The IceBreaker

NUTMEG CURLING at Wonderland of Ice, Greenwood Park
P.O. Box 5125, Bridgeport, CT 06610
www.nutmegcurling.com
203.339.7300

On the Bonspiel Trail

The First Golden Handle bonspiel at our new home was held on March 15-18 2007. Take a look on page 5.

GNCC Senior Men's Championship

Charlie Mack's team of Chuck Owens, Bruce Huffine and Bill Brautigam participated in the GNCC Senior Mens Championship at Potomac Curling Club, Laurel, MD. Feb 8-11.

There were 22 teams, representing 13 different curling clubs.

After loosing their first game in an extra end to George Austin, New York Caledonian Curling Club (the eventual finalist in the first event) Charlie's team went on to win their next 3 games: each game was determined by the last rock in the last end (a little nerve racking).

That brought them to the finals of the second event, where they lost to a hot Jim Kindler's team from Ardsley. The Nutmeg team did come with the Bartlett runner-up Medal, and some memories of another great curling event. — Chuck Owens

Continued on Page 4

Message From the President

Nutmeggers:

We are nearing the completion of the first spring curling season in our new facility. We presently have 125 full time curling members which is a far cry from the 40 stalwarts that dedicated the new building in October. Bravo! But the season is far from over!

After catching our breaths and some sleep after the Golden Handle, our spring season begins to wind down with the Blarney Stone, which is our second interclub bonspiel. Following the closing ceremony for the bonspiel and the awarding of pins, we plan to host our annual Pull the Plug party featuring ice skating on our curling ice. Yes, Jeff Hannon (AIG) is O.K. with that! The skates will be compliments of Wonderland of Ice.

AND you will soon be asked to save the date for our Annual Meeting which combines a wonderful dinner and social affair with our silent & live auctions (a significant fund raiser for the club) and some corporation business during which we elect new officers and directors for the coming year. Did I say new President?

Check your weekly bulletins for coming events and if you missed the Volunteer Job Fair, it is never too late to join a committee. We would love to match your interests, talents and available time with a committee assignment. This insures that we can continue with our full compliment of curling and social events. We are a growing concern!

Good curling! — George Bagley

HealthNet Trophy Awarded to Nutmeg High School Champions

The first annual Nutmeg High School Championship was a real success for all of the athletes involved. There were 30 participants (22 Trumbull, 6 Fairfield & 2 Nutmeg) broken into 6 teams that competed each week for a chance to take home the coveted HealthNet trophy. The finals took place on Thursday, March 7th in front of a large crowd of friends and family.

At times it seemed like paparazzi had arrived with the Channel 12 news team, Fairfield Minuteman, and the Trumbull High TV personnel on hand.

Trumbull's team consisting of **Sam Johnson, Samantha McDowell, Liam Heeks, Dan Crane** and **Hilary Nigrosh** prevailed to take the 1st Event honors. Trophies were also given to two Trumbull teams for 2nd and 3rd place. **Sam Johnson** (Trumbull) and **Kirsten Wikman** (Fairfield) earned MVP honors as voted by their peers.

Emily Winter and **Libby Brundage** (both Nutmeg) each earned the Hope Binner Award. This award, established when the club was at Darien, is given to the curler(s) who in the opinion of the Judges, best exemplified the "Spirit of Curling".

On hand to watch the championships were a group from the Bridgeport International School. They vowed to have a team next year and recruited a parent to be their advisor. The Bridgeport High School system is also sending around 40 students to the club this week to learn to curl.

When the club re-opens in the Fall, we will have several towns involved in the league making our program a standout in the GNCC for promoting Youth Curling. Thanks is extended to the Darwin Curtis Trust (administered by the Chicago Community Trust), HealthNet and to all the volunteer instructors for making our first season a real success.

The Luck of the Irish Lingers at Nutmeg!

—Follow me to the Blarney Stone — See p. 10

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**George Bagley** gbagley@soundcommercial.com
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Treasurer	**Charlie Mack** mackchas@optonline.net
Secretary	**Pamela Smith** pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net
IceBreaker Editors	**Terry & Pam Smith** terencesmith@smithsresearch.net pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net

Important Club Dates

March 29-April 1, 2007	Blarney Stone Club Bonspiel
April 1, 2007	Annual Pull the Plug Party
September 16, 2007	Nutmeg Clambake

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

The Nutmeg curling club would like to express its appreciation to individuals who have donated items to the club. Our gratitude cannot be overstated.

