
PORTAGE CURLING CLUB

2018-2019 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Hello Curlers,

The 2018/2019 curling season is fast approaching. Hard to believe another summer has flown by, but the time has come to start getting the club ready for the season. As is typical, we will be shooting to have ice ready to curl around November 1st. Last year we again made a concerted effort to have everyone track their volunteer hours for the year. We intend to continue that again this year. Binders will once again be found near the front door with a sheet for each curler to track their volunteer time. Nobody gets paid to make this club run, so volunteer work is critical. Ice making, cleaning, coordinating, juniors, bonspiels, ice maintenance, equipment maintenance, and anything else that gets done around the club is done by a member who volunteered their time. Every member should strive to contribute a minimum of 10 hours over the course of the year. Last season, 1163 total hours were logged, and again there was a fair number of hours that were not entered. Last year, we did a random drawing each month for a \$50 gold card gift certificate. This year, as an incentive for putting in volunteer time, members will be awarded one free calendar raffle entry for every 5 hours of volunteer time logged, with a maximum of 5 free calendars for the year.

NEW THIS YEAR – 5 Rock Free Guard rule. Last fall, both the world curling federation and Canadian curling, decided to adopt a 5 rock free guard rule rather than the existing 4 rock rule. This has also been adopted by USA curling, as well as most clubs in the USA. The Portage Curling Club will also be adopting this variation of the rule starting with the 2018 season.

As part of the junior camp in early November this year, if interest supports it, there will be a session on adult skills building with John Benton, former Olympic curler. More information regarding timing and cost will be available closer to the season. Contact Jim Shlimovitz with questions.

Last year, we tried a few different ideas to help raise some extra money. Some were successful, and some were not, but the point was to try and raise additional money to help keep the cost of membership from rising. The booze raffle brought in an extra \$1600 and the 5 and under bonspiel brought in over \$2000, so both were successful. As is always the case, the alumni bonspiel was again very successful, allowing the alumni to again contribute funds back to the club for improvements. The new beer cooler was donated from the alumni late last year, and they contributed toward the purchase of sensors to measure ice temperature this year. The booze raffle will not be returning this year in the form it was last year but may make a limited appearance toward the end of the year for the last few weeks of the season and for the Alumni. The 5 and under bonspiel will be back for a second year. We would like to try to get a full field of 16 teams this year and continue to have it be an annual bonspiel.

For any members who like to shop on Amazon, were you aware you could raise money for the curling club just through your normal purchases without any additional cost to you? Through the Amazon Smile program, Amazon donates a small percentage of purchases to qualified organizations. All it takes is to go to smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases and choose Portage curling club as the organization you would like to support. Your purchases don't cost any more, and as long as you continue to go to smile.amazon.com, you will continue to raise money for the club.

In closing, remember that curling is a sport of respect, socialization, and competition. Please be respectful of other curlers, regardless of whether or not they are new or have been curling for 30 years. Help new members learn the game, make them feel welcome, let them know how they can volunteer some time, and teach them rules and strategy. We should all be stewards of the sport and help it grow. I look forward to another great year of curling.

John Schultz

CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 27th, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon is clean-up day at the club. This is the day we dust trophy cases and chairs, vacuum, clean out the cupboards, clean bathrooms, floors, etc. The more people that help, the faster it gets done. It is also another option to get some volunteer hours on the books. Bloody Mary's will be available for the helpers as well.

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| President: | John Schultz | 608-225-2395 |
| Vice President: | Hank Egan | 608-393-7955 |
| Secretary: | Kyle Dumbleton | 608-445-6645 |
| Treasurer: | Vietta Kampen | 608-697-6510 |
| Director: | Andy Murphy | 608-963-9452 |
| Director: | Natalie James | 608-697-5355 |
| Director: | Chris Rietmann | 608-566-5140 |
| Building Chairs: | Andy Murphy and Kyle Dumbleton | |
| Ice Chair: | Steve Benck | 608-617-9884 |
| Kitchen Chair: | Val Nehls | 608-921-6468 |
| Long Range Planning: | Kyle Dumbleton and Andy Murphy | |
| Ice Making Equipment: | Ken Ryczek | |
| Ice Making: | Steve Benck | |
| Rating Committee: | Steve Dubberstein, Mark Considine, Joel Caulum, Dan Brunt | |

Our State and National Curling Representatives:

USWCA: Stacie Heberlein
Columbia County: Bob Daly
WSCA: Jim Schlimovitz
BWCA: Vietta Kampen

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Calendar of Events

Wednesday work nights at 6:00 starting **Sep 26th** – preparations for ice making

