

Notes from the President

All hail the return of the *Stones Throw*. We have been looking for an editor for the past few years and approached Faith Hague with a fantastic offer. She will need your future support to keep this going. Like the curling club, this is your newsletter, so requires your content. Don't be bashful.

We have a diverse group, and everyone is at different levels of play and club participation. Hopefully this newsletter will inform people of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, open positions, and upcoming work parties.

So a pitch for the annual meeting and awards dinner coming up on April 18. At 4:00 we will bring our meeting of Club business, from officer nominations to reports from the different committees. It is a chance to ask the hard questions about the goings on. Afternoon leagues came out of this meeting a few years ago. Do you want to volunteer to take on a task? See who the officers are and understand more of the workings of the club. Last year we became a 501(c)3 organization. You heard about this and approved of this last meeting. After the business, at 5:30, we'll have a cocktail hour followed by dinner and league winner presentations.

It is the end of the season, which means we made it through with the old ice plant. We have deferred the ice plant replacement for this season so we can raise a bit more money. We think we'll make it to the summer of 2016 when we will need a lot of volunteer labor to take out the old pipes and prep the surface for new pipes and a concrete pad. We have found the right contractor for the project and have a good plan in place for this much needed upgrade. I can share more at the annual meeting.

Also of note in this issue are some of the stories about wins and losses on the road this winter. We need to travel to other clubs to get them to come to our events. How else do we fill up the Maine-iac and Men's every year? So take the time to travel to other clubs and share your enthusiasm for our club with your hosts.

See you at the annual meeting, April 18th. –Bart Read

There is still time to RSVP if you are staying for dinner after the annual meeting. \$12 for Mandarin orange chicken, vegetable, rice, salad, and cakes. Email Bart: bartread@tidewater.net

Also! We have a couple of open board positions: Secretary, Second VP, and Board Member. If you are interested in any of these or need more information please get back to me before the meeting.



Cartoon by Douglas Coffin



Capital Campaign

Thank you to all of our members who have contributed to the capital campaign. To date, we have raised \$61,831 which represents 86% of members participating.

The goal of the Fundraising Committee is to achieve 100% membership participation in the capital campaign, no matter the size of the donation. Our focus in the first year of the campaign was internal, while we awaited 501(c)3 designation from the IRS. Now that we have received official 501(c)3 status as a charitable organization, our focus will shift to seeking outside donors.

We will seek contributions from:

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Grant sources

The Board has approved the committee's proposal to host a fundraising gala at the club on November 15, 2015. This event will be a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception, and we are looking for some enthusiastic support from the membership to make this effort a success. There are a range of ways that members can join the fun: curling demonstrations, tending bar, food planning/execution, etc. We will announce more details as the event draws near.

—Terry Fancy, Chair, BCC Fundraising Committee

Worcester Cup The Country Club, Brookline MA

The Belfast Curling Club was very well represented at the Worcester Cup in Brookline last month, making us all proud!

First place winners of the Worcester Cup were Kent Clark (skip), Mark Hall (vice), Josh Payson (second), and Rob Fowler (lead).

Taking the second place Greylock Cup were Will Gagne Holmes (skip), Sara Gagne Holmes (vice), Jack Comart (second), Ellen Schneider (lead).



Congratulations!



College Curling

The College Curling effort ended with a bit of a whimper because we were snowed out Sunday, March 15. Even without the snow, it often ends like that due to unsynchronized college breaks among the different schools just about the middle of March.

But we held eleven practices over the course of the season and a total of 92 individuals showed up to curl from four schools: Bowdoin, UMO, Bates and Colby. Bowdoin was the initiator of this effort, five years ago, but UMO has taken over the lead in sheer numbers who keep showing up to curl. UMO has several competent skips and good shot-makers.

The 4th annual Crash 'Spiel took place at Belfast on January 24/25 with ten teams competing from UMO, Bowdoin, MIT, BU, Yale and Harvard. UMO was runner-up for the A Event. The Crash 'Spiel is pretty intense: non-stop curling noon-noon and all over by lunchtime on Sunday so the kids can get back to their schools. It was fun.

This year UMO made a push to qualify for Nationals that were held

in Rochester, NY, March 13-15. Only 16 schools compete in Nationals. Every time a college/university curls against another college team or hosts a bonspiel, the school earns points. UMO was close but got edged out at the last minute to drop into 18th place. We hoped that one of the accepted school teams would withdraw, but, having worked so hard to earn a berth that was unlikely. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point won gold.

We had a number of "coaches" help with instruction which is very important in the first few weeks of college curling. Dick Fischbeck, Jake Weisberg, Jill Weber, Sarah Salley,

Mary Melton, Nanne Kennedy and Matthew Ondra were generous with their time.

This is a slow-growing effort but we hope to have greater participation from Bates and Colby next year. Husson, Thomas, COA and MMA are possibilities, too. This is good for the Belfast Curling Club's visibility, outreach and reputation as the home of a diverse and vibrant sport. We wish the Pine Tree Curling Club in Portland every success as it starts to get off the ground. USM and the community schools in the area would add to the college curling enthusiasm in the state. —Douglas Coffin

Curling Camp Coming in 2016!

Earlier this year we polled everyone to see if there was enough interest to have a curling camp. I'm happy to say there was and we will be working on finding a date and time on the calendar for the 2016 season. The camp will be all day Saturday and half day Sunday and the cost will be \$100 per person. What do you get for your entry fee you might ask? My intent is to bring in 1 or 2 instructors who will provide training on delivery, sweeping and skipping (strategy). Hopefully I will also be able to set up a camera to record your delivery so you can get some feedback on how to improve. More to come later and the date is to be determined based on when the instructor can come and what is available on the club calendar.

