The IceBreaker

Nutmeg Curling Club

WEEKLY ★BEST★ OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY™ READERS' POLL 2008

Nutmeg Curling Club
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Nutmeg's Charrissa Lin (r) and her team of Olympic hopefuls head to Denver. See Page 8

On the Bonspiel Trail

Broomstones Mixed Doubles
Derek and Charrissa went to the Broomstones Mixed Doubles bonspiel in October. There were 16 teams in all. The event was a great time - they host a marvelous banquet on Saturday night and they kindly have every team in an event final - so everybody plays on Sunday! They were excited to win the first event. Diane Muldowney and Joseph Smith also played in this event and they won the 2nd event - so a great showing for Nutmeg!

Gloamin' Spiel
Donna Purkey led her team of Bobbie Stoll, Pam Smith, and Naida Leslie to victory (on Donna's former home ice) in the third event of the Gloamin' Spiel at the Chicago Curling Club in January. Jennifer Stannard and her Senior Women's team was on track in the 1st Event, but got knocked out in the semi-finals. The 2-day ladies spiel featured 16 rinks (15 from the Chicago area) playing on 4 sheets of ice, super food and great camaraderie.

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Message From the President

Dear Nutmeggers-

Nutmeg is in full swing as evidenced by leagues, social events, the Club Championship, 'Curl in the Dark' and various 'Friendly' Matches with other local clubs. Your board and committees are working hard to make this a successful curling club; your participation, volunteering and sharing of ideas is critical. I thank you all for you do with contributions of time, talent and treasure. Our club is only as good as we make it!

January was a great month as Charissa Lin led her rink to a spot in the Olympic Playdowns while Jeff Hannon, Derek Surka, Angelo Marasciulo and Joel Leneker captured a berth in the National Mens Club Championships. Consider traveling to Denver (Olympic Trials) or Utica (Club Champs) to cheer them on. Nutmeg will be represented at the Opening Ceremonies in Denver not only by Team Lin and Nutmegger's traveling to Denver but also by a video developed by Joel Leneker in response to a USCA request. We will have a special viewing for the club to coincide with the Opening Ceremonies so watch for it!

Curling has a heritage that is just a bit different from other sports; the ties that bind curlers around the globe have their basis in time-honored traditions. Hosting the GNCC Senior Men's Championship last weekend was one way to experience those traditions. "A shot well executed is a delight to see", comes straight from the 'Spirit of Curling', and begins every rules publication of curling. We saw the gentlemen curlers congratulate each other on fine shots this weekend. Remember that in the throes of competition here!

Continued on Page 2

President's Letter (Continued)

These are difficult times, the economy is a challenge and discretionary income at a premium. In comparison to many other options Nutmeg curling membership is a great deal: you can curl in as many leagues as you have time for, equipment is included, practice time is included and there are numerous social and special curling events to participate in. Premier Canadian curling events can be viewed in the warm room and, you can bring your friends and family in for an evening of entertainment watching one of the leagues. A year's membership costs less than the indoor tennis season in our area and less than 1 week at a ski resort. You could sit home and catch up on television instead but, you would lose exercise, the physical and mental challenge of sport and, the camaraderie of your fellow curlers.

Need a weekend away? Try a bonspiel (competition). How about heading up Route 8 to the Norfolk Curling Club? Bonspiels are an excellent value- you curl, hang out with other curlers, are entertained and fed for what is a nominal fee. It's one of the best parts of curling! And people of all levels compete so no reason to wait until you're an 'expert'.

Details soon on upcoming Open Houses- bring your friends, families, neighbors and accountants! The sooner we reach full membership the better able we'll be to meet our financial obligations!

See you on the ice! - Jennifer

Going to a Bonspiel?

Don't forget to purchase some club pins to take with you. Trading pins with your opponent after a game is part of curling tradition and a great way to build your collection.

The Nutmeg Club pins are now located in the cabinet along with the other Nutmeg merchandise. Be sure to buy one for yourself!

