

2007 Copper Country Curling Club Presidents Annual Report

The 2007 Copper Country Curling Club season saw consolidation of membership levels from 2006, the opening of our second chapter, and our first bonspiel.

Membership levels at Calumet fell from 40 in 2006 to 26 this year. This was in part due to early season weather conditions that postponed our play to the point that we had to forego our traditional Open House sessions. This drop was offset by the start of our second chapter, playing at the Ice Arena, in Ontonagon. Ten people additional members were added from this location, making for 36 total members. Student activities and membership declined dramatically with the departure of Pete Reno just prior to the start of the season. Approximately 8 to 10 students were regular attendees of the Wednesday and Friday evening play.

Weather extremes greatly influenced activities at the Drill House in Calumet. Cold weather in late fall allowed us to *almost* start our season there in early December. Unfortunately, most of that effort melted away by Christmas. It wasn't until the second week in January that the ice was usable again. From then until mid-March Steve Woodworth maintained superb ice conditions. Melting conditions the second week in March forced cancellation of play that week, then the last week of March saw a major melt that ended the season. Regrettably, early April would have been good curling again, if we had any ice left to work with.

Regularly Scheduled Events

Monday evenings at the Ontonagon Ice Arena saw pick up games for the full curling season, from late October until March. Numbers and experience level prevented setting up regular teams and league schedule. Most of the season concentrated on teaching the basics of the game. Long time CCCC members Mike Mickus, Gordon Maclean, and occasionally Sue Mickus, made the trip to Ontonagon to help get this chapter started. By the end of the season, a core group of people in Ontonagon were knowledgeable enough to setup and curl without assistance. We plan on building on this core group next season, with the goal of having 20 members, 5 set teams, and a regular schedule.

This year's regular Calumet Tuesday League night championship for the second year in a row goes to the Woodworth team with a record of 7-2. Congratulations to Steve, Paul Lyle, Gerry Lamppa, Mark Rowe and Tom Cole.

Wednesday and Friday college curling was active after Winter Carnival revived some interest in the Michigan Tech students.

Our PickUp Curling Night (Thursday) was lightly attended compared to the previous year.

Special Events

Outside use of the Drill House dropped somewhat this year, mostly due to the weather abbreviated season. The CCCC hosted about 750 visitor hours of special events, compared to over 970 visitor hours in 2006. This figure does not include our bonspiel weekend

The Michigan Tech Winter Carnival returned to the Drill House in 2007. Blue Key was very happy with the Drill House venue for curling activities in 2006 and was eager to return. For the third year in a row, curling was the largest Winter Carnival sport (by number of teams). Forty three teams in 4 divisions played in the single elimination, 4 end games, tournament. This despite the worst blizzard and coldest temperatures of the winter. Temperatures on ice hovered in the sub-zero range for most of the weekend.

1st Annual Copperspiel

The highlight of the 2007 season was the CCCC hosting our first bonspiel. Twelve teams participated in an Open format three game guarantee. Five teams came from the St Paul CC, two from the Madison CC and the CCCC, with the Stevens Point, Superior, and Wausau Curling Clubs also represented.

The general consensus was that the ice was fast and true most of the weekend. Wind chill was a factor as the a strong east wind found its way into the building. Inside temperatures were in the teens and made vigorous sweeping the standard just to keep the blood going. Sweeping got so vigorous that one broom split in half mid handle on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the stone was burnt, but the remains of the broom were immediately sent to the silent auction table as a fund raising item.

Sunday morning saw a continuation of the strong easterly wind and, just in time for event finals, accompanied by snow. Some of the snow was driven into the Drill House, but thanks to the constant attention from the 'ground crew' never affected play. Winning the First Event was the team of Steve Smith, Matt Peterson, and Carol Strojny, all from the St Paul CC, and Dave Howard of the Bowling Green CC. Winners and runner-ups received copper plated coffee mugs in recognition of their achievements.

Many thanks to Sue Mickus (chair), Loren Aho, Stan Kaczmarek, ... and John Angst of the St Paul CC for putting this event together.

Gordon Maclean
President