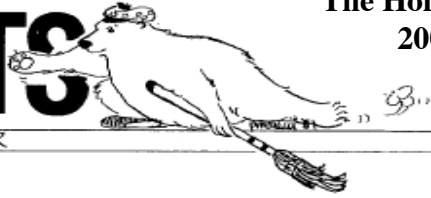




# BEAR FACTS

The Holidays of  
2009



FAIRBANKS CURLING CLUB NEWSLETTER

◆ Fairbanks Curling Club ◆ Established in 1905 ◆

## New Format Meets Success

The Yukon Title Curling Classic is no longer a World Curling Tour event, but still attracted top teams from Alaska and Canada. The new design for this event encourages local curlers to participate in a highly competitive event with lucrative cash prizes. The debut for the redesigned Yukon Title was successful with the Pat Paslawski Rink from Whitehorse claiming the Title and the largest check.

Paslawski defeated the Dave Hill Rink in the finale. Paslawski was up two going into the eighth end, but Hill had the hammer. With his last rock Paslawski made a takeout, eliminating a chance for a tie, and sealing his Yukon Title victory. Curling with Paslawski were Trent Derkatch, George Hilderman and Clarence Jack. Playing with Hill were John Blake, Jason Ostnes and Eric Birklid.

Following the new format a consolation bracket was added this year. This bracket allows teams to compete for cash prizes but not for the Title of the event. The consolation finale featured B.C. Charlotte West and local team Kaye Hufman. Their game had to go an extra end after Hufman and company stole the eighth end. In the extra end West scored and won the consolation bracket.

Fifteen rinks entered into this years Yukon Title Curling Classic to compete for \$12,500. Co-Chair Peter Lundquist noted that this years Classic did not featured as many out of state teams, but that all teams were very competitive. Lundquist considered the new format a success and looks forward to expanding local and out of state interest for the 2010 Yukon Title Curling Classic.

## Barrow Hosts Bonspiel

Local curlers will be traveling to Barrow Alaska next weekend to participate in Barrow's first Bonspiel. The event is hosted by the Barrow Hockey and Curling Association. The Barrow Association will be sponsoring ten Fairbanks curlers, including their airfare to Barrow. Other curlers are also participating in what Dave Hill described as a, "reverse rookie spiel."

Teams were created by placing a Barrow based rookie on each team and using experienced Barrow and Fairbanks curlers to round out the teams. Hill hopes that the event will inspire Barrow locals to get involved in curling.

Our local curlers are in for a surprise when they arrive at the Barrow Curling Club. Curling in extreme temperatures and on natural ice will present problems that we don't have to contend with here in Fairbanks. How does one even get into the hack with five layers of clothing on!? Natural ice is extremely "slow" ice, meaning it takes more energy to get the rock down the ice. It should be a good experience for both the new Barrow curlers and the Fairbanks "new to Barrow" curlers! We hope to hear details when they return!

## Reminders:

- Please buss your own tables after enjoying a drink after your game
- There will be no leagues over Christmas from Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Remember to sign up for spring draws!
- Spring draw begins on Thursday Jan. 7th

## Etiquette Corner

This year we are implementing the game bell which requires teams to finish their game in a timely manner. Teams are given over two hours to complete a standard eight end game.

One rule of etiquette that also speeds playing time is for players to be in the hack and ready to shoot when their turn arrives. Instead of standing at the hogline while the other teams throws, if you throw next, please stand behind the hack. This way you can get your rock, clean it, position yourself, and be ready to throw when the oppositions rock stops.

However, also remember that if you are not throwing next that etiquette dictates that you stand between the hoglines.

## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Thank you to the Ladies Curling Club members for bringing the curling club into the holiday season! With their holiday spirit the ladies put up the club Christmas decorations. The tree looks phenomenal and the atmosphere at the club is now one of "tidings and joy!" Thank you members of the USWCA for taking the initiative to do this: now it is time to put presents under there! I'd take an eight ender, please Santa!

## 2011 Approaches and Committees are Forming

Our opportunity to host the 2011 USCA Junior Nationals is fast approaching! Co-Chairs Dave Flippo and Denny Thies are actively recruiting help for a variety of committees.

