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

Nutmeg Open House was a huge success! - See story page 2

City of Ottawa Men's Bonspiel

Nomadic Nutmeg curler Jeff Hannon attended this event with a team of Ardsley curlers, Gert Messing, Mike Murphy and Chris Banino. This is a large bonspiel of 192 teams, 16 events and a six game guarantee. The spiel is held at 19 different clubs in and around Ottawa. There are also Senior and Senators divisions to make a total of 26 events.

The bonspiel starts for local teams on Tuesday but there is an option for out of town teams to start Thursday. However, this means three games are played that day. Jeff and his team won the first game and then lost the next two. This

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Message From the President

Nutmeggers:

We end the curling season with mounting excitement about the future of the Nutmeg Curling Club. Our open house, which followed the Olympics, was a huge success and validates that we have a very large audience in communities surrounding Bridgeport. Construction is at last nearing completion! Our ice committee will do a test flood in June and over the summer we will paint the floor and furnish the warm room. Our target date for opening the club is October 7.

The membership committee is busy planning events and open houses for the fall. Publicity has prepared a schedule of media events to promote the sport and our new facility. And the fund raising committee is reaching out for corporate sponsorships and promoting new fund raising projects. Your board continues to work long hours to insure that our opening and inaugural season will be highly successful.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting. There is much to do as we prepare to open and we look forward to the usual level of Nutmeg support as we realize our goal.
— George Bagley

Nutmeg Open House

Nutmeggers in Bridgeport!
What a wonderful event March 11th at the Wonderland of Ice! Over 150 guests attended and, about 151 actually tried the ice. We surveyed the folks as they left and, they loved it! What a great start to our new life in Bridgeport.

Jill Owen's Membership Committee worked hard at planning

Nutmeg Volunteers are briefed on the Open House program

this but, as usual, it was the heart of the Nutmeg Curling Club that brought it to life! We needed brooms and- you came through. Many old brooms had a shot at the ice once again and Ardsley bouyed our supply with a few loaners. Founding member Bob Will smiled as he kept an eye on the activities and the many Nutmeg participants: From Sally & Jeff Hannon taking charge of the hacks and creating our 'demo houses' (and then moved into the role of sweeping instructors) to Mickey Manicatide on line control and Bill Shields as overall crowd 'wrangler' (and that was SOME crowd) to Joanna Owens and Terri Allens parents handling check-in to the end where Carol Lester, Sue Tattar, Sara Arbour, and Jan Arenander sold some merchandise and Dianne Muldowey, Lee and Charlie Mack handled potential donors — it was a true team effort.
On the ice, the experience of Chuck Owens, Phil Stevens, Jim Meinhold and Laura King melded with

Guests learned a bit about the sport before getting on the ice.

the relative Nutmeg newcomers Terrie Allen and Gail Cosman as they instructed our guests in the basics of delivery. Ardsley Members Mark & Susan Bussy also 'manned the hacks' and clued the folks

Over 150 potential curlers tried out the ice.

into the use of stabilizers. Barbara Manicatide, Herb Lester and Cleve Cleveland gave a bit of the history of curling and put the groups through their paces. Guides George Bagley, Dick Montgomery, Pam Smith, Trish Ryan, Angelo Marasciulo, Scotia

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NUTMEG CURLING CLUB

President	**George Bagley** gbagley@soundcommercial.com
Vice-President	**Donna Purkey** dbpurkey@optonline.net
Treasurer	**Charlie Mack** mackchas@optonline.net
Secretary	**Laura King** laura.king@xerox.com
IceBreaker Editors	**Terry & Pam Smith** terencesmith@smithsresearch.net pamkilbourn@smithsresearch.net

Important Club Dates

May 21, 2006 Annual Meeting and Silent Auction

2006 Annual Meeting and Silent Auction

Come One! Come All!
The Nutmeg Curling Club's 2006 Annual Meeting and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday May 21, 2006 at The Brewhouse, 13 Marshall Street in Norwalk, CT.

Cocktails & Silent Auction will begin at 5:00PM. Annual Meeting will begin at 5:30PM. A buffet dinner will follow. The cost is $36 per person.

Curling club members will receive the meeting notice, including a proxy in the mail. Four Board Members are up for election, three for the class of 2010 and one for the class of 2007. We will also be voting on new by-laws. A copy of the by-laws will be sent with the meeting notice. Please RSVP to Laura King by Friday, May 12.

