President’s Message

December 2018

It’s hard to believe that first half leagues will be soon winding down as Christmas approaches. That must mean it’s time to reflect a bit on the first half of the curling season.

Membership

It has been an excellent year for membership and recruiting. We have 49 new members this year from our February Olympic events as well as our October recruiting period. It’s good to see so many new faces on the ice in our leagues, and in Sunday Curling School. Please join me in welcoming our new members and making them feel at home as they learn this new sport. It wasn’t long ago that many of us were first-year curlers learning to fit in in this strange but captivating sport.

As of this writing, our membership database shows us at 350 members, a recent high-water mark. This includes 75 college curlers and 14 juniors, a strong showing for our youth curling programs. Thanks go to members Tami Dunnigan, Audrey Foote, and Blake Hagberg for taking on the responsibilities of shepherding the junior program.

Five and Under Opportunities

For all our curlers with 5 or fewer years of curling experience, and especially our first-year curlers, I encourage you to enter a team into one of the many 5-and-under bonspiels that happen between January and March. These are events designed to allow newer curlers to compete against each other and get the chance for some to experience what it is like to skip or play third while competing against teams of similar experience. Talk to any member of the club about the 5-and-under bonspiels, and you will inevitably hear stories about how much fun these are, and how many long-term curling friends were made at these events. I guarantee if you compete in one of these events, you will want to go back for more. There are opportunities for men, women, and mixed teams. The Raymond Kayser Bonspiel (mixed) is February 14-17 at the Rochester Curling Club; the Francis Dykes Bonspiel (men) is February 28-March 3 at the Schenectady Curling Club; the Elisabeth Childs Challenge (women) is March 14-17 at the Bucks County Curling
Second Half of the Season

League chairs are already making plans for the second half leagues, and as members it’s not too early to think about when you want to curl in the second half of the season (January-March). Check the calendar on the club website (http://uticacurlingclub.org) for league offerings, and look for signup announcements in the Curlogram, in the locker rooms, and/or via email list messages. Men’s and women’s league enrollment deadlines are in early to mid-December, so don’t miss out! Curlers of all levels of experience are encouraged and welcomed to curl in the men’s, women’s and mixed leagues.

For those of you who joined for the first half only for $150, you can upgrade to a full first-year membership for an additional $170.

Group Outings

Under the capable leadership of Melon Sofinski, we have already had several group outings at the club. This is a great way to involve your organization in a unique, fun event, perhaps as a fund-raiser, as well as recruit potential members.

Ice Crew

Our ice crew has spoiled us this year with a beautiful ice install. They also spend hours and hours maintaining the preparing the ice surface so that we have excellent playing conditions every day. The ice crew is always looking for volunteers to join their efforts. (Many hands make light work.) If you would like to learn more about how curling ice is made and maintained, and would like to help support our ice crew as a volunteer, please contact Gary White (icetech@uticacurlingclub.org) or Jim Rishel. There are plenty of ways to contribute.

Good curling,

Roger Rowlett
President
Welcome and Welcome Back!!

We would like to welcome all the new curlers and also welcome back our second year curlers. We are happy to have the following new curlers join us this year and welcome you all into our curling family:

Wade Abraham
Marie Abraham
Ellen Blaisdell
Alexander Blaise
Dot Booher
Jeff Booher
Julie Carter
Scott Carter
Melanie Cook
Nick Dodge
Allison Dunn
Peter Exton
Bruce Fike
Ruth Florey
Thomas Gaudet
Lewis Guinther
Thomas Helmuth
Connor Hennessy
Jasminka Husic
Frank Kopyt
Kathleen Kopyt
Brian Levi
Lisa Light
Shirley Marsh
Joseph Martin

Lynn McLernon
Tom Nabinger
Davina Newman
Eric Newman
Allan O'Brien
Caitlin O'Brien
Will Phillips
John Piston
Anthony Ponto
David Randall
Allen Riley
Carol Riley
Bernard Sharlette
Michelle Slowik
Melanie Stevens
Raymond Straub
Linda Straub
Aaron Strong
Ricky Teal
Mary Volcko
Krisztina Welch
Jordan White
Brent Williams
Wayne Williams

