



NEWSLETTER

2026-2027

THE SPIRIT OF CURLING

a letter from the Portage Curling Club President



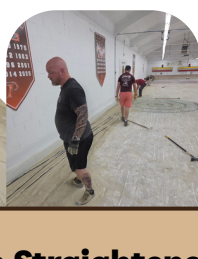
Another season at the Portage Curling Club is nearly upon us! As the President of this year's Curling Club Board of Directors, I am extremely excited for the upcoming season and the challenges and opportunities it has in store. We had a successful celebration of the 175th anniversary of our curling club and hope to continue the tradition of curling in Portage for many years.

As many of you know, our club needs repair and upgrades in multiple areas to sustain the longevity of enjoying our sport here, including repairing the roof of the ice house and the condenser. We have started a Capital Campaign with the goal of raising funds necessary to complete these projects, and more information will be provided on those efforts (including ways that you as a member can help).

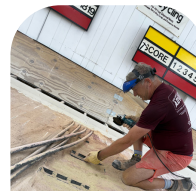
Our club will also be hosting many bonspiels this season, including college nationals and other great events, allowing us to showcase our facilities, hospitality, and our community. We will draw athletes, their families, and supporters from around the country, not to mention those who will view the livestreams for those events. These events will support the club financially but will also require volunteer hours from our club members to run successfully.

We have a curling club that we all are and should be proud of. Through wins and losses, we should work to promote our club and the sport and embody the Spirit of Curling.

Good curling to all; see you on the ice soon!
Benjamin D. Vorpahl



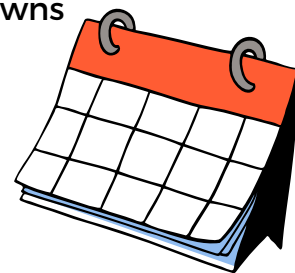
THANK YOU!



Pipe Straighteners! Your hard work is appreciated!

2026 -2027 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

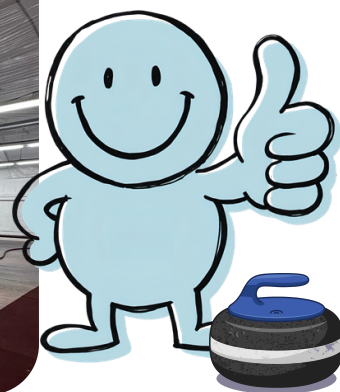
September 30th	Bartels Middle School Service Day	8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
October 6th	Ice Making Starts	To be determined
November 7th	Club Clean Up Day	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
November 8 th	Raise the Roof Tailgate Party	3:00 p.m.
November 9 th	Leagues start	
November 13 th	Red Carpet College Doubles Bonspiel	
November 17th	High School Curling Practices starts	3:45-5:15 p.m.
December 5th-7th	Wheelchair Bonspiel	
December 11th-13h	Men's Bourbon Spiel	
January 15th-17th	Open Bonspiel	
January 23th-24th	Junior's Bonspiel	
February 18th-21st	Wisconsin Curling Association Mixed 4 Playdowns	
February 26th-27th	High School State Doubles	
March 5th-6th	Alumni Bonspiel	
Marh 11th-14th	College Nationals	
March	Men's & Club Playdowns	
April	County Playdowns - Sweet 16	



ICE MAKING

Ice making is scheduled to begin on **October 6th** during the evening hours. However, the schedule will be adjusted based on the weather conditions. The temperatures and humidity need to be just right. The entire process takes about three weeks once we start. Steve Benck will be coordinating the signup process. Members are encouraged to lend a hand at least one night during the process. This is a great way to get some volunteer hours and someone from the ice crew is always on hand to show you what to do. No experience required! **Contact Steve Benck** at 608-617-9884 or benck.steve@gmail.com if you have questions and/or are ready to learn about the ice.

THANK YOU!!





RAISE THE ROOF TAILGATE PARTY

Sunday, November 8 • 3:00 PM at the Club

One afternoon. Four big reasons to be there!

