



VOL. 60, Issue 1



September 2015

### *President's message*

The new curling season is almost here! But before it starts we've got some work to do before we re-open, so In the next few weeks you'll be getting some notices about work parties at the club. We still need to fix some of the damage caused by the ice dams last year, which means we will be doing drywall work and painting. There's some work to be done in the parking lot, the shed floor needs to be prepped for the ice installation, and general clean up and organization. As with all volunteer organizations it is the time we put in that makes us more successful.

The need for volunteer help continues throughout the year. Bonspiel chairs always need help running their events, so even if you aren't a member of the Mixed Committee, you can be part of organizing the fun. Our ice rental activities are a great revenue stream for the club and a way to introduce new people the the sport we love. Teaching others to curl is a great way to improve you own game as it brings you back to the basics. If you want to be involved in the heart of the game, consider joining the ice crew. If you have other ideas about how your skills can help the club, I'd love to talk.

Remember, this is your club. If you have ideas about additional events or leagues, the Board of Directors wants to hear your ideas.

As always, the best way to help the club is through recruiting. Be sure to invite a friend or two to our open houses this fall.

See you soon! —*John Jacon, UCC President*

## ***Ladies Evening Leagues – First-Half Sign Up***

It's that time of the year again... Soon the leaves will be changing, a cool nip will be in the air, and curling will begin! The sign-up form for the first-half leagues is on the league webpages (links below), or use the print form below – pick one!

The [Bonnie Piper](#) (Wednesday evenings) is back! The perfect way to dust off the rust of summer and to introduce new curlers to the game. If you're interested in curling on Wednesday evenings, please sign up! Teams are created by the evening league scheduling committee.

The [Calder](#) (Monday evenings) is the first step of the women skip's ladder (see the [orientation booklet](#) for more information about ladders). Teams will be determined by a draft (skips select their teams).

All games begin at 5:45 pm. Get your curling dues worth and sign-up for both leagues! Returning curlers, please encourage new curlers to join these evening leagues.

See you on the ice!



### **WOMEN'S EVENING LEAGUES, 2015**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MONDAYS** 5:45pm (*Calder*): Oct 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec 7, 14

curl  sub  request to skip  sorry, can't curl on  
Monday

**WEDNESDAYS** 5:45pm (*Bonnie Piper*): Oct 21, 28; Nov 4, 11, 18; Dec 2, 9,  
16

curl  sub  request to skip  sorry, can't curl on  
Wednesday

#### ***Reply Deadline October 11 (for returning curlers)***

Sign up on the league pages: [Bonnie Piper](#) [Calder](#)

Or

Mail completed form to Lis DeGironimo (address in club roster)

Or

Email all required information to Lis DeGironimo (edegironimo@gmail.com)

## **About the *Curlogram***

The *Curlogram* is issued 8 times per year (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., and April). The articles are submitted by the members — that means you!! Anyone with news or information about the club or the sport is encouraged to submit an article. If it is of general interest to the membership, it will be published and you'll be an author! Pictures are also welcome.

There are a few guidelines for submissions:

Articles are generally due to the editor on or before the 15th of the month preceding the issue date. So articles to be published in the December issue are due to the editor on November 15th.

Short articles can just be included in the text of an email.

Longer articles are probably easier to manage as a Word attachment. Use standard fonts, please (Ariel, Times Roman, etc.).

Fancy formatting is not necessary, and it will most likely have to be undone, since the standard Word document is set up for an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet, and the *Curlogram* is printed as 5.5 x 8.5 half-pages. Multiple text boxes in a document cause a lot of problems, so ***please avoid them.***

Pictures are great, and you can either send them separately or as part of the article. However, due to the formatting issues referred to above, they may not appear as you've positioned them.

If you go away to a bonspiel, let us know what it was like and how you did! If you discover some interesting information about curling, share it with us! Any and all submissions are welcome and will be published as space permits (with time-sensitive articles given priority).

Send submissions to:

Ann Keabian

akeabian2@gmail.com

Or mail to: 16 Charles St., Hamilton, NY 13346

I look forward to hearing from **you**!! —*Ann Keabian (the editor)*

### ***Tuesday Morning Curling***

For the 2015-2016 curling season  
Mary Clark Competition  
Tuesdays, 9:45 AM 8 ends suggested

Can you come play with us on Tuesdays?? The Mary Clark competition has fun, food, and weekly prizes but it's not all about winning. It's about the spirit of curling: a friendly competition and fellowship. Contact Peggy Rotton (797-2975) or Meredith Roefaro (724-3338) to join the group.

