



# THE SPANNER BANNER

November 2003

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## Proposed By-Laws Changes

Derek Surka

As you may be aware, the Board created a special committee to review our current By-Laws that were written when we were a club of 50-60 members and did not own a facility. The committee was charged with making recommendations for changes to the By-Laws that would better enable the club and the Board to deal with our increasing membership and property ownership.

Bob Pelletier chaired the committee and was ably assisted by Rich Collins, Nick Datlowe, Nicole D'Isa, Tim Harwood, Barry Nichols, Tom Walsh, and Ed White. The committee presented their recommendations to the Board on October 27<sup>th</sup>. A final draft was generated based on Board input at the meeting and the Board voted at a special meeting on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to send this draft to the membership for its approval.

A special meeting of the membership will be held at the club on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to vote on these changes. This meeting will be followed by the annual holiday party. The proposed changes with a summary description will be mailed to all voting members during the week of November 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and will also be posted at the club. If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please ask any member of the Board or the By-Laws committee.

Finally, the Board expresses its thanks to all of the committee members for their time and thoughtfulness that went into the proposal. The club will greatly benefit from their hard work.

# HOLIDAY PARTY

**Save the Date! Saturday December 13 6:00pm**

Ann Drummie

Everyone is invited to the Potomac Curling Club Holiday Party, in the warm room. The theme is simply festive, so pull out the seasonal snowflake tie or maybe a skirt for a new look around the curling crowd. This is not a catered or bartended affair - think of it as a really big house party. It is a potluck dinner and BYOB. Anticipating a good crowd, let's keep the dishes requiring a knife and fork to a minimum, and imagine most of us trying to eat standing up. Spinach dip, cranberry & brie canapés, sweet & sour meatballs, plum pudding, sugar cookies with green and red sprinkles anyone.....???? Sign-ups will be posted/solicited after Thanksgiving. Watch out for that mistletoe!

## Curling Season Heats Up With Start of MACA

by Nicole J. D'Isa

Last season's MACA tournaments were wildly successful, ending on a high note with Potomac winning the high-point trophy once again. MACA, which stands for the Mid-Atlantic Curling Association, consists of Chesapeake Curling Club, Potomac Curling Club, Philadelphia Curling Club and Plainfield Curling Club. With each club hosting a mini-spiel or "Friendly," there is plenty of fun for curlers of all experience levels. \$15 gets you breakfast, lunch, and a chance to try your hand at all positions, and play with curlers from all four clubs. This year's MACA dates are December 6th, Philadelphia; January 3rd, Plainfield; February 14th, Chesapeake; February 28th, Potomac. For more information, contact Nicole D'Isa at [OORamiusOo@aol.com](mailto:OORamiusOo@aol.com).

## Official Clinic

Dominique Banville

There is still room for some participants in the Official Clinic that will be held at the club on Dec. 13 and 14. Level 1 will be held on Saturday and Level II on Sunday. The cost for each level is \$15. Both levels can be taken within the same weekend. If interested, please contact FL Ettlin at [ettlin@upperclassglass.com](mailto:ettlin@upperclassglass.com) to register or get some more information.

# USWCA Senior Bonspiel January 15-18, 2004

By Dominique Banville, Chair On-Site Committee

As you all should know by now, we will host the United States Women Curling Association National Senior Bonspiel this coming January. We are expecting 24 teams from all over the country. The curling schedule during those days will be slightly different from a regular bonspiel because of special events. For example, for the first time at our club, a House Party will be held on the Thursday night for participants. This type of event, although very popular in other regions, has never been done with our club. Also, a luncheon will be held Friday afternoon at the Laurel Race Track with all kinds of perks for participants. Curling therefore will be held on Thursday during the day, Friday morning, late afternoon and night, Saturday throughout the day and Sunday morning with the finals.