1. TAILGATE, FOOTBALL & FELLOWSHIP

The Packers take on the Patriots, and we'll have the game on at the club! We'll have food and drinks available, but feel free to bring a favorite tailgate dish or snack to share. Most importantly, bring yourself and come enjoy some time with your curling friends. Whether you're there for every play, just there for the food, or simply want to spend some time with the club community, we'd love to have you there! And, of course, what's a tailgate without a little friendly competition? That brings us to...

2. THE CHILI COOKOFF

Last year's Chili Cookoff was a HUGE hit! And for those who remember, Dan Staveness took home the crown! Now it's your turn to step up to the pot and see if you can claim the title this year. Bring your best chili! 🌶️ Spicy 🥄 Mild 🥕 Vegetarian 🥩 Meaty 🔥 Your secret family recipe ...and anything in between!

A few important reminders:

- Please bring a list of ingredients with your chili so we can help accommodate dietary needs.
- Members will vote for their favorite.
- The winner gets bragging rights AND a prize!

So start thinking about your recipe. Can you dethrone Dan?

3. KNOW YOUR CLUB: ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION & BY-LAWS

This part of the afternoon is especially important. As a member of the Portage Curling Club, your voice matters. We will be sharing the updated Articles of Incorporation and Club By-Laws for members to review and vote on. These documents may not be as exciting as football or chili—but they provide the framework for our organization. They help define who we are, how the club is governed, how decisions are made, and how we operate as a club. Please don't skip this part!

4. KICKING OFF THE "RAISE THE ROOF" CAMPAIGN

And finally...the reason behind it all! We are excited to officially kick off our RAISE THE ROOF Campaign! The Portage Curling Club has a long history, a strong membership, and a facility that has given generations of curlers a place to compete, learn, volunteer, and build friendships. Now we're looking toward the next chapter. The Raise the Roof Campaign will help us make important improvements to our club and facility so we can continue building a strong future for curling in Portage. At the Tailgate Party, you'll have an opportunity to:

-  Learn about the Raise the Roof Campaign
-  See what improvements we are working toward & our vision for the future
-  Discover how you can help

This isn't just about improving a building. It's about investing in the future of our club. For more than a century, curlers have built and supported this club. Now it's our turn to help make sure it is here for the next generation of curlers.

FOUR REASONS. ONE GREAT AFTERNOON.

Football. Chili. Club business. The future of Portage Curling.

[One Easy RSVP Form Click Here](#)

We can't wait to see you there—and kick off the next chapter together!

 LET'S RAISE THE ROOF!



RAISE THE ROOF

Invest in Our Future

PRESERVE OUR PAST. PROTECT OUR PRESENT.

BUILD OUR FUTURE.

Mission:

The Portage Curling Association is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to teaching, developing, and promoting the sport of curling to people of all ages, abilities, and skill levels.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL:

To literally secure the roof over our houses and set up the club financially for the next

175 YEARS

of curling in Portage.



IMMEDIATE NEED:

Full replacement of the club roof:

\$150,000



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:

Additional \$100,000 (base goal)

\$100,000



STRETCH GOAL:

\$250,000



For generations, the Portage Curling Club has relied on the generosity of its members and supporters, special fundraising campaigns, and even refinancing our property to complete critical facility improvements.

While these efforts have carried us this far, it's time to build for the future. Establishing a permanent Maintenance and Facility Improvement Fund will allow us to proactively care for our historic facility, address future needs, and preserve the club for generations to come.

*Every gift
makes a
difference!*



DONATE TODAY



PO Box 55 • Portage, WI 53901



portagecurlingclub@gmail.com



portagecurling.com



facebook.com/portagecurling

RAISE THE ROOF!

Your Support Keeps Our Club Dry

★ THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! ★



\$250

DONATION GETS YOU
A PATCH



\$500

DONATION GETS YOU
A TUMBLER AND A PATCH



\$1,000

DONATION GETS YOU
AN EMBROIDERED QUARTER ZIP
WITH YOUR NAME PERSONALIZED



\$2,500

DONATION GETS YOU
A SHELL JACKET
WITH YOUR NAME EMBROIDERED ON IT



DONATE



SCAN HERE

TOGETHER, WE CAN SECURE TODAY AND BUILD FOR TOMORROW.

portagecurling.com

More Details at Party!