They are currently looking for someone to chair the Closing Banquet Committee. If you have a flair for organizing this might be a time to shine!

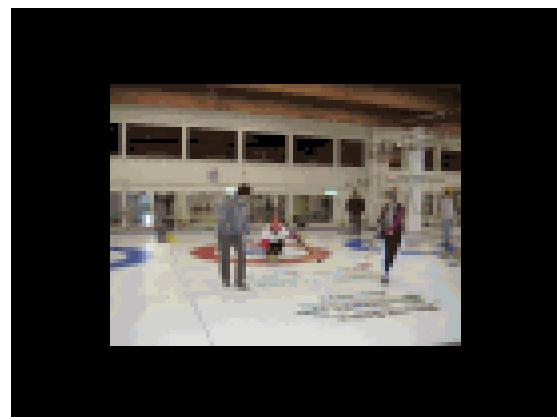
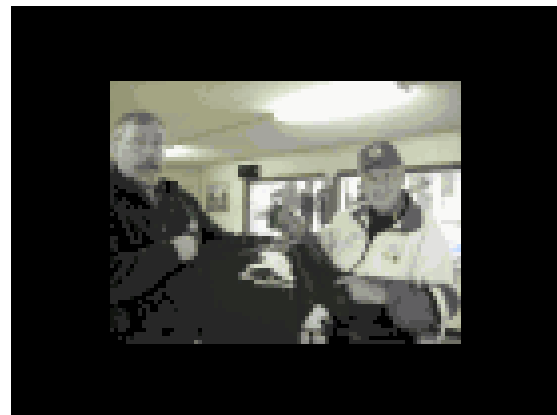
As the event gets closer we will be recruiting more people. Keep your ears and eyes open for ways to get involved with this National event!

## Canadian Curler flies to Fairbanks: *just to curl at the FCC*

Many of our local Fairbanks curlers have never played in a club other than our own. Quebec curler Camille Villeneuve was in that same position...620 curling clubs ago! Villeneuve, 81, is on a quest to visit 700 curling clubs.

Villeneuve added the Fairbanks Curling Club to his list about a month ago. He curled with local curlers in a friendly Monday night game with Margaret Rich, Lynda Sather, Jennifer Schmidt and Karen Parish. The visitor helped his team collect five points in the last end to win the game. Since beginning his curling club tour Villeneuve has played with over 3,000 teammates!

FCC Board member Jim Callahan presented Villeneuve with Fairbanks memorabilia to add to his 36-foot long display.



## **ROOKIE CURLERS HAVE TONS OF FUN**

Fairbanks Curling Club's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Rookie Spiel attracted 32 teams. Participants ranged in age from 10 to 71, there were 29 student players and 92 rookies. That's 128 people throwing 100 tons of granite, but 42 pounds at a time!

The Rookie Spiel is a two day event requiring each team to have at least two rookies. Those Rookies were first year curlers, non-curlers or former curlers. All participants received commemorative t-shirts compliments of Fairbanks Concrete & Construction and Fairbanks Fuel.

The winning team completing the weekend undefeated was Seehtana Hill, with third Dave Hill, plus rookies Phyllis Hill and Alyssa Rogers. They beat the previously undefeated Bob Weinberg, Brad Krupa, Susan Carothers and Candice Krupa. The Hill team was a family affair with youngster Seehtana Rexford Hill playing in her very first curling games with her grandparents Dave & Phyllis Hill, who now reside in Barrow.

Winners of the second event was a team lead by skip Gene Traxler, with teammates Jim Manning, Ariel Traxler and Cora Farrell. Traxler's team also feature his granddaughter and two preteens. Second in the "B" was Greg Persinger and Dimi Chagnon, along with preteen rookie teammates Lauren Persinger and Coleen Geraghty.

The third event winners played a tiring six games, four on Sunday afternoon. That persistent team was skipped by Brett Lystad, with Adie Callahan, rookies Bert Weston and Keith Clark. Lystad beat the Paul Prantis rink who played rookies Rick Miller, Mel Durrett and Jessie Peterson.

Preteens playing with families had a great showing with five individuals playing the final games. The 128 participants included players from Anchorage and Barrow; plus three full teams from Ft Wainwright.

