

Chips of Granite



April 2007

Granite Curling Club
1440 North 128th Street
P.O. Box 33057
Seattle, WA 98133

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Granite Curling Club	<i>"Founded in 1951, present facility constructed in 1961"</i>	www.curlingseattle.org
P.O. Box 33057 1440 N 128 th Street Seattle, WA 98133	Board of Trustees Membership : Neil Enns House : Tasha Stelmaszek Leagues : Jim Sullivan Bonspiels : Lisa Rugen Rentals : David Cornfield	President Greg Smith Vice President Barb Miller Treasurer Phil Draper Secretary Dani Thibodeaux Newsletter Keith Schreiber
(206) 362-2446		

Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet

The Annual Meeting and Awards dinner will be held at the club on Saturday, May 19th. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 pm (no-host) and dinner will commence at 7 pm. The cost is \$12 per person.

Please RSVP by mailing your check to

IMPORTANT !!!!!

If you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting, Please complete the adjacent **PROXY FORM** and send it to the meeting along with your designed Proxy **OR** mail it to Granite Curling Club, ATTN: Annual Meeting, P.O. Box 33057, Seattle, WA 98133 (must be postmarked by May 19th). **OR** email it to Elizabeth Booth at eboydbooth@hotmail.com

PROXY FORM

I, _____
(member's name here)

being a member in good standing of the Seattle Granite Curling Club, and being unable to be physically present at the 2007 Annual Meeting, hereby assign my proxy to:

(proxy's name here)

for all matters requiring a vote of the Membership.

(member's signature here)

FROM THE "OVAL" HOUSE

Where has the time gone? Here it is April, 2007, and I'm reflecting back on two years of writing President's Messages. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you during this period. While my time as President is coming to an end, I'm still looking forward to continued involvement next year and the opportunities that lay ahead to grow and strengthen the Granite Curling Club. Being on the Board has been very enriching and I encourage all of you to consider possible roles as your personal situations allow. To the past presidents, I greatly appreciate the guidance that you have provided; to the future president, I promise to be available to you.

As I hope I've written in every past message, thank you to all the volunteers who support this club, be it for the special activities (does anybody remember a brief period in February...), activities such as rentals, open houses and bonspiels, or activities which likely are not even visible to the general membership but are most key to the smooth operations of the club. I hope everybody can take time to appreciate and thank each other.

On a final note, please attend our Annual Meeting and Banquet on Saturday May 19th. In addition to being an enjoyable social event, most importantly, the meeting is to communicate how the club is doing and to honor the winners of our leagues and State and National events. I look forward to seeing you there!

Greg Smith, GCC President

MONEY MATTERS

The financial picture of Granite Curling Club reflects an active year supported by growth in our Novice and Junior membership categories with those members joining the various leagues. This gratifying trend provides more cash flow but we are always faced with expected and unexpected increases in costs of operation. This is particularly evident because of our aging facility.

As you know we spent over \$100,000 last summer in the various activities surrounding replacement of the ice plant. While there are still issues to be dealt with, we take comfort in knowing the chances of a complete shutdown as a result of equipment failure have been minimized. However, we face unknown items such as the potential replacement of the header pipes under the walkway, which will be examined after the ice is out and the known concern we have about our roof covering. These two items will put serious strains on our cash reserves if we have to proceed with both.

We have been fortunate in the past few years to generate significant money from Club Rental and Open House activities. In fact it was through these events that we were able to replace the ice plant and have some additional cash reserves.

There are trade-offs to these events since ice conditions suffer and maintenance costs increase but the alternative would have been substantially higher dues and league fees from our members.

Ongoing costs of operation continue to rise. This years expenses include utilities of \$32,000, insurance \$16,000, dues and subscriptions \$14,000, taxes, license and permits \$25,000, cleaning costs \$15,000, wages and professional fees \$26,000, general repairs \$20,000 and other expenses of \$20,000. In order to cover these costs we rely on dues and league fees plus bar revenue, bonspiel revenue, parking lot rental, early ice payments and fees for hosting regional playdowns and of course club rental and open house activities.