***2015 Men's Rink Sign up***

The Rink Ladder Event will again be held during the first half of curling. However, the event will be on Wednesday nights at 8PM.

The schedule for the Rink is as follow:

- October 14, 21, 28
- November 4, 11, 18, 25
- December 2, 9, (16 if needed for tiebreakers)

We are planning on 10 teams. If the sign-ups reflect more than 10 teams, we will use December 16<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> for the additional games.

Skips will be chosen based on men's league rules. We have room for 6 new skips (8 new skips if 48 people sign up).

The draft for teams will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the club.

All men interested in playing in the Rink, please sign up by October 9<sup>th</sup> by contacting Jerry Stevens with the following information. I prefer being contacted by e-mail.



\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
 Jerry Stevens  
 7786 Bel Air Dr  
 Rome, NY 13440  
 315-336-7835  
 jstevens@twcny.rr.com (preferred)

Sign up deadline is October 9<sup>th</sup> but early sign-up is greatly appreciated.

Thanks.  
*Jerry Stevens, Men's Ladder Chairman*



Calling all Women Curlers...

Let's get together for a party



When: Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Where: Aqua Vino

Time: 6:30pm

Cost: \$26.00

Meal Choices:

Chicken Francaise

Petit CowGirl Filet

Haddock Oreganato

Penne Santorini

Please call or email Eileen Sunderhaft with your reservation and meal choice by Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at: [Sunder2810@aol.com](mailto:Sunder2810@aol.com) or 527-8177

## ***Charbonneau Men's League***

This year we will be running the Charbonneau the same as we did last year. To try and make full sheets of ice for all the nights the Charbonneau will be run on Mondays at 8pm and Tuesdays at 5:45pm. The rink (first leg of the ladder) will be run on Wednesdays at 8pm which will allow more skips to start in the ladder.

There will be no Thursday night league this year. With an increase in membership we will consider returning the 3 nights of Charbonneau and returning the rink to Thursday night at 7pm.

The Charbonneau is the Men's league starting the week of October 19th, with teams playing on Mondays at 8:00pm and Tuesdays at 5:45pm for the next 10 weeks through the week of December 21st, with playoffs in January.

The medal is awarded to the winner of the playoffs between the Monday and Tuesday champions plus the 2nd place teams from both nights. Monday's winner will play Tuesday's 2nd place team and Tuesday's winner will play Monday's 2nd place team. The 2 winners will play for the medal.

We will try to match new curlers up with their sponsors so please indicate new curlers you would like to have on your team. Because of these changes, there may not be as many slots for players wishing to play two nights in the Charbonneau as there were in the past. Preference will be given to early sign ups, bringing in a new curler or those not signing up for the rink or the open league.

Fill out the form on the return slip and send it to: Mike Kessler, 50 Blackburn Court, New Hartford, NY 13413 793-3330  
Or email [doctormjk@aol.com](mailto:doctormjk@aol.com) no later than October 15th.

Charbonneau Men's League, 8:00pm Mondays, 5:45pm Tuesdays  
Send to Mike Kessler,  
50 Blackburn Ct, New Hartford NY 13413, 793-3330,  
[doctormjk@aol.com](mailto:doctormjk@aol.com)

**Name**

---

**Day telephone**

---

**Night telephone**

---

**Night I'd like to play (M, T)**

---

**I'd also like to play a 2nd night (M, T) if sign-up allows**

---

***Deadline October 15th, 2015***

**Position I'd like to play (Sk, 3rd, 2nd, Ld)**

1st choice \_\_\_\_\_

2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please pair me with new curler \_\_\_\_\_

# **All American**

**Chair: Joyce Shaffer**

**Snack Chair: Jacquelyn Schmidt**

**Team Committee: Joyce/Lis/MJ/Julie/Melon**

The All American will be played on three (3) evenings: **October 6 (Tuesday), 8 (Thursday), 14 (Wednesday) at 5:45 pm.** Games will be eight (8) ends. **This will get us “warmed-up” for the curling season.** All games shall be played under the current USCA Rules of Play with USWCA exceptions. **All curlers must be USWCA members before playing in the event.** Format will be determined by number of entries, we are aiming for an 8-team event, skips are chosen from last-year’s standings. **The Committee will put teams together per USWCA guidelines.** All women curlers are encouraged to sign up.