Silent Auction - Be Creative! Remember some of the best auction items are a donation of Time, Talent or Services. Below are some ideas and thought starters:

Host a party! (Brunch, Lunch, pool party, cocktails, beach party)
Teach a skill! (Lessons for the computer, sewing, cooking, tennis, sailing, etc)
Provide a Service! (Babysitting, pet or house sitting, airport transportation, gardening, house repair)
Food Items! (Deliver your specialty once or monthly)
Special Talents! (Design a deck or garden, interior decorating, party planning, accounting)
Things! (Curling collectibles, themed baskets, jewelry, handmade items, gift certificates, or anything else you can think of!)

Auction Items:
Plan ahead to bid on the following items:

The Follins will be hosting a "Solid Gold Oldies" party at 5pm on Sat Aug 12th. The first 40 people to sign up will have a rockin' good time. Cost $30 per person.

Enjoy Summer on the Cape – Spend 10 days at the Mack's
Sleeps 10 in 4 bedrooms, all with water views; 3 bathrooms plus an outdoor shower; swim off the dock, use the 17 foot whaler, the 9 foot sailing dingy or two person kayak or just relax on the 42 foot deck and watch the boats go by! Available July 28 to Aug 7 (subject to change)
— Minimum Bid $ 1,200.00

Please help make this Silent Auction a success. Contact Laura King (call 854-9566 or email Laura.King@xerox.com) in advance, so that she can arrange for one of the committee members to pick up your item. Let Laura know about minimum bids or other details about your donation that will help her prepare the bid sheets.

If you would like to join the committee, please contact Laura.

Sunday League

Six evenly matched teams battled for the entire season … and beyond. At the conclusion of the last game of the season, rinks skipped by Diane Muldowney, Chuck Owens and Joanna Owens all were at the top of the standings with 4-3 records. The first tie-breaker – overall head to head standings – only eliminated the Muldowney rink. The second tie breaker – direct head to head competition – was required to declare a winner.

Congratulations to the Chuck Owens rink on winning the League Championship. Chuck's team was George Bagley (lead), Sal Marziale (2nd) and Jennifer Stannard (Vice).—Jim Meinhold

Nutmeg Raffle Report

The big winner of the Nutmeg raffle was our own Jo Duepree who won the trip to Paris, France. Luckily for Nutmeg, the second winner was only able to go to Lowell for the last two days of the Men's World Curling Championship and the third place winner was too busy to go at all. This was a great savings for Nutmeg in hotel bills and event tickets. The fourth place winner of the WOI hockey lessons donated by Lisa Fedick was Liza Bagley which she declined. The fifth prize for WOI skating lessons also donated by Lisa was won by a Cape Cod curler who also declined.

The financial results of the raffle were not as great as we had hoped. Only 465 tickets were sold (3000 that were printed) for $ 11,625.00. After expenses, Nutmeg netted $ 4,795.00.

Thanks to all that sold the raffle tickets. Special thanks to those who sold 20 or more tickets. They are Jill Owens, Jim Meinhold, Jennifer Stannard, Diana Muldowney, Gail Cosman, Jeff and Sally Hannon, Scott and Heide Follin.

— Charlie Mack

Building Update

14 Miles of Piping

The Cement Floors are Poured!

Things are finally progressing very quickly with our new building. The piping has been laid (all 14 miles or 78,300 feet of it!!) and the cement floor was poured on May 2nd. The refrigeration plant arrives mid May and after we wait 30 days for the cement floor to cure and everything is hooked up to our ice house we should be able to make test ice in June or July. The layout for the warm room has been finalized and the kitchen, bar and locker rooms/bathrooms are starting to be created in the warm room. If the progress stays on track we should be able to take occupancy sometime in June.

— Jeff Hannon Sally MacKenzie

Bonspiel News (Continued From Page 1)

dropped them into the 7th event. They then went on a streak to win the next three in a row and get to the semi-final game. The grueling schedule caught up to them in that game and they did not play at the same level as previous games. The loss in the semi-final ensured them of making the flight home on Sunday and some much needed rest on Saturday night.
— Jeff Hannon

Scott Tournament of Hearts
(Ladies Championship for Canada)

I had the exciting opportunity to attend the Scott Tournament of Hearts with Kay Sugahara and Ray Turnbull (TSN Broadcaster) held in London Ontario Canada in March. My good friend Georgina Wheatcroft and her team were playing to defend their Team Canada title and Georgina's family could not come so I came to lend some support to her.