2026-2027 LEAGUES



Monday Men's Dinner League (Frank Rhyme Event)

5pm Draw

This Monday men's league has one team prepare and serve dinner as the other eight teams play a competitive eight end game. The league has room for nine teams. Individual curlers looking to join this deliciously competitive league contact Josh Brandsma.

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

Tuesday Night Women's League

6:30pm Draw

Tuesday night is a vibrant community of women who come together not just to curl, but to connect, laugh, and enjoy the spirit of the game. The Tuesday Night Women's League is perfect for all skill levels—from seasoned sweepers to first-time throwers. Whether you're looking to sharpen your strategy or simply enjoy a fun night out, this league offers a relaxed, supportive environment where camaraderie is just as important as competition. This league has room for 10 teams. Nov 10 + Nov 17 will be warm-up/practice/bring-a-friend nights to learn, improve, and grow the league. Teams will then be formed, Thanksgiving week will be off, and official games begin Dec 1. Contact Rachael Sarette if interested in joining a team or becoming a sub.

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

Wednesday Night Men's League (Doc Curtis Event)

5:45pm and 8pm Draws

Wednesday Men's league is a competitive eight end game with 17 teams needed for the two draw times every week. Whether you're part of a full squad looking for league play or a solo curler eager to join a team, this is your chance to be part of a high-energy, high-stakes curling community. Contact Steve Dubberstein.

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

Thursday Open League

6pm Draw

The Thursday Open League is the perfect place for men, women, sons, daughters, friends, and family to team up and enjoy the sport together. Whether you're building a team from scratch or joining forces with loved ones, this league offers a welcoming space for curlers of all ages and skill levels. With room for at least 9 teams, there's plenty of opportunity to jump in and be part of the action. Interested in joining or forming a team? Reach out to Steve Dubberstein to find your place in this league.

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: 608-617-6086 | Email: shannon.schultz99@gmail.com

Several teams are looking for individual curlers to round out their rosters—so don't hesitate if you're flying solo to ask about any of these leagues!

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Front: PCC 2025-2026 Club Champion: Team J Schultz – Monday. Left-to-right: John Schultz, Dan Staveness, Ryan Kilde, Jeff Goldthorpe
Rear: PCC 2025-2026 Club Runner-up: Team Dobbs. Left-to-right: Jason Dobbs, Jake Wagner, Amanda Dobbs, Corinne Malone

U5 NATIONALS



2025-2026 Portage Curling Club U5 Nationals Team Gumz:
from left to right: Jacalynn Gumz, Anthony Worzella, Josh White, Unal Karabulut, and Fran Walsh

Monday Night Learn-To-Curl

~7:15pm Draw (After Monday Dinner League)

The Monday Night Learn-to-Curles were 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. These sessions will be 90 minutes long.

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

Monday Night Doubles

~7:15pm Draw

The Portage Curling Club is looking for those members interested in starting a Doubles League on Monday nights after the Monday Night Dinner League is done playing. The league would play in January and February. If you are interested please reach out to Vietta Kampen at portagecurlingclub@gmail.com.

Chair – to be determined



CLUB DUES

First Year Membership	\$195
Second Year Membership	\$245
Regular Membership (3+years)	\$295
Family Membership	\$660
Junior Membership for Leagues	\$125
Senior Day League Only	\$110
Social Membership	\$50
Half-Year Leagues (Per League)	\$120
Friday League Only	25% off
Saturday Junior 1st & 2nd Year	\$40
Saturday Junior (3+Years)	\$60
Locker Rental	\$30

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 the 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 hosting a curler with unpaid dues will forfeit their games until the dues are paid.

CLUB PAYMENT

- **Preferred:** checks or cash
- Also accepted: Venmo (with a 2% fee to cover bank charges)
 - 1st year \$198.90
 - 2nd year \$249.90
 - 3rd year \$300.90
 - Family \$673.20

If you're paying multiple fees (dues, locker, etc.), just add them up and multiply the total by 1.02 to get the correct Venmo amount.



BEER CLUB 2025

This year, the Beer Club will keep pouring the favorites—Guinness and Miller Lite—alongside a rotating selection of 2-3 craft beers.