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**Jennifer Stannard** jenniferstannard@hotmail.com
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In Memoriam

Gordon Poirier, a longtime Nutmeg curler who moved a few years back to Oregon passed away in October. Gordon and his wife Beverly donated to Nutmeg the lovely wall blanket with club emblems attached that now graces the wall to the curling rink.

It is with sadness that we advise of the passing of **Elisabeth Calder Childs** of our sister club, the Norfolk Curling Club. Nutmeg Curlers from years past are all familiar with Elisabeth and, the sparkle in her eye. At Norfolk's last Winter Wonderland Women's 'Spiel in 2007 she regaled all with the Tale of the Walrus'. Elisabeth was always in attendance for the 'No-Nut' cheering the Norfolk curlers on as they battled Nutmeg for the 'Championship of Ct'. Elisabeth was a pillar of curling in the northeast and, especially CT. She will be missed.

Upcoming Club Dates

Saturday, February 14	Curl in the Dark
Saturday & Sunday, March 7-8	Open House
March 12-15	The Golden Handle
March 14	Golden Handle Dinner
April 3-5	The Blarney Stone - In-House Bonspiel
Saturday, April 4	The Blarney Dinner - With League Awards
Sunday, April 5	Pull The Plug Party
Saturday, May 16	Annual Meeting & Silent Auction

Be sure to visit www.nutmegcurling.com and click on calendar for more activities!

2009 Open Houses

Saturday, March 7	**12:00 - 2:00pm**
Sunday, March 8	**12:00 - 2:00pm**

2010 is coming!

The Olympics will be held in Vancouver in 2010.

Membership growth was significant after the Turino Olympics and we anticipate an even greater impact with the Canadian locale and broadcast commitments.

This dovetails well with our goals of achieving full membership. Open houses and supporting activities will make the Spring and Fall of 2010 busy ones for Nutmeg. We are looking for additional participation on the membership committee to prepare for what will be a very big year for Nutmeg. If you are interested, please contact Andy or Jenn Sherriff or Jennifer Stannard and help curling and Nutmeg to grow in 2010!

50th Nutmeg Turns 50!!!

Nutmeg will celebrate our 50th year in 2010. You'll hear more as we approach the season with activities and celebrations planned.

To kick off the celebration of our 'Golden 50th', I am announcing a contest to design the Nutmeg 50th Anniversary pin! Open to all Nutmeggers, take your hand at designing a Nutmeg pin to be used as we celebrate turning 50.

All pin designs need to be submitted to me by no later than March 31st.

All club members will then be asked to vote on the pin designs 'on view' during the Blarney Stone (April 1 - 4)! (Winner announced at the Annual Meeting.)

Questions? Just ask!

-Jennifer Stannard

Corporate and Group Events!

Did you know that Nutmeg runs on-ice teambuilding corporate and group events? We do and, they are a great success. Contact Kathleen Blaine rwingsfanct@aol.com for additional information and, think about having your company or group have a gathering at Nutmeg!

Thanks For Curling Event!

Nutmeggers brought family and friends to the third annual 'post Thanksgiving' curling event. Newbies to curling were given brief instruction and the teams went out onto the ice. Great curling as well as seasonal poetic creations garnered points for the yummy prizes! After all was said and done the combined team of Shane / Pick captured first place,

The Lucas/Winter families took second, Naida Leslie with her family in tow placed third in a close battle with the Morley family who came in 5th. George Garafalo and friends took 4th place, the Suslavich family 6th, Mary Watters and her young charges placed 7th and Judy Raines rounded out the top 8!

Well done to all. Great fun to have a few of our junior curlers on ice as well as the many family and friends who were introduced to the sport for the first time!

Nutmeg Christmas Party

l to r: Terry Smith, Jennifer Stannard, Ken Donnelly and Jim O'Boyle entertained attendees with caroling at Nutmeg's annual Christmas party on December 20.

CROCS League Thanksgiving Turkey Toss

Jill Owens won the Sunday CROCS League annual Turkey Toss.

Plans for next year are under way to bring back some of the thrill to the event. This year's competition involved tossing hockey pucks to the turkey, in lieu of actually tossing the turkey. (This was due to numerous injuries in past years.)