Oct 8 (subject to change) – Ice Making Starts

Oct 20th – Junior curling signup 8:00-12:00

Oct 27th – Club Cleanup 8:00 – 12:00

Oct 27th – Fall meeting 5:00 – 7:00

Nov 3 – Junior curling camp during day, Adult skills class in evening

Nov 7 – Skip meeting – 6:30

Nov 10 – Tons of Fun bonspiel

Dec 1 – Varsity open

Dec 7-9 – Junior Nationals Qualifier

Jan 5-6 – College Bonspiel

Jan 19-20 – Junior Bonspiel

Feb 8-10 – 5 and Under bonspiel

Mar 4-7 – Club Playdowns

Mar 8-9 – Alumni Bonspiel

ICE MAKING

Ice making is scheduled to begin sometime in the first week of October. It is very dependent on temperatures outside. If it is really warm out, we won't start as soon. The entire process takes about three weeks. Work takes place most nights starting at 7:00. Steve Benck will be coordinating the signup process as he has in the past. Traditionally, members lend a hand at least one night during the process. It is a good way to get some volunteer hours. There is plenty of work to be done, and knowledge of the process is not a requirement. There will always be somebody on the crew that can show you what needs to be done. Initial Ice making is a good opportunity for Skips to get the team together for a night of ice making and get ready for the season.

We would like to try to make the ice more consistent during the playing season this year as last year saw its share of ice issues. Most of the issues come from inconsistency with scraping and pebbling. We would like to get everyone on the same page this year so we can have the best ice possible. Everyone that prepares ice for leagues will need to follow the same process. We hope to put together some ice prep training for those interested in helping with ice when we get closer to the season. At the very least, we will put together some more detailed instructions on pebbling and scraping expectations.

Contact Steve Benck at 617-9884 or benck.steve@gmail.com if you have questions.

CLUB DUES

1st Year member: \$150

2nd Year member: \$215

3rd Year & over Member: \$265

Family: \$595

Jr. Member (in adult leagues): \$125

Social Membership: \$50

½ year leagues \$120/league

(non-member dues, sub rules apply)

Saturday Juniors: \$30, Returning Saturday Juniors: \$60

Locker Rental: \$30

If a junior member will be competing in a USCA event, they will be responsible for paying the USCA dues of \$25.00 at the beginning of the curling season as well. **Encourage your friends to join. There is a fund available to pay for the dues of a limited number of new curlers.**

JUNIOR CURLING PROGRAM

Junior curling sign-up - Saturday, October 27, from 8-11 AM

Parents will also be asked to sign up to help on ice and to bring snacks. We will again use SignUp.com for this.

Beginners: Saturdays 9:00 – 10:00

This level is primarily for youth ages 6 to 8. Most of these curlers will be new to curling or returning curlers who still need to work on skills. Curlers will learn basic delivery skills, ice safety, ice etiquette and sportsmanship.

Intermediate: Saturdays 10:00 – 11:00

This level is primarily for youth ages 8 to 10. The majority have learned the basic skills and are ready to put them to use. Sliding, balance, delivery, sweeping skills will be emphasized. As the season progresses students will play half sheet games and learn basic strategy. Some curlers may be moved up into the developmental group once they are able to consistently throw the stone to the other end with a balanced delivery.

Developmental: Saturdays 11:00 – 12:00

This level is for middle school curlers with limited experience. Time will be spent learning or perfecting deliveries, sweeping skills, strategy, etiquette, sportsmanship, and half-sheet and full sheet game play. As curlers improve they may be moved up to the competitive group.

Competitive: Saturdays 1:00 – 3:00

This level is for junior curlers who have developed their delivery and are ready to play more games, learn more strategy, and compete in bonspiels. Registration for this group will be based on last year's skill level. The goal is for all curlers to compete in at least one junior bonspiel this year. Bonspiel dates will be available at sign-up. When ice is available you are allowed to use Monday nights open ice to practice.

HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

Portage High School is starting on Nov. 14 after school, this is open to all High School students within the Portage School District. We have practice every Tuesday - Friday after school. Games start at 15:45. It would be nice to see club come cheer on these High School Students.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Shlimovitz 608-617-3104 or Mike Statz 608-334-6681.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Dues should be paid and a release form signed **BEFORE** you step on the ice. Skips, it is your responsibility to make sure all members on your team have paid their dues. The treasurer will be at each of the leagues during the first two weeks of the season to help facilitate this. Of you want to pay with a credit card, see the below about paying dues online.

On December 1st, a list of curlers with unpaid dues will be posted. After Dec.15th, any team that plays with a curler who has not paid dues will forfeit those games.

PAY ONLINE

New last year was a new Portage Curling Club website. We would like to offer online payment and registration this year, for both membership and bonspiel entries. In order to pay online, you will need to create an account. A convenience fee will be charged to offset the cost of paying with a credit card. Shannon Schultz has again volunteered to maintain the new website. If you have questions on how to pay or on how to set up your account, you can email Shannon at Shannon.Schultz99@gmail.com. You can also like us on Facebook, and Instagram as well.

BEER CLUB NEWS

The members of the beer club had a rough first of half of the season. We tried several configurations to offer more choices and keep the beer secure. Unfortunately, these efforts failed. Thanks to the Alumni Fund a new beer cooler was ordered and placed into service. The beer flowed well during the remainder of the season. I expect the beer will continue to flow smoothly for the 2018-2019 season.

