



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:

MACA in Plain-field	Jan 13
Start of second half of season	Jan 20
Scot Tour	Feb 3
MACA at Chesapeake	
GNCC Sr Men's Championship	Feb 8-11
EXTERNAL	
Mitchell (M—Utica); Ben Ames Williams (X—Belfast)	Jan 11-14
Chesapeake (X); Broomstones (M); Empire State (W—Ardasley); GNCC Club championship playdowns (Petersham)	Jan 18-21
Governor's Bowl (M-Albany); Thrifty (O-Plfd); Newell (X-TCC)	Jan 25-28

Playdown Mania!

We started the year (or ended the last) with the Junior playdowns, held up in Utica, NY. Potomac sent 7 juniors up there—2 girls (Lizzie and Becky Andrew) played on Team Beebe; we had a complete boys' rink skipped by Stephen Ours (Stephen Ours, Jeff Vanarsdall, Tom Chalmers, and Nate Herrman); and Tommy Hamilton played vice for Team Chebetar.

They all had a wonderful time and Team Beebe and Team Ours both ended up the weekend as first alternates—Team Beebe finishing in 2nd (out of 7) and Team Ours finishing in 3rd (out of 12). Job well done!

Then, we get back from the holidays, and “bang!” we have the USCA men's qualifiers Jan 4-7. It was a 9-team field which would advance 2 teams to the Nationals directly and 2 teams

to the challenge round. From Potomac—we had Scott Edie skipping a rink (with Michael Fry as 5th man), Ron Aubin playing second for Team Calabrese, and Sean Murray playing lead for Team Gemmell. All of the Potomac teams did well and were in the mix. Team Gemmell had a chance in their last game to be tied for fourth (and then play a tiebreaker for the 2nd spot to the challenge round).

Of course the big news is Team Edie winning their spot to the challenge round. Scott's rink had a great weekend and finished the round robin at 6-2 (two tough losses on Saturday made the going tougher on Sunday for them). If you came out and watched, you may have seen Scott make some great shots— an in-off to take 4 against Persinger and a clutch draw facing 4 against Ruohonen. Now

they've won themselves a no expense paid trip to Mankato, MN Jan 25-28 where they will look to earn their berth into the Nationals.

In other qualifying news, Derek Surka plays with Team Clark and Team Clark also qualified for a no expenses paid trip to Mankato for the challenge round. Good luck to both Scott and Derek!

Thanks again to all of the volunteers who put in a lot of time to make the event successful—Ken Wray and Barry Nichols on ice, Fred Hopke and numerous folks in officiating, Brian Galebach with the phenomenal website, and Rachel Sethi and others who helped with the house crew.

Thanks to Laurie Baty for kindly hosting our out-of-town official, Herb Kupchik.

Second half season set to start

It's the time of year when we get ready to start the second half of the curling season. That means open houses, learn-to-curls, and new league sign-ups.

Our open houses are scheduled for the following dates:

Thu. Jan. 11, 6:30-8 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 20, 12-2 p.m.

We still need volunteers to come out and staff our open houses—please contact Rachel Sethi if you can help.

Also—post or send some fliers!

We also have a few learn-to-curls scheduled. If you are a relatively new curler, you may want to join, even if you have already been curling. The cost is \$25 and the dates are Sat. Jan 27 2-5pm and Sun Jan 28 11-2pm. Again, we will need instructors—if you are interested, please contact George Shirk.

Finally, all of the leagues reset teams for the second half (except for the Capital League). If you are intending

to stay in the same league—just let your league coordinator know. You can also join new leagues—there are league sign-up forms at the club or on-line. League sign-up forms are due by January 20th at the very latest, but please try to get them in earlier. Brian Galebach can help you with any league related questions.

Traveler update

We had two teams represent Potomac at the Cracked Bell—an open spiel in Philadelphia. Rebecca Baxter (S), Nick Datlowe (V), Lisa Andrew (2), and Doug Andrew (1) finished as runners-up in the 2nd event. Dave Hamilton, Pam Martin, and Aileen and Tom Reichert finished as runners-up

in the 3rd event. I haven't heard about any of the fun or hijinx that I'm sure went on, so you'll have to ask them yourselves.

Sign-up deadlines for the Dykes (men's 5 yr and under) and the Kayser (mixed 5 yr and under)

are fast approaching. The Dykes deadline is Jan 15 and the Kayser deadline is Feb 1. If you need help finding a team, Ben Yeung and Caitlin Shaw can help you look.

Ms. Hogline

Dear Ms. Hogline-

When there are multiple leagues in a day or night, what are the closing responsibilities for the earlier league?

Wondering

Dear Wondering -

That is a great question and one that I don't have a straightforward answer to. The standard closing duties are vacuuming the warm room and lockers, cleaning the tables of garbage and wiping up, emptying the garbage,

turning the temp down and locking up. If there is a league after yours, clearly you won't need to turn the temp down or lock up. However, it would be good practice to clear the tables and kitchen counter of your debris and check that the garbage is not close to full (if it is, close it up and take it to the dumpster). As far as vacuuming, it would be nice to vacuum, before dirt and munchies get ground into the carpet; however, depending on the amount of time between the leagues—there may not be

a good moment to do so. If at all possible, running a quick vacuum over the warm room is advisable—this helps keep our carpet and club in good shape.