Joseph Martin
Also, welcome back to our second year curlers, who tried curling for the first time last year, are back this year and we all hope you are here to stay as part of our curling family. The second year curlers are as follows:

Linda  Krumme  Erin  Patter-
Monica  Costa  Adam  McLain
Heather  Dockstader  Rebecca  McLain
James  Sankey  Kathy  Kane
Michael  Ross  Edward  Hinge
Linda  Pacilio  Joel  Hamlin
Mastrange-
Amelia  lo  Laura  Bay
Tony  Campagna  James  Bay
Barbara  Campagna

Welcome one and all and good curling!!!
The ice crew needs some additional men and women who are willing to help out!

If you are willing to be trained in use of the nipper or pebbling, please email or call Gary White or Jim Rishel. Any help would be appreciated!
Hello Ladies, it is time to start thinking about the evening leagues for the next half. Leagues take the ice at 5:45 pm on Monday and Wednesdays in the spring. Back by popular demand is our Monday evening non-ladder women’s open league, the Roemer. You can sign up as a team, a partial team, or as an individual. The Glen-pladies, the top rung of the women’s ladder, will be contested on Wednesday evenings. You can sign up as an individual only.

To sign up for either league, go online at the UCC website (http://www.uticacurlingclub.org) or, there will also be a paper (“old school”) sign-up sheet in the women’s locker room. Please sign up for one (or two evenings) and also encourage new curlers to join one of these evening leagues. If you can’t play regularly, consider signing up as a sub on one or both nights. The deadline for signing up for the second half leagues is December 16.
Boerger Happy Hour 2019

Thursdays at 4:00 PM

Chairs: John and Peggy Caneen, Bill and Jen Turner

It’s time to slide and glide into fun and fitness! Join us on Thursday afternoons starting Jan. 8th at 4PM for a six-end game of curling, finger licking good appetizers, “budget” prizes for everyone, stimulating conversation and an awards banquet. Sort your equipment, grab your car keys and come on down. Deadline for sign up is: Dec. 20th

Happy Hour 2019
Sign UP
Co-Ed 6 end games Tuesday or Thursdays 4 PM begins Jan. 8th thru Mar. 14th

Name_________________________________________________

Phone # ______________________
I am willing to: ___ Skip ___Third ____Second ____ Lead ___Sub

Return to: John Caneen
PO Box 413
Poland, NY 13431
or
by email: jcaneen@ntcnet.com
or
by phone: 315-826-7217
Deadline: Dec. 20th
Sign up for the King’s Cup

January – March 2019 on the mixed bulletin board.

There will be two (2) draws in January. 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. There cannot be more 3-year and under curlers than experienced curlers. Please sign up in the correct column.

If the league gets over or under subscribed, adjustments will need to be made. Some who want to curl may not get on a team. SIGN UP EARLY to secure a spot. If you are going to miss ANY Friday, please email Joyce and let her know so that she can inform your skip. Make sure that you get a response to your email.

There will be eight (8) regular league nights. A bargain for the $11 league fee, used to purchase snacks and prizes. The finals will be Friday, March 15 @ 6pm.

Snacks: The committee recognizes that snacks are a lot of work. There will be a sign-up to bring snacks on the mixed bulletin board. Those wishing to sign up to bring snacks for twelve (12) tables (assuming we have two (2) full draws), may do so. For those weeks that members do not sign up to bring snacks, the committee will purchase chips and dip. We reimburse up-to $5 per table for snacks, but we need the receipt. TY

Deadline for sign up: Friday, December 14

Joyce and Jen joyceshaffer@roadrunner.com
Save the Date!

Save the date for these upcoming mixed and open bonspiels:

Utica Six Sheet Open
Dec. 7-9 2018

Calder Conley Hurd
Jan. 3, 5, and 6, 2019

Mixed Championship
Jan. 24, 26, and 27, 2019

Cobb Mixed Bonspiel
Feb. 21-24, 2019

Rose Bonspiel
March 21-23, 2019
Calder Conley Hurd Bonspiel

January 3 Thursday, January 5 Saturday, January 6 Sunday

Kick off the second half of the curling season with our largest in house mixed bonspiel!

Teams consist of two guys and two girls.

