

Happenings @ ACC

albanycurlingclub.net

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In this issue:

- ◆ *STRIDE* wheelchair curling
- ◆ Early Bird
- ◆ Bonspiel results
- ◆ ACC history

ACC Calendar

January 2011

1	Aruba friendly
8-9	Winter Open House
10-13	New curler training
14-16	All-American bonspiel
21-22	TAM playdown
27-30	Governor's invitational



New Curlers Corner

The "5 and under" bonspiels are fast approaching. The Dykes (men's) is 2/9-2/13; Kayser (mixed) is 2/24-2/27 and Childs (women's) is 3/10-3/13. If you aren't on a team already check out the poster in the warm room for others who are interested. I highly encourage anyone who can make it to sign up for a team. They

are a lot of fun. You will compete against the people you meet @ these bonspiels for years to come.

If you have a team and want an opportunity to play together there are openings in the Friday evening league for additional teams (men, women, or open) starting in Janu-

ary. Contact Martha Naber or Linda Felice before January 9th.

In addition to being at least 21 years of age, see below for eligibility rules for 5 and under from the GNCC web site. (particularly relevant for those who joined mid-year).

Eligibility: (a) Members having curled (5) or more curling seasons shall not be eligible to compete. Interpretation: (i) Ten (10) games per season anywhere constitutes a season; (ii) The curling season starts on May 1st and ends April 30th. (iii) Junior curling but not Youth Curling, curling experience counts towards the five (5) curling seasons. (b) All substitutes shall be governed by eligibility rule 8(a)-above. (c) Each participant is responsible for determining his/her eligibility. (d) The eligibility of team members shall be certified to the host club, using the official GNCC entry form, by the president or secretary of the teams club with respect to rule 8(a) with confirmation that curling experience includes all years of curling. (e) Each member of the team must be in good standing member of the GNCC and a dues paying member of the GNCC.

Albany Curling Club Archives Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help digitize the Club's historical archives.

We are scanning all of the Club's old historical records into our computer. We are creating a modern storage medium that will make the old records of the Club more accessible and that will preserve the records in a modern, digital, format. Many of the old records are fragile and must be handled with great care. Today, many organizations are using this storage and preservation technique.

The work can be done on site at the Club with the modern scanning and computer equipment the Club now has. Work times are very flexible and can be arranged to meet the schedule of volunteers. A brief instructional session will be arranged for volunteers. The work will be under the supervision of Tony Brankman, the Club Historian, and our volunteer history intern from the U/Albany History Department, Kari Santangelo.

An additional benefit is obtaining

greater knowledge about the Club's rich history. Remember all those funny skits, championship teams, and funky good times? Many are documented in our archives. Really. It's fun to see the old records and artifacts.

We need help because we have a lot of old records. Don't worry about being "computer savvy." Actually, it's not that hard to do.

To volunteer contact Tony Brankman or Kari Santangelo.

The Albany Tartan

This fall Albany Curling Club members may have noticed the new display of flags and banners near the Shop and stairway to the basement in the new addition to the warm room of the club. One of the new banners is a display of "the Albany Tartan." The tartan consists of a Scottish plaid cloth displayed on a pole. It is prominent among the other banners and makes a bold statement to observers.

Small pieces of the Albany Tartan were included as part of several of the early historic curling medals from the St. Andrews Society of the City of Albany that were recently on display in the Club. The medals were awarded to Albany curling organizations that were nineteenth century ancestors of the Albany Curling Club.

Some may wonder what this banner is, why it is on display at the Albany Curling Club, and what its significance is.

Of Scottish origin, tartan cloth is a plaid design, woven in thousands of beautiful and attractive patterns. It is a very versatile fabric and is used as a way to express ancient traditions in ceremonial events, in practical ways, or for high fashion. A tartan is often used as the fabric for a tartan kilt, but is also used for tablecloths, napkins, at weddings, as fabric for cushions, throws, upholstery fabric, carpets, rugs, and even umbrellas.

Tartan patterns are often associated with particular Scottish families. According to "The Bicentennial History of the St. Andrews Society of the City of Albany," 2004, "The Albany Tartan [also known as "the City of Albany Tartan"] is a variation of the traditional Royal Stewart Tartan, known as the Prince Charles Edward Stuart sett [distinctive pattern], first associated with the Stuart (Stewart) family when reportedly worn by the Duke of Albany's grandson, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, in 1745."

The Albany Tartan has historically been associated with the City of Albany and Scottish immigrants to Albany. It has been prominently used by the St. Andrews Society of the City of Albany, the Albany Police Department pipers, and for many years and in various ways in ceremonies involving the sport of curling in Albany.

The traditional blue and silver ACC colors and its flags, emblems, and logos, are not affected by the display of the Albany Tartan and continue as ACC symbols.

The Albany Tartan, along with the decorative staff it is hung on, and the other banners and flags that are on display in the Club, are gifts to the Club from a generous donor.

Thanks to Richard Powell, President, and Tony Brankman, Club Historian.