Trish Ryan donated the comfy couch and the ice crew will really appreciate it when taking a nap during the Golden Handle.

Ryan Davis donated the refrigerator and all the curlers are now well fed with the snacks it stores.

Andy and Jenn Sherriff donated the stove and the curlers can now take those cold snacks and make them warm and tasty.

Jennifer Stannard donated the CD player, microwave and coat racks in the locker rooms along with numerous other items. Thanks Jennifer! The smell of popcorn makes the warm room a very inviting place to rest.

Bobbie Stoll donated the DVD player and spent many hours installing the shelves and coat racks in the locker rooms.

Bob Reiter donated the vacuum cleaner for the warm room. Now we can keep the new rug nice and clean.

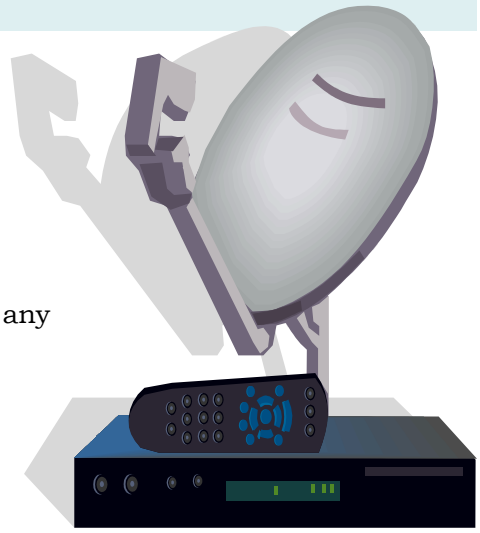
The satellite system was a joint event with many people donating both time and money. Big thanks especially to **Terry Smith** for coordinating the effort. The list – **Terry Smith, Pam Smith, John Tarleton, Andy Sherriff, Dick Montgomery, Alph Winter, Barry Stroebel, PJ Furgeson, Allan Alward, Rob Reihl, Karl Bockley, Mike Hope, Frank Aulenti, Trish Ryan, Jeff and Sally Hannon, Phelicia Howland, Charlie Mack, Kathy Morley, Heide Follin, Angelo Marasciulo, Diane Muldowney, Jeff McGregor** and **Donna Purkey**. Special thanks to Mike, Karl, Terry, Charlie and Jeff for the installation.

For those we may have missed, your efforts are not overlooked. Thanks to any and all they were not mentioned in particular.

Club Wish List

If you are interested in donating any of these items to the club, please contact one of the club officers or send an email to ctcurlers@aol.com. Of course, cash donations are always appreciated and are tax deductible.

- Benches on ice at home end
- Large (huge) clock for ice house
- Locking Cabinets for the Bar
- Defibrillator for first aid
- Fire Extinguishers
- Hood Vent for Stove - $320
- 4-Drawer Vertical File Cabinet
- Two additional mop heads for the ice mops



Bonspiel News (Continued)

Thrifty Bonspiel

Nutmeggers Jeff Hannon, Sally Hannon, Rob Reihl, and John Tarleton traveled to Plainfield curling club in New Jersey to curl in the Thrifty Bonspiel. The Thrifty is a celebration of legendary Scottish poet and lyricist Robbie Burns who wrote the famous Auld Lang Syne song. Rob and John got to experience their first taste of finely cooked Haggis, late night curling, a wee bit of scotch, loud bag pipers and so much more. Unfortunately we only won our first game then lost our 2nd and 3rd game but fear not we were awarded the Golden Fleece winners and won the gorgeous yellow fleeces shown in the picture as being the first out of town team to be LOUT.

USWCA National Bonspiel

Donna Purkey's rink of Jennifer Stannard, Bobbie Stoll and Gail Cosman were successful at the 49th annual USWCA national bonspiel held at Exmoor Curling Club in Northbrook, IL. The team defeated rinks from Ohio, Illinois and Minnesota on their way to the 3rd event Finals where they lost to the Pilage rink from Madison, WI on the final stone.

Braving sub-zero temperatures and luggage issues (again with the broom bag!) the rink reports having a great time at the event. 32 teams from across the US competed which left time for a sightseeing trip into Chicago as well as a wee bit of shopping. The trophy is atop the trophy case in the Nutmeg warm room next to the Bulldog! — Jennifer Stannard

Women s Winter Wonderland Bonspiel

Nutmeg sent two teams to the Women's Winter Wonderland Bonspiel, February 23 to 25 in Norfolk.