This is a great experience bonspiel for new curlers!

Sign up as a team or sign up as a single and we will place you on a team!

Our theme this year is... "Totally 80's"!!! you are encouraged to dress.

Our dinner will be hosted again by CNY Comedy Group with DJ to follow! Times, pricing and sign-up sheet to come!

Questions? Speak with Israel or Kimberly Acosta.
The Utica Curling Club will host the annual Mitchell Men’s International Invitational Bonspiel on Thursday, January 10th through Sunday, January 13th, 2019. This year marks the 108th anniversary of the event to be hosted by Utica (134th year of playing for the medal). It is the largest Curling Bonspiel in the Northeast. A total of thirty-six rinks from across the United States and Canada (six from UCC) will compete for the coveted Mitchell Medal. The skips of the six local teams will be determined in the Murray Bonspiel or Men’s Club Championship in December.

We have a solid committee working the event, however there are many other jobs to be done.

Jobs and schedules where help is needed will be posted in mid-November. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please see one of the following or myself. Kevin Stevens, Co-Chair is in charge of invites, replies and general all around bonspiel coordination. Mike Krumme is working the Program and Mitchell board photos. He did a great job for the anniversary program book last year with many new graphics and organization. If you would like to be a program book sponsor to help defray costs please let one of us know. Pat Costello will be coordinating the draw board. Erich Krumme is working banquet set-up; he will need lots of help on Friday afternoon to get tables moved. Of course, we need help with breakfast and snacks under my able wife’s coordination. Blake Hagberg is coordinating 50/50 and prize raffles. If you would like to donate an item or be a sponsor please let Blake or myself know. Tools, booze, and UCC curling items or memorabilia are great ideas.

Again sign up sheets will be posted soon!! Thank you in advance for your support.

Contact Co-Chairs:
Brian D. Moore
Phone: (315) 794-2852
E-Mail: madmax55@roadrunner.com
Kevin Stevens
Phone: (315) 225-3729
E-Mail: mack25005@gmail.com
The Men’s Club Championship will be held Thursday, December 13th, Saturday, December 15th and Sunday, December 16th, 2018.

The draws on Thursday are 6 PM and 8:30 PM

The Murray Medal is awarded to the winning rink. This bonspiel also selects the 6 Utica Teams that will participate in the Mitchell Bonspiel held here in January 2019. The first 5 teams qualify through a knockout bonspiel format. The sixth team is drawn out of the hat among the losing (aka non-qualifying) teams. Therefore, every team participating in the Murray Bonspiel has a chance of getting into the Mitchell regardless of their performance on the ice.

There is a 3-game guarantee. A team or player can play in the Murray even if they do not plan to play in the Mitchell. The sign-up sheet is located on the Men’s bulletin board by the Men’s locker room. The sign-up sheet will be posted approximately 3 weeks before the event.

You can sign up as a team or an individual.

Any questions? See Pat Costello or Pete Ciaralli
Utica Glengarry Christmas Dinner Meeting

All women curlers are invited to the Annual Glengarry Christmas Dinner Meeting at the Utica Curling Club

Monday December 3rd after the Monday League games finish.
Cost: Will be added on the signup sheet in Ladies Locker Room as soon as menu is set
More info: contact Cindy Brown (315-292-8249)

Sign up in the Ladies Locker room. Deadline for signup - November 28th

48 Hour Cancellation Policy in place

Please bring non-perishable items to donate to Utica Rescue Mission. Suggestions:

**VEGETABLES AND FRUITS:** Dried Fruits, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Tomato/ Spaghetti Sauce (please no glass jars), Instant Potatoes, Vegetable or Fruit Juices

**PROTEINS- MEAT, NON-MEAT, & DAIRY:** Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken Spam (other similar canned meats), Canned Beef/ Chicken Stews Canned Raviolis/ Chili w / Meat, Dry Beans, Canned Beans, Peanut Butter, Powdered Milk

**GRAINS:** Rice, Pasta, Oatmeal (individual packages), Hot Cereal (like Cream of Wheat), Cold Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese, Ramen Noodles, Boxed Stuffing Mix, Pancake/ Biscuit Mix

**ADDITIONAL / EXTRA ITEMS:** Granola Bars, Trail Mix, Jelly/ Jam (please no glass jars), Brownie/ Cake Mix, Other snacks
ATTN: 1st to 5th Year Curlers
5 Year experience and under Bonspiels

Each year the GNCC member clubs host bonspiels that are limited to curlers with 5 or fewer years of experience.

