



# 2023-2024 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Portage Curling Club Board looks forward to welcoming our curlers, new and seasoned, back for another amazing year of curling! We have made some major upgrades to the club in the past two years... new audio/video system, exterior insulation, new scraper, new nipper, and reconditioned stones. With all this, we are looking forward to a great season!

We hope you will join us at our **Fall Tailgate Party on October 22nd** – you do not want to miss out on this! Golf, 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.

More information on the tailgate and the rest of the 2023-24 season can be found in this newsletter.

Good Curling!

Mark Labor, President



# FALL TAILGATE PARTY – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

A full day of festivities awaits! Join in the fun and get ready for the curling season.

## GOLF –

Reserve your spot soon, as tee times are limited. This is a 4-person scramble. Tee times start at 10:00AM. Rates are \$60 per person for 18 holes with cart, along with games and activities at several holes. Raffle and skins are extra. Win back some money and have a great time doing it! Individuals and couples may register and will be paired to make foursomes.

## FOOTBALL –

The Fall Tailgate Party will coincide with the 3:25PM Packers v. Broncos game. Food and drinks are provided, but feel free to bring what you like. Sharable tailgate food is always welcome!

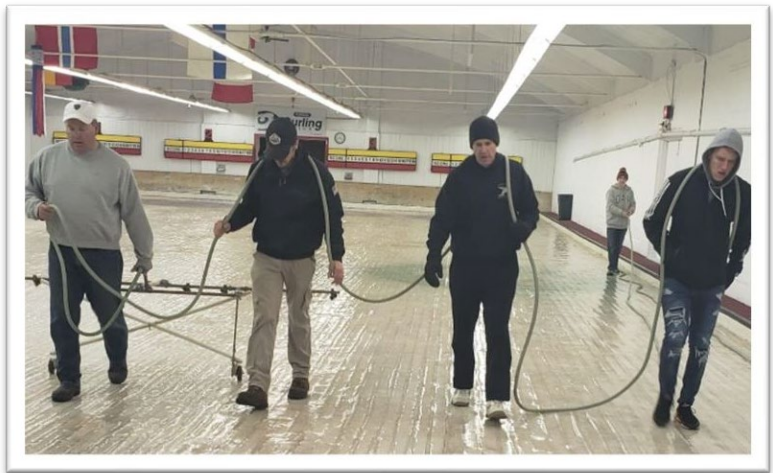
## CHILI COOKOFF –

This was a hit last year... a big shout out to Shana Dumbleton for producing the best chili! Will she try for a repeat or will someone else leave with the crown (or the free locker for a year)? Participants will bring their creations—any kind of chili is acceptable, but please bring a list of ingredients (to accommodate dietary restrictions)—and the members will vote for their favorite.

REGISTER for all these events in one easy RSVP form. <https://forms.gle/NW2YGuxPitK2ZocV9>

We hope to see you there!

Ice making is scheduled to begin on **October 11**, but the schedule may be adjusted based on weather conditions. The entire process takes about three weeks. Work takes place most nights starting at 7:00. 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 and skills are not required, and there is plenty to do! Someone from the ice crew is always on hand to show you what to do.



Contact Steve Benck at 617-9884 or [benck.steve@gmail.com](mailto:benck.steve@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## 2022-2023 PLAYDOWN RESULTS



Congratulations to Team Vorpahl, 2022-23 Men's League and Club Champions, with an original team of Dave Vorpahl, Ben Vorpahl, Mike Statz, and Kyle Bernander.

Congratulations to Team Schultz, runners up, with the original team of John Schultz, Shannon Schultz, Ben Vorpahl, and Jacalynn Gumz.

Front, left-to-right: Kyle Bernander, Mitch Seubert, Dave Vorpahl, Ben Vorpahl.