To participate, you must:

- Be a club member
- Be 21 or older
- Pay annual dues:
 - \$145 for men
 - \$95 for women

Got questions or special beer requests? Reach out to Mark Labor. Cheers!





VOLUNTEERING



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.

Volunteerism is what makes our club what it is today. Without your participation outside of league play, hosting fundraisers (bonspiels) would not be possible. These events bring significant income to the club, which helps to keep our expenses in check and our dues manageable.

We instituted the use of an app called Track it Forward. Through the use of this app, we learned that it takes at least 1,400 hours of volunteer time to run the club. Based on current membership levels, that equates to roughly 10 hours of volunteer time per member.

The club volunteers were super stars last year with seven Bonspiels last year.... that included the USA Curling Junior Mixed Doubles Qualifier, The Red Carpet College Doubles Bonspiel, and the 5U USA Curling National Qualifier. We will need this same support this year with eight Bonspiels including the 2027 USA College Curling Nationals and County Playdowns - the Sweet 16. Please help to show our future guests just how amazing we are!

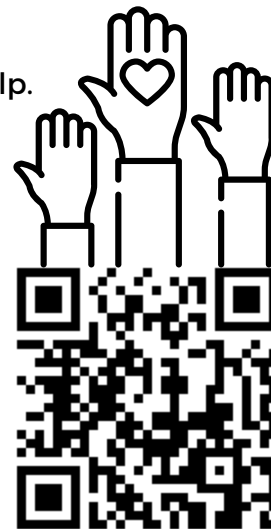
This season, you will be asked to choose one of the 3 following options when you fill out your waiver and pay your dues...

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 prize donations, donating food, etc.) You can find events on our calendar page. We will track hours for all members so please record each time you volunteer, whether you choose this option or not through the QR code on this page and throughout the club.
2. **Sell 10 additional calendars.** Choosing this option will mean that your packet will contain fifteen (15) calendars to sell instead of the original five (5).
3. **Donate \$100.**

THIS IS YOUR CLUB!

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

- Make Ice
- Prepare ice for leagues
- Volunteer at bonspiels (ice or kitchen)
 - Help with Juniors on Saturdays
- Donate food or money for bonspiels
- Sell extra calendars
- Clean or vacuum the club as needed
- Load and empty dishwasher
- Take out garbage



SCAN or CLICK HERE TO RECORD VOLUNTEER HOURS

JUNIORS CURLING PROGRAM

Juniors Curling Sign Up – Thursday, October 1st; Wednesday, October 7th; Tuesday, October 13th from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

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

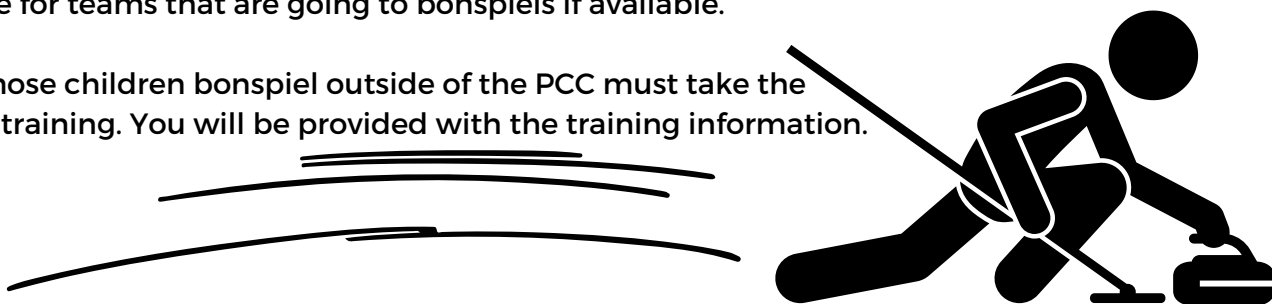
This level is for middle school curlers with limited experience. Time will be spent improving deliveries, sweeping skills, strategy, etiquette, sportsmanship, and playing half-sheet and full sheet games. As curlers improve, they may be moved up to the competitive group.

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 at the first practice.

