

On the button

CAPE COD CURLING CLUB
Falmouth, Massachusetts

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A message from the PRESIDENT



Todd Benedict

Fellow Curlers,

The 2016/2017 curling season is winding down and soon we will be breaking out golf clubs, boating and enjoying different activities.

Before we close the season, I want to encourage you all to get involved with the Summerspiel.

This is our major fund raiser and the main reason we have the lowest dues in the GNCC. The volunteer sign up board is in the warm room, so sign up where you can. If you aren't sure of your ability to volunteer in July, please show up during the spiel and help where you can. It's our club and it takes all hands on deck!

We have had several successful events this season with new names added to the trophies in the case. Congrats to all our spiel winners, a "well done" to our new Club Championship team, the Chris Mix winner, and all League Champs. Welcome to all new members who we hope are enjoying this roaring game and the fellowship of the club.

But it's not over yet! We still have winter session winners to crown, Thornton Cup play, and the funfilled Pull the Plug Party to look for ahead.

Fun curling to all as we close our season!

Todd Benedict, *President*

New Clubs Continue to Open Locally

by Russ Lemcke

Eleven of our passionate members spent a day at the Charles Moore Arena in Orleans introducing 64 wannabes to our favorite sport. There is great enthusiasm for a club there with leagues planned for the fall. They even have a name – Quahog Curling Club.

Also, the planned sports facility in Hyannis has approached us about starting a club there. For those who remember Dan Hazlitt and Justine Van den Huevel, they are in process of starting a club in Ithaca NY.

Making History: The GNCC Senior Men's Championship

by Frank Balas

Back in November the planning started expecting the usual 16 to 20-team event. We then went about laying out the schedule of events, responsibilities, notifications and invitations in our usual manner.

Since we quickly went over 20 teams early, it was determined that capping to a 26-team draw would work best. Signups soon became so strong we had to waitlist two skips who had previously won the spiel.

Planning and recruitment began for dinners each evening, breakfasts on three mornings, and lunches on all days along with a brunch on Sunday. A scrape schedule was set and hospitality planned food for 17 draws.



Second event winners: Steve Mojo (skip), Dave Nisula, Dave Garrison, Bob Reed

In addition, window plates, spiel booklets, a seeded drawsheet, and a steady flow of changes to team lineups kept us constantly busy.

Our club is fortunate to have a volunteer culture. The ice crew began their days before 6:00 am and the bar staff was open until after midnight. Volunteers worked hard at what was the best bonspiel I have ever attended. It was amazing, and carried it off in a manner that made it seem like a stroll around the block.

After the spiel was over I was informed that we made history! 26 teams was the largest GNCC Senior Men's Bonspiel ever held.

Congratulations to our members who volunteered; making curling history not with just the spiel size, but with the manner in which you carried it off.

It should be noted that several Cape teams played well. Special congratulations to skip Dave Nisula's team for winning the 2nd event with Steve Mojo, Bob Reed and Dave Garrison. And kudos to Bill Gallagher's team finishing as 3rd event finalist with Tom Ballou, Darryl Christensen and Artie Howe.

The 2017 Club Championship

by Krista Longnecker

From February 10th-12th, nine teams competed in the Cape Cod Curling Club's 2017 Open Club Championship. There were excellent games on the ice and the friendly competition was an enjoyable way to spend the weekend. In the end, the team skipped by Matina Heisler won the trophy which is the first time a woman's name will appear on the trophy as skip. This might be the only club championship in the GNCC where foil-wrapped packets of ham were given out as prizes. A special thanks to George Bagley and the Monday night league for running the event. Here are the final results:



First Event:

Winner: Matina Heisler, Krista Longnecker, Levi Gorrell, Wendy Scholes, Elizabeth Abeltin

Finalist: Steve Emt, Jim Woodworth, Ken White, Caroline Knox



Second Event:

Winner: John McCarthy, Nathan Adams, John Howard, Paul Rogers

Finalist: Tom Ballou, Steve Mojo, Darryl Christensen, Francesca Della Femine



Third event:

Winner: John Kenney, Phil Bruce, Gabriele Bruce, Martha Kenney

Finalist: Meghan Lino, Doc Dunkley, Griffin Dunkley, Truman Dunkley

Little rocker ladies big winners at the Petersham Spiel!

by Artie Howe

John Murray's contributions to our young curlers has been paying off in great results this season. These well trained and accomplished little curlers will rise to join as adults in no time at all. We must keep practicing as they may be skipping for us pretty soon.