When Kay and I arrived in London on Thursday, the top teams had already played their way into the tiebreakers. My friends' team (the defending Team Canada) was clawing their way to win their game and make it to the playoffs. Kay and Ray were sure to give me comments on every shot thrown by the girls and whether or not they would have played the shot. Kay and Ray never missed a shot as Team Canada was tied with Alberta in the 9th end (Kay and Ray won their game after 6 ends). Alberta was laying three and Team Canada took a time out so I dashed to buy my men some beer and calm my nerves. As I was purchasing the beer I heard the crowds scream, horns blow, feet stomping and I looked up at the TV screen conveniently located next to the beer stand (thank god for tape delay) where I saw Jennifer Jones make an incredible triple take out to be counting 3. I ran to my seat with beers sloshing all over me just in time to see the opposing Skip miss her draw shot and Team Canada steals 3 to win!!!

On Friday Team Canada played Quebec in the page play off three-four game which they handily won 10-4 after 7 ends. The girls had made it to the Semi Finals on Saturday to play against six time Champion Colleen Jones.
— Sally MacKenzie

No-Nut
The No-Nut Competition was held Saturday, March 4 at the Norfolk Curling Club.
Front Row: Jim Meinhold, Jill Owens, Joanna Owens, Patricia Glashan, Andrea Peterson
Center Row: Claire Peterson, Jennifer Stannard, Terri Allen
Back Row: Diane Muldowney, Anne Wiggins, Gail Cosman, Chuck Owens, Carl Peterson, Ed Tucker, George Bagley, Dick Montgomery, Greg Glashan

2005 Team Canada: *Cathy Overton Clapham, Jennifer Jones, (Sally MacKenzie), Jill Officer, Georgina Wheatcroft*

Men's World Curling Championship

The Nutmeg Gang in Lowell

"That was the week that was"

The idea to take a Nutmeg Curling Club bus up to watch the Men's World Curling Championship in Lowell, Massachusetts was a great one. It failed for all the best reasons! No one was available because Nutmeg Curling Club had the largest number of volunteers already signed up to work at the event outside of the local area. Fourteen Nutmeggers made the trek to give of their time and expertise to be a part of the world curling community.

From Friday, March 31 and the Opening Ceremonies to the Final Volunteer Party after the Closing Ceremony on Sunday, April 9th, we represented our club proudly. Charlie Mack was a key man in the Finance Department. Chuck Owens was Usher of the week, answering all questions with a ready smile. The Purkeys, Hal and Donna were the host and hostess with the mostest in the Hospitality Room. Jeff Hannon did his "stats" thing keeping everyone up to date. Jim Meinhold earned his stripes as a shopkeeper working for Goldline (sorry no Nutmeg discounts were given). He also ran the "Draw the button" contest that was held in 12 GNCC clubs in order to select the final 12 that would go to Lowell to compete. Diane Muldowney was relentless in her pursuit of autographs from the players, watch for the fruits of her labor on EBay and at the Silent Auction! Sally MacKenzie kept the media in line, making sure that no streakers got any publicity, just great coverage on the event. Jill Owens had the dizzying job of keeping all the volunteers in line at the check in desk all week. Lee Mack was in charge of the Duck Tour in Boston. Jill was allowed off duty to assist in this adventure, Boston's "ducks" will never be the same. Joanna Owens did her usual excellent stint as "Official Extraordinaire." Anne Wiggins and Jennifer Stannard managed to multitask by coming up on both weekends to volunteer, sandwiching work in during the week. Jennifer was our celebrity representing us in the "Draw the Button Contest." The pressure was tremendous, but she made it to the semi-finals. In that round, no one got to throw a practice rock first, only one person made it to the house. Unfortunately it wasn't our girl. As the US Men's Third, Shawn Rojeski exclaimed. "Jennifer, you got .....!"

It was a real treat to find all the competitors approachable in the "Rock Garden," the Hospitality Tent set up outside the Tsongas Arena. They posed for pictures, chatted with spectators and signed autographs willingly, especially our US Men.

We can all be proud of how they are representing the United States and curling. It was tough watching them get off to such a great start and just run out of steam toward the end of the week. They were one of four teams out of twelve at the Worlds that had been at the Olympics as well. Of those four, two made into the medal round, the US and Scotland. Speaking of Scotland, they had lots of fans there because there was a "Scots Tour Reunion" going on all week. As it came down to the Finals between Canada and Scotland, many Nutmeggers were seen cheering for Scotland. Oh, those accents and kilts. There were strong cheers for the Norwegian skip during the week as well, ask any Nutmeg woman why.