**For the new curlers:** The All American is a medal event sponsored by the U. S. Women’s Curling Association and competed for, separately, in clubs all across the country. **It is “designed to encourage the involvement of women - especially new and less experienced women curlers.”**

Please email [joyceshaffer@roadrunner.com](mailto:joyceshaffer@roadrunner.com) to sign-up. **YOU WILL “immediately” GET AN EMAIL RESPONSE CONFIRMING YOUR SIGN-UP.** Deadline for sign up is Friday, October 2. **An email blast will be sent October 3, confirming the sign-up list.** If you name is not on that list, please call me 735-0433. **If there is a sign-up error, it will be too late to correct it after October 3.** Please mark your calendar to watch your email that weekend. **If you cannot play all three (3) evenings, let me know...I might be able to make arrangements to work around this.** Skips will be notified Sunday, October 4 of their team and rules, copy of the draw will follow. **Looking forward to a fun All American Bonspiel.**

**BONSPIEL COLORS (optional)**  
**RED / WHITE &/or BLUE**

## **BOERGER FUN AND FITNESS 2015**

Co Chairs:

John & Peggy Caneen  
Bill & Jennifer Turner  
Fred & Pam

Come join us on Thursday afternoons at 4 PM for some Fun and Fitness. We don't know how fit we are but we sure do know how to have fun. League play starts October 22. Please sign up by October 15.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to play (1st choice, 2nd, 3rd, 4th)

Skip \_\_\_\_\_ Vice \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Other request: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

Email: [fredpam@twcny.rr.com](mailto:fredpam@twcny.rr.com) (put Fun & Fitness in subject line)

Snail mail Fred Hicks  
5958 Central Corners Rd  
Vernon Center, NY 13477

You will receive a confirmation back that we received it. (If you don't, we didn't get it.)



### **New Stove needed for the Club**

If you can give \$10 / \$20 / \$30, any thing towards the new stove it will be greatly appreciated. Every little bit will help.

Please email or call Jim Rishel 269-7654 or email Jim @ [rishelja@ae.cadaretgrant.com](mailto:rishelja@ae.cadaretgrant.com)

***KING'S CUP -- THE MIXED COMMITTEE***

It's now time to sign up for Friday night mixed curling. Games will be 6 ends with 2 draws beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The scheduled dates are October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18. A \$10 per person league fee is required to be paid on the first night.

Positions will be accommodated based on availability and in order applications are received, so be sure to rank all positions in the order you would like to be considered. We also ask for your patience, as there may be changes to accommodate new members as they sign up.

*Please fill out the form and mail back to*  
Brenda & Phil Citriniti,  
3036 Mohawk St., Sauquoit NY, 13456  
or email [citro5@roadrunner.com](mailto:citro5@roadrunner.com)  
Chairs: Phil & Brenda Citriniti



-----  
**KING'S CUP**

6 end games starting at 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to: Play \_\_\_\_\_ Sub \_\_\_\_\_

Draw Preference: Position Preference:

Rank 1 – 2 Rank 1 – 4

5:30 PM \_\_\_\_\_ Lead \_\_\_\_\_

7:30PM \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_

Either \_\_\_\_\_ Vice \_\_\_\_\_

Skip \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to rank both draw time and all positions in order you would like to be considered. Positions will be accommodated based on availability and in order of when applications are received.

Send to: Brenda & Phil Citriniti, 3036 Mohawk St., Sauquoit NY, 13456

Phone: 315-737-8909 Email [citro5@roadrunner.com](mailto:citro5@roadrunner.com)

*IMPORTANT REMINDER: \$10 per person league fee is required the first night of play.*

**Attention All Women Curlers!!!**

It's not too soon to start thinking about the Glengarry Challenge being held the beginning of March 2016!

So get your team together to start training for our own Rio de Janerio Olympics!!!

You may even want to start your team training in the Tuesday Night Open League!

*Your Host Team: Michelle, Erlene, Donna & Jan*

**From The UCC Sponsorship Committee  
2015-2016 Season!!!**

It's that time again for us to send out letters for advertising opportunities with our club.

Those that have ads already, your letter is on the way.

If there are Any Members or if you know of any Non-members that would like to advertise, please let us know.

There are various ways to advertise your business at very reasonable prices!