We will again have three beers on tap to try and have something for everyone each day. Dues are:

\$125 for men

\$90 for women

If you have a request for something let me know. Enjoy the curling and a cold beer.

Jim Swan

FALL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH 5:30

An RSVP email will be sent out, please take a few seconds to respond. We encourage all members that are available to attend. We will gather at 5:30 for cocktails and bring an app to share. A brief informational meeting will follow. If you have a new or potentially new member, we encourage you to invite them to this event as an introduction to our club. We hope to see many of you there!

LEAGUE INFORMATION

Call Your League Chairs Now!

Monday Dinner League

Monday: 5:00PM

Chair: Harry Erdman 617-6742, herdman@frontier.com

Tuesday Night Women's League

Tuesday: 6:30PM

Chair: Addie Tamboli 617-5571, atamboli@charter.net

Wednesday Night Men's League

Wednesday: 5:45PM & 8:00PM

Chair: Harry Erdman 617-6742, herdman@frontier.com

Thursday Open League**

Thursday: 6:30pm

Friday Night League: 6:30

Chair: Shannon Schultz 697-9093, Shannon.Schultz99@gmail.com

**Thursday is an open league allowing men and women as well as sons and daughters. If there are enough teams to have two draws, the start time will move to 6:00, and a bell system will be implemented to ensure that the 8:00 draw is on time. Any men's team with 50 points or less in this league will be eligible to participate in the play downs at the end of the year.

*** The Friday Night curling league would like to welcome any new and experienced curlers aged 21 and older who are interested in curling this season. Because of its relaxed, social atmosphere, this league is a great opportunity to get new curlers introduced to the game. Traditionally, this league has been a mixed format. In other words, teams were comprised of 2 males and 2 females, and the throw order alternated (boy-girl-boy-girl). Because the league was riddled with pre- and early season injuries last year, participation was very low. This has led the club to reconsider the Friday Night format. One main consideration is making it an open league; this change would allow any combination of curlers to play on the team (four males, 3 males and a female, etc.) and to throw in any order. The 21 and older requirement will not change. A short survey will be sent to past year participants in the Friday league, to assess which changes, if any, should take place. Our goal is an 8-team minimum; any changes made will be for the sustainability of the league and the enjoyment of the participants.

If you have questions about the Friday Night curling league or want to express interest in playing, contact Friday Night league coordinator Shannon Schultz at shannon.schultz99@gmail.com or at 608-697-9093.

ADVERTISING PROGRAM

Our club actively works with local businesses to advertise in our clubhouse and ice house areas. The club-house signs are 17"x20" and cost \$450 for a three-year period. The on ice signs are 3'x4' and cost \$900 for a three-year period. Advertising can be a significant source of revenue for the club, and we are always interested in adding additional sponsors. If your company is interested in this opportunity, please let Steve Benck know and he will discuss terms with your company representative.

Thrivent Choice Dollars, AmazonSmile, and Kwik Trip Rewards

Donating has never been easier. If you are a **Thrivent Financial** customer, you may be earning **Choice Dollars**. The Portage Curling Club is now on their list of organizations. Each quarter you can **Direct Choice Dollars** to the club, and it doesn't cost you a dime. If you have any questions, Vietta Kampen can give you more information.

Amazon has a program called **AmazonSmile** where 0.5% of your purchases can go to a charity of your choice. Again, it doesn't cost you one red cent. Portage Curling Association, Inc. is already on their list. Go to smile.amazon.com to get started.

Kwik Trip now has a Charitable Rewards program. When you use your Kwik Trip+ Credit or Debit Card for purchases, the club receives a portion of the sales. This is in lieu of the Rewards check you have been receiving. We need at least 5 members signed up to participate in this program. Call **Kwik Trip** at **800-305-6666** to add your account or if you have any questions.

Club Rental

Are you looking for a fun and unique team-building event, but don't think Janice from accounting wants to go bungee jumping?

Are you having a large family or friends gathering and need some extra space, but don't want to make Grandma eat off a card table in your broom closet? You should rent the club! It will make your event easy and enjoyable while helping support our club. The following rates apply:

Clubhouse Use Only:

Member: \$75

Non-member: \$150

Clubhouse & Ice Use:

Individual: \$300

Corporate Rate: \$500

All those entering the icehouse must sign a liability waiver.

This is Your Club

This is a volunteer organization and there are many ways you can help out. Even if you haven't helped put the ice in before, you can learn. It isn't difficult and there is always someone on the crew that can teach you what you need to do.

Make Ice

Prepare ice for leagues

Volunteer at bonspiels (ice or kitchen)

Help with Juniors on Saturdays

Donate food or money for bonspiels

Sell extra calendars

Help with High School program

Clean or Vacuum when you see it needs it

Load and empty dishwasher

Take out garbage



Portage Curling Club
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