Early Bird Bonspiel/ACC Winter Open House

Early Bird Bonspiel

The early bird bonspiel was held 11/12-11/14. There were 10 teams. Congratulations to the Briggs rink (Briggs, Heins, Csiza, Garder) for winning the A-event. They were propelled to victory by a triple takeout by Briggs to provide a cushion they never relinquished. Congratulations also to the Koniowka rink who were A-event runners-up (Koniowka, Collins, Halligan, A. Petersen). The Conn rink (Conn, J. Campisano, Mashmann, Santangelo) took the B-event besting the Ryder rink

(Ryder, Bilodeau, Geis, Harris). A great time was had by all. Thank you to Dick Powell and Annie Peterson for co-chairing this event as well as the entire committee who did a fabulous job running this very successful bonspiel!!!

Open House

The winter open house will be held Saturday, Jan 8th 10-4 and Sunday, Jan 9th 12-4. The open house flyer is included as a separate attachment to this issue of the newsletter. Please make copies and post in public areas (your office, local stores, colleges...).

Invite your friends/family/coworkers. We have had great response to our last few open houses and have some fantastic new curlers to show for it. It will only be successful if EVERYONE helps get the word out.

If anyone is interested in helping out at the open house please contact Marilyn Hietala (warm room) or Martha Naber (ice). We welcome drop-ins, but need to insure we have adequate coverage for all time frames both in the warm room and on the ice.

ACC Board Bonspiel

The inaugural ACC Board Games, the first bonspiel of the curling season, was held on Saturday, October 23rd.

The Board Games were designed to encourage and reward those club members who chose to serve on the Board of Directors. The Games are open to past and present Board Members and Officers:

The format of the Games is:

—The current Board Members are divided into two teams, which play

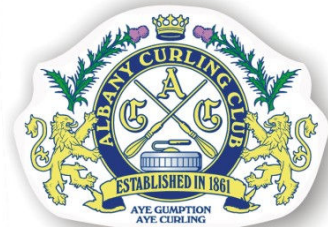
against each other in an eight-end game. —The winning team then plays against the Board Officers in the championship game.

—Any past Board Member or Officer is eligible to play as a substitute.

—Each participant receives an original ACC pin (see design)

In this year's event, the Board Member team of Brian Costello, Mike O'Neill, Kathy Sipzner and Gary Conn defeated the Officers team of Dick Ellis, Jerry Wendell, Marilyn Goldstein and Doug

Arthur. Also participating were Gloria Martino, Martha Naber, Andra Sheinkopf and Bruce Shultes.



Bonspiel Results

Bret Sentiwany traveled to Schenectady with Garth Mashmann, Mike Petersen and Dimitri Garder for the men's "10 and under" bonspiel Dec. 10-12th. They lost their 1st game and then won out winning the B event. Congratulations!!!!

Marilyn Goldstein, Wendy Berger, Kathy Sipzner, and Angela Schlie traveled to Broomstones on their viking ship to participate in the Silver Belles bonspiel Dec 3-5. They made it to the B-event semi-finals and dis-

covered the new world. Congratulations.



5 Albany teams traveled to Schenectady for the Carosella bonspiel in November. Albany 1—Springstead, Martino, Guzik, Hall-Finney; Albany 2—Goldstein, Naber, Drischler, Campisano (5th event winners); Albany 3—Gauge, Cooper, Davidson, Brankman; Albany 4—Collins, Schwartz, Heins and O'Brien; Aruba/Albany—Berger, Frey, Foster, and Martin

Juniors

Three Albany juniors went to the Broomstones Juniors bonspiel the weekend before Thanksgiving. Victoria Schnurr played with some friends on a Schenectady team - they had a good time. Joe Sipzner and Nick VanEck played on a Nutmeg team (Kent Suslavich as skip, also with Nick Glaser from Broomstones, whose family hosted the boys.) The boys were tied for second in their division based on games won, tied based on the second criteria of total points, and finally bested the other team based on the third criteria - shooting for the button by each team member -

by a total differential of 2 1/4"! So it was a close call.

A juniors team has been playing in the Friday league, getting some great practice in game situations. A big thank you to Bret Sentiwany for coaching (and to Martha for subbing as coach when Bret was at the SCC 10 and under!)

Also, if you see Emma Foster, Bret Sentiwany, or Megan Boyak - be sure to thank them for spending so many Sunday afternoons with the juniors. They're really making the program much better. THANK YOU!

CALL FOR CURLING SHOES

If you've recently replaced your curling shoes, we have juniors whose games could really improve with better footwear. With their growing feet (and student budgets), a donation or loan of your old shoes would really be appreciated. Men's or women's sizes. Please email:

albanycurlingclubjuniors@gmail.com with your shoe size or any questions, or just drop off your shoes in Kathy Sipzner's locker. We can even give you a receipt for your taxes!

More Bonspiels!