Deadline is September 15, 2015 for Ads and Payments!

For Information:

Go to UCC's website under Sponsorship

Or Contact either:

Mike Lennon – Chair

Bryn Davis

Erlene Puleo

**Thank you!!!**

**WELCOME BACK PARTY!!!**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

*October 17*

It's that time of year to celebrate a new curling season!  
The Welcome Back Party will be Saturday, October 17th.  
We will once again be having toddy bowl and a small menu.  
More info will follow.

Come join your friends and have some fun  
to start an exciting new season!



**OPEN LEAGUE**  
**Open League Signup**

Any gender in any position, limited to 14 teams, Tuesdays at 8:00pm

The Open League will be starting early this year with the first game Tuesday, October 20th at 8:00pm for 10 straight Tuesday nights at 8pm through December 22nd.

This league was formed to provide practice for teams who would like to play together. Men's, Women's, Junior, Kayser, Women's Challenge or Dykes, etc., teams may enter, so sign up as a team for some great games. Here is your chance to put a team together with people you want to curl with.

**Return the slip and send it to:** Mike Kessler, 50 Blackburn Court, New Hartford, NY 13413 793-3330 or email [doctormjk@aol.com](mailto:doctormjk@aol.com).

Because we are starting early we need to receive your rosters **by October 15th.**



Open League  
Open league limited to 14 teams  
Tuesday at 8pm starting Tuesday Oct. 20 through Tuesday Dec. 22  
Send to Mike Kessler, 50 Blackburn Ct, New Hartford NY 13413 - 793-3330 or email [doctormjk@aol.com](mailto:doctormjk@aol.com)  
The first 14 returned slips will make up the league  
Team name \_\_\_\_\_  
Skip \_\_\_\_\_  
Third \_\_\_\_\_  
Second \_\_\_\_\_  
Lead \_\_\_\_\_  
If there are byes, I would like mine on \_\_\_\_\_

***Happenings***  
Richard (Dick) Trosset, who was a member of UCC for 28 years, died May 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Kevin Kelly, father of Dean Kelly, passed away on July 15<sup>th</sup>, at age 83.  
Bob Burnett's father and Melon Sofinski's father-in-law, James B. "Jim" Burnett died on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at age 89.  
*Our condolences go to their family and friends.*

## Eight was great!

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual UCC Golf Tournament surprisingly coincided with yet another sunny, warm day. While forecasts called for a probable chance of rain, the official committee rosary beads were put to yet another test and pulled through with 17 holes of beautiful weather with a slight drizzle on the final hole. Certainly a victory in the Committee's eyes!

For the first time we welcomed a full team of Canadian curlers from the RCMP Curling Club in Ottawa. Team Kerry Byrne made the trip to Utica and competed against 35 other foursomes. They requested we provide similar weather when they come back for the Cobb Bonspiel in February. I'll leave that up to the Laws to work out. J

The tournament kicked off at noon with our live bagpiper piping the golfers out to their starting holes. There were many cheers and groans heard throughout the day as the ball either just rolled in the side of the cup or missed by an inch. Most importantly everyone seemed to have a fun time throughout the 19 holes.

As many of you know we raffled off several prizes headlined by the \$1,000 giveaway.

The winners of the cash prize raffle were:

**\$1,000 cash** – Megan Wyett (friend of Mike Lennon)

**Turning Stone Gift Certificate** – Anthony Hallak

**Otesaga Gift Certificate** – Mary Ann Knapp

**50% off UCC Membership** – Conrad Law

**Seven Oaks Greens Fees** – Carol Sweet (new curler)

**\$200 cash** – Brian Moore

**Kindle Fire** – Chris Carbone

**Balvenie 21 year old scotch** – Don DeCarr

**Stanley Theater Dinner/Show Package** – Suzanne Ernst

**\$100 Visa Gift Card** – Erin Clark

...and on the course, the winners were...