These bonspiels are an ideal opportunity for new curlers to gain experience at positions other than lead or second, to put together and develop teams, and to meet other curlers of similar experience from other clubs.

For many new curlers, the five-and-under events are often the first out-of-town bonspiel experience at which new lifelong curling friends are made.

The bonspiels are:

**Raymond G. Kayser Memorial Bonspiel (mixed)**
Thursday-Sunday, February 14-17, 2019
Rochester Curling Club

**Francis Dykes Memorial Bonspiel (men)**
Wednesday-Sunday, February 28-March 3, 2019
Schenectady Curling Club

**Elisabeth Childs Challenge (women)**
Thursday-Sunday, March 14-17, 2019
Bucks County Curling Club

There is a sign up list on the 5 Year & Under board at the club (next to the Mixed board). This is an informal place to sign up that you are interested in being on or setting up a team. Other members can then refer to this and see who is interested. Don’t be afraid to put your name on the list regardless of your experience. All the curlers in these bonspiel are like you ... new.

Ask a senior member for more information on these events.
Let’s Stop the Flu in its Tracks!

To help keep us all healthy this season, at the end of each sheet there is a container of hand sanitizer and some Clorox wipes.

Please use the hand sanitizer so we don’t all spread our germs around, and if you have a few extra minutes before or after your game please use the wipes to disinfect rock handles!

Glengarry Fund Raiser
UCC Car decal will be available for sale
$6 each
See Joyce
Newsletters and Email - The GNCC is now distributing newsletters electronically. It has come to my attention some members may not be receiving these. It could be because an old email is file at the GNCC. If you are not please let me know (and with a valid email).

The UCC will submit is 2018-19 membership data to the GNCC in early December. Presumably this will have your latest email addresses. Please verify this if there is any question.

Possible New Event – Utica was contacted by the OVCA / Quebec Curling regarding a possible new Double Team international event. This would be started in 2020 at the earliest. The venue would need to be in a bigger facility if held in the US. This event is currently ongoing in Canada many entries from Quebec and growing interest in Ontario. Teams (at this time at least) are all Men or all Women. All members must be from the same club. Two teams from the same club form an entry, with total score counting for the win. Organizations would play games to determine their representatives.

Format to be worked once GNCC appears interested. Currently knockout, possible round-robin to start. Format could change to potentially 2 entries per organization. Men and women events are not required to be held concurrently, but would be nicer in terms of planning and effort. Each organization OVCA and Quebec (and presumably GNCC), would determine their organization winner or top two).

Then the overall champion is determined. This currently occurs on or around weekend of Feb 17th (at least for 2019 ). This could be a conflict with the UCC Mixed Cobb (I am NOT advocating changing the Cobb start day on the 3rd Thursday). For any long distance travel, the event would include 1 or 2 overnights.

Please contact me if you think this event would be interest.

Support GNCC events - I encourage all to try to attend one GNCC out-of-town bonspiel per year (all formats can be found). We cannot expect GNCC clubs to visit here if don’t make attempts to curl at their clubs.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Moore
madmax55@roadrunner.com
UCC GNCC Representative
Schenectady and Albany were our guests on Saturday October 27, 2018 for the 7th year running of this one day Woman's Friendly.

They arrived safely and geared up to play. A good share were visiting our club for the first time, and for a few it was their first away bonspiel.

Three Schenectady teams & three Albany teams squared off against six Utica teams for the challenge of who could score the most rocks.

Utica did a lot of drinks buying, having won almost all of the two draw games played, coming away with 30 more rocks scored and securing the newly designed event trophy!