Joanna Owen's team - Jill Owens, Nancy Brautigam and Sharon Geise lost to Albany in the First Event semi finals.

Jennifer Stannard made her skipping debut at an outside bonspiel — who would have known - and brought her team of Naida Leslie, Pam Smith and Ann Karrick to victory in the Third Event beating the Norfolk team.

GOBs beat Ice House Gang:

March 9th completed the home and home series between Nutmeg Men and the Ardsley daytime men curlers (Ice House Gang).

Nutmeg traveled to Ardsley in December and had a 6 stone lead coming into the final game at Nutmeg. This is a "total stone" competition and Nutmeg added to their 6 stone lead to win the trophy for 2006-07 season.

After the 10AM games, 25 curlers met at Tony"s Huntington Inn for refreshments and lunch and replay some of good and not so good shots. Chuck Owens

McKay Douglas International Bonspiel:

Nutmeg entered two teams at the McKay-Douglas Men's Bonspiel. Nutmeg 1 lost in the Mahopac Medal finals (5th Event) on the final stone. Kudos to Jeff Hannon (skip), Terry Smith, Rob Reihl and Andy Sherriff.

Nutmeg 2 consisted of Don Nicholson, Joel Leneker, Victor Vega and Frank Aulenti. All first year curlers - they represented Nutmeg well.

The Golden Handle

The First Golden Handle at our new home was held on March 15-18 2007. We had 20 teams from 10 different clubs in the GNCC.

Our theme this year was Nutmeg in Wonderland and Jennifer Stannard directed the very famous Saturday night entertainment. Everyone dressed in their wildest hats for the Mad Hatter party while dancing to the fabulous tunes from Frank Aulenti and his Out of Touch band.

The Winners of the 1st Event was a team from Potomac: Derek Surka, Charrissa Lin, Conor Mulvey and Tonya Jacobson. Our own Nutmeg team won the 2nd Event: Diane Muldowney, Jim Meinhold, Heide Follin and Rob Chebetar.

The Golden Handle endured everything that could go wrong for its maiden voyage but prevailed to be a very successful event Co-chaired by Jill Owens and Sally Hannon.

Neon Curling

So, you thought you were in the dark about curling? Well, Andy and Jen Sheriff took those perceptions to new heights! 24 curlers (yes, all sheets were full) braved the darkened rink for 'glow in the dark' curling.

Neon glow sticks and blinking lights were strategically arranged around the sheets and on the scoreboards. Curlers donned glow in the dark eyeglasses, necklaces and marked their brooms with glow sticks. Then, onto the ice where the curling stones were crowned with neon rings (separate colors identifying each team).

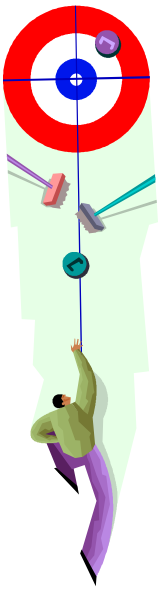
The rink was lit solely by the icicle lights on the warm room windows and, surprisingly, it didn't take much time for the curlers eyes to adjust. The first stones were released and the sweepers went right to work, sweeping as they chortled and giggled down the ice.

Starting out 1 short for complete teams the curlers spotted Don Nicholson as a late viewer into the warm room. As he peered out at the ice he clearly thought the participants had lost their marbles. Convinced to venture out of the warm room he quickly caught the spirit and donning slider and gripper he joined the short rink.

Broom stacking with shots in neon glasses marked the 4th end and then, they curled on. The final end was curled in total darkness and the 24 lucky 'Neon Curlers' truly glowed in their comments about the game.

The tables were heaped with food to reward the curlers as they 'came into the light' and all enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to the Sheriff's for initiating what will surely be a repeat event at Nutmeg!

Nutmeg Hits the 2007 Dykes Bonspiel



We really are happy with the way things went! When we arrived at the Dykes, on Wednesday, someone from the Committee had taken the draw-sheet and extended the projected winners, through each of the four events, labeled it the "Answer Key", and hung it on the draw board. As if our "1st Dykes anxiety" level wasn't measuring high enough, imagine our horror; to not only see that we had been projected to go "3 and out" in each of the first draws in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd events, but that we had been paired first against the Team Calabrese (Amherst), who in addition to having been last year's 1st event runner-up, was now "officially" projected to win the entire Bonspiel...!!!