**Men's team winner (60):** Phil Citriniti, Brenda Citriniti, Frank Touart, and Chris Tremblay

**Mixed team winner (59):** Sharon Halligan, John Markley, Suzanne Ernst and Gary Miller

**Women's team winner (71 via tie-breaker):** Penny Trojan, Alison Tipple, Mary Ann Bump and Maureen DeLuke

**Skins Winners (\$213 each):** Team Terry Davis (Eagle on #3), Team Jeff Lottermoser (Birdie on #10) and Team John Foster (Eagle on #16)

**Longest Drive (hole #15):** Scott Carter (men), Sharon Halligan (women)

Closest to the pin (hole#5): Jim Gleason 5' (men), Peggy Pratt 14' 7" (women)

Closest to the pin (hole #12): George Reynolds 7' 9" (men), Peggy Pratt 11' 4" (women)

Draw the button / Closest to the Stone (hole #11): Mike Kelly 2' 5"

50/50 Hole Contest (\$133) – Lis DeGironimo

50/50 Raffle Winner (\$350): - Kerry Byrne (RCMP Curling Club in Ottawa)

**Congrats to all!**

We can't thank everyone enough for your contributions in making this event one of the most successful in our eight years. From our event sponsors, prize donors, beer donors, ticket purchasers, volunteers and golfing participants, you all played a role in helping the UCC show off our hospitality while generating some much needed revenue in the off-season! Thank you to Joyce Shaffer, Mickey Haase, Kathy Pallay, Toni Rosinski, Vicki Sheardown, Kathy Burns, Dave Schroeder, Jacquelyn Schmidt, Michelle MacEnroe, Jen Turner, Liz Nolan, Pete Ciaralli, Julie Medler, Alicia Citriniti, Wendy (Woo Woo girl) and Tom Luker. We appreciate your volunteer support and couldn't do it without you!!! Cheers!

A big round of applause for my fellow Committee members for their dedicated effort and teamwork year after year in organizing this event. As a reminder, we are looking for someone or a group of people to consider taking over running the golf tournament beginning in spring of 2018. The current committee is willing to help transition the next crew over our two remaining years. Please consider making this your volunteer effort on behalf of the Utica Curling Club. Contact Anne Stuhlman if you are interested.

We will again be posting a list of tournament sponsors and donors in the locker rooms during the curling season to remind you of those who have supported our tournament. Please try to patronize their business in return when possible since the proceeds from this tournament help benefit the ongoing operation of our curling club. These businesses have been very generous and consistent in supporting UCC's golf fundraising efforts.

Thanks again. We hope you can continue to support us next year!

The Golf Committee

Tom Thorngren, Tim Conboy, Anne Stuhlman, Barb Felice, Don Knapp, Jim Schafer, Julie Chanatry, Beth Mitchell, Dave Mitchell, Knyoca Law, Conrad Law, Ben Gaetano and honorary member/mascot Ziggy Mitchell.





**EMPIRE STATE PLAYDOWNS, Joyce Shaffer, Chair**  
The Utica Glengarries will enter Two (2) \*additional  
teams in the Empire State Bonspiel being held  
**at the Schenectady CC,**

January 14, 15, 15, 17, 2016

**All UCC women are encouraged to participate.**

Play downs are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursdays, October 22, 29, 6:45;

Nov 5, 12, 19, @ 6:45 pm

All dues-paying women are eligible to play down  
Participants must sign up as a team.

**Deadline for sign up is Monday, October 19.**

Sign-up will be posted in the ladies locker room,

\*As 2015 ES winners, Cindy Brown's team will be the  
2016 ES Defending Champions

***All play down participants MUST BE committed to  
play in the Empire State Bonspiel (this is a rule)***

**ANY QUESTIONS please email:  
[joyceshaffer@roadrunner.com](mailto:joyceshaffer@roadrunner.com)**

***MUSING***

Since a rock that reaches the top of the house is said to be "above" the T line, why is a rock in the back of the house said to be "behind" the T line rather than "below" the T line?

***HMMMMM?***

Since the "house" is a large circle, just exactly what portion of the house is protected by a "corner" guard? (Where is the corner of a circle?)



## **Instructor's Corner**

*Roger Rowlett & Mary Jane Walsh*

**Is it true that all the red stones curl more than the blue stones? And that the yellow stones on sheet 3 always win? How do I know if my rocks are any good?**

**—Rock N. Roll**

Ah, stones: they get a bad rap, maybe #2 in line just behind the ice for causing missed shots. Curling stones are surrounded by a mythology as rich as the mysteriousness of the isolated island of Ailsa Craig from which many of them were mined. In this article, we'll discuss stones and what you can expect from them.