Shown here are Taya Robillard, Lilli Feronte, Anna Bennett, and skip Vivian Bannister.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

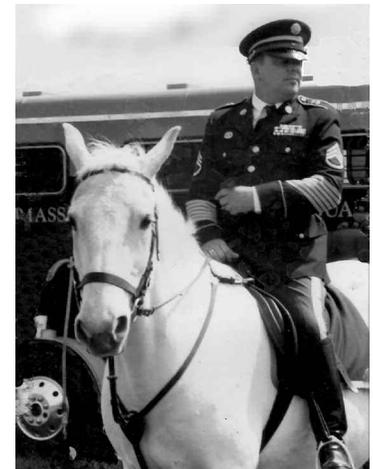
by Artie Howe

Jerry Lynch



Many of us know Jerry for his friendship, wealth of jokes, and his dedication to helping our wheelchair curlers in training. His selfless dedication to serving others is not new. Jerry served many years in a very special unit of the National Guard. I asked Jerry to write a short story about his experience serving.

The Massachusetts Army National Guard Ceremonial Unit was established on or about March 1982, as an all volunteer group of National Guard Soldiers. Its mission is to instill pride for those we serve in our community and camaraderie within our military ranks. The highest of missions, is to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Jerry Lynch in saddle on his stallion

In 1992, after speaking to my wife, I chose to become a member of this elite unit. For twelve years, I fulfilled a promise which is inscribed on my challenge coin simply stating "For them we serve".

As a rider my duties and responsibility normally started on Saturday with bathing horses, followed by a shampoo and grooming. Sunday would start at 4:00 am. We loaded horses, saddles, and all equipment needed for the days ride. We performed at centennial events in many a city or town in Massachusetts, often at the National Cemetery in Bourne.

The highest of missions, was to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The horse unit was an integral part of military ceremonies. Our unit had 7 Lipizzaner horses, donated from the Presidents own third Infantry Division Ceremonial Unit. Early in history these particular horses were trained for battle. Many of the movements the horse and rider perform, were part of the same training done in the early years. Its goal was to synchronize the rider and horse to become one.

To see these horses, please google Lipizzaner Stallions and watch a stellar performance of these magnificent stallions and their riders.

Curling is not a sport. I called my grandmother and told her she could win a gold medal because they have dusting in the Olympics now. ~Charles Barkley

Outdoor Curling at Canada's Bedford Open

by Mike Minior

The Cape team of Mike Minior, Steve Mojo, Dave Nisula and Joe Cammarano journeyed north of the border to play in an indoor/outdoor bonspiel at the Bedford CC in Quebec the middle of February. Our first game was outdoors on in 22 degree F weather under spotlights. The game was close but the Bedford team (eventual spiel winner) won by 2. Dave and Steve took turns with Mike skip-ping the team since how many of us can say that we curled in Canada and skipped a game. After playing the next two games indoors



Joe Cammarano, Dave Nisula, Mike Minior, and Steve Mojo

with mixed results, we headed back outside but into 42 degree temperatures. With last rock the Bedford skip promoted a Cape rock for the tie!!! Steve made a 3 foot negative raise takeout (called shot) to put us in position to tie. We then won our last game on Sunday. Our overall record was 2 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. We won "C" event and quickly hit the road for the border. Many thanks to our hosts (soon joining us for the Men's Summerspiel). If you can, give it a try next year – very fun and competitive as our neighbors up North seem to have mastered the game!

For access to Sandy McAra's photos:

- 1) URL: facebook.com/groups/158480440832622
Facebook search: cape cod curlers
- 2) Via the club website at: capecodcurling.org. Click on *Club*, then *Gallery* – oe email to: bigmac@novocsindustries.com

A very successful Scottish Invasion

By Todd Benedict

Nearing the end of their U.S. travels, the Scots were welcomed at CCCC through an archway of curling brooms held by over 40 members. A bagpiper and drummer played, and pizza was there for all. Lots of fun ensued until all retired with their host families.

