



2024 - 2025 Annual Newsletter

The Portage Curling Club Board looks forward to welcoming our curlers, new and seasoned, back for another amazing year of curling! We hope you all had a great summer. We are excited to get the season started. Our Ice Guy, John Shultz, spent a weekend in July with USA Curling national level ice makers and came back with some more ideas we hope will bring our curling surface to an even higher level of performance! Starting this year, you will notice in ice advertisements on all four sheets. This is a creative way to raise money for the club. As of this publication, we have nine in ice advertisers!

Check out the new and improved parking lot! Many thanks to the John and Kathryn Curtis Revocable Trust and Mark Curtis for their generous donation. It's a wonderful improvement!

To get us in the curling mode, we hope you will join us at our Fall Tailgate Party on **October 20th** – you do not want to miss out on this! Football, horse races, a chili cook-off, demos of the new features at the club, and much more! **Be sure to RSVP (using the link on the next page)** so we know how much food and beverage we need.

Please continue for more information on the tailgate and the rest of the 2024-25 season.

Good Curling!
Mark Labor, President



Fall Tailgate Party – Sunday, October 20th

Football

The Fall Tailgate Party will coincide with the 12:00pm Packers v. Texans game. Food and drinks are provided, but feel free to bring what you like. Shareable tailgate food is always welcome!

Chili Cookoff

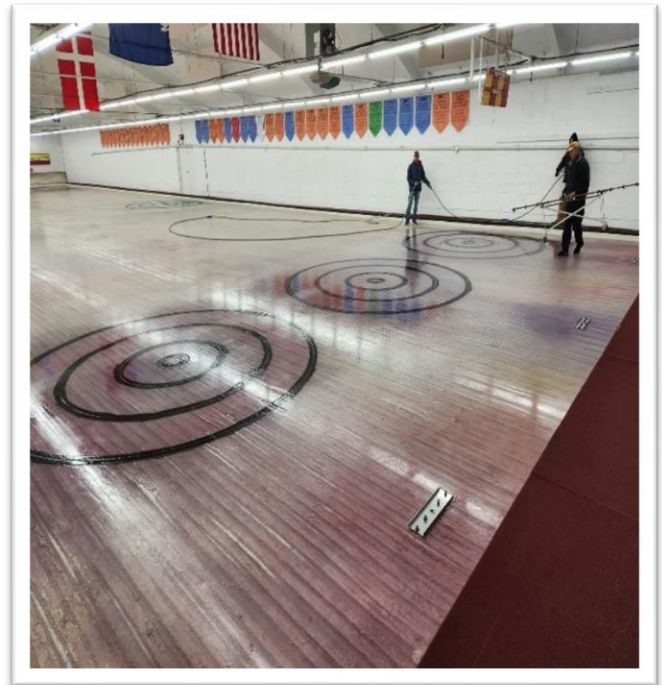
Participants will compete to see who can make the best pot of chili. Any kind of chili is acceptable, but please bring a list of ingredients to accommodate dietary restrictions. Attending members will vote on their favorite. The winner will receive a free locker rental for the season. Congratulations to Mark Labor for winning last year's competition.

RSVP for the party/events using this link. <https://forms.gle/RzAaPSQ83w8rUgmBA>
We hope to see you there!

Ice Making

The tentative start date to begin making ice is **October 8th** depending on weather conditions. The entire process takes about 3 weeks. Work takes place most nights starting at 7:00pm. Steve Benck will coordinate the sign-up. Members are encouraged to lend a hand at least one night during the process. This is a great way to get some volunteer hours in. Prior knowledge is not required. Someone from the ice crew is always on hand to show you what to do.

Contact Steve Benck if you have any questions.
Phone: 608-617-9884
Email: benck.steve@gmail.com



2023-2024 Playdown Results



Congratulations to Team Vorpahl, the 2023-2024 Men's League and Club Champions.

Front (Left to Right) – Josh Pogorelec, Dan Staveness, Ben Vorpahl, Dave Vorpahl

Congratulations to Team Schultz as the runner up.

Back (Left to Right) – Dave Lehman, John Wolff (sub for Mark Labor), Shannon Schultz, John Schultz

Social Media

We would like to be more active on our social media platforms, especially during the curling season! Please consider sharing your images to the social media accounts or email them to the curling club email address below and we will add them wherever appropriate.

A huge thank you goes out to Kari Caulum for maintaining our website. Please email Kari if you would like to have something posted on the website. **Thanks, Kari!**

This year we will be streaming three sheets on YouTube during league play, high school games, and bonspiels. The sheets that are being streamed will rotate daily and be posted on our Facebook page.

Like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram as well!