### **Curling stone basics**

Curling stones are made of various types of granite that are suitable for the abuse and impact that must be endured during play. "Inserted" stones, such as the ones we use at Utica, are among the best kinds of stones for play. Our stones are made of Grey Trefor granite (mined in Wales), which is highly resistant to impact and chipping. You will note on the bottom of our stones, where they touch the ice, a disk of a different color granite has been epoxied into the stone. This is Blue Hone granite (from Ailsa Craig), which is very hard and non-porous. It is ideal for forming the running surface of the stone, as it has excellent wear characteristics and does not absorb water which could cause spalling during freeze-thaw cycles. The running surface is not flat, but cupped, so that the running band (where the stone touches the ice) is a small ring about 6 inches in diameter and 6 mm wide. On the side of the stone is the striking band—demarcated by its non-polished surface—and in a newly manufactured or refurbished stone this band is convex so that the stones will touch over a very small contact area. This geometry will make the stones rebound when they collide in a very lively manner. When the striking bands get flatter, the stones become "deader" on impact with one another. Curling stones must weigh between 38 and 44 pounds. At Utica, our stones vary from 38.25 to just over 40 pounds (without the handles). This weight difference (less than 5%, and most of our stones are much closer in weight than that) has very little impact on their behavior. Our stones have been matched by weight, so that the stone weight variation on any sheet is very small.

### **Texturing stones**

To provide adequate curl, our stones are regularly "textured." That is, the stones are placed on a special jig and pushed, pulled, and/or rotated on silicon carbide sandpaper to put microscopic scratches on the running band. These scratches are about 50  $\mu\text{m}$  deep, and are sufficient to cause the stones to "bite" into the ice and produce curl. Freshly textured stones will have curl and speed that is as closely matched for curl and speed as they can be. We texture our stones once or twice a year to maintain 3-4 feet of curl. Over time, as stones are repeatedly re-textured, running bands will start to diverge, and some stones

will retain some differences from one another even after fresh re-texturing. At this point stones will be re-matched, or if sufficiently diverse, re-profiled to bring running bands back into closer tolerance. When stones get this bad (and when your delivery is consistent enough to notice the differences in behavior) your rock book will be full of "cutters", "pigs", "gliders", and "straight stones."

### **Stone management**

No matter how well-matched, no two stones are going to behave identically. If you believe stones are exactly alike, you are going to be disappointed. Rock management is a part of the game. However, most stones are insignificantly different, and any differences in curl or speed will be adjusted for by sweeping during each shot. As freshly textured stones naturally wear and smooth out as they pass over the ice during game play, they will generally curl less and become a little faster, and individual stones will start to show some slight differences in speed and/or curl from one another. Eventually, some stones will be different enough in speed or curl to significantly affect shot-making. This is when many players will make some notes in their rock book. Some skips like a pair of matched stones, while others enjoy having one "cutter" or one "fast" rock. It's another dimension to the game. Usually, demonstrably bad stones are given to the lead, sometimes the second. The idea is that there may be more shot tolerance for a lead throwing a bad rock for a guard than for your third to throw a critical freeze; or a second, who throws mostly takeouts, it doesn't matter so much if their rocks are slow or straight.

### **Evaluating stones**

You are likely to hear varying opinions about stones on any given league night. Among my favorites is "the red stones curl more than the blue stones," often followed the next week by "the blue stones curl more than the red stones." While it is possible, even likely, that individual stones may start to show their differences over time, it would be fantastical if by random chance all the red stones on one sheet were to wear in such a way as to be systematically different from all the blue stones. All the stones are textured by one person at the same time using as nearly identical methods as is humanly possible—any variations in stones would therefore be due to random chance. For one set of 8 stones to be significantly and systematically different from another set of 8 stones would be like flipping a coin and getting 8 heads in a row followed by 8 tails in a row, which by my math is one chance in 65,536!

So what is going on here? It is important to realize that delivery mechanics are very important to stone behavior, especially release. An inside-out delivery or release will make stones appear to run straighter, while an outside-in release will result in an unnatural and large amount of "curl." And then there is rotation. If you don't throw a consistent 3 rotations with aggressively textured stones, don't expect consistent curl! If you throw 1 1/2 rotations (like you did when our stones were straight), watch out! Those 1 1/2 rotations coaxed some extra curl out of straight rocks, but with textured rocks, they are going to crank unpredictably when the rotation comes off at the end. They may hook 2 feet or

5, flip a coin. So the team that finds that ALL of their rocks curl more than their opponents may be victims of throwing less rotation than their opponents. And if your team throws different amounts of rotation, you will find it challenging to ice their shots properly.