Saturday Morning Open League

-If you were a Greenhorn, this league is for you.
-If you are a first, second or third year curler wanting experience playing skip or third, this league is for you.
-If you are an experienced curler who wants extra play and would like to meet our newest and most enthusiastic curlers, this league is also for you.

When: 9:00 AM Saturday mornings.
What: A light breakfast followed by 8 end games. A discussion on rules and strategy follow.

I encourage those who are interested to sign up and join in the fun. Make some new friends and sharpen your curling skills.

- We will accommodate walk-ins as room allows.
- Teams will be put together each week.
- There will be a spot curling competition to end of the season.

For further information: George Bagley, Chair
H 203 966-9919; C 203 973-7241
george.bagley@am.jll.com

Look & Play Your Best!

Special Prices on the NEJ Apparel Site!

Going to a bonspiel and want matching shirts?

Log on and check out what's available!

www.nejinc.com/nutmegcurlingclub

(You must log into the site to be able to see our pricing)
You can email our contact Alison Danzberger:
adanzberger@chaseedward.com or call to discuss at 203.463.3328

Three logos to choose from:

❶ Curling Man: $2.50 ❷ Women's Logo: $2.50
❸ Nutmeg Laurel Wreath: $4.50
Logo cost and shipping is added to all orders and shipped to you direct! Order with a friend and save on shipping!

Women's Pima Cotton Zip Vest -- Sale $27.50

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SALE ITEMS INCLUDE:

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Man's Polar Fleece Vest -- Sale $22.50

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To order all Nutmeg Jackets, vests, turtlenecks, anything you see in the cabinet:
Contact Heide Follin, bigwave2@optonline.net or David Hirx at david.hirx@gmail.com
Feel free to try on anything we have, all is for sale right off the rack or we'll take your order!

On the Bonspiel Trail (Continued From Page 1)

Curling in Hamburg, Germany at the 32nd Annual Hafen Pokal

On November 12, 2008, Jim O'Boyle (Nutmeg) took a team (forever known in the 32nd Pokal annals as Team USA) consisting of Trish Ryan (Nutmeg, Ardsley), Tim Klein (Ardsley), Ed Siebert (Ardsley) and Pam Siebert (Ardsley) to the 32nd Hafen Pokal Bonspiel in Hamburg Germany.

What follows is a little diary of the trip (okay more than a little), but the net net is we went 1-3, winning our final game. The first game was a tough one against Markus Klauenboesch, Switzerland (we won 1 end, losing 12-1), followed by a better match against our new friends from Zug, Switzerland (won 3 ends, losing 13-5). Saturday found us against a home team Streithorst losing on a last rock, 6-5. Victory was ours against Team Meyer from Hamburg, winning 6-2. Despite the score of the 2nd game, the first game was the only real "blowout" so to speak. Against Zug we were in every end with a chance to take or steal. Jim was just not able to match Herr Hockeler with his corner hit, roll double take-outs.

There was a full banquet on Saturday night at the Hotel with dinner, dancing, laughs and, of course, the obligatory cocktails. At the awards ceremony on Sunday at the Curling Club we were introduced first and foremost in the line-up of away teams. The final standings were based upon a rather unfamiliar points system for wins, ends and rocks. Team USA finished 25 out of 32. We plan on doing better next time. After our game on Sunday, the Vice from Team Streithorst invited our whole team to dinner at her house on Monday night. It was a special night of German hospitality. The wine flowed, the mouths roared, and even more laughs followed.

