____ 3rd _____ 2nd _____ Lead_____

If you reply by e-mail you will get a return e-mail to tell you we received it.

The Fountains  E-Mail: grfountain7@gmail.com
15 Upper Woods Road
New Hartford, NY 13413
Instructors Corner
Roger Rowlett & Mary Jane Walsh
USCA Level II Certified Instructors

Why do my rocks seem to “pick” a lot”? Why do some players get more (or less) curl than others from the same rocks? What is a “lazy handle”?

We hear these questions around the rink during many a league night. It has often been said in curling that a great shot is easily spoiled by a sloppy release. This article is about the curling release, the last thing the shooter does during the delivery. But first, a mention of…

Foreign Objects
There is no question that some “picks” are caused by debris on the ice. These situations are often obvious because the stone takes a dramatic turn and often leaves a scratch on the ice, or a pile of snow of frost can be found on the bottom of the stone, sometimes with the offending hair, gripper bit, or other foreign object. The best defense to this type of event is to keep the hack area and the ice clean. Debris on the ice can be minimized if you clean or replace your grippers, and use clean brush heads. Deteriorating grippers are probably the #1 source of ice debris, along with the junk that clings to them. When was the last time you cleaned or replaced your brush head? You can also contribute to clean ice by walking down the edge of the sheet after sweeping a shot or delivering your stone. Most of the play occurs near the middle of the sheet, so keeping dirty feet out of that area of the ice as much as possible will help. Also avoid walking on the catwalks. Stay on the ice as much as possible to avoid bringing new debris onto the ice.

You can also minimize foreign object picks by carefully cleaning your stone before every shot. Use your brush or hand to clean the area in front of the hack, flip your stone up, and carefully using your hand or brush to clean the running band, the 6-inch ring about 7 mm wide on the bottom of the stone. If you feel a foreign material, you may have to rub vigorously or use a fingernail to dislodge it. (DO NOT EVER USE ANY HARD OR SHARP OBJECTS TO CLEAN STONES—THIS CAN PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THEM.) Be sure to clean the area under the stone again before gently turning it back over on to the ice, otherwise, you’ll just set it down in the junk you just cleaned off.

Release
A large fraction of “picks” and unpredictable curl are due to improper release technique. A proper release will impart about 2 ½ to 3 rotations the length of the ice for a draw to tee line. A rock thrown with this amount of rotation will maintain a consistent spin the length of the ice. And curling stones (including our newly refurbished stones) are designed to give optimal curl and consistency with this amount of rotation. Rocks that have excessive rotation (“spinners”) tend to run straighter than rocks thrown with proper rotation. Rocks with slow rotation (“lazy handles”) will often curl more, but are very prone to losing or switching
rotation. Slowly spinning rocks tend to pick up more snow or debris under the running surface and have a higher tendency to “grab,” resulting in a pick or unusual curl. If you seem to be one of those who experiences more than your share of “lost handles” or “picks”, count the rotations of your stone down the ice on a draw to the house. If it is less than 2 ½ rotation, you should consider increasing your rotation rate.

To throw a rock with proper rotation, the handle should start at 10 or 2 o’clock relative to the target direction (which is 12 o’clock). Rotation is imparted by turning the handle from the starting position to 12 o’clock over a 2-3 foot distance while gently extending your elbow. The motion is something akin to opening a doorknob. Rotation should be imparted at the end of the delivery over a short distance, not gradually starting from the hack to release. (The latter will inevitably result in lazy handle.) The stone is not “pushed” at the end of the release: rather, your arm extends slightly to follow the rock, and this extension is directly toward the target. Hand position should remain high throughout, with the wrist positioned above the handle. Dropping the wrist in either direction will often result in pushing the stone slightly to one side or the other when applying rotation, and will cause the stone to be narrow or wide.

Contemporary curling stones (like our newly refurbished stones) have relatively wide, flat, and aggressive running surfaces that will give hard, late curl if thrown with proper speed and rotation. With slow rotation, these stones may be “grabby”, especially late in the shot when rotation is slowing, and late in the game, when the pebble may be getting flatter. Giving stones proper rotation will make your game more consistent under all types of ice conditions.

If you would like personal instruction on how to improve your release, please contact an instructor. We’re glad to help.

Good curling! Have a question for Instructor’s Corner?
Send an email to curlingschool@uticacurlingclub.org

Donations Needed
The container for toiletries is once again in the women’s bathroom. If you travel and can collect extras from your trips, these are needed by local shelters for anyone without them. Many arrive at local shelters with only the clothes on their backs. Caregivers at the local shelters are most appreciative of the donations of deodorant, tooth brushes & paste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc. Both men & women are in need.

Any questions, please call Peggy Rotton, 797-2975
**Glengarry Christmas Party. December 10th**

The Glengarry Christmas party will be held December 10th after the ladies' Monday night draw. A light buffet of Dominick's wedding soup, green salad and cheesecake will be served. Cost is $10. Light snacks and punch will be offered before hand. A short business meeting will be held just before dinner. There will be a 50-50 raffle for the Salvation Army Kettle Fund. Please sign up on the poster in the ladies locker room.