As we face the next year of activity we feel it prudent to ask our members to contribute more to our rising basic costs and allow our rentals to funds the major improvements we see coming. As a result, the board will be increasing the membership fees for the coming year. This will be the first increase in fees for 5 years and while the amount has not yet been finalized, we wish to provide everyone some advance notice.

Phil Draper, GCC Treasurer

8-ENDER SCORED

It's the classic story of making lemons into lemonade. The Sunday night mixed team of the Cloutier/McLean rink had to play a double-header as a make-up game. The second game was to be a short, 4-end game. Derrick McLean, who was skipping the team {Claire Cloutier, Peter Sommer and Miyo Konno} won the first game and had to win the second game in order to place 1st in the league. The second game did not go as well as the first one did. In the second of the 4 ends the team found themselves down 3 to 0. The skip knew he had to go aggressive in order to win. A couple missed shots on the team that were supposed to go to the wings ended up as guards which were subsequently raised in to the house. The rest of the end the team simply put rocks in the house around the remaining guards.

When the opposing skip was about to throw their last rock, her third came down to say "if you don't knock one of those red rocks out of the house, we are going to have an 8-ender scored against us". In spite of here "I only have to draw against seven" nerves her show cut a little early, hit a guard and fell to the outside of the 12-foot. With hammer the last rock was delivered cleanly into the house to score a grand total of 8 in the third end. Hands were shaken all around.

The opposing team was both courageous and showed true curling spirit and sportsmanship. They offered to take pictures of the house and the momentous occasion even though the 8-ender was scored on them. They demonstrated aplomb, graciousness and honor. It is a thrill to share the ice with them.

INTERNATIONAL TANKARD RETURNS

After a one-year hiatus, competition for the International Tankard resumed at Marpole Curling Club in Vancouver, BC, on the weekend of March 30 through April 1. This volunteer recognition event featured 6 teams from British Columbia pitted against 6 teams from the Western United States in head-to-head team competition. Despite a fast 4 – 2 start from the U.S. team, the British Columbia side prevailed, 10 games to 7, and B.C. will keep the Tankard for another year.

The U.S. side consisted of three teams from our own Granite Curling club, one team representing the WSCA board, one team representing the Mountain Pacific Curling region and one team from a newly-formed curling club in Wenatchee. Thanks to all the volunteers for their service to curling and the club over the course of the year.

We on the WSCA board are very happy to announce that, as a result of negotiations between our club, the WSCA and the relevant governing bodies in Canada, the annual tradition of the Tankard will continue, with the 2008 event hosted once again by a club in B.C. and the 2009 event returning to Seattle

Mike Calcagno

INTERNATIONAL UNDER-18 EVENT PROVIDES VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Washington was picked this year to send a team to the Optimist International Under 18 Championships that were held a week ago in Winnipeg. This event has grown over the years, and now includes U-18 champions from most of the provinces, several US teams, and teams from Japan: a total of 12 boys' teams and 12 girls' teams.

Our boys (Sam Galey, Nick Pleasants, Jake Vukich, Joe Mabbatt, and Derrick Pawlowski, coached by Ken Mabbatt) played against Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta, Quebec, North Dakota, and Japan. We beat North Dakota and Japan, but couldn't quite crack the Canadian teams, though we took Manitoba to a measurement in the last end. Alberta won the tournament on the boys' side and Manitoba on the girls' side.

In addition to the competition, the teams received instruction from an illustrious group, including Don Duguid (three time Brier winner and two time World champion), and banquet speaker Jill Officer, who played second for Jennifer Jones when they won the Scott Tournament of Hearts on a perfect wing shot takeout. We also paid a visit to the "mother store" of Asham Curling Supplies and tooled around downtown in our off time.