On Saturday morning, the first teams were on the ice, while the remaining Scots went on a tour organized by Cathy Offinger to visit Falmouth sites and ending in Woods Hole. At the Oceanographic Institution, Jeff Brodner and Neel Aluru introduced the Scots to important research activities now taking place. This tour was later repeated for teams that were on the ice in the morning. Our guests were very impressed and enjoyed seeing this beautiful area. Thanks to Cathy, Neel, and Jeff for your time while treating our guests to this up close tour. Also a big thank you to the Steamship Authority for loaning us the bus, at no charge, to transport our guests.

A fresh seafood lunch was donated by Pat and Mary Kavanaghs and prepared by Mary Colacchio and her great

crew. After lunch the Scots spoke of their visits to many states and honorary Chairwoman Anne Dewees gave a brief history of our club. Peter Clarke's singing group, Notescape, entertained us with 5-part harmonies followed by our Scottish friends singing tunes as well.

When all games concluded, the bar was opened and smiling faces engaged in story telling and socializing. Soon, the bell rang and a hush fell over the room as "the Judge" made an entrance to hold a mock court. Usually held each day on tour, the Scot's dealt with such infractions as disagreeing with the skip, uniform violations, oversleeping and serious things of this nature. The judge, in a powdered wig and robe, sternly forced offenders to each pay a \$5.00 fine as laughter erupted through his courtroom. Even Todd Benedict was fined \$5.00 for having hogged a rock!

Special thanks all who helped and hosted our visitors. And most importantly to Russ Lemcke, who had the vision and unrelenting perseverance to organize the 2017 Scot's Tour on Cape Cod.



With thanks to Sandy McAra, all Scot's Tour players were captured in a single photo after the Saturday games.



An open letter to all from Tony

Dear Cape Cod Curling Club Members,

Our Wheelchair Curling Program has come a long way since 2008 when it was first introduced. We have had two of our teammates, David Palmer and Meghan Lino, qualify for Wheelchair Team USA and enjoyed representing our Great Country as well as our club at the 2014 Sochi Russia Paralympics. Currently we are poised to have Steve Emt, also from our club, be in the 2018 Paralympics which will be held next year, in South Korea. I am also very hopeful Meghan will get to enjoy her second Paralympic experience with Steve next year.



When it comes to Wheelchair Curling, this club is the best anywhere. We are very fortunate to practice on very good ice and have no problems getting plenty of ice-time bookings. In addition, our Able Body Members are very welcoming to our Wheelchair Members when it comes to integrating them in leagues. The experience they gain while playing alongside of all of you is so meaningful to their overall understanding of the game and the varying strategies used by different skips. I realize you lose a sweeper when you select a wheelchair member but what you gain doesn't show on a score board.

What's been mentioned above is very obvious to all of us but let me now take some time to give you the real meaning of this program.

Hope, dreams and the feeling of belonging and being part of something again.

When that unlikely event happens in your life that completely changes not only your physical appearance and functionality but devastates your mental ability to cope with what has happened to you, you lose hope and your previous set of dreams quickly fade away and as far as belonging, well, you don't feel like you belong at all. Some that experience these types of life altering situations reengage fairly fast while others take a long time and for some it's a day by day emotional rollercoaster ride.

When David Palmer was going to relocate to Florida, Denise, his wife spoke to the club at his farewell sendoff.

If you were there and heard her words you'll recall just how much our program meant to David when he first joined us. She is still very thankful today for curling and how it brought back a feeling of belonging again and gave him hope. It truly helped with his depression problems.

A few short months back we lost Ted Beriau to ALS. At his eulogy, his daughter Tina told those gathered, how while fighting ALS, her dad joined the Cape Cod Curling Club. She said how meaningful it was during a difficult and stressful time in his life. He was so thankful to have curled with us here and to have curled with and against the members of Wheelchair Team USA. I know I'm very thankful that all of us gave Ted something to do and to think about other than ALS and the struggles he would eventually come face to face with.

I hope my words give you some insight as to how I feel about this program. I've done plenty in my life but being a part of this program is by far one of the most meaningful to me. I hate asking you for more funding but when I see the good it is doing, I must ask.

