



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@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

Officiating Clinic	Dec 16
Hangover Spiel	Jan 1
USCA Men's Nationals Qualifer	Jan 4-7
EXTERNAL	
10-yr and under (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
Chesapeake (X); Broomstones (M); Empire State (W—Ardsley); GNCC Club championship playdowns (Petersham)	Jan 18-21

Big Brains win The Big Spiel

For those of you who weren't around this past weekend, you missed The Big Spiel—our internal bonspiel. There were 16 rinks in all and lots of goofy names.

The winners of the event were the Big Brains team: Brian Galebach, Donna Horoschak, Benoit Jarry, and James Garber. The other event finalists are as follows:

1RU: Team NAFTA—Dominique Banville, Bill MacDonald, Brian Parsons, Dave Garrison.

2W: The BIGgest Stones of all—Sean Murray, Ron Aubin, Jeremy Vandenhouten, Emily Aubin

2RU: BIG fun—Frank Casabianca, Tracy Casabianca, Brian Waite, Scott Fairley

3W: Tetraphenylcyclopentadieneone—Jeff Erickson, Rebecca Baxter, Doug Andrew, Danni Downing

3RU: BIG idea II— Jason Sethi, Emily Morris, Kyle Snyder, Rachel Sethi

Winner of the BIG Foosball tournament: Gabriel Kempenich who won Pee Wee's BIG Adventure.

Apparently the wildest game was between Tetrayada-yada and Big idea II. The line score included two 5-enders and a 4-ender in the extra end. The 8th end involved the “magical shrinking biter bar.” I guess everyone thought a biter was in the rings and that would have won the game for Big Idea II—but when the bar came around—no clink. Lesson for vices—always good to measure! Since the game went to an extra end—there were lots of warm room skips available for the final ends. And yes, they all made all of the correct calls!

At the holiday party, a gift exchange was conducted. 25 gifts in total with one of

the “best” gifts being a giant box of eye drops. Word has it that chants of “eye drops, eye drops” were heard.

Thank you's go to the following people:

Ice crew: Dave Hamilton, Ron Aubin, Ken Wray, Barry Nichols and others

Finals organization: Barry Nichols

Food/dinner: Neil Christenson, Scott Correia, Lisa Andrew, Rachel Treesh and many others who brought food

House/dishes: The Reicherts, Jeremy Singer, and Scott Correia

Pictures: Ken Wray, Barry Nichols, and Scott Correia

Draw printing: Doug Andrew

And of course a BIG thanks to the organizers—Brian Galebach and Ben Yeung.

USCA Men's Qualifying round and the Officiating Clinic

A heads up on our calendar. The first weekend in January, Potomac will be hosting the USCA Men's Qualifying round. This event leads to the Men's Nationals (which then determines our representative to World's). The format has 4 regional qualifiers and we are hosting the East regional.

Regional qualifiers are low-frill events, but they are a great chance for you to come out and watch some good to great curling. The winning team will get a spot in the Nationals and there will be spots available to advance to the next round.

Several of our hometown boys will be playing. Scott Edie will be skipping a rink and Ron Aubin and Sean Murray will be playing on two different rinks. So there will be folks to cheer for! Plus—while teams have not officially declared

where they are playing, rumor has it that Paul Pustovar's rink will be playing out of Potomac. Pustovar is a former national champion and regularly finishes in the top half of nationals.

There's also a chance that the Seattle (west regional) site will not have enough teams to have their regional, in which case, it's fairly likely that the Larway and Clark rinks will be coming out East to play. The Larways have won the nationals twice and recently won the Seattle Cashspiel and the Fairbanks Cashspiel. The Clark rink features Brady Clark who was the winning skip at the Mixed Nationals when we hosted them (as well as 3 other years), Greg Romaniuk (former national champion), and our very own Derek Surka. So there could be lots of folks and action to watch. Next week I should be able to tell you the full team

lists.

Unlike other bonspiels, we don't need a lot of volunteers for kitchen or house duty—but events like these do require people to help take care of the ice and to officiate. Since the ice conditions are fairly critical, we will probably have a pretty limited ice crew—although you could always help them with mopping, nipping, etc. But there will likely be a need for officials.

If you have an interest in learning about officiating—come to the clinic on December 16th.

Or just come on out Jan 4-7 and watch some good curling and cheer on our friends!

Catching up with our out-of-town teams

Okay, I've been out of town a lot the last two weeks, so I actually missed an issue of the Newsflash. Did anyone notice? I hope so!

I mentioned that Scott Edie had his senior men's team in the Grafton Concurrent, but I didn't have the result. They won the 2nd event. Scott also traveled to Ontario this past weekend and had some good games against tough competition.

Derek Surka's men's team has had two successful weekends in a row. They were

semi-finalists at the Seattle Cashspiel over Thanksgiving weekend and quarter finalists at the Morgan-Stanley Madison Cashspiel this past weekend. Nice to bring in some money (even if it's not a lot) to help defray the curling costs! Yes, my women's team competed at these same events but had a losing record and did not qualify.

We did see a copy of the 8-ender photo from our club at the Madison club—pretty cool!

Michael Fry, George Shirk, and Michael Campbell played with Jeff Hannon (Nutmeg) this past weekend at the Calder Cup at Norfolk. They went 2-3 losing in a semi-final for the 3rd event. This game was played at 7:30am on Sunday—so perhaps that's why they didn't win it? Michael Fry also sends some strategy/skipping tips: If you're one-down coming home with the hammer and you throw back-line weight when you just need 8-ft to tie, you most certainly will *not* win.