Special thanks to volunteer cooks from the 472d Military Police Company at Ft Wainwright.

It was a fun weekend, with many rookies gaining a better understanding of the complexities of the Scottish sport of Curling and its 104-year history in Fairbanks.

### **Extra Thoughts from Rookie Spiel**

- This years Rookie Spiel featured a 50% increase in rookie participation from the 2008 Rookie Spiel!
- Curling truly is a family affair, as winning rinks from each bracket are related!
- Special thanks to last year's winners Ben Kilbourn and Jamison Johnson. By winning last year they inherited the job of chairing and organizing this years event! Good job gentlemen!
- That also means that tradition dictates that this years winners will be next years event organizers!
- Remember to encourage Rookies to sign up for the Spring Draw!

## Volunteer Corner

In future editions of the Bear Facts look for "Volunteer Corner" This feature will include information about ways that you, as members of the FCC, can be more involved. Volunteer opportunities usually include active recruitment, on ice instruction, project help, event organization, manpower hours, and various club related activities. We are an association run entirely on volunteer hours so please consider giving your time and talent to help better the Fairbanks Curling Club.

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Cash Raffle Dinner committee is looking for volunteers to help with this annual even. This dinner is the clubs main fundraising of the year, and is set for February 27, 2010. Please contact Ivar Halvarson at 452-3791 if you can help. We need help now with ticket sales, menu planning, dinner coordination, and will also need help with dinner set up and clean up the night of the event. Don't forget, tickets are on sale at the bar, please support your club!

### Volunteer Opportunity

Sat. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> noon-3p. We will be hosting approximately 70 exchange students and teaching them how to curl. This event is sponsored by Local Rotarians and is an outreach event. If you can volunteer please let me know at [snider.kellyrae@gmail.com](mailto:snider.kellyrae@gmail.com)

## Arctic Winter Game Teams Decided

Through an individual tryout process the 2010 Arctic Winter Games teams have been selected. The 21<sup>st</sup> Arctic Winter Games will be held March 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Grand Prairie, Alberta Canada.

Team Alaska Curling teams are selected on an individual basis, rather than a tradition team selection. Participants were tested on their on-ice skills by demonstrating skill strengths in specific shot making and sweeping. They also took a written test, which covered rules and strategy. The following teams will be representing the State of Alaska in Grand Prairie.

### Women:

Skip: Kaitlin Fowler  
Third: Christa Czajka  
Second: Ariel Traxler  
Lead: Kayla Foster

### Men:

Skip: Ryan Flippo  
Third: Quinn Everson  
Second: John Wellert  
Lead: Tavish Logan

Any questions regarding the Arctic Winter Games should be directed to Gayle Hazen who is the Arctic Winter Games Coordinator. For more information on the Games please visit their website <http://www.arcticwintergames.org/>

Do you want to win \$10,000?

# Curling Club

## Cash Raffle

**Our major fundraiser of the year  
Please support the club**

Tickets Available at the Bar.

Total Payout \$12,000

\$100 each (includes one Prime Rib Dinner)

February 27, 2010

Need not be present to win.

Extra Dinner Tickets Available

## Support our sponsors for their continued support of the oldest sport in Fairbanks

**Scoreboards:** Kenneth A. Murray Insurance • Gene's Chrysler • Jackovich Industrial & Construction Supply, Inc. • Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc. • Dollar Rent a Car • Walsh, Kelliher, & Sharp, APC

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Northern Alaska Medical & Surgical Associates, Inc. - Danny Robinette, MD • North Pole Veterinary Hospital • Twigs Alaskan Gifts • Slayden Plumping & Heating • Alyeska Pipeline Services

For advertising information, contact Donna Laiti at [laitidg@alyeska-pipeline.com](mailto:laitidg@alyeska-pipeline.com)

Visit our website: [www.curlfairbanks.org](http://www.curlfairbanks.org)

**Remember:** The bar is no longer selling curling supplies. Contact a board member with suggestions on where to buy your new brooms, shoes, and other curling necessities!

### Fairbanks Curling Club Board of Directors

452-2875

[www.curlfairbanks.org](http://www.curlfairbanks.org)

Board of Directors

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