Also keep in mind that stones will behave differently on different ice conditions. On a fresh scrape and 25 second ice, a stone might behave very differently in terms of curl than it does on the 4<sup>th</sup> draw without a scrape on a humid, slightly frosty night where the ice is running 23 seconds. Even a rock that you know is normally a “cutter” might show different characteristics on a different ice surface.

I have a simple rule for designating a rock as anomalous in game play: I have to see the same behavior three times, preferably on different parts of the ice, before I label a rock a “pig” or “cutter”, etc. Otherwise, I normally make the assumption that it was me, not the stone. (“If you can’t swim, don’t blame the water.”) But if a stone repeatedly acts the same strange way compared to other stones, it earns a spot in the vaunted rock book. If I really suspect a stone is bad, I’ll make a note and throw it and some of its mates during a practice session to verify that it is different.

### **Matching stones**

There is no simple way to determine if stones are matched. Pushing pairs of stones along the ice and seeing if one runs ahead of the other does not work to evaluate stone speed. (But you see it done all the time.) The problem with this method is that stones are not thrown this way, with no rotation for 3-5 feet of distance. The only way to determine stone behavior is to throw stones properly and observe them. To make sense of the results, you have to have a very consistent delivery, and apply proper rotation, no less than 2 ½ and no more than 3 ½ rotations. If you throw stones down the same path with the same weight and rotation, and the stones travel the same distance (within a foot or two) with the same amount of curl, then the stones are sufficiently matched. This method works best if you have a split timer speed trap or a partner to take split times for you.

To be honest, psychology may be more important to performance than rock-matching. I’ve had perfectly good skip stones taken away from me by a veteran third because I was not making my shots early in the game! I wasn’t really convinced my stones were bad (I think I was just not shooting well or concentrating as well as I should) but after getting my new stones I started making my shots. That’s a good third—deflecting my bad karma onto inanimate stones. I think a lot of this happens on many a league night or championship bonspiel game. If it works for you—great!

### **Final thoughts**

Don’t worry about stones too much. Concentrate on good delivery mechanics and proper rotation. When your delivery is consistent, you will be able to notice and take advantage of knowledge of stone differences. If you are really

determined to match stones, throw them during practice sessions with a partner to split time. You will discover that most stones are pretty well matched, but there may be an occasional outlier.

*Good curling! Have a question for Instructor's Corner?  
Have a suggestion for an Instructor's Corner article?  
Send an email to [curlingschool@uticacurlingclub.org](mailto:curlingschool@uticacurlingclub.org)*



### **CALLING ALL GLENGARRIES**

Ladies our curling season is just around the corner and what better way to start than by attending our opening party which will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Aqua Vino's Restaurant, see the announcement in this Cur-logram for more information.

This year the All American will be played as the "Opening Bonspiel", it will take place October 6<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> sign up to play and enjoy our early ice.

Our locker room has under gone a makeover to make it more user-friendly. Please remember to sign the new locker assignment sheet that will be posted. It's a work in progress... be patient!

Looking forward to seeing all of our new and returning women curlers this season.

See you on the ice --*Jacquelyn Schmidt, Utica Glengarry President*

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color/font key: General UCC events Ladies events Men's/Open events Mixed events GNCC events at other clubs GNCC EVENTS	Sept 21	Sept 22	Sept 23	Sept 24	Sept 25	Sept 26
4	Sept 28	Sept 29	Sept 30	1	2	3
Ice prep	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Ice prep			Ice prep	Ice prep	Ice prep
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		All American 5:45 "Try Curling" 7:30	"Try Curling" 7:30	All American 5:45 "Try Curling" 7:30	"Try Curling" 7:30	"Our House is Your House" Bonspiel
Board Mtg 6:00 College "Try Curling" 5:15	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Rink Draft 7:00 "Learn to Curl" 6:00		Mary Clark 9:45	All American 5:45 "Learn to Curl" 6:00 Rink 8:00		Welcoming Party 6:30
Open ice. ROCKS 4:15-5:15 Curl School 3:30-5:00 College 5:15-7:15	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	Charbonneau 5:45 Open League 8:00	Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00 E.S. Plydins 6:45	Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00	King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry
Open ice. ROCKS 2:15-4:15 Curl School 3:30-5:00 College 5:15-7:15 Rink 7:30	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	Charbonneau 5:45 Open League 8:00	Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00 E.S. Plydins 6:45	Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00	King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR ALL CHANGES, UPDATES, AND ADDITIONS!**