This tournament is a great opportunity for our younger juniors to get a taste of world level competition. If anyone would like to play next year, applications are available at the USCA web site, and should be submitted by December 1st. Entry is by invitation and application only. Motel, food, and transportation are provided by the Optimists, who are strong supporters of youth curling.

APRIL SPIEL RESULTS

The April Spiel is over and by all accounts this was the best one yet. On behalf of Cindy Kozai, Lisa Rugen, Tammy Lehto, Doug Potter, Phil Draper and me, thanks to all who participated and made us feel so appreciated.

These, by no means, are all the people it takes to pull this thing off, of course. Doug Williams and Severin Larson work around the clock to make the ice the best it can be considering there are 26 pebbles between scrapes by the end of the spiel. Alice Simmers and Mary Cook collected and organized the entry fees from 208 curlers in checks, plastic and two currencies. Tasha Stelmaszek orchestrated the stocking of the bar and staffing of tenders and runners for the 16 hours between 10:00AM to 2:00AM daily throughout the spiel. Let's be honest, taking Canadian at par in the bar and Cindy Kozai's prowess, with indefatigable assistance from the likes of Dani Thibodeaux, in supplying complimentary food at all times of the day and night are the two main distinctions between this spiel and any other.

The April Spiel is indeed different. Very few clubs are capable of drawing 56 teams with half again on a waiting list two months before the first rock is thrown. Unfortunately it is nearly impossible to get to "go time" with the full contingent of teams, stuff happens. The trickiest part of pulling this event off is creating a four event draw schedule for five sheets at the last minute as the number of teams change. It takes a rocket scientist to figure it all out and make it happen. Fortunately for us, we have one. Doug Potter created the magnificent draw schedule style we use. He has managed to incorporate all games and activities hour by hour through out the spiel and plot them in an understandable way.

I wish I could list all who had a hand in making the weekend special but that would be practically every member of our club who participated. Time and again our Canadian friends tell me how welcome we all make them feel. They come back year after year because we produce a product that reminds them all of what bonspiels were like in the "good old days". This is particularly flattering to Cindy, Lisa and I because that is precisely what we set out to do 5 or 6 years ago.

The theme this year was '50s and '60s Rock and Roll. Lisa and Tammy decorated every surface that wasn't moving and the effect was spectacular. We had dueling Pink Ladies, the Raffle Girls from our club and the Maconachie rink from Vancouver who apparently had a thing going on with Joel Larway under the radar. The real Bob Thibodeaux came dressed as what Elvis would have looked like had he never hit the big time and made his living playing the honky - tonk circuit around Tupelo, Mississippi. He was so good at it I have a hard time believing there was much acting involved. Special mention has to go to Jeannette Barksdale's exact replica of my mother in 1958. It was really creepy.

Tom Fitzgerald's "Curling Carnac" routine between music sets Saturday night managed to walk that thin line between uncomfortable humor and total offensiveness as is his want. Thanks Tom, you are the best.

Lest I forget, there was a little curling going on as well. Brady and Cristin with Bev and Curt Fish were practically flawless all weekend in winning the A event. The Allison clan from Tsawwassen, long time April Spielers, won the B event with Joann throwing the last rocks. The Romaniuk rink won the C and Darren Lehto with Lisa Rugen, the quintessential April Spieler throwing third, endured and prevailed in the dreaded D event.

This was my last April Spiel to head up. The club is healthy and there are many good, creative people ready and willing to take the April to the next level, where ever that is. The curling subculture is the best there is in America and curlers are special people who can be counted on to do their part. After all, how much of a sacrifice is it really to eat, drink and curl for four days straight. It has been a pure pleasure playing my small part in creating this thing called the April Spiel.

Thanks for everything,

Mike Carlisle

CLARK RINK MAKES CURLING HISTORY

Brady Clark along with his mixed curling teammates Cristin Clark, Leon Romaniuk and Bev Walter , made it three wins in a row and five championships in six years winning against Team California last month in Grafton, North Dakota. California, with Granite's Christina Pastula playing third, captured the lead in the fourth end, but Brady and team retook it for good in the fifth end, eventually winning 9-5.

