

Happenings @ ACC

May 2008

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Martha Nabzr

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Coming Events:

Summer ACC picnic @ Doug Hadley's Sat 8/23/08 12:00noon — ?? RSVP to Clara Cabras, Marcia Codling, or Pauline Gaige by 7/31/08. Bring a dish to share and beverage...

Women's Wed AM golf league—contact Pat Frey if interested

Curlers and Friends Women's Golf League Friday's 4:30 PM @ Evergreen Country Club. Any woman interested in joining the league or would like to sub call Kathy Ryan, president of the league at 482-2717

A Yankee Trails day trip to Springfield, MA on May 19th for the "*SPRINGFIELD INTERNATIONAL TATTOO*". Call Yankee Trails for more information 518-286-2400 \$75.00 p.p. (Margie Stonner)

** If anyone has an activity this summer... let me know and I'll send out the info. I'll put out a summer issue if I get items to include!!!! mnaber@nycap.rr.com ***

Open letter to the membership—*Spirit of Curling*

While the main objective of the game is to determine the relative skills of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the ice."

The previous statement was taken from the WCF definition of the Spirit of Curling. I felt compelled to express my sentiments about the *Spirit* of the Albany Curling Club as our season again draws to an end. On many levels, I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors, both as a member and director. I have worked with wonderful, giving and talented people. It is also one of the most frustrating and thankless jobs I have ever done. I suspect most of the directors would say

the same thing. It is never easy to ask people to volunteer and participate. I acknowledge that we ask a lot of our membership, we are after all, a volunteer club. To those members (you know who you are) who always graciously say yes, I applaud and forever thank-you.

To the rest, please re-read the above excerpt. Is it really acceptable conduct and sportsmanship to say that you won't play unless you are a skip, don't want so and so for a vice/front end or that someone is too old. We all bring skills and attributes to the game. If someone is qualified to skip, does that mean they have forgotten how to play other positions, think no one else is as good or have you just gotten to lazy to sweep? (Now I know that some with health issues need to skip and have earned that right) Get a Life! Enjoy the Game and show true Sportsmanship!

Over the past several years, we have been working toward expansion. The

hurdle of 501C3 is over and Phase 1 plans have been posted above the fireplace. I think we all need to take a hard look at whether we are truly ready to expand. Are we ready to assume the costs of expansion if our membership is not willing to volunteer to run events, coach our juniors and little rockers, and participate in Bonspiels? What kind of example do we set for new members if current members cannot demonstrate the *Spirit of Curling*?

The membership needs to think about the future of ACC as a new board is about to serve and skip applications are reviewed. Ask yourselves if you really understand and demonstrate the *Spirit of Curling*.

Beth Jaeger

In-house Bonspiels

The All-American Bonspiel was held on Tuesday evenings beginning February 12 thru March 25, 2008. For the first time we played in a round robin format because there was room in the Tuesday night schedule to give this a try. Six teams participated, of which two consisted of 5 member teams. Play was so competitive that 3 teams tied for 1st place with 3 wins apiece and the winner was determined by points!

On our last night Hollis Felice prepared a wonderful soup which was served after the 6 pm draw. Desserts were provided by Marilyn Hietala, Gloria Martino and Kathy Sipzner.

1st Place: Pauline Gaige, Loretta Buchanan, Marilyn Hietala, Jeanette Davidson; 2nd Place: Gloria Martino, Gladys Ryan/Linda Felice, Marilyn Goldstein, Andra Sheinkopf. Other teams: Ethel Cooper, Cynthia Galivan, Sherrie Seeley, Heather Heins; Wendy Berger, Gayle Guzik,

Pat Loudis, Mary Arthur; Beth Jaeger, Winn Schwartz, Lynn Ray, Kathy Sipzner; Lisa Gallant, Roberta Crain, Johanna Kawola, Christine Gordon/Ruth Horton

The consensus was that the All-American should be held on a weekend, in the bracketed elimination format, as we have done in the past.

The All-American is played on the first weekend of the New Year. Next year the first Friday will fall on January 2, 2009.

