



# Potomac NewsFlash

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Have news to share? Let me know. Tired of hearing just my opinions? Write an article. Have a topic? Send it my way.—[charrissalin@hotmail.com](mailto:charrissalin@hotmail.com)

## Upcoming Events:

Instructor level 2 clinic	Nov 4
Turkey skins	Nov 24
Big Spiel	Nov 30– Dec 3
EXTERNAL EVENTS	
Carosella Invitational (Sch.); Nashua no-frills	Nov 2-5
Ross Tarlton (Alb), Founders (Plfd).	Nov 9-12
Harvest (Phil.); Achilles (Sch.)	Nov 16-19
Calder (Nflk); Silver Belles (Brmstnes)	Nov 30-Dec 3
10-yr and under (Sch.); Highland Games (Roch.)	Dec 7-10

## Etiquette and Speed of Play Top 10

By Michael Campbell

1. Program the club's phone number into your cell phone; 301-362-1116. Program your skip's cell phone number into your cell phone. If you are going to be late for a game, call one of these numbers and let your skip know.
2. Check the schedule and know on which sheet you are playing.
3. Leads-do not wait for someone to tell you to flip the coin. If you lose the coin toss, do not debate color preference; just pick one.
4. Get in the hack, clean your rock, be ready and waiting for your skip to call your shot. Leads--Do not worry about the score, getting the rocks out of the house or anything else at the end of the end--just get yourself ready.
5. It is the Vice Skip's job to determine the score at the end of an end. Do not interfere. It is also the Vice Skip's job to hang the score.
6. Sweepers--get out of the way after you are done sweeping. Pay attention to what the other team is doing. If you are in their way, move. Also, you should move down the sheet as far (stopping at the hog line) and as quickly as possible. This way you can get ready for the next shot more quickly.
7. Front-end--put your skip's rock in front of the hack. If really pressed for time (and the skip doesn't mind not having this as part of their pre-shot routine), front-end could actually clean the rock for the skip. Check with your skip on this.
8. Front-end--Don't question shots when the skip comes back to the hack. Most skips don't shoot as well after the front-end questions their shot choice. You should clarify the shot, ask for weight or rock placement, etc and then just go. If you have a concern, go to the house to

discuss. If you have concerns about strategy - discuss after the game for future games.

9. Congratulate your team and your opponent on good shots. Never cheer for a missed shot.
10. Shake hands with your opponent before and after the game. The traditional salutation is "Good Curling".
11. Bonus--if you win the game, don't forget to ask your opponent what they would like to drink, and then go get and pay for that drink.

*Editor's note: Lots of time is wasted at the beginning of the game and between ends. If you need practice slides, get out there before game-time. Once an end is over, start the next quickly (skips call shot quickly, lead ready to deliver, etc.)*

## Friendship Tour

One of our very own members, Joan Twigg, has been selected to be on the Friendship Tour. What is the Friendship Tour, you ask? This is an extended friendly between Canada and the US. Every 6 years, the countries alternate in sending teams of 16 women to tour several clubs. 2006 is the year that the US sends a team to Canada—Manitoba to be exact.

The members of the team are selected by a lottery. Each region has a certain number of slots set aside for it, and the East (our region) has 5 representatives on this team.

From Nov 1—12, Joan will be representing the US, the East, and the Potomac Curling Club as she travels and curls across Manitoba, Canada. If you see her around this week, wish her good luck, good travels, and good curling!

The Friendship Tour is very similar to the Scots Tour. The Scots tour is held every 5 years alternating between the US and Scotland. Teams of 20 are sent and play, on average, 2 games/day with traveling, wining and dining, and socializing squeezed in. This year, the male Scots are coming to the

States and Potomac has the rare privilege to be one of the hosting clubs. Look for some great curling and great camaraderie on February 3rd when a team of Potomac male curlers takes on the Scots! Bob Pelletier is the chair of the event—so contact him if you have questions or want to help.

## Traveling, traveling

Once again, our members have been on the move—spreading good will across the GNCC.

Becca Baxter, Jeff Erickson, Barry and Barbara Frost traveled to Rochester for the Big Pumpkin. They were runners-up in the 2nd event and got some comments on their costumes. No, I don't know what those costumes were—you'll have to ask them...

Scott Edie, Derek Surka, and Charri Lin took their advanced curling clinics on the road and shared the knowledge with Plainfield curlers this weekend. They spent all-day Satur-

**This season, Potomacians have now spied at 12.5% of the GNCC clubs with ice.**

day and a half-day Sunday analyzing deliveries, talking about sweeping, and looking at hits. Now that you know that they were in such demand, doesn't it make you wish you had attended the clinics offered earlier this season? :)

Let me know if you are going to a bonspiel or another club for any event!

## Kick it up a notch

If you think it's time for you to kick your play up a notch—consider playing down for the National Club Championships. This Championship was created to keep a regional flavor in our national championships and serves as a nice development ground for nascent competitive curlers (similar to the “Nike” tour in golf).

There is a men's and women's championship and, to enter, your team must be comprised of 4 (or 5) players from

the same club who have been US residents for at least 2 years. That's it! The playdown entry fee is reasonable (~\$350 for a rink) and you get the chance at a great experience.

In recent years, the GNCC has never had a playdown, with only 1 team signing up for the event—it's been “sign-up-and-go.” The Midwest states have typically had robust playdowns with decent caliber teams.

The playdown experience itself is a

great one to build your curling skills and, if you win, you get to really gain some experience through a week of competitive play. Plus—you represent the GNCC and Potomac at a national event! The playdowns this year are in Petersham, MA on Jan 18-21. Sign-up information is on the USCA website—if you have questions, ask any of the competitive curlers. They can help you find the appropriate paperwork.