Brady, Cristin and Bev are now the most successful skip, vice skip and lead in U.S. curling history.

Congratulations Brady, Cristin, Leon and Bev!

DRAPER TAKES HELM OF USWCA

Linda Draper will assume the role of President of the UNITED STATES WOMEN'S CURLING ASSOCIATION (USWCA) at the end of May. Joining Linda on the Executive Board will be Marj Yalowicki who will serve as the organization's Secretary. Marj currently serves as our club's Representative to the USWCA.

Both women had the honor to participate in the USWCA's two curling tours. Marj curled with fifteen other gals, in Manitoba, on the Canadian Senior Friendship Tour. This Tour goes to an area in Canada every six years. Three years from now, a group of sixteen women will come to the United States, from Manitoba, Canada. Linda went to Scotland to curl for close to a month. She curled in fifteen different clubs and plaed twenty some games. The US Team beat the Scottish women by a margin of close to 300 rocks. The USWCA selects twenty women, every ten years, to represent the United States. In five years, A Scottish Team of twenty women will come to the United States to compete across the country. Both women view their tours as 'the experience of a lifetime'.

In her capacity, as President, Linda will host the USWCA's Fall Meeting, which will be held in Seattle in September. Nicole Wood will be the meeting Coordinator. If you would like to lend a hand entertaining some fifty USWCA Representatives, from all over the country, please give Nicole Wood a call.

USWCA ALL-AMERICAN SPEIL

During St. Patrick's Day weekend, Granite women took part in the United States Women's Curling Association ALL AMERICAN. This is an event that is played throughout the country in many different formats. We enthusiastically welcomed eight teams. We played a 'points' format and teams played ten end games, rarely played, in club curling. Two games were played on Saturday and one game on Sunday morning. Lunch was served on Saturday and a light supper followed the games on Saturday evening. Following the Saturday games, a 'shoot out' was held, having each team throw one rock per person to the button, to be used in the case of ties following the Sunday match. Brunch was served on Sunday morning.

We were thrilled to have five women from the San Francisco Bay club join us in addition to one gal from Evergreen. Both clubs have recently joined the USWCA and would have difficulty putting the ALL AMERICAN event on within their own facilities. We welcomed: Erica Jankowski, from Evergreen and Loreen Makishima, Barbara Feist, Wendy Feist, Alice Hartmen and Pam Biesenthal from the San Francisco club. They were all a great addition to the weekend. We look forward to more gals joining us next year.

A special thank you to Marion Frosch who was there to lend a hand over the weekend and was pressed into curling a couple of games. Marion served as the club's USWCA representative for many years. Thanks also, to Mary Melton, Miyo Konno, Paula Holmes, Marj Yalowicki for their contribution of food to Saturday evening's supper and who knew that Martha Longbrake would prove to be the club's "COOKIE DIVA". Thank you to April Gale Seixiero, Lois Harness and Erin McNutt who played a game or two with us. Thanks also to Katie Grath who lent a hand in the clean up.

Winners were:

FIRST PLACE:

Marj Yalowick, Claire Potter, Erika Giste, Jacqueline Potter

SECOND PLACE:

Miyo Konno, Emily Good, Lorreen Makishima, Joan Sienkiewicz

THIRD PLACE:

Lois Harness, Nancy Thomas, Paula Holmes, Alice Hartman, Erin McNutt

FOURTH PLACE:

Mary Melton, Tasha Stelmaszek, Jennifer Doxtader, Sara Skulec, Sharon Martineau

JR. NATIONALS RECOGNIZES ICE CREW

These club members cleaned and prepped ice before every game with speed and team work. The hours were loooooong; they were the first to arrive and stayed late into the evening; as they waited for games to finish some learned to sleep vertically (and some crashed on the couch upstairs).

Bottom line, the event could not have been successful with out their quality work.

Thank you so very much Doug Williams, Joe Fox, John Henthorn, Severin Larson and Matt Thomas!!!!