The committee needs help with the various duties involved with hosting this event. We will need people to help with decorating, cooking, and various house keeping duties. I already have a few people on my list but need many more! Please let me know your availability for the weekend of the bonspiel itself and also for the weekend before when we plan to decorate. The theme for the bonspiel is First Ladies and we intent to use this theme to its fullest!

The large majority of these women have not seen our club yet and we want to make a good impression! Help us make sure that the first National Competition at the National Capital Curling Center is a success! Check for the Sign-up Sheet at the club in the coming weeks and put your name down!

## Join us for the 2004 Kayser

Michael Fry

As many of you already know, the Potomac Curling Club will host this year's Raymond Kayser Memorial Bonspiel, March 4-7, 2004. As the on-site chair for this event, I'd like to invite Potomac members to participate as players and/or volunteers. This is a unique opportunity for our club to make a lasting impression on the next generation of East coast curlers, so your participation will be much appreciated.

The Kayser is one of three "5-and-under" curling tournaments sponsored by the Grand National Curling Club (GNCC). Like the Francis Dykes Bonspiel (men's) and the Women's Challenge, the Kayser—a mixed event which requires teams to be comprised of two men and two women—is limited to curlers with five or fewer years of curling experience\*. That means it's a terrific opportunity for new curlers to compete with and against players with similar skills and experience. It's also a great way to meet and socialize with curlers from all over the GNCC.

I know I speak for myself as well as many others both inside and outside of Potomac when I say that some of my fondest curling memories are from these events. They are where I met a lot of my "peers" in curling, many of whom I look forward to seeing each season at events up and down the East coast. The 5-and-under events also played a large part in getting me more involved in the sport, improving my game, etc. And, of course, they're a whole lot of fun. (The medals and trophies don't hurt, either.) For another endorsement, here's what Jan Little had to say:

I was curling at Chesapeake the year that we hosted the Women's Challenge and I have to say it was the best bonspiel we ever had. All the women were so nervous and so thrilled at the same time; we had a "cheerleader" for each team and they so needed to have someone there for them. It was exciting to watch these women make neat decisions on the ice; some were skipping for the first time and were so scared and their teammates were so supportive. This is what curling is all about and I really wish that all new curlers - women, men, mixed - would commit to this experience; *GO FOR IT!!!!*

Although not everybody will be eligible to play in the Kayser, we'll need lots of help putting on this unique event and making it as memorable to this year's players as past 5-and-under events have been to previous generations of East coast curlers. The committee is just beginning to take form, so stay tuned for further announcements on how you can participate as both a player and an event committee member.

\* Note that the eligibility rules for the 5-and-under events have recently changed. For details, contact Neil Christenson, the GNCC Kayser Bonspiel Chair.

## **GNCC Playdowns Information**

**Charrissa Lin**

We have received the following information regarding this year's men's and women's playdowns. This information will be posted at the club along with the mixed information once it is received. Please note that all entries must now be mailed to the USCA National Office.

### **Women's playdowns**

Entry deadline is December 15, 2003. The entry fee is \$240 per team (\$200 for the USCA and \$40 for the GNCC). Entry forms are at the USCA website ([www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org)) and must be mailed to the USCA National Office. The playdowns are being held at Broomstones in Wayland, MA on January 15-18, 2004. Additional info - contact Peggy Rotton (315-797-2975 or [bprotton@borg.com](mailto:bprotton@borg.com)).

### Men's playdowns

Entry deadline is December 15, 2003. The entry fee is \$240 per team (\$200 for the USCA and \$40 for the GNCC). The playdowns have two rounds. The district playdowns (we are district 3) will be held at Chesapeake on January 8-11, 2004. Two teams will advance to the final playdowns for the GNCC to be held at Rochester, NY on January 22-24, 2004. There will be additional fees for the final six (entry fees into the Gordon Emmet). Additional info - contact Ken Wood (315-986-2528 or kennwood@rochester.rr.com).

### Mixed playdowns

The GNCC playdowns will be held at TCC in Boston, MA on January 29 - February 1. Entry information will be posted at the club when it is received.