My sincere thank you to our club members who lent me a helping hand in running this event:
Jacquelyn Schmidt, Jen Turner, Bernie Di Meo, Jan Rishel, Kimmi Acosta, Bob Burnett, Bill Turner and our ice crew

To those who donated Items for the two “It’s a Utica Thing” themed door prize baskets raffled off to our guests:
Jacquelyn Schmidt, Jan Rishel, Jasminka Husic, Jen Turner, Barb Felice, Erin Patterson, Sue Williams, and Monica Spath

And to those who provided breakfast snacks:
Bernie DiMeo, Barb Felice, Eileen Gilroy, Dee Pohl

Next year (Fall 2019) will be Schenectady's turn to host our U-S-A Friendly. Please consider attending as an individual or team, it's a true friendly, fun filled event. I 'll be recruiting!

Melon Sofinski, Event Chair
The Utica Glengarries want to thank all those who donate to the “feed the pig ♫” fundraiser. We WANT TO PARTICULARLY THANK THOSE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS $1 BILL DONATIONS AND WHOEVER PUT IN THAT $5 BILL. All donations turned over to the UCC treasury and are appreciated.

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Important NOTICE

The trophy case light has been off since the new carpet was laid. John Collea (Thank you John) installed a new switch to the right of the trophy case.

This switch is a dimmer switch with a small wiper arm on the right side of the toggle handle which controls the dimming of the lights inside the case.

Please make sure when not in use the switch is in the off position.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE DO NOT USE THE SWITCH.
Volunteers needed for Wheelchair International Bonspiel 11/30-12-2

As you may know, the Utica Curling Club is hosting again this year the US Open Wheelchair Bonspiel, November 30-December 2. Marc DePerno, who organizes this event on behalf of Sitrin Medical Rehabilitation Center, is looking for volunteers to help with shuffling stones at the following times:

- Friday, November 30 for all three draws (7:45 AM–10:15 AM, 11:15 AM-1:45 PM, 2:15 PM – 4:45 PM)
- Sunday, December 2 (7:45 AM–10:15 AM, 11:00 AM–1:30 PM)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Marc at 315-737-2459 or mdeperno@sitrin.com.

Why not volunteer for a few hours and take the time to watch some great wheelchair curlers, including some of our own members? Wheelchair Curling has some of its earliest origins at the Utica Curling Club. I urge you to come out and support these athletes, and see what wheelchair curling is all about.
Obituary of Gary Gnatek

Sherrill—Gary L. Gnatek, age 75, of Primo Ave. passed away early Tuesday morning November 13, 2018 in the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with his loving family at his side.

He was born on December 4, 1942 in Utica, New York a son of the late Edward and Stella (Homer) Gnatek and was a graduate of Whitesboro High School.

On May 11, 1984 Gary and Barbara Bonham were united in marriage and have shared that loving vow of over thirty four years together.

Prior to his retirement Gary was employed as a salesman with Braden Packaging Supply Company of Clinton.

He enjoyed traveling especially to Marco Island.

Surviving are his wife Barbara Gnatek of Sherrill, his children and their spouses, Garrett (Milagros) Gnatek of Albany, Anne-Mary (Richard) Pastor of Utica, Travis (Holly) Rippo of Utica, step-son Kenneth (Janice) Kovach of Cleveland, Ohio, his eight beloved grandchildren, Bradley, Briahna, Brandon, Connor, Aubrey, Anthony, Matthew and Abigail.

Online condolences may be sent to maleckifuneralhome.com
Instructor’s Corner
Roger Rowlett & Mary Jane Walsh
USCA Level II Certified Instructors

Mixed Doubles Strategy

Mixed doubles is the newest Olympic curling discipline, debuting at the 2018 Winter Olympics. Although mixed doubles has been played in some form for more than a decade, you won’t find much written about it. With rules changes in 2015 that altered the position of the stationary rocks and added the power play, strategy is still evolving.

In some sense, the strategy of mixed doubles is really simple: “Throw everything to the pin!” But, the more you play, the more you appreciate some strategic subtleties that can make the difference between regularly winning or losing. Here are some strategic thoughts for mixed doubles aficionados that might make you a more consistent mixed doubles team.