<http://uticacurlingclub.org>

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Corp event 12:00-2:00 Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15	2 Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	3 Mary Clark 9:45	4 Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	5 Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00 COLTS E.S. Plydins 6:45	6 COLTS King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	7 COLTS
8 Curl School 3:30-5:00 College 5:15-7:15	9 Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	10 Charbonneau 5:45 Open League 8:00	11 Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	12 ROSS TARLTON Niagara Falls	13 ROSS TARLTON GNCC Sr Women's Broomstones	14 ROSS TARLTON GNCC Sr Women's
15 R.O.C.K.S. 2:15-4:15 Board Mtg 6:00 Curl School 3:30-5:00 College 5:15-7:15	16 Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	17 Charbonneau 5:45 Open League 8:00	18 Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	19 Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00 E.S. Plydins 6:45	20 King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	21 Utica-Schenectady -Albany Friendly (Utica)
22 GNCC Sr Women's Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15	23 Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00	24 Charbonneau 5:45 Open League 8:00	25 Bonnie Piper 5:45 Rink 8:00	26 Boerger Fun and Fitness 4:00 E.S. Plydins 6:45	27 King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	28 Turkey Spiel
29 Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 Curl School 3:30-5:00	30 Calder 5:45 Charbonneau 8:00			Thanksgiving	Ice Maintenance	Ice Maintenance
Ice available for practice						

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR ALL  
CHANGES, UPDATES, AND ADDITIONS!**

<http://uticacurlingclub.org>



JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 Charbonneau Semis 6:00	CABV curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (6 ends) Boeiger Happy Hour 4:00 Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	CalderConleyHurd	GWCC Sr Mixed Norfolk King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	GWCC Sr Mixed CalderConleyHurd
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CalderConleyHurd Finals 11:30 GWCC Sr Mixed Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 Charbonneau Semis 6:00	CABV curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (6 ends) Boeiger Happy Hour 4:00 Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Empire State Schenectady	Empire State Mitchell Bonspiel	Empire State Mitchell Bonspiel
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mitchell Bonspiel Semis 8:30 Finals 11:30 Open ice, ROCKS 3:00-5:00 Charbonneau Finals 6:30	CABV curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends)	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Mitchell Bonspiel	Mixed Champs	Mixed Champs
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mixed Champs Semis 8:30 Finals 11:30 Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 College 4:15-6:15	CABV curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends) Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Boeiger Happy Hour 4:00 Mixed Champs	King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	GWCC Sr Men's Ice maintenance

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR ALL CHANGES, UPDATES, AND ADDITIONS!**

<http://uticacurlingclub.org>

FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
GNCC Sr Men's Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15	CABVI curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends) Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Boerger Happy Hour 4:00 Syr&under 6:30	King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ice maintenance Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 College 4:15-6:15	CABVI curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends) Allen 7:00		KAYSER Potormac Boerger Happy Hour 4:00 Syr&under 6:30	College Bonspiel KAYSER King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	College Bonspiel KAYSER Kayuta Lake Bonspiel
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
KAYSER College Bonspiel Finals Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15	CABVI curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (6 ends) Boerger Happy Hour 4:00 Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Syr&under 6:30	Cobb Bonspiel	Cobb Bonspiel
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Cobb Bonspiel Sermis 8:30 Finals 11:30 Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 College 4:15-6:15	High School Charity Challenge 11:00-4:00 CABVI curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends) Allen 7:00 March 1	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Francis Dykes Rochester Boerger Happy Hour 4:00 Syr&under 6:30 March 3	Francis Dykes King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry March 4	Francis Dykes March 5
28	29					
Open ice, ROCKS 2:15-4:15 College 4:15-6:15	CABVI curling one sheet 5:45 Lambert Grant 5:45 Tom Garber 8:00	Daytime Curlers League 10:00 (8 ends) Allen 7:00	Glensplaidies 5:45 Sims 8:00	Boerger Happy Hour 4:00 Glengarry Challenge 6:00	King's Cup 5:30&7:30 Fish fry	Glengarry Challenge all day plus dinner

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR ALL  
CHANGES, UPDATES, AND ADDITIONS!**

<http://uticacurlingclub.org>

Utica Curling Club  
830 Clark mills Road  
Whitesboro, NY 13492-3912