To find the men's and women's entry form on the USCA website - click on championships, then championship rules booklet. The entry form is the second to last page of the entry booklet and lists the return address.

## Thursday Morning Drop-In League

Pam Bass

The Thursday morning drop-in league will start Thursday, November 13th at 10:00. Please come by whenever you have a free Thursday morning. This is also a great time for new curlers who want a non-competitive environment to get some additional instruction. Coffee and snacks provided! Any questions call Pam Bass at 301-983-5240 or email her at mommybass@aol.com.

## Sidedishes

Ann Drummie

The season has begun, and congratulations to everyone on making the transition to your new weekly schedule. I am happy that you can now look forward to your particular "game night" every week, for the next few months ☺

But if you consider league play as the main course, what about some side dishes to dress it up a bit or to serve as small meals instead? The following is a list of just some of the opportunities that are available in house that I hope you will consider. (Please check the calendar for actual dates as some activities are not scheduled when we have large events.)

????entering a team into one of the mini-bonspiels for games on three Thursday nights

????coming on a Saturday morning for 10am to play pick-up

????coming on a Saturday evening for 7pm to play pick-up

????? signing up for one of the Saturday afternoon special events  
????? volunteering as a sideline coach occasionally on a Friday or Sunday night  
????? dropping in on a Friday at 6:30pm with a friend or colleague for them to give curling a try  
entering the internal bonspiel on November 21-23

### **1. What's a mini-bonspiel league?**

This is a new concept that we think will become quite popular. Near the start of every month, you can form a team (so every month you can form a new team) and register to play for three Thursday nights in a knock-out format, like a bonspiel. So undefeated teams keep being paired up, and those with only 1 loss play each other, etc. So you wind up with a few practice games basically under your belt, before going off to a bonspiel or tournament. You also have a chance to try out different positions, and you have a chance to play with different friends. I expect that the December round will be popular with playdown teams. I'm certain that the February draw will have its own Kayser team section! Check-out the bulletin board or talk with Scott Edie or Dawn Findlay for more schedule information.

### **2. and 3. Pick-up:**

Looking for something fun to do on a quiet Saturday morning? What about a different kind of 'Saturday night on the town'? Starting on Thanksgiving weekend, and most open Saturdays thereafter, come out for a pick-up game! There is no recurring commitment, just sign-up at the start of the time block and teams will be made among those present (I'd suggest not going shirts and skins like most pick-up basketball!), and you head out for how ever many ends you mutually decide to put in and play for bragging rights. If you have non-member friends and family interested in participating with you one day, we'll ask them to pay a simple guest fee of \$5.

### **4. Special Events:**

Curling is a wonderful sport that lends itself to many variations. Some of the standard variations, and possibly some new creations, are on the schedule for this year - to give you a new perspective on the game, and more chances to just be on the ice having fun. These are mutually independent little events, to fill the occasional Saturday afternoon or evening. If you have non-member friends and family interested in participating with you one day, we'll ask them to pay a simple guest fee of \$5. There may also be a small fee for all participants if we incorporate prizes and/or food.

- **Points:** is steeped in history (over 100years old!) emphasizing shotmaking. Different scenarios are arranged in the far house, and each participant makes their best attempt at coming around the guard, hitting and rolling, etc. and is scored on a clear scale from 1 to 5. The participants with the most points after all of the scenarios are complete - wins! It is a great way to practice and gives many front-enders a chance to try some different shots. (Depending on turnout, there may be two sections: front ends and back end players.)
- **Singles:** pits one player against another. You are your own skip! Each player shoots six rocks (instead of all 8), and the game is six ends. All standard rules apply. Yes, you sweep

your own rock, but be careful trying to catch up to it! This game is a fun way to start getting familiar with strategy and broom-placement. Pairings would be made at the start of the afternoon, with winners continuing to play winners until a final champion is determined. (Depending on turnout, there may be two sections: beginners/green, and more experienced.)