The bonspiel came together back in August when we finally decided to commit to going. Of course cocktails were involved. Jim had originally been trading emails from the beginning of April, 2008 with a curler in Aalborg, Denmark about attending their open bonspiel. The curling link on "Facebook" provided the inspiration. Aalborg put Jim in touch with Hamburg as originally the bonspiels were "back-to-back". But as it turns out the Aalborg 'spiel was moved to early September, when none of our team could make it. So we decided to go on to Hamburg, not knowing what really lay in store for us. Sabine Belkofer was Jim's contact as the Bonspiel Chairperson. As it also turns out if Jim had done a little more homework, he would have determined that the level of competition was lofty, as were Team USA's aspirations. After the "rangliste" was sent out, it appeared that there was a Swiss National Team, the 2002 Germany Women's Olympic Team (Belkofer), the Danish 2000 National Team, the Latvia Men's Olympic team, the current Senior Men's European Champion team, the Greece Olympic team, some assorted teams currently on the European curling tour, oh…… and us. Jim managed to keep these unimportant facts from the rest of the team until after the team arrived in Hamburg. Bier was involved in that little chat. Nonetheless we were there, at the Hotel Berlin in Hamburg. The Curling Club Hamburg was about 12 stops away on the "U" from the hotel, taking about 20 minutes. It is a really nice 4 sheet club. Ardsley pins and Nutmeg pins were handled out and most were prominently evident at the banquet. Invitations for the 2009 Golden Handle and the 2009 McKay Douglas were sent out to Sabine Belkofer after our return for distribution to all the teams. Hopefully, both bonspiels "at home" will have a European team in attendance.

A bonspiel retrospective: We had lots of bier. We had wonderful food. We had lots of laughs. We met lots of wonderful friends. We made some shots and missed some shots. We won a game and lost some games. But most of all, WE HAD FUN. Because we "always look at the bright side of life".

"PROST" to our wonderful German friends (curlers and non-curlers alike).

Jim O'Boyle, for Team USA

Big Chief Bonspiel in Brantford Ontario

Nutmeg Curling Club traveled north to Brantford Golf & Country Club's 46th annual Big Chief Invitational Bonspiel in Brantford, Ontario. This men's curling event, inaugurated in 1962, had a four game guarantee for 32 teams from Canada and the United States. The facility has six sheets of ice and a four-star clubhouse, complete with a white tablecloth dining room. Len Hannam and Bill Weir were the Big Chief Chairmen. Home Entertainment was provided by: Kirby Brown, Darcy Garbedian, George Roach, Ray Bednarz, Dave Kerr, and Ryan Cleaves.

There are was rich camaraderie, competitive curling and good fun. LouAnne Pauhl, a level IV ice technician, is the curling manager for Brantford Golf & Country Club -- ice making simply doesn't get any better. We had consistent 25+ second ice throughout the games AND across the entire width of the sheets.

Nutmeg's team was led by Terry Smith (Skip/Nutmeg), Jason Sethi (Vice/Potomac CC), Kenny Thomson (2nd/Cape Cod CC), and Jason Treesh (lead/Potomac CC). We lost our first game to last year's finalists in the first event, won our second game against the former ice maker at Brantford and

his son (GM at Brantford CC), and lost in the semi-finals to the winner of this year's second event. We lost by a single stone in the eighth end to Len Hannam's team in "the rat race", which was a point competition for the sixth event.

2008 Harvest Bonspiel at Philadelphia Curling Club

Sixteen teams competed at the Harvest Mixed bonspiel. Nutmeg curlers were part of three of those teams.

Elly and Karl Bockley curled with Stephanie Torta (Broomstones) and Ken Seiverd (Philly). With the luck of the draw, they played against both the other teams with Nutmeg curlers. They also happened to lose both those games and dropped out on Saturday night in the third event semifinal.

Pete DeJong played on a team with his brother John, sister-in-law Karen and niece Elizabeth. After winning on Saturday night against the Bockleys they went on to win the third event final.

Jeff and Sally Hannon with Rob Reihl and Nancy Ellis (Philly) once again reached the first event final for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, the result was the same as last year as they came up short in the final and finished runner-up.

Philly hosts a great bonspiel every year with lots of good fun and entertainment. A short three hour drive would reward any team from Nutmeg with lots of good memories and new friends.

On To Utica!!!

Congratulations to Jeff Hannon, Derek Surka, Angelo Marasciulo, and Joel Leneker for winning the 2nd spot to the club nationals for the GNCC.