Well, well, well, let me just say that the Nutmeg training program has found new heights! For, not only did we come out strong against Team Calabrese, but we put up 5 in the 3rd, stole 3 more in the 4th, and they had extended their hands before we ever saw an eigth-end stone delivered!

Next, it was on to the 2nd round, and while the buzz in the warm room was filled with shock from some, and excitement from others, that we had eliminated Calabrese from the 1st event, it was the eyes of Team Servais (Broomstones 2) that were heaviest upon us! We would face them on Thursday afternoon, in what was our "most accurate" game. Shot after shot, we would draw to the 4-foot, and trade guards and promotions - all along keeping a slight edge over a worthy opponent that had been to the Dykes three more times than any Nutmegger on the ice. And, after 4 ends, we had drawn ourselves into a comfortable and defendible lead, which we would hold til the end, after intentionally hogging the hammer in the 5th to take two more, and blanking the 7th to bring the hammer home, up two.

Broomstones was shocked to find that we had all started curling in October, but predicted a very bright future for us!

Our third game was not so good, and while we found ourselves in the unlikely position of being on the ice as one of the first event's sixteen finalists, over two draws, I must say our "newbie jitters" began to take hold. We faced a Potomac Skip (Galeback) who had been to the Dykes on each of it's last four runs, and carried in with him last year's 2nd event Cup! All the "Owen-style" take-out experience we'd accumulated in our various Nutmeg leagues was not enough for us to keep up with Team Galeback, as they outstayed us with their take-out accuracy, and walked into the quarter-final with a fairly easy win. They would go on to lose in the 1st event semi- and again in the 4th event final.

Finally, at 7:00 a.m. on Friday we would find ourselves in a tough match with a Young Broomstones team, skipped by the Captain of the recently crowned College Curling Champion, Purdue Boilermakers! They started quickly by stealing 3 from us in each of the first two ends, and we just couldn't find the accuracy we'd had earlier, to mount a comeback. 7:00 a.m., after the ..."fun"... we'd had to that point, is not the best hour for curling!

So, as we packed up our broom bags for the last time, and headed out into several feet of fresh fallen snow, we were happy to have looked back at our 2-2 accomplishment, in what was the first-ever bonspiel for 3 out of the 4 of us, and we left not only with Dykes patches, and curling pins with great stories painted on them, but most importantly with proud smiles on our faces!

Thanks Nutmeg, for the continuous support and coaching (the Blackberry scouting reports were perfect!), and for letting us represent you in the Dykes this year, and we'll look forward to doing it again with even more success next year!

Rob Reihl
Joel Leneker
Karl Bockley
Mike Hope

A Big Nutmeg Welcome

We welcome the more than 55 new Nutmeg members. Here are some of the new (and hopefully now familiar) faces you've seen around the club. Don't worry, if you don't see your photo here, we'll be tracking you down for the next edition of the IceBreaker.

Ask Rocky & Broomhilda: Curling advice for the loved and lovelorn

Dear Rocky & BH,
My Skip never gives me enough ice and I miss the shot. Shall I just start
taking the extra ice myself?
Eagle Eye

Dear Eagle-
You must know that every eagle needs to fly with a certain amount of turkeys. I say: if your Skip is blind- then , JUST DO IT!
Rocky

Dear Eagle Eye-
The problem seems to be that you and your Skip don't quite see eye to eye!
Remember, it's the Skips job to read the ice and give you the broom for the shot. If you don't even try to hit the broom how can the Skip know if the broom was correct or not? A good rule of thumb is to aim for the broom the Skip gives you and, unless you are a very experienced curler, you should not give input to the Skip on broom placement. A couple of things could be happening here- perhaps you think you are on the broom but you're not, maybe you are consistently narrow. Oft times it's a problem of perception. If there have been a number of misses, ask your Skip if you were on the broom, he or she has a better line to see where you actually come out. (Sometimes Rocky comes out on the broom and then does a little flip thing with his wrist that puts the shot wide. he thinks he's on the broom but it is clear to his Skip (me) that he isn't. So, he blames the miss on me and the broom when really it's just him!
Broomhilda von Skip

Dear Broomhilda-
There are SO many things going on, I seem to get a notice every week about things at the club. I'm overwhelmed and don't know what to do!
Social Butterfly