The Horton Bennett was a cash spiel with light meals served. A total of 10 teams participated. 1st event winners were Brian Moon, Ed Vilt, Ben Atchison, and Greg Foster. The Sgarlata rink was 1st event r-up (Mark Sgarlata, Kevin Risko, Joe DeBella, John Sacca). 2nd event winners and r-up were: Jeff DeStefano, Mark Eggers, Mike O'Neil, Mel Abelseth; Bret Sentiwany, Steve Ryder, Doug Shandly and Gary Conn. 3rd event winners and

r-up were Kevin Ryan, Joe Hart, Steve Magee, and Ed Nunez; Ed Springstead, Ron Brooke, Rick Neville, and Bill Dever. Congratulations!

The Lad and Lassies bonspiel bid a fair adieu to the 2007-2008 ACC curling season. This year's event was chaired by Beth Jaeger with a committee of Lisa Gallant, Flo Springstead, Margie Stonner and Kathy Sipsner. Friday night dinner was hosted by Marilyn Hietala and Pauline Gaige. 1st event winners were Dorothy Euvrard, Mark Sgarlata/ Gladys Ryan, Lynn Ray and Joe DeBella; 1st event r-up were Joe Hart, Wendy Berger, Lou Euvrard and Howard Halligan. 2nd event winners were Gloria Martino, Jeff Shelley, Chris Abelseth and Ray Hickey; 2nd event r-up were Ed Springstead, Mary Brankman, Ed Vilt and Tim Gordon. Thanks to the committee for a successful event.

2008 GNCC Mixed Senior Bonspiel

It's becoming a regular event – an Albany team takes the first event at the GNCC Senior Mixed. This year Team Cooper took the Cooper cup (!), while GNCC Vice President Dick Macartney moaned about his inability to get his hands on the "elusive Cooper Cup."

Other Albany teams made a fine showing on their home ice, with the Ryer (B Event) cup going to Team Hovey, "McNamara's Band" (C event runners-up) going to Team Shultes.

Spiel Sponsors Maureen & Ken Rice, with Vice-Chair Marilyn Heitala, would like to express thanks to the following ACC members who valiantly supported this fabulous fundraiser for the club – including new members Greg Foster, who called the line-up for the "mini-rocks lead of

spiel" events, Melissa Wank, who along with Brian charmed all in serving Friday night dinner, Kathy Sipzner, who ably served brunch, and Matt Sundheim, who made yet another appearance Saturday to support his club. Quite a few spielers are on this list, in addition to the support offered by paying registration fees and representing our club in this GNCC Championship!

Spiel Work Crew Outstanding Effort Awards to: Marilyn Heitala (you go, girl!), Greg Foster, Brian Costello, Melissa Wank, Kathy Sipzner, Margie Stonner (what would we do without you), Jim Ramundo, Pat Lanphear, Bruce Shultes, Mel & Chris Abelseth, Mickey Quinn, Mary Brankman, Mary Arthur, Bea Ordon, Nancy Drischler, Yvonne Bilodeau, Loretta Buchanan,

Matt Sundheim, Pauline Gaige, Joy Campisano, Joy Harding, Ro Mulligan, Doug Hadley, Red Brownell, Mark Sgarlata, Clara Cabesas, Jeff Di Stefano, Pat Loudis, Jerry Wendel, Hollis Felice, and...of course, need it be said, Art Nuss and Ed Springstead for fabulous ice.

Your efforts brought more than \$2,200 to our club, enough to pay for our great new heater.

Again, thanks to all. You guys "rock."

Maureen Rice Sponsor, Chair, GNCC Senior Mixed Championships

2008 Annual Meeting (unofficial)

The 2008 Annual meeting was held Tuesday, April 22nd. Approximately 55 members attended.

President Dave Ryan called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who have been lost.

Maureen Rice presented information from the membership committee. It was noted that we NEED to grow our membership to maintain a viable club. A survey was handed out asking member's opinion on a number of items regarding the club.

Treasurer Mike Loudis presented the treasurer's report. He noted that energy costs have increased by 45% over the past 3 years (while maintaining stable usage). We are approximately \$3000 in the red this year while maintaining ~26K in the reserve fund and ~6K in the capital fund.

Dave Ryan then presented a summary of changes this year.