Kari Caulum - karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com

Portage Curling Club - portagecurlingclub@gmail.com



Club Dues

First Year Membership	\$185
Second Year Membership	\$235
Regular Membership (3+ Years)	\$285
Family Membership	\$640
Junior Membership for Leagues	\$125
Senior Day League Only	\$110
Social Membership	\$50
Half-Year Leagues (Per League)	\$120
Friday League Only	25% Discount
Saturday Junior 1st and 2nd Year	\$40
Saturday Junior (3+ years)	\$60
Locker Rental	\$30

Beer Club



This year we will continue with season-round Guinness and Miller Lite alongside a rotating stock of 2-3 craft selections. Dues will be \$135 for Men, and \$90 for Women. If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, don't hesitate to reach out.

Dave Tapke
dtapke@gmail.com
(309) 275-1960

Payments

Checks and cash are the preferred methods of payment for the club, but PayPal and Venmo are also available. If paying with these options, a 2% fee is assessed to offset added bank charges.



Dues Using PayPal or Venmo

1st Year	\$188.70
2nd Year	\$239.70
3+ Years	\$290.70
Family	\$652.80
Junior	\$127.50

For multiple fees (dues, locker, etc.), multiply the total by 1.02 to get the correct amount.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Dues must be paid, and the release form signed **BEFORE** you step on the ice. It is the skip's responsibility to make sure all team members have paid their dues. The treasurer will be at each league, the first two weeks of season, to take payments.

On December 1st, a list of curlers with unpaid dues will be posted at the club. Beginning on December 15th, any team that has a curler with unpaid dues will forfeit their games until the dues are paid.

League Information

Monday Dinner League (Frank Rhyme Event)

5:00pm Draw

Monday Men's Dinner league has room for nine teams, with eight playing and one preparing dinner. Individual curlers looking for a team should contact Josh Brandsma.

Chair - Josh Brandsma | Phone: 608-790-4558 | Email: brandsmajosh@hotmail.com

Tuesday Night Women's League

6:30pm Draw

This league consists of six-end games to ensure plenty of social time. The league focuses on the curling etiquette necessary for our many new curlers to learn, have fun, and represent our club.

Contact Shannon Schultz to play.

Chair: Rachael Sarette | Phone: 763-772-8086 | Email: rsarette94@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Men's League (Doc Curtis Event)

5:45pm and 8:00pm Draws

Wednesday Men's League has room for 16-17 teams. With only 13 teams last season, there is plenty of room for new teams. Several Wednesday teams are looking for individual curlers to join them. Contact Steve Dubberstein regarding joining a Wednesday men's team.

Chair: Steve Dubberstein | Phone: 608-697-8818 | Email: steve@dubberstein.com

Thursday Open League

6:00pm Draw

Thursday is an open league allowing men, women, as well as sons and daughters, to curl together. The Thursday Open League has room for at least 9 teams. With only 7 teams last season, there is room for more teams. Contact Steve Dubberstein regarding joining a Thursday men's team.

Chair: Steve Dubberstein | Phone: 608-697-8818 | Email: steve@dubberstein.com

Friday Night Mixed League

6:30pm Draw

Friday Night Mixed League welcomes new and experienced curlers aged 21 and older. Due to the relaxed, social atmosphere, this league is great for new curlers. The mixed format means that 2 males and 2 females make up a team and throw in alternating order. Contact Shannon Schultz to play.

Chair: Shannon Schultz | Phone: 608-697-9093 | Email: shannon.schultz99@gmail.com

League Information (cont.)

Monday Night Learn-To-Curl / U5 League ~7:15pm Draw (After Monday Dinner League)

The Monday Night Learn-to-Curl Nights/U5 League was a success last year, so it will be back this season. Monday nights in November and December will be dedicated to curling instruction for any members or non-members who want to learn to curl or improve their skills. In January and February, the U5 league will replace the lessons. This league is open to anyone who has curled for 5 or fewer years. It is a drop-in league. Come as often as you can. Each Monday, teams are randomly formed with different people skipping each week. Games are four ends and take about 90 minutes to play. Points are earned for each end scored, plus the total points, and two points for the win or one for a tie. At the end of the season, four people will be honored for their accomplishments.

Chair: Vietta Kampen | Phone: 608-697-6510 | Email: vkkampen@gmail.com



2024 U5 League Winners



Congrats to the 2024 U5
League Winners

(Left to Right): Michael
Owen, Rachel Sarette, Cheri
Dvorak (Jason Dvorak
accepted her mug), Rylan
Friend

Volunteerism

Like most curling clubs, we rely heavily on volunteers for many things. From making and maintaining the ice, to the bonspiels that we host throughout the season. None of these would be possible without the dedication of our club members.

Last season we instituted a Volunteer Appreciation Board to show members time spent adding to the club's viability. It generated a variety of opinions, but overall, it was well received. Thus, it will be in place again this year. To keep track of your volunteer hours, we encourage you to use our app, [Track it Forward](#). The app can be found at your phone's app store or by using the QR code on this page and at the club!