Dearie-
Nutmeg is a very social club, we're not JUST about curling here. A great aspect of the game is getting to know your fellow curlers. There are so many things going on that Nutmeg's Leslie Reiter produces the weekly bulletin so that we don't miss anything. Don't feel overwhelmed, just do the things you want to and 'note' the rest for another season. We are approaching the end of our 'on ice' time for this season but will have 'off ice' events until October when our ice reappears. Fit what you can into your schedule and lifestyle.
Broomie

Socially Inept One-
You call yourself a butterfly? I curl every night of the week, all weekend and still come back for more. Broomie is getting old so she doesn't do much other than her league but, she just misses out. If I hadn't paid attention and signed up for the 'Glow in the Dark' curling I never would have experienced a neon shot- YUM! get with it butterfly, spread those wings!
-The Rock

The Champs!

Over 75 Nutmeg curlers participated in the Club's first championship at the new facility in Bridgeport. Spirit's were high and the curling was great! From curlers with 1 match under their belt to the 'more experienced', every level of curler was represented. Organizers Jim Meinhold and Jennifer Stannard thank all who curled, volunteered, provided food and . . .ate!

Dinner at Tony's Huntington Inn Saturday evening had it's challenges but the food was excellent and the company superb. Of special interest was introduction of the Nutmeg Board members and their roles.

The warm room was full on Sunday as Nutmeggers new and old gathered to watch the finals. After all was said and done the Chuck Owens rink of Chuck, Don Nicholson, Ann Karrick and Britt Bisson took home the coveted title. Wonder who won the other events? Sign up for the Blarney Stone dinner on March 31st where pins will be awarded to all of the finalists as well as the League Winners!

College Curling Champions (Bridgeport)

The Nutmeg Curling Club College Curling program began in November. Twelve students from Yale University, intrigued by the sport after viewing the Olympics, ventured onto the ice for the first time at the club's new facility this Fall in Bridgeport.

In February, six of the new curlers entered their first College Curling Tournament with winning results. They joined a group of 31 collegiate curlers at the Broomstones Curling Club in Wayland, MA.

Team Canada, Skipped (Captained) by Yale Freshmen Ian Cutler of Northampton, MA and Edward Chang of Issaquah, WA paired with two other curlers, 1 from Harvard and one from Curry College. They bested runner up Hamilton College in the final game with a 9 – 2 victory going undefeated and winning the entire Tournament.

Team Yale Skipped by Michael Lindsay (Greenwich, CT) Matthew Lawlor (St. Louis, MO), Ned Hirschfeld (New York, NY) and Jeff Tierney (Great Falls, MT) finished even in the win/loss column and were finalists in the Third Event of the Tournament, losing 7 - 2. All are Juniors at Yale.

Yale Curling Club President Lindsay began the club after "becoming obsessed" with the sport during the 2006 Olympics. "I took a risk and got the team registered as an official club sport at Yale before ever even trying it. As it turns out, the sport is incredibly fun, and once people try it, the rate of retention on the team is staggering. No one who has tried it once has not come back'" said Lindsay. Jim Meinhold, who lives at the club, has instructed, coached and routed the collegians on (with a little help from other Nutmeggers too).

The team participated in the National College Tournament held in Chicago March 15 – 18th at the Chicago and Exmoor Curling Clubs. Go Nutmeg Yalies!!!!

The Luck of the Irish Lingers at Nutmeg!

BLARNEY STONE DINNER!

Curling for our final club event of this season will begin Thursday evening and conclude on Sunday.

Dinner will be held on Saturday evening at the German Club on Horace Street. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:15.

Awards for the Nutmeg Leagues will be presented at the dinner. (Special attendees will be the winning high school team from our first High School League and, the Binner award winners.)

Be there- don't be square!!!!!!!!!

$25 for appetizers, dinner & dessert- cash bar

Germania-Schwaben Club
416 Horace Street in Bridgeport- about 1 mile from the club.

The Grand Finale: Pull the Plug!

Following the Blarney Stone Finals on Sunday, April 1, Nutmeg's annual 'Pull the Plug' party. Yes, Jeff & Sally will truly 'pull the plug' and our precious ice will melt away but- not before we all get to do some skating, rock riding and general frolicking about on the ice. BRING THE KIDS!. Jim Meinhold and PJ Ferguson will be firing up the barbecues in the parking lot for a cookout! The real harbinger of Spring is the combo of Blarney Stone final games and the Pull the Plug so- don't miss it!

Blarney Stone Finals: Noon

Pull the Plug: 1:30

Questions?? Contact jenniferstannard@hotmail.com