- **Doubles:** pits a pair against another pair. One player throws lead and third rocks, and the other throws second and skip rocks. You decide if you need your partner holding a broom or sweeping for you (or both?!). All standard rules apply. They will be six end games. Sign-ups will be in pairs or pairs will be formed at the start of the afternoon if need be, with winners continuing to play winners until a final team is determined.
- **Skins:** Over Thanksgiving weekend, we'll set up games on the Saturday (and possibly Friday if there's interest). Just like on television, four player teams will follow the standard rules of play, but will be vying for skins instead of regular points after each end. You win a skin if you take two or more points, or steal one or more points. So the regular taking of one point or blanking an end, is not actually useful. The value of the skins increases with each end, increasing the pressure as the game progresses. Ask around if this all sounds new to you! More details at the time of the event. This will be an individual sign-up.
- **Other: Speed curling, College Days, Candlelight Curling, Battle of the Sexes:** will all be regular curling games with preregistration, but with themes, decorations, dress codes, and/or special rules. You'll hear more as they approach.

### **5. Sideline Coaching:**

We have started a new program this year, offered in both the Friday and Sunday night leagues, sideline coaches. This role is a great way to see the sport from a different angle, particularly the dynamics of team communication and the power of information, and in general you'll just be exposed to more strategy which can never hurt. If you would feel comfortable answering questions and providing guidance when requested, please let the league coordinators know which particular night you would like to come (Friday: Nick Datlowe, and Sunday: Jack Esteve).

### **6. Drop-in:**

Think of Friday at 6:30pm as the perpetual Open House. This is some informal icetime when an instructor/greeter will always be in the warm room, to meet any new people that you may bring or send along. If there are openings in that Friday night's draw, then we try to incorporate any drop-ins into the games, or in the least, give them a game to watch for a little while. This is a great opportunity to share your interest with your family and friends.

### **7. INTERNAL BONSPIEL!**

Yes, the much anticipated internal bonspiel is approaching ☺

The dates are Friday November 21 to Sunday November 23. This is your chance to play in a knock-out format tournament, without leaving home, and within the comfort of our own membership. All members (even social) are encouraged to sign-up (at the club or with FL Ettlin). Entries can be made as teams, groups, or individuals. We are hoping for at least 8 teams, but we would love to be overwhelmed by more! With 8 teams, we can guarantee three games if not more ☺

This is a fairly informal affair, but we'll arrange for some dinner on Saturday night and a party atmosphere (CD players, card games?) and we'll pick-out some prizes. As such, the entry fee will be \$20/member.

## **New Rules for 2003-2004 Season**

Derek Surka

During the summer, the World Curling Federation (and the USCA), made a few rule changes that will affect players at all levels. Here's a summary of the three most relevant changes:

1. Sweeping behind the tee-line - The new rule states that any one member of the shooting team can sweep behind the tee-line. There is now no need for the skip or vice to take over sweeping from the front-end when a stone hits the tee-line.
2. Length of Timed Games - For competitive curlers in timed games, teams are now only allowed 73 minutes of playing time, a decrease from 75 minutes. However, teams are now allowed two 1-minute time-outs each game. The game-clock stops when the timeout is called and the 1-minute begins when the team's coach arrives on the ice.
3. Substitution of Players - If a player gets injured in the middle of a game, a spare can be brought in at the beginning of the next end and this spare can now play at any position on the team. The throwing order of the team can be changed whenever a spare is brought in.

Copies of all the rules of play are available at the club.

## **POTOMAC CURLING CLUB PARTICIPATES IN SCOTTISH EVENTS**

Bob Pelletier

The Potomac Curling Club was represented at two recent festivals to help in the recruiting of new members for the club. On October 4th, 2003 we sponsored a booth at the Alexandria Scottish Heritage Festival for the 12th consecutive year. Thanks to Dave Higgins, Neil Christenson and Dave Crim for representing the club. Even though it was a rainy day we managed to sign up 12 potential curlers.