Neutralize the stationary rock

The first rock delivered each end in mixed doubles is critical (Figure 1). In the diagram, yellow has the option and last rock. The ideal position for the first delivered stone is either frozen to shot stone (position A) or top button (position B). Both positions effectively neutralize the stationary shot rock. Position A is safer, as the frozen rock is difficult to remove. On swingy ice, it may be possible to angle-tap a rock in position B to the back of the four-foot. Position C is a “good” miss, as the stone can be used later for a tap-back or angle runback as needed. The worst possible house positioning for the initial stone is top 12 or top 8 directly behind the guard. Such a rock does not significantly cut down the scoring area for the team with the last rock, and is difficult to use later in the end. It is better to leave stones short and open early in the end so that they can be used later in the end. Remember, your opponents cannot remove any stones, including those in the house, until the fourth delivered rock in the end.

Control the path to the four foot

At the beginning of every end, there are two paths to the four-foot. If your opponent comes up short on one side, use this chance to gain control over the approach to the four-foot on the other side by using that path to draw for shot or a
controlling position above tee line. Being behind tee line or leaving pockets for your opponent to draw to for shot with backing is a cardinal sin in mixed doubles. Being above tee line on the path to the button gives you potential control to score or limit damage.

**Tap, not smash**

Mixed doubles is not a hitting game. It is a game of angles and rock positioning. (Think “short game” without the alcohol.) Tapping rocks behind tee line is the order of the day. Heavier weight shots are usually reserved for peels, doubles, angle raise takeouts, and jam-ins of frozen rocks, and occasionally, simply limiting damage or eliminating opponents’ stones when you have a lead. If you are hitting a lot as a mixed doubles team, you are probably not taking maximum advantage of your opponents, or you may be getting into trouble frequently early in each end.

**Limit the Damage**

Mixed doubles can be a high-scoring game, and if you are not careful, you can get on the wrong side of a big end. Giving up two or even three without hammer is acceptable in mixed doubles. Giving up four or five can put you in a big hole that is hard to climb out of. Winning teams are efficient at limiting scores of 3 and 4 against them. Early in the end, before you can remove rocks from play, look to freeze to shot or second rock to shrink the scoring area. If your opponents have gotten the jump on you and have several rocks well-positioned behind the center guard, consider clearing as soon as possible to gain access to stones in the house. In mixed doubles, shot stones are usually grouped tightly behind the guard, so doubles or triples are possible if you can open up a path to them or utilize a runback or angle raise. If you keep your opponents busy replacing the center guard, you may be able to escape the worst when things have gone off the rails.

**Make sure you score with the last rock advantage**

Because there are so many rocks in play in mixed doubles, stealing is a realistic goal, and multiple-stone steals are very possible. Winning mixed doubles teams are efficient at avoiding steals, especially multiple-stone steals. When things are not going well when you have hammer, and your opponents have well-positioned stones behind the center guard, clear the center to gain access to opponents’ stones and open up a path to score with your last shot. The team with the last rock can start clearing stones with their team’s second delivered rock. Mixed doubles is not a hitting game, but when you need to score or limit damage, don’t hesitate to use peels or doubles to open up the four foot and get out of trouble. A decision to bail out or continue drawing around usually must be made at the first opportunity to begin removing rocks in each end. If you can’t see a clear path to a deuce, it might be wise to bail out and wait for a better opportunity for a multiple score rather than give up a potential steal.
Don’t leave the power play in your pocket

The power play is not only an offensive weapon, it is also a powerful defensive weapon. If you are behind, make sure you use it early enough to put the game back in reach. If you are ahead and have the choice of rock placement, make sure to use the power play late in the game to burn an end where you limit your opponent’s chances to steal. When your opponents are behind and you employ the power play, they will normally have to waste a rock to throw their own center guard, which you will clear at your earliest opportunity, opening up the center of the rings for you to score at least one.

How is your mixed doubles strategy?

If you want to get better at mixed doubles, keep track of your performance. How many steals, multiple-stone steals, and big ends (3 or more) do you give up? Taking note of your team success in these areas might isolate aspects of your game where you can improve your strategic approach.

If you want to know more about these topics and more, check out the Instructor’s Corner archive on the Instruction Page at the Utica Curling Club web site.

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Good curling! Have a question or suggestion for Instructor’s Corner?
Send an email to curlschool@uticacurlingclub.org
Be sure to check the website for the most accurate calendar!
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