1) Script books—these were introduced in an attempt to increase cash flow in the 1st half of the year (where ~60-70% of costs are incurred) yet only 1/2 of dues are collected as well as increase participation in in-house bonspiels.

2) The board obtained new quotes for our insurances (liquor, liability) saving a significant \$\$ while improving our coverage

3) Kudos were extended to those who were integral to the application for and approval of 501(c)3.

4) 2 events were held this year in conjunction with Schenectady. The Dykes and the Gordon International. These events brought in much needed capital to our club and both were highly successful!

5) Next year there may have to be a dues increase ~50\$—although this has NOT been officially decided, yet.

6) Capital Improvement:

a) VERY GENEROUS donations have been pledged by 2 of our members for capital improvement. Bruce Shulteis pledged \$25,000 and Jeff Distefano pledged \$5000. This certainly kicks off our capital campaign!! Heartfelt sincere thanks to both.

b) The building permit from the town of Guilderland will expire in the fall. We have already received 1 extension. We can apply for another, but it is possible that it will NOT be granted and we will have to start the approval process all over. The 1st stage of our capital improvement project is to enlarge the warm room. The estimated cost is ~70K although we do not have firm bids yet. Much discussion ensued about the lack of funds in the capital improvement fund to cover this 1st phase of our construction and how we should proceed. It was approved by voice vote to draw up firm plans and then obtain bids for warm room expansion and reconvene a special meeting to vote on same.

The 2nd phase of construction is to move the equipment shed to the other side of the house to allow room for expansion. The estimated cost for Phase 2 is ~70K.

The 3rd Phase of our construction would be to add 1-2 sheets at a cost of ~450-500K. The current drawings are posted in the club by the fireplace. The estimated # of members needed to support a 4 sheet club is ~280.

The nominating committee submitted nominations for club officers: Pres.—Dave Ryan, women's VP—Nancy Drischler, men's VP—Jerry Wendel; treasurer—Mike Loudis; secretary—Dorothy Euvrard. Board members—Roberta Crain, Kevin Risko, and Sherrie Seeley. No nominations from the floor were offered and all nominations were approved by voice vote. Dave Ryan extended a special thanks to Margie Stonner who prepared a very professional booklet with the history of the Gordon International to all curlers at the bonspiel which made ACC look good!

Jerry Wendel gave the bar report. The bar made a net profit of ~\$7K on sales of ~\$20K (thanks for your work, Jerry)

Pauline Gage presented the capital improvement committee report. A mailing will be sent to the general membership in the near future regarding fund raising for capital improvement. In addition there are plans to hold a corporate challenge next year.

Ice—Art Nuss has graciously agreed to do the ice for 1 more year. We need someone (some people?) to step up to learn how to do the ice for next year. Preferably someone retired or who has time off during the day when the ice is

2008 Annual Meeting cont.

prepared. The expense of paying an outside person to take care of the ice is prohibitive and would easily run into the thousands of dollars for the year.

Cleaning—Mark Sgarlatta has been cleaning the club this past year. It was pointed out that to outsource this would be very expensive. Mark has also agreed to stay on for another year. Thanks Mark.

Beth Jaeger presented information about in-house bonspiel participation. The following teams participated: Early Bird—12; Valentine's—9; Lads & Lassies—12. In all cases participation is down. The bonspiels are a source of income to the club (besides a lot of fun) and people were encouraged to participate. She also supplied info re: GNCC dues.

Jerry Wendel gave an update on men's curling. He said having 2

draws for the men's leagues worked very well and was well received.

Joe Hart (in absentee) gave a rules report

Vince Spataro—the alcohol beverage control officer for the club—reminded everyone to maintain responsible behavior (as has been the norm) as the bar provides much revenue and social activity for the club.

Pat Frey wanted to let everyone know there is a women's golf league Wed AM's for anyone interested.

Joy Harding reviewed the pin sponsorship program and need for sponsors as soon as next year (see last issue for more details).

Pat Lanphear gave a report of the club store. The store made a profit of \$1187.