M. Naber, W. Berger, J. Campisano and N. Drischler traveled to **St. Andrews New Brunswick, CA** for a friendly bonspiel. They were treated to hometown hospitality—including fresh lobster right off the boat—by Nancy's cousins (was that your 4th cousin twice removed or 2nd cousin 4 times removed? Quick give me the family tree!) They curled well and got to choose their prizes off the "big" prize table as well as kudos for their costumes, song, and Santa "gifts".



The **USWCA Senior Women's Bonspiel** was held in Janesville, WI at the Blackhawk Curling Club from Dec 1 - 5. Our team was Roberta Crain, travel agent and driver, Flo Springstead, holder of the maps, Linda Felice, guardian of the broom bag and Gloria Martino holder of the coin. We started out flying to Baltimore to catch our 2nd flight to Milwaukee (isn't that the way

everyone goes?). Well, our one hour flight stretched into 2 with a "little" turbulence towards the end (God bless seat belts and Dramamine). Our first night there we attended a Dutch Treat Italian Buffet at the "Armory", which has been converted into a beautiful dinner theatre. We were entertained by the Blackhawk Boys. Four male members of the curling club who sang songs and told curling stories.

Before our first game, upon opening the broom bag, my broom was beheaded – two separate pieces that would no longer join together. A club member graciously let me use her broom. The next day the TCC team was going to Steve's Curling Supply in Madison. My two piece broom went with them and returned repaired, much to my relief. We went on the win our first two games. The third game on Friday afternoon started out well, but we lost which brought us into 4th event. We started all over again and won our next two games which brought us to the finals on Sunday morning. Results – R/U fourth event – which consists of a beautiful pin and a very lovely trophy – which will be at the club soon. We were piped on by a bagpiper and drummer; in green tartans which was very impressive.

During our down time we tried to get in as much local flavor as we could. We had lunch at a local restaurant HHHFFRRRRGGG's and a house party

Thurs. night. The Geritols got to have a taste of the chicken dish at their last dinner. The Friday night banquet was held at Rotary Gardens, where there is a huge illumination of their gardens.

Saturday we played two games (the draw was super), shopped and went to a local pub with the team we played (Blackhawk). It's a little sad to beat the home team – but you get over it. The Janesville Chamber of Commerce and the Blackhawk CC members held a wonderful bonspiel. We even had treats in our rooms when we'd return in the afternoon after our morning games. The hotel had wine and beer for us on Wed and Thurs for an hour or two. And "Emily" (GPS) did a great job of getting us where we had to go. Roberta and Gloria were also winners in the club raffle. It doesn't get any better than that. Flight home was great - Dramamine didn't have to kick in – but it was ready for action. — Gloria Martino.



Albany
Gloria Martino, Linda Felice,
Florence Springstead (skip), Roberta Crain

STRIDE Adaptive Sports visits ACC

Thursday, Nov. 4th ACC welcomed STRIDE adaptive sports. US Paralympic coach Marc Deperno led a clinic for ~8 wheelchair curlers. There was a full house to see their presentation and help out on the ice. The potential to utilize our facilities for wheelchair curling is very exciting. See the following article which appeared in the November 2010 Stride Newsletter.

“Although the post-season has ended in the baseball world, the upcoming season of one sport in particular is just beginning: curling. And STRIDE is proud to be a part of it! On Thursday, November 4th, youth and adult athletes with mobility impairments and in wheelchairs were introduced to curling through a two-hour demonstration and clinic held at the Albany Curling Club. Presented by the US Paralympic Curling Coach, Marc DePerno and US Paralympian athletes taught the rules, regulations and skills necessary to become curlers. Interested curlers may join the club for this integrated activity.

As a US Paralympic sport, wheel-

chair curling made its debut at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games as a medal event after its success at the World Championships in 2002. Paralympic wheelchair curling competition is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as amputation/limb loss, spinal cord injury/wheelchair-users, and those with cerebral palsy/brain injury/stroke.”

See <http://stride.zenfolio.com/> for more pictures.

Stride

Celebrating 25 years, STRIDE Adaptive Sports is a volunteer non-profit organization providing over 5,000 free adaptive sport and recreation lessons annually to children & individuals with special needs. STRIDE has over 250 skilled volunteer sport instructors, serving over 1000 families; and offers free programs in sixteen different sports and 25 locations in the Northeastern US. With focus on education in individual life-time sports, and employees funded through endowed grants, our annual operating budget is compara-

tively modest, and funding directly supports programs. STRIDE is an affiliate member of Disabled Sports USA, Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors; an official Red Cross Provider; New York Special Olympics, and US Paralympics Sport Club. STRIDE is recognized as one of the leading adaptive sport programs in the Northeastern United States.

In partnership with school districts and other non-profits, opportunities are provided to challenge people, potential and possibilities. Our most recent endeavor has been a partnership with Wounded Warrior Project providing sports opportunities to help restore shattered lives of recently injured soldiers and Marines returning home from battle.

Most programs are cost-free for participants. Scholarships are available.

See Stride.org for more information.

