



# Potomac NewsFlash

Volume 1, Issue 8

December 18, 2006

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](mailto:charrissalin@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Hangover Spiel  | Jan 1     |
| USCA Men's Nationals Qualifier  | Jan 4-7   |
| Start of second half of season  | Jan 20    |
| Scot Tour   | Feb 3     |
| EXTERNAL  |           |
| 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 |

## The Spirit of Curling

With the spirit of the holiday season, I thought it was a good time to remind everyone of and to reflect upon the spirit of curling.

### THE SPIRIT OF CURLING

*Curling is a game of skill and of traditions. A shot well executed is a delight to see and so, too, it is a fine thing to observe the time-honoured traditions of curling being applied in the true spirit of the game. Curlers play to win but never to humble their opponents. A true curler would prefer to lose rather than win unfairly.*

*A good curler never attempts to distract an opponent or otherwise prevent him from playing his best. No curler ever deliberately breaks a rule of the game or any of its traditions. But, if he should do so inadvertently and be aware of it, he is the first to divulge the breach.*

*While the main object of the game of curling is to determine the relative skill of the players, the spirit of*

*the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honourable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the Ice.*

One of the time-honoured traditions of curling is “broom-stacking.” Broom-stacking is the old name for the sharing of drinks after a game is played (players would stack their brooms as they sat down).

Potomac has faithfully kept that tradition of the winners buying the first round. But what seems to be increasingly lost in the translation is the sitting down, socializing, sharing stories, and sharing laughs that should accompany the drink. And the second round (often bought by the losing rink). Many times we see curlers dashing out, simply buying a drink and leaving. While that honors the “letter of the law,” it leaves a lot of the spirit wanting. When the curling shots fade into memory, when we are all past our

curling prime, the things that we will remember and hold dear are the relationships, the fun, the camaraderie; but only if we actually create those now. If curling becomes purely about the game and the winning/losing of it, much of the magic and specialness of the sport will be lost, and we the losers.

So let's pledge to renew our focus on the spirit of curling. When we commit to a league, let's commit to hanging out afterwards and getting to know each other. Let's commit to seeing that there are interesting people to meet and learn about, not just opponents to beat. Let us commit to being gracious winners as well as losers—commending our opponents or commiserating with them, not outwardly exulting when we win, and so on. Let us focus on the parts of the game that truly make curling a lifetime sport—still fun even when our skills have faded and the excitement and progress of the beginning are gone.

Happy Holidays!

## Good luck to our juniors!

As many of you know, we have a robust junior program that Harvey and Virginia Chalmers head up on Sundays (with middle rockers led by John Warshawsky). Starting with last year, we've started having representation at the junior playdowns. This year our efforts have grown again—we are sending 7 juniors to the GNCC junior playdowns.

We have a full boys team comprised of Steven Ours (S), Jeff Vanarsdall (V), Nate Herrmann (2), and Tom Chalmers (L) being coached by Harvey Chalmers. The boys have been

working hard and are looking forward to a good competitive experience. Tommy Hamilton will also be playing down as vice-skip on a all-GNCC team.

We also have two junior girls going who have teamed up with others in the region. Lizzie (2) and Becky (L) Andrew are playing with Caitlin Beebe (S, Albany) and Nicole Arsenault (V, Plainfield). 3/4 of this team competed last year together and had a very successful run. They are hoping to improve on that and maybe clinch that berth to nationals!

The boys' and girls' teams recently went to Albany for a junior spiel and met in the 2nd event final. The girls won this meeting and I am sure there are bragging rights that go along with that!

Playdowns will be held in Utica, NY over the New Year's weekend. Good luck to all 7 players! Many thanks go to the dedicated coaching and the passing of great curling wisdom of Mary McHugh, Charrissa Lin, Derek Surka, Scott Edie, and Doug Andrew.

## Notes from traveling George...

Team Rutan, representing Washington State, was at the Curl Mesabi Cashspiel the weekend of 12/15-17. The field (28 teams) was chock full of notables: Pete and Eric Fenson and Shawn and Butch Rojeski, Debbie McCormick, Paul Pustovar, Scott Baird, and some really good,

not-as-famous teams that kicked our butts up and down each sheet they put us on. Yes, unfortunately, we were three and out. Aside from our on-ice travails, there was lots of laughter, good food, and the beer floweth freely.

The eight-sheet club is a thing of

beauty, the ice was fast and tricky, with draw weight (24.5 seconds) curling about 18 inches (in some spots). (Team Rutan from left to right George Shirk-2, Jeff Erickson-v throwing last rocks, Duane Rutan-l, and Mike Kolb-s)

**If you miss reading an edition of Newsflash—you can find them on our website. Go to Our club: Newsflash!**



Team Rutan canoodling with Nicole Joranstaad (L to R): George Shirk (2), Jeff Erickson (V), Nicole Joranstaad, Duane Rutan (L), Mike Kolb (S)