There were 13 men's teams in all and the round robin play with tiebreakers forced the playoffs to today. Team Hannon had won their pool and played the winner of the other pool (Team Faircloth). It was a very tight game and, unfortunately, they weren't able to hang on for the win. So Team Hannon then had to play the winner of the 2v2 game - Team Tyner from Broomstones - to see who would get the second slot to Nationals.

When the game ended, Team Hannon emerged victorious!!!

The team will represent Nutmeg at the USCA Club Championships in Utica, NY. March 7-14

Team Lin Heads to the Olympic Trials in Denver

Photo Credit: Pam Moan

Left to right: Nicole Vassar (lead), Karen Walker (second), Tanya Jacobsen (third), Charrissa Lin (skip)

Exhausting. Exhilarating. Nail-biting. Character-building. Those words probably do as well as any to describe our experience playing down in the Qualifying Round of the Olympic Trials. From January 7th to the 12th, Derek and I each played on teams that were attempting to qualify to the Olympic Trials. Derek and his team of Tim Ho (Broomstones), Sean Murray and Ron Aubin (both of Potomac) were playing at TCC in Brookline, MA and I was playing with Tanya Jacobsen (Potomac), Karen Walker, and Nicole Vassar (both of Broomstones) with our coaches Joseph Smith and Diane Muldowney at Ardsley CC in Ardsley, NY. At each site there were two possibilities of advancing – the top teams would advance directly to the Olympic Trials in Denver, CO and the next few teams would advance to the Challenge Round, a "second chance" to qualify for the Trials.

The men's side had 22 teams playing for 3 spots directly to the Olympic Trials and 4 spots to the Challenge Round. They were divided into 4 pools for round-robin play with the top two teams in each pool advancing to the playoffs. The field included Pete Fenson's rink and Todd Birr's rink – both former national champions (plus Pete's team won bronze at the last Olympics and Todd's team won bronze at the world championships). Derek's team did well, going 3-1 in the round-robin forcing a tie-breaker game against the Mike Farbelow rink from St. Paul, MN for first place in their pool. The game did not go their way and the boys ended up with two chances to qualify for the Challenge Round. The bad luck continued on Sunday as they lost both qualifying games in extra ends. These experiences are always character-building, but sometimes we feel like we have enough character… On the bright side, Derek was able to make it back in time to watch the final women's game at Ardsley, where the real excitement was.

In Ardsley, there were 9 teams vying for 3 direct spots to the Trials and 3 spots to the Challenge Round. Included in those 9 teams were Patti Lank's rink, a former national champion, and Erika Brown's rink, another former national champion and Olympian. We got off to a great start rattling off 3 straight wins, including a critical win against the Stuhlman rink of Utica which was ranked 4th (we were ranked 3rd). Unfortunately, we lost our momentum and had a black Friday where we took two losses. These were critical losses as we had yet to play Erika Brown and Patti Lank. Our remaining three games played out according to seed (we lost to Erika and Patti, but beat a strong junior rink – Team Beebe) to end the round robin at 4-4. This left us tied with 2 other teams (Team Stuhlman and Team McMakin from Potomac) for the 3rd spot. To break a 3-way tie, the teams are first ranked by head-to-head (which we were all 1-1) and then the draw shot challenge. The draw shot challenge is the average of all of our pre-game draws to the button for hammer. We had practiced this a lot on our last weekend practice and did great during the competition – so we got the #1 ranking of those three teams. This earned us the "bye" and the other two teams would have to play each other with the winner advancing to play us the next day. Stuhlman beat McMakin in a very close game and we played Stuhlman on Monday morning.

The team started out a bit nervous and shaky the first few ends and Stuhlman took the lead. We regained our composure and played a much stronger second half making critical shots in the 9th and 10th ends. Down 1 without hammer heading into the 9th, we made some great shots, but left Stuhlman with a draw to the 4 foot against three to take her one point. Uncharacteristically, she came up short giving us a 2-point

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Achilles New Member Bonspiel

The Achilles New Member Bonspiel was held on Saturday, January 3 at Nutmeg. This year's champs (and winners of pins) was the team of:

Frank Aulenti, Jonathan Langille, Kelly Quatrella and Mariane Ruggeman (pictured above).