It was not all work and no play. When not doing our jobs, we yelled our cheers from our very own little volunteer section with support from Nutmeg spectators, Gail Cosman, Bob and Connie Will, Ed and Kathy Morley, Bruce Huffine and Bobbi Stohl at different games and times during the week. As curling ambassadors, we were all challenged to educate the non-curling audience to cheer for all good shots, no booing of opposition players, and keep the cheers "clean." It was reported that all the players got a kick out of the audience expressing disappointment when they deliberately through rocks through the house, not knowing that was part of the strategy! It was exciting to see the new enthusiasm for the sport we have all been in love with for years.

Great shots were made and cheered, some strategies were over our heads and the comment "don't try that at home," applied a number of times. New memories were created, old friends seen again and Curling was celebrated.

— Anne Wiggins

Nutmeg Open House (Continued From Page 2)

curling wannabees through the stations. Gordon Bagley smoothly managed the equipment rescuing brooms, grippers and 'slipper sliders' as groups exited to run them up to the entry point where new groups waited. Jill Owens, Jennifer Stannard and Anne Wiggins served as 'Rovers' making sure all proceeded smoothly and pitching in when needed. A couple of our guests were so smitten with the event that they stayed on to hold the brooms and return the rocks at the delivery station- what spirit! Making a pitch for the Fall 'Learn to Curl' membership and distributing surveys, Terry Smith and Carl Peterson were the last stop in the rotation- bidding farewell to the many who promised to return.

The results? 151 stepped onto the ice and 151 safely stepped off. 115 of them completed surveys with a 100% favorable rating on the event. (All but 2 indicating that they will return). A huge success and a harbinger of our future!

—Jennifer A. Stannard

CURLING CATCHES ON

Three venues being built at Wonderland

By JOHN W. OLSON

Curling, the slow-moving ice sport gaining popularity due to the Olympics, is coming to Bridgeport.

Members of the 64-year-old Nutmeg Curling Club soon will throw 42-pound polished granite stones with handles — often called "rocks" — on a 146-foot-long sheet of ice in a new Wonderland of Ice building on Glenwood Avenue.

The expanded Wonderland of Ice will include three curling facilities, or playing fields, called "sheets." The rink is owned by the city but operated by a private company.

One of the club's members is North End resident Jill Owens.

"I've been curling 38 years and I love it," Owens said. "I began curling in 1968 as a high school junior in Green Bay, Wis. I've been hooked ever since."

In curling, two teams of four people slide the stones on a 15-foot, 7-inch-wide sheet toward a 12-foot, seven-inch-wide "house," or bull's-eye, of concentric rings. Two players on each team use small brooms to sweep or brush the ice, without touching the stone, to help direct it to the target.

The sweeping creates friction that slightly melts the ice and keeps the stone moving in the direction of the bulls-eye.

Owens said a curling game lasts about two hours, with each player having 16 throws. Players win points for the red-and yellow-colored stones that end up nearest the bull's-eye after each of a game's eight rounds.

While most sports require speed, stamina and strength, and therefore are dominated by younger people, that's not the case with curling. Accuracy, strategy, skill and experience are considered more valuable than a player's physical attributes, and therefore many of the best curlers are older.

The adage of curling is "Easy to learn, but difficult to master."

Players also tend to be more civil to each other than in some other sports. They shake hands before and after each game, do not cheer when an opponent errs, and call their own fouls. It is traditional for the winning team to buy the losing team a drink after the competition.

Thriving on the sport

Owens' parents introduced her to curling in the upper Midwest. When her family later moved to Norwalk, Owens said her father "looked first for a curling club before looking for a house."

She thrived on the sport, which isn't as well known in southern New England as in some other parts of the country, especially near the Great Lakes. Curling is especially popular in Canada. "I was mediocre in softball, bowling and tennis, but found I can do well in curling," Owens said.

She added that the sport stresses sports-

(See "Curling" page 10)

Susan Bussey, above, carefully slides a granite stone while curling at a Wonderland of Ice event. Erin Schwartz, left, uses a broom to guide a moving stone on the ice.

(Photos by Audra Napolitano)

Bridgeport News 3/30/06

Curling class

Organizers were pleased with the turnout as the Nutmeg Curling Club introduced the curious Olympic sport March 11 at Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport.

"We had over 150 people attend, and the surveys at the conclusion were overwhelmingly positive," said Nutmeg officer Jennifer Stannard of Stamford. "All but two people wanted to curl again."

Above, Jared Maline

Bridgeport Post 3/27/06

News Feature

Nutmeg's Open House was featured in some of the local press.

To see the full articles, go to: http://www.nutmegcurling.com and click on announcements.

Let us know if you see Nutmeg mentioned in your local paper!