In January and February, 8th graders will be allowed to join the Monday Night Doubles league if the Portage Curling Club finds a chairperson. This will be a new league that meets Monday nights starting at 7:15pm. The cost of the Doubles league is \$60 so there will be an additional \$20 fee for anyone who paid \$40 at the start of the season. We will also use this time slot as practice ice for teams that are going to bonspiels if available.

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





PORTAGE HIGH SCHOOL CURLING

The Portage High School curling team will start the season on November 10th with practices and the first game on December 1st. Practice will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 3:45–5:15pm.

COACHING STAFF

Boys Coach: Mike Charles

Boys/Girls Assistant Coach: Fran Walsh

Girls Coach: Brian Scheibach

2026-2027 SOUTHERN WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL CURLING SCHEDULE

Date	Boys	Girls
Dec. 01	Portage @ Poynette	Poynette @ Portage
Dec. 08	Portage @ Lodi	Lodi @ Portage
Dec. 15		Portage @ Poynette
Dec. 17	Portage @ Waukesha West	
Jan. 5	Monona Grove @ Portage	Portage @ Lodi
Jan. 12	Portage @ Pardeeville	Pardeeville @ Portage
Jan. 19	Poynette @ Portage	Portage @ Poynette
Jan. 12	Portage @ Pardeeville	Pardeeville @ Portage
Jan. 19	Poynette @ Portage	Portage @ Poynette
Jan. 21	Pardeeville @ Portage	Portage @ Pardeeville
Jan. 26	Waukesha West @ Portage	Poynette @ Portage
Jan. 29 - 30	Tietge Bonspiel @ Wausau	
Feb. 2		Portage @ Lodi
Feb. 5	Lodi @ Portage	Lodi @ Portage
	Senior Night at Portage Curling Club	
Feb. 19 - 20	Wisconsin HS State Championship @ Wausau	
Feb. 26 - 27	Wisconsin HS Doubles State Championship @ Portage	

UPDATED CLUB RENTAL AGREEMENT

CLUB RENTAL INFORMATION

The Portage Curling Club is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the sport of curling while providing an affordable, welcoming gathering space for our community. Rental proceeds directly support youth programming, adaptive curling, facility maintenance, and the preservation of one of America's oldest curling clubs.

Rental of the Portage Curling Club makes a fun and unique experience for your personal or professional needs. Rent it for a workplace teambuilding experience, a birthday party, or a baby shower. The possibilities are endless!

The following rates apply for a 2-hour rental:

Practice Ice for non-member

\$10.00 per session or \$50.00 per season

Waiver required prior to ice entry

Clubroom & Ice Rental

\$10 per guest of a hosting Portage Curling Club member

\$15 per person with nonprofit organizations 501(c)(3)

\$30 per person with corporate organization

all events must have a club member present

Waivers required prior to ice entry

Clubroom Use Rental Only

\$100 - members and nonprofits 501(c)(3)

\$200 - corporate organizations

Clubroom use includes kitchen and lobby area; all rentals will be seen through by coordinator; and payment received at the event.

Groups seeking more than a 2-hour event will be discussed at Portage Curling Club Board level as needed.

2026-2027

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Vorpahl, President

Jacalyn Gumz, Vice President

Amanda Kohn, Secretary

Steve Benck (Vietta Kampen), Treasurer

Jeff Goldthorpe, Director

Joey Mueller, Director

Jon Wolff, Director



ADVERTISING

Our club seeks sponsors interested in advertising in our clubhouse, icehouse wall, and in icehouse floor. Advertising can be a significant source of revenue for the club and your business. Please consider us. More information is available here: [Curling Advertising](#). Please email portagecurlingclub@gmail.com with more questions or interest.



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 four 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



thrivent®

If you are a Thrivent Financial customer, you may be eligible to earn Choice Dollars®, which you can direct each quarter to the Portage Curling Club.

Thrivent also provides two \$250 Community Gift Cards that can be used to support volunteer projects.

With a Thrivent Action Team, you can bring together friends, family, or neighbors to organize a fundraiser, service activity, or educational event—such as a school supply drive or car wash. Thrivent will provide the resources you need, including up to \$250 in seed money.

To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, you must be a Thrivent member. If you're unsure about your eligibility, visit the Thrivent Membership page to learn more.



**EXPLORE
PORTAGE
WISCONSIN**