Runners Up and winners of Nutmeg crystal glasses were: Jill Owens, Gary Suslavich, Megan Suslavich, Chris Conley

Team Lin *(Continued from Previous Page)*

lead heading into the 10th. We had intended to play the 10th end pretty clean, but it got a little messy - so we ended up making a freeze on my first shot leaving us sitting 1 and 3. Stuhlman tried to execute a thin double, but flashed it. We tried to freeze again, came up a bit short – but had a good guard. She tried the same shot and moved our shot rock, but couldn't move either rock far enough to count two and we won the game. It was an incredibly exciting moment and was a great reward for lots of hard work this winter. Now we are getting ourselves focused for a good run at the Trials – we're underdogs, but we're going to work hard and leave everything out there.

Over the weekend and after we returned, we received so much support from club members – I was really overwhelmed and grateful. We are so lucky to belong to Nutmeg and very appreciative of everything that the club does for us – providing practice time and ice, sending positive thoughts of encouragement, and the warmth and congratulations after.

— Charrissa Lin

Editors Note: Team Lin will be heading for the Olympic Trials in Denver, February 21-28. Visit www.denversports.org for more information about the schedule of events and for purchasing tickets.

Etiquette and Speed of Play Top 10

1. Program the club's phone number into your cell phone: 203-615-0077. Program your skip's cell phone number into your cell phone. If you are going to be late for a game, call one of these numbers and let your skip know.

2. Check the schedule and know on which sheet you are playing.

3. Leads: Don't wait for someone to tell you to flip the coin. If you lose the coin toss, don't debate color preference— just pick one.

4. Get in the hack, clean your rock, be ready and waiting for your skip to call your shot. Leads: After the end—Don't worry about the score, getting the rocks out of the house or anything else—just get yourself ready.

5. It is the Vice Skip's job to determine the score at the end of an end. Do not interfere. It is also the Vice Skip's job to hang the score.

6. Sweepers: Get out of the way after you are done sweeping. Pay attention to what the other team is doing. If you are in their way, move. Also, return back down the sheet as far and as quickly as possible (stopping at the courtesy line). This way you can get ready for the next shot more quickly.

7. Front-end: Put your Skip's rock in front of the hack. If really pressed for time (and the Skip doesn't mind not having this as part of their pre-shot routine), front-end could clean the rock for the skip. Check with your Skip on this.

8. Front-end: Don't question shots when the Skip comes back to the hack. Most Skips don't shoot as well after the front-end questions their shot choice. Clarify the shot, ask for weight or rock placement, and then just go. If you have a concern, go to the house to discuss. If you have concerns about strategy— discuss after the game for future games.

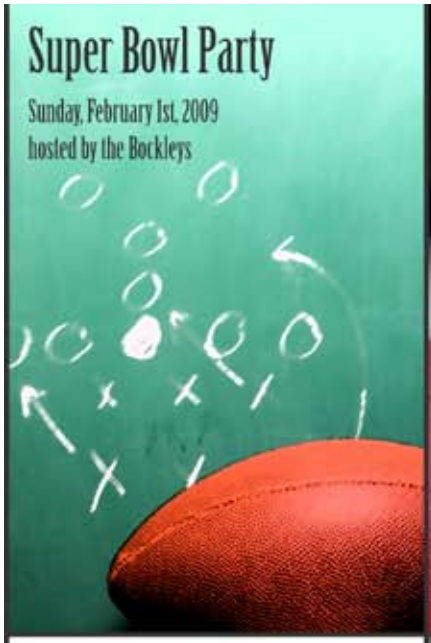
9. Congratulate your team and your opponent on good shots. Never cheer for a missed shot.