Android



IOS



The club really stepped up for four Bonspiels last year.... We'll need that same level of intensity and more this year as we are hosting two additional bonspiels in 2025. The Pardeeville Lions Bonspiel in January and the US Senior Men's Curling Association Bonspiel in February. These are events that we host with other clubs on a 5-7 yr rotating basis. Please help to show our future guests just how amazing we are!

This season, you will be asked to choose one of the following three options when you fill out your waiver and pay your dues...

- 1. Volunteer 10 hours around the club.**
Activities could include making ice, serving on committees, helping at bonspiels (ice crew, kitchen staff, officiating, seeking raffle prizes, etc.). you can find events on our calendar page. Make sure to log your hours on the Track it Forward app.
- 2. Sell 10 additional calendars**
Choosing this option will mean that your packet will contain fifteen calendars to sell instead of the original 5.
- 3. Donate \$100**
This can be a monetary donation or buying requested item/food for our events.

THIS IS YOUR CLUB!



This is a volunteer organization and there are many ways you can help.

- Help with ice installation
- Help prepare ice for leagues
- Volunteer at bonspiels
- Help with Juniors on Saturdays
- Donate food or money for bonspiels
- Sell extra calendars
- Help with the High School Program
- Load and empty the dishwasher
- Take out the trash

Juniors Curling Program

Juniors Curling Sign Up – October 9th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Parents will be asked to sign up to help on the ice, and to bring snacks. We will use an online signup app for this.

DUES: \$40 for 1st and 2nd year curlers. \$60 for everyone else.

Beginners: Saturdays 9:00am-10:00am

NOTE: Based on numbers after signups are done, this group may meet at the same time as the Intermediate Group.

This level is primarily for youth ages 6 to 8. Most of these curlers will be new to curling or returning curlers who still need to work on skills. Curlers will learn basic delivery skills, ice safety, ice etiquette, and sportsmanship.

Intermediate: Saturdays 10:00am – 11:00am

This level is primarily for youth ages 8 to 10. The majority have learned the basic skills and are ready to put them to use. Sliding, balance, delivery, and sweeping skills will be emphasized. As the season progresses, students will play half sheet games and learn basic strategy. Some curlers may be moved up into the Developmental Group once they are able to consistently throw the stone to the other end with a balanced delivery.

Developmental: Saturdays 11:00am – 12:00pm

This level is for middle school curlers with limited experience. Time will be spent improving deliveries, sweeping skills, strategy, etiquette, sportsmanship, and playing half-sheet and full sheet games. As curlers improve, they may be moved up to the competitive group.

Competitive: Saturdays 12:00pm – 2:00pm

This level is for junior curlers who have developed their delivery and are ready to play more games, learn more strategy, and compete in bonspiels. Registration for this group will be based on last year's skill level. The goal is for all curlers to compete in at least one junior bonspiel this year. Bonspiel dates will be available the first Saturday we meet. In January and February, 8th graders will be allowed to join the U5 League. This is a drop in league that meets Monday nights starting at 7:15pm. Teams play four-end games and play in different positions. We will use this time slot as practice ice for teams that are going to bonspiels.

Parents with children who bonspiel outside of the PCC must take the Safe Sport training. You will be provided with the training information.

2024 – 2025 Calendar of Events

October 8th	Ice Installation Begins
October 9th	Juniors Sign Up
October 19th	Club Clean Up Day
October 20th	Fall Tailgate Party and Festivities
TBD	Learn to Curl Weekend
November 11th	League Play Begins
November 16th-17th	High School Curling Camp
December 6th-8th	Portage Open Wheelchair Bonspiel
December 13th-15th	Bourbon on the Rocks Men's Bonspiel
January 10th-12th	Pardeville Lions Bonspiel
January 25th-26th	Junior Bonspiel
January 31st - February 1st	Alumni Spiel
February 7th-9th	5U Bonspiel
February 13th-16th	USSMCA
March 10th-14th	Club Championship



Portage High School Curling Team

The Portage High School curling team will start the season in Mid-November with practice followed by games starting at the end of November. Practice will be Tuesday-Friday from 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Coaching Staff

Girls Coaches

- Jim Shlimovitz
- Brian Scheibach

Boys Coach

- Mike Charles



2024-2025 Southern Wisconsin High School Curling Schedule

Date	Boys	Girls
November 26th	Home v. Stevens Point	Away v. Stevens Point
December 3rd	Away v. Poynette	Home v. Poynette
December 10th	Away v. Lodi	Home v. Lodi
December 17th	Home v. Pardeeville	Away v. Pardeeville
January 7th	Home v. Lodi	Away v. Lodi
January 14th	Away v. Pardeeville	Home v. Pardeeville
January 17-18th	Tietge	Tietge
January 21st	Home v. Poynette	Away v. Poynette
January 28th	Home v. Pardeeville	Away v. Pardeeville
February 4th	Away v. Poynette	Home v. Poynette
February 6th	Away v. Lodi	Home v. Lodi
February 14th-15th	State	State