On October 11th we set up a booth for the first time at the Anne Arundel Scottish Games in Crownsville, MD. This was a truly joint curling activity as the Chesapeake Curling Club co-sponsored the booth. The Games were well attended and both clubs had a successful recruiting day. Potomac signed up 27 prospective curlers in addition to handing out over 100 brochures about our club. Thanks to Dave Higgins, Dave Crim, Neil Christenson and Bob Pelletier for working the booth and to Ann Hooker and Sandy Seebach for representing the Chesapeake Club.

# Inaugural 2003 Another Success

Derek Surka

For the second year in a row, Potomac hosted a very successful Inaugural Bonspiel. The 4-day event, held October 23-26, featured 32 teams from all over the East Coast and Canada. There was plenty of good curling and, in the end, Team Langanke of the Plainfield Curling Club went undefeated to claim the top spot, defeating a team from the St. George's Golf & Country Club (Toronto, Canada) in the First Event Final.

Throughout the weekend there were numerous other social events and merrymaking such as the Team Pumpkin Carving contest won by the C.H.A.P.P.S team. Following the success of last year's Hanging Chad event, this year's version, the California Recall event, featuring the ever popular "terminator" and "sexual innuendo" ends. Potomac's very own LeBlanc's Ladies won this exciting event.

Other event winners included Philadelphia's Team Rusek (2<sup>nd</sup> Event), Nutmeg's Just Nuts (3<sup>rd</sup> Event), Plainfield's Team DeJong (4<sup>th</sup> Event) and Team White from Potomac (5<sup>th</sup> Event.) A complete list of the winners and runners-up is at the end of this article.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Inaugural a huge success! Your hard work impressed everyone at the bonspiel and many compliments were received. There's not room to mention everyone who helped, but I do want to recognize the efforts of a few members who put in a lot of time preparing for the event in the off-season - Jack Esteve (who did a terrific job as co-chair), Lisa Andrew and Susan Armiger (food organizers), Charlie Jennings (bar and prizes), Julie Tsamoutales (entertainment, decorations, and all-around help), Ron Aubin (ice, draw, and rules), Neil Christenson (house committee), and Charrissa Lin (California Recall event). Special thanks to Laurie and Lois Baty for all their help in the kitchen, to Linda Murphy for bringing the raffle prizes from Dallas, and to Chris Moss, our piper.