Questions? contact Susan Williams.

*Come and enjoy some Christmas cheer with your curling friends.*

**Murray Bonspiel Men’s Club Championship**

The Men’s Club Championship will be held Thursday December 13, Saturday Dec. 15 and Sunday Dec. 16. The Murray Medal is awarded to the winning rink. This Bonspiel also selects the 6 Utica teams that participate in the Mitchell Bonspiel held here in January. The first five teams qualify through a knockout bonspiel format. The sixth team is drawn out of the hat among the losing, aka nonqualifying, teams. So every team has a chance of getting into the Mitchell irregardless of their performance on the ice. There is a three game guarantee. A team or player can play in the Murray even if they do not plan to play in the Mitchell. The signup sheet is located on the Men’s bulletin board by the Men’s locker room.

Any questions see Don Knapp, Tom Everson, Roger Rowlett, or Kevin Stevens

**Junior bonspiel in January**

The Annual UCC Junior Bonspiel will be held January 19 and 20th. Juniors, ages 10 - 20, are encouraged to put together their team. Competitive and novice level competitions will be run, assuming we have enough players. Junior curlers from all over the Northeast have been invited. Let's hope we have a good turnout.

*Susan Williams, chair*
All-American League makes donation to NYMFD

On Wednesday, November 7th, the All-American curlers were challenged to make a donation to the New York Mills Fire Department. I pledge to donate 50 cents for every point scored, and I challenged the women to match me or meet me halfway. After a fun night of curling (and singing! When you’re a Jet…), the All-American women donated a total of $300!!

Thank you to everyone who donated, who played, or who supported us. I know the men and women of the fire department are grateful for our donation, and I think this was an outstanding way to show our gratitude for the services they provide for our club and community.

Audrey Foote
Women’s Evening League Chair

Turkey Spiel results

On Saturday, November 17, six teams competed in this year’s Turkey Spiel. The traditional spiel had five person teams where each member rotated a position each end and sitting out one end. Two five end games were played and the winners were... The Thanksgiving Day Parade team! Captained by Conrad Law with a crew of Melissa Foote, Brenda Card, Tom Clark and 1st year curler Peter Rogers. The ‘winners’ of the Turkey Spam (designated for the last place team) was Team Pumpkin Pie, Captained by John Jacon with a crew of Liz Kadio, Ben Gaetano, Dawn Scherer and Joe Falcone. Of course the best part of the Turkey Spiel is the fantastic Thanksgiving dinner that was put on by Dominick and his crew. Thank you everyone that played spent the day curling and making this event such a success! Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

—Carrie Casab
After a hiatus of 10 plus years, this women’s Friendly was revived and put back on the UCC calendar. The Friendly was held Saturday, October 27, 2012, and hosted by the Utica Glengarries.

**Format:** (3) Albany teams and (3) Schenectady teams traveled to Utica arriving early and in lively spirits, eager to challenge our (6) Utica teams; (2) 6-end games were played @ 10:00 am and 1:15 pm; our visitors were given the “hammer” both games; scoring was “points”; team pairings (Utica vs Visitors) were determined randomly. A great luncheon was catered by UCC’s “Soup to Nuts.”

**Friendly Results:** Albany/Schenectady 92 1/4 to Utica 67 1/4; TROPHY stays with Albany/Schenectady!

Both ACC and SCC thought the timing of the Friendly early in the curling season was a good call. At the outset, they were very enthusiastic about our invitation. SCC is already making plans to host this Friendly next season. Keep a look out for 2013 Friendly date. —Melon Sofinski

**Happenings**

Bob Noble, honorary life member of the Utica Curling Club and Mitchell participant for more than 50 years, passed away on October 28th. Our condolences to his family

Best wishes to Leslie Husted & Jimmy Dell’Anno on their August 12th wedding.
Your Ice Crew Loves You Back!!!

We hope everyone is enjoying the First Half of the season! The ice has felt dialed in, and already we've hosted a few out-of-towners who've complimented both The Club and The Crew on the condition of the ice. (We must be doing something right!)

Additionally, we've started receiving thanks by way of tips! We'd like to now shamelessly point out the new "Tip Box" located on the pillar, by the stairs (that lead to the 6 sheets of meticulously maintained ice The Utica Curling Club is known for).

The Ice Crew Tip Fund not only helps out thirsty Ice Crew Members, but it also helps us afford Ice Crew Jackets (which spiffy up the club and us during Bonsplays).

In addition to buying ourselves drink chips at the bar, we also buy drink chips to help us bribe others into helping us out when we're shorthanded!

Your generosity helped us send this guy to Ice School this off season! (Gary White Sr.)

Your Tips Are Appreciated! Whether we're putting them towards morale (a sure investment in bar revenue!) or towards making our jobs easier, the end investment shows up in the quality of ice we are proud to bring you. Thanks!

-The UCC Ice Crew
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Remember to check the UCC Website for the latest calendar information.

http://uticacurlingclub.org/tiki-index.php
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