Rear, left-to-right): Jacalynn Gumz, Dan Staveness, Matt Schultz, Shannon 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 at [karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com](mailto:karilee.iluvlucy@gmail.com) if you would like to have something posted on the website. **Thanks, Kari!**

Like us on Facebook and Instagram as well!  
Facebook – Portage Curling Club

Website - [www.portagecurling.com](http://www.portagecurling.com)  
Instagram – [portagecurlingclubwi](https://www.instagram.com/portagecurlingclubwi)  
E-mail – [portagecurlingclub@gmail.com](mailto:portagecurlingclub@gmail.com)



## Club Dues

First Year Membership	\$175
Second Year Membership	\$225
Regular Membership (3+yrs)	\$275
Family Membership	\$620
Junior Membership for Leagues	\$125
Senior Day League Only	\$100
Social Membership	\$50
Half-Year Leagues	\$135/league
Friday League Only	25% discount
Saturday Junior – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	\$40
Saturday Junior (3+ Years)	\$60
Locker Rental	\$30

## 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.



Paypal.me/PortageCurlingClub



@portagecurlingclub

### Dues Using PayPal or Venmo

1st Year \$178.50  
 2nd Year \$229.50  
 3rd+ Years \$280.50  
 Juniors \$127.50  
 Family \$632.40

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

## BEER CLUB NEWS



Dave here, and once again I'll be handling the beer club! Some improvements this year: we've added new tap faucets to help keep your beer pouring smooth and clean. All the tap lines have been replaced and we've added a Nitrogen setup to the Miller Lite kegerator. We'll be keeping Guinness or a similar Nitrogenated beer on draft year-round. The Miller Lite will move into the big cooler and I will keep a rotating stock of 2-3 craft selections. Dues for the club are going up marginally to \$135 for men and \$90 for women. Just like the club dues, it pays to play more! If you have questions, concerns, or requests, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

[dtapke@gmail.com](mailto:dtapke@gmail.com)  
 (309)275-1960

## 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 team have paid their dues. The treasurer will be at each league the first two weeks of the season to take payments.

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



# LEAGUE INFORMATION: **CONTACT YOUR LEAGUE CHAIRS NOW!**

## MONDAY DINNER LEAGUE (FRANK RHYME EVENT)

5:00PM Draw

Chair: Josh Brandsma, 608-790-4558 [brandsmajosh@hotmail.com](mailto:brandsmajosh@hotmail.com)

Monday Men's Dinner league has room for 9 teams, with 8 playing and 1 preparing dinner. Last year only 8 teams played, and we would really like to get back to 9 teams. Individual curlers looking for a team should contact Josh Brandsma.

## TUESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S LEAGUE

6:30PM Draw

Chair: Shannon Schultz, 608-697-9093 [shannon.schultz99@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.schultz99@gmail.com)

Tuesday Women's league consists of 6-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 well. Contact Shannon Schultz to play in the Tuesday Women's league.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE (DOC CURTIS EVENT)

5:45PM & 8:00PM Draws

Chair: Steve Dubberstein, 608-697-8818 [steve@dubberstein.com](mailto:steve@dubberstein.com)

Wednesday Men's league has room for 16-17 teams. With only 12 teams last season, there is plenty of room for new teams. Several Wednesday teams are looking for individual curlers looking for a team to play on. Contact Steve Dubberstein regarding joining a Wednesday men's team.

## THURSDAY OPEN LEAGUE

6:00PM Draw

Chair: Steve Dubberstein, 608-697-8818 [steve@dubberstein.com](mailto:steve@dubberstein.com)

Thursday is an open league allowing men and women, as well as sons and daughters, to curl together. The Thursday Open League has room for at least 9 teams. The league had only 6 teams last year so there is room for more teams.

## FRIDAY NIGHT LEAGUE

6:30PM Draw

Chair: Shannon Schultz, 608-697-9093 [shannon.schultz99@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.schultz99@gmail.com)

Friday Night Mixed League welcomes new and experienced curlers ages 21 and older. Because of its relaxed, social atmosphere, this league is great for new curlers. The mixed format means that two males and two females make up a team, and the throw order alternates (boy-girl-boy-girl).

*Subbing rules: A non-member may sub a maximum of three times total per season; upon the fourth time subbing the individual is considered a member and dues will be charged.*

# 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 keep our dues manageable (no increase in dues the past 5 seasons).

