



# Potomac NewsFlash

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Have news to share? Let me know. Tired of hearing just my opinions? Write an article. Have a topic? Send it my way.—[charrissalin@gmail.com](mailto:charrissalin@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events:

Start of second half of season	Jan 20
Scot Tour	Feb 3
MACA at Chesapeake	
GNCC Sr Men's Championship	Feb 8-11
<b>EXTERNAL</b>	
Governor's Bowl (M-Albany); Thrifty (O-Plfd); Newell (X-TCC)	Jan 25-28
Nashua Ladies; Mixed International (Bmstnes); 100th Anniversary (O-Sch)	Feb 1-4
Stockton (M-TCC); Dykes (M—Rochester); Norfolk Mixed;	Feb 8-11

## Big Bonspiel Weekend!

This past weekend was a big one as far as bonspiels go. We had the Chesapeake Funspiel, the GNCC Club Championship playdowns, the Empire State Ladies Spiel, and the USCA Senior Men's championships. Whew!

### Chesapeake Funspiel

Potomac sent four teams to the 16 team mixed event over at Chesapeake. George Shirk, Rebecca Baxter, J. Atkinson, and Barbara Shirk came in as runners-up in the 1st event. This was J's first bonspiel ever, so quite a fun and exciting time for him! Scott Walters, Dominique Banville, Dave Hamilton, and Pam Martin defeated Frank Casabianca, FL Ettlin, Vern Maher, and Tracy Casabianca in the 4th event (at least, I think that's the order they played in...). Nick Datlowe, Melissa Fox, Jason Sethi, and Kama Hamilton lost out in the 3rd event semis.

### GNCC Club Championship playdowns

We had three teams competing in the playdowns (2 men's teams and 1 women's team). Team Surka (Derek Surka, Michael Fry, Ron Aubin, and Michael Campbell) won the men's side, going undefeated 4-0(although they were working hard to lose that last one... :)). Team Galebach (Brian Galebach, Bill MacDonald, Ben Yeung, and Benoit Jarry) lost their first two but had a great game to win their third handily (1-2). Team Lin (Charrissa Lin, Jennifer Kungle, Rachel Sethi, and Becky Andrew) also went undefeated through the round robin (2-0).

While the curling was great, the highlight of the weekend was the meat raffle held at the Petersham club on Saturday night. Yup—meat being raffled off every 5 minutes! Even though we were given some free tickets, we went home empty handed. One of the ice guys walked away with 6 items ranging from a package of bacon to pork loin to a chicken.

Team Surka and Team Lin have now won themselves an essentially no-expenses paid trip to St. Paul, Minnesota where they will represent the GNCC and our club at the Club National Championships.

### Empire State Ladies Bonspiel

Team Findlay (Dawn Findlay, Joan Twigg, Susan Armiger, and Nicole Freedman) won the fourth event only losing in the semis to Team Clark, the eventual 1st event winner.

### USCA Sr. Men's Championships

Scott Edie teamed up with Paul Pustovar, Pete Westberg, and Richard Maskel to compete for the Senior Men's title. Scott played vice-skip. The team played well, but came out on the wrong side of a few close games

Congratulations on a successful and FUN weekend to all!

## The Scot Tour

The Scots have been busy touring the US. They've left Wisconsin and are now in Minnesota. The US has managed to take the lead 358-343, but it is a narrow margin!

## Dues

Dues are due for the second half. For any members (rookie or otherwise) who opted to only pay their first half dues, please submit the second half portion this week. Thank you.

## Some curling travel tips

Have any curling trips coming up? Well—we thought we'd offer a few travel tips for the curler.

- Drive vs. fly: with Southwest and other low-cost carriers, the option to fly can be reasonably economical. Driving is great, but be careful of having a game the night of a long drive (5+ hours) - holding that gas pedal down does a job on draw weight for the driver!
- If you are flying—we recommend that you always carry your curling shoes onboard. Luggage gets lost too often and you don't want to have to play with someone else's shoes. We've had luggage sent to Arizona vs. Boston on a direct flight and other luggage lost for days on the way to Ontario. If you are particular about your curling clothes, pack a set in your carry-on bag as well.
- Protect your carbon-fiber brooms! No brooms are meant to take impact broad-side which can happen all-too-often in luggage compartments. At a minimum, be sure to wrap it well in clothes or towels in your soft-sided broom bag. We protect ours with PVC tubes—you can ask us how to make your own.

## USCA news

Some of you may have seen clips in the news about 13 tons of curling granite making its way across the ocean. This is a curling stone loan-to-own program enabled by the USCA in conjunction with the WCF. These stones will be going to various clubs across the country to help them get started with their curling programs (I believe it's 14 different clubs). More places to

visit and bonspiel!

In addition—I will be making my one and only push for donations to the USCA. I will bring the thank-you pins to the club to each of the leagues this week and into next—please consider donating (even if only \$10) to help the USCA continue to sponsor things like junior camps, the stone program, etc.