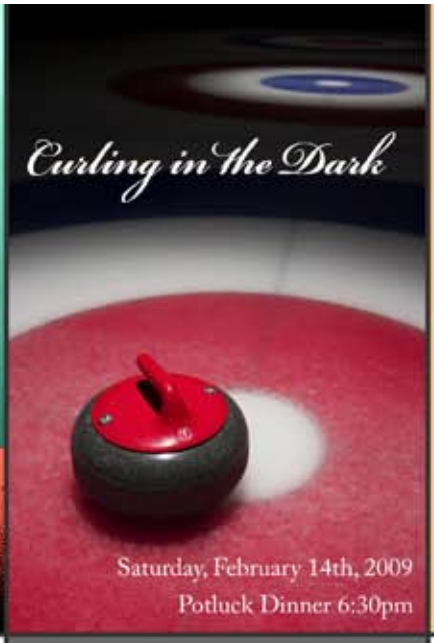
10. Shake hands with your opponent before and after the game. The traditional salutation is "Good Curling".

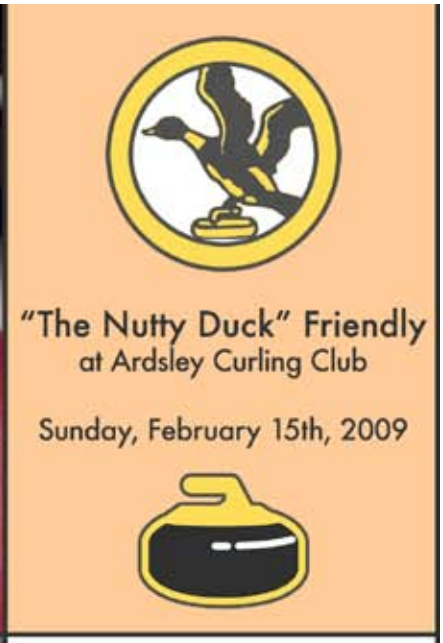
11. Bonus — if you win the game, Ask your opponent what they would like to drink, and then go get and pay for that drink.

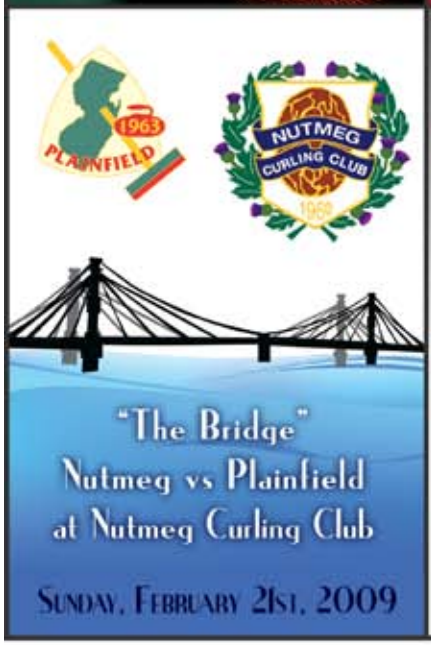
Note: Lots of time is wasted at the beginning of the game and between ends. If you need practice slides, get out there before game-time. Once an end is over, start the next quickly (skips call shot quickly, lead ready to deliver, etc.)

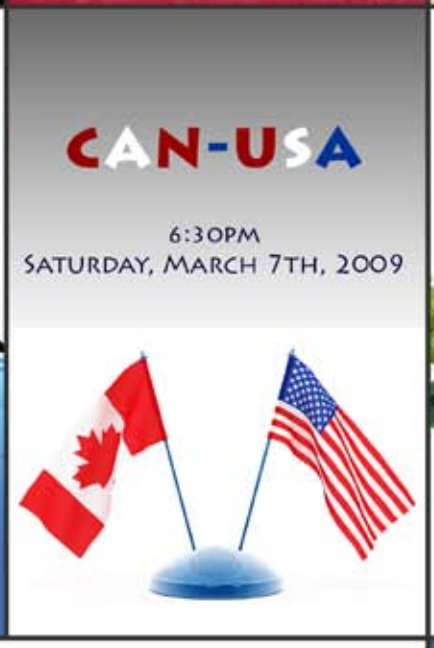
— Charrissa Lin











2009 WINTER
EVENT CALENDAR

Nutmeg Curling Club

NUTMEG CURLING CLUB 1960

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