We instituted the use of an app called Track it Forward <https://www.trackitforward.com>. With this app, we learned that it takes at least 1,400 volunteer hours to run the club. Based on current membership levels, that equates to **roughly 10 volunteer hours per member**. Therefore, we have made adjustments to how those hours can be fulfilled going forward.



Our Bonspiels are of greatest importance. Our largest fundraisers, the Men's Bourbon Spiel (December 8-10) and the 5 and Under Bonspiel (February 9-11), bring more than \$9,000 into our club each year, that would otherwise need to be made up by member dues. We cannot afford to lose these events so let's give our bonspiel chairs our full support!

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. Our Volunteer Hours Binders will allow you to log your hours. We will track hours for all members so please fill them out each time you volunteer, whether you choose this option or not.

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.**

Volunteers don't get paid,  
not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless.

-Sherry Anderson

## THIS IS **YOUR** CLUB!



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

- Help with ice installation
- Help prepare the ice for leagues
- Volunteer at bonspiels (numerous ways)
- Help with Juniors on Saturdays
- Donate food or money for bonspiels
- Sell extra calendars
- Help with High School program
- Clean or Vacuum when you see it needs it
- Load and empty dishwasher
- Take out the trash

## 2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 30	Juniors Sign Up
October 7	First Club Clean Up Day**
October 11	Ice Installation Begins**
October 21	Club Clean Up Day**
October 22	Fall Tailgate Party and Festivities
November 11 – 13	Learn to Curl Weekend
November 13	League Play Begins
November 18	Middle School Curling Camp
November 19	High School Curling Camp
December 1 – 3	Portage Open Wheelchair Bonspiel**
December 8 – 10	Bourbon with Rocks Men's Bonspiel**
January 20 – 21	Junior Bonspiel**
February 9 – 11	5 and Under Bonspiel**
February 16 – 17	Alumni Spiel**
March 2 – 3	BWCA Senior Women's Bonspiel
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of March	Playdowns & Club Championship
April 1 - 4	Columbia County Championship @ PCC

*\*\*Volunteers needed on these days*



# JUNIORS CURLING PROGRAM

JUNIORS CURLING SIGN-UP - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH FROM 10AM-NOON

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

**DUES:** \$40 for first and second year and \$60 after that.

## BEGINNERS: SATURDAYS 9:00 – 10:00

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 10:00 – 11:00

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, 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 11:00 – 12:00

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

## COMPETITIVE: SATURDAYS 12:00 – 2:00



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 sign-up. When ice is available, you are allowed to use Monday nights open ice to practice.

***Times above are subject to change based on participation numbers.***

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



# PORTAGE HIGH SCHOOL CURLING TEAM

The Portage high school curling team will start the season in Mid-November with practice with games starting at the end of November. Practice will be Tuesday - Friday from 3:30 - 5-5:30. Conference games will be played on Tuesdays starting in December.

## COACHING STAFF

Girls Coach     Jim Shlimovitz

Girls Coach     Brian Scheibach

Boys Coach     Mike Charles



## 2023-2024 SOUTHERN WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL CURLING SCHEDULE

DATE	BOYS	GIRLS
November 28	Home vs. Poynette	Away vs. Poynette
December 5	Away vs. Lodi	Home vs. Lodi
December 7	Home vs. Monona Grove	Home vs. Monona Grove
December 8	Tournament at Medford (9:30am)	
December 12	Away vs. Pardeeville	Home vs. Pardeeville
January 5 – 6	Tietge HS Bonspiel at Wausau	
January 9	Home vs. Lodi	Away vs. Lodi
January 16	Home vs. Pardeeville	Away vs. Pardeeville
January 23	Away vs. Poynette	Home vs. Poynette
January 27	Tournament at TBA	
January 30	Home vs. Poynette	Away vs. Poynette
February 1	Away vs. Lodi	Home vs. Lodi
February 6	Home v. Pardeeville	Home vs. Pardeeville
February 8	Home vs. Monona Grove	Home vs. Monona Grove
February 16 – 17	State Finals at Wausau	