# The Inaugural 2003 Results

## Potomac Curling Club, Laurel, Maryland

### October 23-26, 2003 (32 Teams)

#### First Event

**Winners:** Janice Langanke (skip)  
**Plainfield** Don Baird  
 Steve Langanke  
 Bill Peskoff

**Runners Up:** Gilles Hamel (skip)  
**St. George's** Janet Willan  
 Brian Roussie  
 Joanne Erickson

#### Second Event

**Winners:** Jay Rusek (skip)  
**Philadelphia** Judy Little  
 Paul LaTour  
 Lenore Collins

**Runners Up:** Dave Thompson (skip)  
**Potomac** Carol White  
 Michael Fry  
 Dawn Findlay

#### Third Event

**Winners:** Ray Lawreck (skip)  
**Nutmeg** Jeff Hannon  
 Stephanie Lawreck  
 Sally Hannon

**Runners Up:** Topper Waters (skip)  
**Plainfield** Bob Fox  
 Doug Henry  
 Marty Henry

#### Fourth Event

**Winners:** John DeJong (skip)  
**Plainfield** Bob Howell  
 Chris Creighton  
 Melissa Creighton

**Runners Up:** Derek Surka (skip)  
**East York** Gary Parkinson  
 Sheldon Bell  
 Mark Surka

#### Fifth Event

**Winners:** Bill White (skip)  
**Potomac** Donna Horoschak  
 Nick Datlowe  
 Melissa Fox

**Runners Up:** Earle Conrad (skip)  
**Plainfield** Ed Ericson  
 Ron Aubin  
 De Holmes

## California Recall Event

**Winners:** Louane LeBlanc (skip)

**Potomac** Pam Bass  
Kathy Riikonen  
Abby Sanford

## Open House Report

Barry Bass

We had a successful Open house during the weekend of November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> despite unseasonably warm weather that was more appropriate for beaching than curling. We had almost 120 people come to the club to see what we're all about. Kudos to all of the volunteers who sacrificed part (or, in some cases, all) of a beautiful weekend to help recruit new members either by helping to set up, signing people in, bringing food, taking photos or sharing the joys of curling with prospective members. Special thanks go to Dominique and her crew of tireless instructors who, once again, did a great job of teaching and preparing people to join our leagues.

Following is a list of our new Rookie members to date:

Dave Hamilton	Kama Hamilton	Kate Hopke	Jonathan McKlveen
Collin Mooney	Kyla Mooney	Kristie Peter	Lyla Peter
Nathsha Prather	Phil Prather	Caitlin Shaw	Megan Shaw
Nisha Switzer	Laura Taft	Paul Trimbur	

## Thank You

Fl Ettlín

Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare the club for this season, and get the season off to a great start! I know we did not capture every name here, but each and everyone who helped is valued and appreciated. Your volunteerism is what keeps the Potomac Curling Club vibrant. Thank you to everyone, including: Abby Sanford, Ann Drummie, Ann Hooker, Barry Bass, Barry Nichols, Bill White, Bob Pelletier, Brian Galebach, Bruce Goddard, Caitlin Shaw, Carol White, Charlie Jennings, Charrissa Lin, Cheryl White, Chris Moss, Chrystal Wilson, Dave Crim, Dave Higgins, Dave Sliom, Dave Thompson, Dawn Findlay, Derek Surka, Dominique Banville, Donna Horoschak, Doug Andrew, Ed Ericson, Ed White, FL Ettlín, Frank Casabianca, George Shirk, George Tsamatoules, Harvey Chalmers, Howard Griffin, Jack Esteve, Jan Little, Jane Filkins, Jeff Hughes, Jeremy Singer, Joan Twigg, John Bittner, Julie Tsamatoules, Kate Monagan, Kelly Paradis, Ken Wray, Laura McHugh, Laurie Baty, Lisa Andrew, Lois Baty, Louane Leblanc, Marc Brison, Mary McHugh, Mary Sirois, Melissa Fox, Michael Fry, Neil Christenson, Nick Datlowe, Nicole D'Isa, Pam Bass, Pat McHugh, Rich Collins, Ron Aubin, Sarah Jo Pelletier, Scott Edie, Sean Murray, Stephen Provasnik, Steven Shivers, Susan Armiger, Tim Harwood, Tom Walsh, Tracy Thoma, Vernon Maher, Virginia Chalmers

# President's Comments

By Derek Surka

Welcome back to another curling season! Even though we're only a month into the new season, we've already had many activities at the club - from the Inaugural to Open Houses to Learn to Curl sessions to Instructors Clinics to the start of league play - there's always something going on. And, as you'll see inside this issue of the newsletter, there are many more upcoming events such as the Internal Bonspiel, special Saturday events, Officials Clinics, the MACA, the Kayser, and the USWCA Sr. Women's Bonspiel. One event I strongly encourage you to attend is our Special Membership Meeting and Holiday Party to be held at the club on Saturday, December 13 at 6pm. At the meeting, we will vote on a set of revised club By-Laws so please read this month's article and watch your mailbox for more information. If you haven't been to the club yet, the party would be a perfect time to see old friends, meet our new curlers, and see all the changes at the club, including our spectacular new sign, lockers, benches, and credit card machine. I hope to see you all there and, until then, Good Curling!

The Potomac Curling Club  
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