

# 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:

Turkey skins	Nov 24
Big Spiel	Nov 30– Dec 3
Officiating Clinic	Dec 16
EXTERNAL	
Ross Tarlton (Alb), Founders (Plfd).	Nov 9-12
Harvest (Phil.);	Nov 16-19
Calder (Nflk); Silver Belles (Brmstnes)	Nov 30-Dec 3
10-yr and un- der (Sch.); Highland Games (Roch.)	Dec 7-10
Cracked Bell (open- Phl)	Jan 4-7
Mitchell (M— Utica); Ben Ames Williams (X—Belfast)	Jan 11-14

## Focus on the 5-and-unders

So, you've just started curling and you have heard about something called the 5-and-unders, but have no idea what that is. Or you're afraid you're not good enough to go to an away bonspiel (which is not true, as plenty of brand new curlers play in bonspiels). At any rate, the 5-and-unders might be something right up your alley.

As a way to help build the sport of curling, the GNCC and the USWCA sponsor three bonspiels collectively known as the 5-and-unders. They are open to curlers who have curled 5 years or less (a year is a season in which you have curled 10 or more games). The three are the Francis Dykes Memorial Bonspiel (men's—Feb 8-11 at Rochester), the Raymond Kayser Memorial Bonspiel

(mixed—Feb 22-25 at Broomstones), and the Women's Challenge (women's—Mar 15-18 at Belfast).

Each of the spiels is a lot of fun and the premise is that it allows "newer" curlers to play all positions on a team against relatively similar competition. Sometimes teams have members that span the experience level (1st to 5th year), sometimes teams are formed with 4 members of similar experience level (e.g. all 1st years or all 4th years). Anything is fine. The key is to find folks whom you might enjoy playing with and then sign up!

Lots of folks look back at the 5-and-unders with very fond memories (and some without those memories... :)). And it's a great way to start forming bonds with people from clubs

around the GNCC. Potomac has traditionally had a healthy representation (both in number and competitiveness) since we've had ice. In fact, in our short history, we've already had teams win the 1st event at both the Kayser and the Dykes. Just one more to knock off—go ladies!

Sign-ups are typically ~1 month before the event (but check the fliers to be sure). For the folks who are interested, but may not know where to begin finding a team, Caitlin Shaw and Ben Yeung have offered to help people find teams. Email them at [ootspiel@curldc.org](mailto:ootspiel@curldc.org). In fact, if you are looking to go to any spiel and need help finding a team, they've graciously offered to help do the match-making.

*Sign up for the **Officiating clinic** on Dec 16th. This will enable you to help at the upcoming National championship men's qualifying event being held at our club as well as at future "big" events like nationals and worlds (and if you really put in the time, maybe even the Olympics).*

*Congratulations to George Shirk, Dominique Banville, and Sandra McMakin for becoming certified level II instructors. Also congratulations to Dave Hamilton and Doug Andrew for becoming registered level II instructors.*

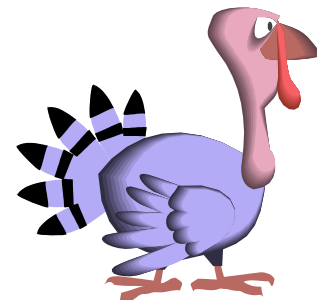
## Upcoming internal events—Turkey Skins and The Big Spiel

There are a couple of great internal events coming up. First—on the day after Thanksgiving, is the Turkey Skins. Work off all those calories you consumed at Thanksgiving dinner by coming to curl the next day! Don't go shopping! The general format is a 2-game skins event with potluck munchies for all to share. There is also the traditional, and infamous, Turkey draw-to-the-button. Yes, we duct tape a Turkey and then, for a nominal fee to cover the cost of the turkey, participants get to try their luck at sliding ole Tom towards the

button! Scott Fairley is in charge of the event—so you'll hear more details and see a signup from him soon!

The other upcoming event is our internal weekend spiel—The Big Spiel. Brian Galebach and Ben Yeung are chairing this event. The Big Spiel is a great way for people to get to know each other at the club across leagues. There are requirements on team composition that encourage folks to get new curlers involved and to reach beyond their normal circles. It's also very inexpensive (\$40 entry fee per rink). Brian has sent the flier out via

email and I'm sure there will be information at the club about this fun event as well. If you aren't sure about finding a team, again you could let Brian and Ben know you are interested and they might be able to help.



## Traveling, traveling

No local bonspielers this past weekend, but we had a few folks testing their mettle against the Canadians. Derek Surka and Charrissa Lin went to the Tim Horton's Invitational Bonspiel (a WCT event) in Brantford, ON with their respective men's and women's teams. Charrissa's team went 0-3 but gained a lot of experience playing top-notch Canadian men's teams (including Glenn Howard, 2-

time world champion and last year's Brier runner-up). Derek's team had three close games, but unfortunately ended up on the wrong side of each of those tight games.

Scott Edie went with his men's team (Dannie Steski (Plfd), Dennis Mellerup (Ardsley), and Pat McHugh (Nutmeg)) to the Trenton Curling Classic, an Ontario Curling Tour

event. They went 1-3 but had an exciting game Saturday when they scored a 7-ender! Darn, where'd that 8th rock go?

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

## USCA Donation Program—Kids Rock!

Every year, the USCA (United States Curling Association) runs a donation program to raise money to support their programs—especially those programs targeted towards juniors. This year, the donation levels are as follows:

"Kids" pin level	\$10
Bronze	\$40
Silver	\$80
Gold	\$160

Each of these levels has an associated thank-you pin and for a donation of \$250, you will receive all four pins.

So—what does the USCA do? For juniors, the USCA sponsors several summer junior curling camps, heavily subsidizes the junior national championships, has a junior athlete development director (Lynita Delaney) who's job it is to try and strengthen our junior programs, and has started several efforts aimed at strengthening our

coaches (coaching camps). To help build the sport, the USCA helped Potomac get a WCF loan to build our facility and is also enabling 14 clubs to get WCF rocks this year!

Please consider supporting the USCA through this donation program—the organization is very lean and runs on a tight budget. I will stop by each of the leagues in the next couple of weeks to collect any donations. Thanks! Charrissa