In closing Jeff DiStefano presented Austin Cline an engraved curling stone in thanks for his 50 years of dedication to the club as well as the sport of curling in general. Austin thanked him and also remarked that Marilyn would also have been curling for 50 years if not for the accident which took her out of action 2 years ago. (I think the club should be proud and grateful to have Austin and Marilyn Cline represent our club for the past 50 years! I believe I speak for the membership when I say "it has been a privilege to know you, learn from you, and curl with you. Thank you for the friendship, fellowship, and knowledge you have shared with all of us.")

Miscellaneous, thanks, and OOPS!!!

***Sincerest apologies to Jerry and Gayle Guzik who were an integral part of the Valentines Day bonspiel committee and were inadvertently left off the list. Big Belated Thanks!!!!!! (Jerry, did you come up with the "cutie pies???)

Many thanks to the ACC members for the cards, phone calls and other words of sympathy on the death of my brother
Pauline Gaige

***Congratulations to Jeanette Davidson on her new job with the NYS Labor Dept. in Troy, beginning in May.

****Nancy Drischler and Jerry Wendel will be setting the club calendar for next year over the summer. If you have an event that you want to schedule for NEXT SEASON let Jerry or Nancy know ASAP

****On Monday March 31, Some of the Day Curlers joined some Schenectady Ladies to try to re-establish the SAL. (Schenectady-Albany Ladies). Mary Brankman, Pat Frey, Pat Loudis, Nancy Drischler and Margie Stonner went to the Schdy Club to enjoy their hospitality.

We played 2 sheets of friendly 6 ends

and then enjoyed a Champagne brunch. They put out a great spread which will be hard to beat.

We hope to have 6 to 8 women, or men if they would like to join in, to have the league in the fall. Albany has promised to kick it off and then we will alternate between the 2 clubs twice a month.

Past Winners??

Roger Cooper is updating all the plaques on the walls with winners of events for the past 10 years.

If anyone knows the missing teams/individuals for the following events PLEASE let Roger know.

Horton Bennett

1st event 2000
2003 (who's Duncan?)
2nd event 2000
2001
3rd event 2000
2001
2003 (who's Treanor?)

Early Bird

1st event 1996
2004 (Mel Abelseth is skip)
2nd event 1996 (with Joe Hart)
2001
2004 (with Brian Moon)

Weekly women's league

All winners 2000 and later

Weekly men's league

All winners 2000 and later

Capital Improvement Committee

The Capital Improvement committee met on April 29th. Now that 501(c) 3 has been approved the capital campaign can really start to roll. Many of the events that were planned for last year had to be put on hold awaiting 501(c)3.

The capital campaign got off to a great start with the VERY GENEROUS donations from Bruce Shultes and Jeff DiStefano announced at the annual meeting!! The following are briefly some of the other activities planned:

Fundraising letter of the general membership will serve as a harbinger to the success of the entire campaign. The letter will be sent out from the board shortly.

Car Wash—Wendy Berger wants to thank everyone for participating in the Hoffman Car Wash fundraiser. Over \$1800 has been collected so far for the

Capital Campaign Fund. The car wash coupons will continue to be available throughout the year. If any members would like to get coupons at no charge to sell to their neighbors, friends, or co-workers, please call or email Wendy (H 459-1860, W 800-332-5455 X369595; wberger@nycap.rr.com).

Corporate Challenge—We are planning a corporate challenge for next season. The plan is for 8 teams to participate in the fall. Each team would consist of 3 members from the corporation with the skip being supplied from ACC. We are looking for individuals who will approach their own (or other) company. An informational flyer is being finalized and will be available for anyone who is interested. This can be a MAJOR fundraiser for ACC and needs member participation to be successful. If we get a full com-

plement of 8 teams in the fall we would like to repeat it in the spring. (Each challenge will net the club ~\$6000)

Capital Campaign Pins—Pins designed specifically for the capital campaign are being developed—if anyone is artistic or has a great idea for the pin... please share it!

To help with ANY of the aforementioned get in touch with one of the committee members (Pauline Gaige, Nancy Drischler, Kevin Risko, Donna Magee, Martha Naber, Wendy Berger, Mark Eggers, Pat Lanphear, Art Nuss, Lou Horton, Flo Springstead, Margie Stonner)

Our next meeting will be in June