Currently our Wheelchair Fund balance is in the low \$2,000 range and I would like to get it back into the \$8-10,000 range. When we travel it's usually 4 to 6 players. Hotels, airfare, airport parking, car rentals and rink fees which use it up rather fast. I promise you this, every dollar you give will be used solely for our wheelchair curlers for travel and on rare occasion's equipment. Unlike other charities, this one uses all the money for them, none for the club's general budget, just for our wheelchair curlers. When I travel with them I pay my own expenses because I value what you are giving to them and I want every dollar to benefit our Wheelchair Curlers only.

A few of our members have told me that they will contribute \$2,500 if the rest of us can match that amount. This is a great opportunity for our program.

Our Wheelchair Curlers have touched my heart and hopefully, I with them, have touched yours. If we did, you can help by sending in your tax deductible support contribution to the Cape Cod Curling Club and on the memo line of your check, reference Wheelchair Curling Fund.

Thank you for all your past and continued support of our/your Wheelchair Curling Program. Be proud... we have the best Wheelchair Program in the country.



Barbara and Ted Beriau

"A few of our members have told me that they will contribute \$2,500 if the rest of us can match that amount. This is a great opportunity for our program."

- Tony

A little history about...



The Curling Club store is maintained primarily as a convenience to our members with any profit generated being secondary to convenience. The store stocks a variety of curling necessities and a few accessories. We are able to sell at or below market prices to our members due to our ability to purchase at wholesale from a number of distributors in the USA and Canada. The store also covers all taxes and shipping costs.

The store is located on the back wall of the Club just to the right of the mens locker room and the access door to the ice shed. Prior to the Club renovation and expansion, however, the Store operated out of boxes stored in the closet and items that were available were displayed in a glass case located near the current bulletin board.

The store is run on the honor system which requires a purchaser to record their purchase in a binder, put the amount owed in an envelope and deposit the envelope in a secure box. In this day and age to be able to run a store on the honor system relying on the honesty and integrity of our members is a real positive statement about all of us.

The earliest records we were able to uncover are from the year 2000 when the store was managed by Scott Tynell. The management of the store has passed through many hands before and after Scott: Rita Ottaviano, Frank Geishecker, Kenny Thomson, Neal Hannon, Linda McCarthy, Dave Palmer, Coco and Ben Wellington and now Bob and Kathy Reed.

Although we now have a defined area for our store, complete with a door, shelves and a display space it is still pretty limited. But, we are able to stock a supply of brooms, delivery sticks, grippers, protective head wear, gloves, pins, baseball caps, sweatshirts, golf shirts, polar fleece vests, winter caps, replacement broom heads and broom covers. We have a limited supply of shoes including shoes designed for stick curlers and we can order shoes and have a delivery within a short period of time.

Managing the store has given us the opportunity to meet lots of Club members and become familiar with what is new and different in curling supplies. So, if you haven't yet visited THE STORE, please stop by and do some shopping.

– Bob and Kathy Reed



New at The Store!

Safer, More Comfortable Sticker Shoes

Acacia has recently introduced a curling shoe designed for stick curlers. Several members have purchased them and report they are comfortable and excellent on the ice. They come in men's sizes only and no half sizes. Women's size numbers normally equate to 1.5 times a man's size number, so a man's 7 equates to a women's 8.5.



If you do not find an Acacia that fits, Balance Plus has a stick curling shoe which is essentially a slider shoe with gripper pods on both shoes. These come in men's and women's, half and full, sizes.

We have a few of each type in the store and can order some additional shoes as needed. If you have any questions regarding stick curling shoes, or any other items, do not hesitate to ask.

The birdman among us.

by Artie Howe



Well known to our steady group of morning curlers, **Peter Rohner** is quiet but very accomplished at sending a heavy 45 pound granite stone down the ice.

But unknown to many, his other hobby and passion is the fine art of bird carving. One day, his lovely wife Louise was sitting in the warm room as Peter curled. I began a conversation with her and she opened up a bit about what keeps him busy in his retirement. Yup, it's birds... carving and painting them.

Louise seems quite happy seeing him spend his leisurely hours with this gratifying hobby, and is glad to see Peter enthusiastically embracing the sport of curling with his many new friends at the curling club.



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