—Mary Melton

Get Out of Town!

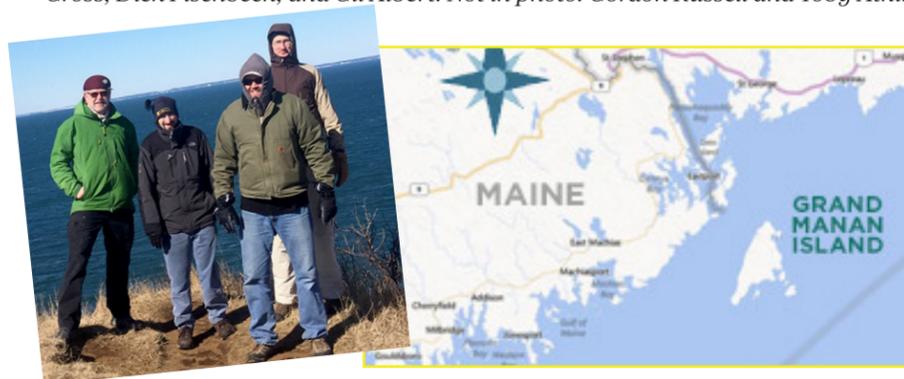
Historically, a very significant reason for the success of Belfast Curling Club, has been the travel to other clubs that BCC members have done over the years. Having just returned from the “Mother Club,” when in St. Stephen, we are reminded of the work done by our founding fathers of BCC and how the link with St. Stephen CC provided the impetus for what we enjoy today as members. Conversations with Jane Lyons and Fred Nicholson at the banquet meal brought back memories of the many years “BCC and St. Stephen Friendly Bonspiel” resulted in Home and Home competition alternating years for the then coveted bragging rights to the dedicated trophy—much like our “Larry the Lobster” today. Long-standing members such as them would take great pleasure in renewing such a traditional event which was always a great way to introduce new curlers to the joys and building of friendships that make curling a unique athletic endeavor. Discussing this subject openly within the membership and coordinating calendars between 2 clubs willing to extend themselves in such an endeavor could be a true benefit to building a healthy group within the club that would travel. It is the key element in the continued need to attract people to our own bonspiel events; it is our greatest marketing tool. —Jeff Dutch



Above: Matt and Alanna Brown and Dave and Faith Hague, with new curling friends at the Jacques-Cartier Curling Club in Quebec City. Left: Curling downtime, going to the dogs!



A hardy bunch of BCC men traveled to Grand Manan last month for the Spiel on the Rock. Good curling, camaraderie, mountains of fresh seafood, and a exhilarating return ferry trip made for a memorable trip! Above, from left to right: Chip Curry, Allen Hayward, Owen Nelson, Jake Weisberg, Ham Niles, Duke Marston, Tom Stoner, Larry Gross, Dick Fischbeck, and Gil Albert. Not in photo: Gordon Russell and Toby Atkins.



Above: Ellen Schneiter snapped this photo of Bart and Abbie in Iceland last April, where she and Jack Comart and the Reads curled in a bonspiel and toured the countryside. Left: Bart and Abbie watching the action at the GNCC Senior Mixed at Norfolk Curling Club (Connecticut).



Going Away

Going to an away bonspiel is great way to promote our curling club as well as to have a fun weekend with some more intense curling than you might find in league play. By intense I just mean that you get at least three games out of it, and therefore that much more curling! Often, if you win the first or second games you will get four or even five games, depending on whether you end up in the finals. There are many curling clubs in Canada that welcome us from Maine and a lot of these clubs are closer for us to get to than clubs in the US; it is easy to find something whether it is a women's, men's, open or mixed bonspiel. There are bonspiels that take place as early as September (North Conway) and as late as April (Fredericton, N.B.) There are even Summer 'Spiels! Go online to see what you can find. Then put together a team of folks you'd like to spend the weekend with and go curling! If you want more details of clubs we have been to in Canada just ask Abbie or Bart, or many other long time curlers in the club. It's not difficult to get signed up, and it's a fun getaway during the winter. —Abbie Read

For More Bonspiel Info:
www.gncc.org
www.usacurl.org
www.uswca.org



In February, the Belfast team of Karen MacDonald (skip), Abbie Read (vice), Jaye Martin (second), and Ellen Schneiter (lead) competed in the USWCA Women's Nationals in Detroit, MI. Having succeeded in getting to the B semifinals (with 3 wins, 1 loss) it was the opposing team from Ardsley that went on to the B finals. A total of 32 teams from all over the country came to Detroit to have fun, meet new curlers, and get competitive—in that order.

The Wood Family Memorial Bonspiel

Scenes from
our 2015 Season
Swan Song



Many thanks to all who helped to get our newsletter back on track for the first time since 2010! For the words, photos, art, and encouragement: Linda Anderson, Douglas Coffin, Jeff Dutch, Terry Fancy, Dick Fischbeck, Mark and Stacey Hall, Nanne Kennedy, Owen Nelson, Michael Overton, Bart and Abbie Read, Ellen Schneiter, Tom Stoner, and Wendy Wiley.

I'd like to send the next issue out in mid-summer—if not sooner—and welcome any and all contributions. If I can gather enough material, ideally, we would publish monthly. Perhaps you have an idea for an article or a regular column? A report from an away bonspiel? Training and etiquette tips? Announcements? Volunteer requests? What kind of news can you use? Talk to me!—Faith Hague (faithhague@gmail.com)

Mark Your Calendar!

The 6th Annual Maine-iac is just a ways down the road:
November 5–8, 2015



The 2014 winners of Larry the Lobster:
Jeff Dutch, Rob Dietz, Sierra Dietz, and Anita King