Let The Games Begin!

Raymond Ullmer

The 2014 Winter Olympics hosted in Sochi, Russia are now underway and of course for all of us at the Ardsley Curling Club that means it’s finally time to watch the US Men’s and Women’s Curling Teams compete for Olympic Gold!

Skips John Shuster and Erika Brown begin their journey Feb 10. Refer to the round-robin television schedule on the right to follow them.
Carl turned 95 on December 1. Two new knees and a “gimpy” back caused him to hang up his curling shoes recently. He and his wife, Diane, live nearby in Briarcliff Manor. Carl started curling at St. Andrew’s CC in 1968. Because he has a great voice, he is usually asked to lead us in Auld Lang Syne at our curling parties.

Carl grew up in Chicago and has a BA and MA from the University of Chicago. He was a GI in WW II and in his free time he sang in the choir of the American Cathedral in Paris. Also during his off duty time, he was the tenor soloist in the US ARMY glee club entertaining troops in hospitals, the US ARMY Radio, French Radio and several other venues.

After he was demobilized on January 5, 1946, he returned to Chicago and became a faculty member at Roosevelt University to launch a career as a teacher, singer and actor. In 1951, he came to New York and appeared on TV (black & white in those days) for four years. In one of his skits on The Martha Ray Show, he sang a parody of the Rigoletto quartet with Margaret Truman, the president’s daughter (see a photo from the rehearsal nearby. Carl is the middle guy with black wig and mustache). Because the Brooklyn Dodgers were in the World Series, the quartet lyrics used Dodger baseball names – Campanella, Furillo, Rizutto etc. – a humorous hit. He performed on other shows namely, Show of Shows (Sid Ceasar & Imogene Coca), The Perry Como Show, the Colgate Comedy Hour, Uncle Miltie, and the NBC Opera. He also had a command performance at the White House for President Eisenhower in June 1957.

In 1961, Carl started an electricity rate consulting business which is now run by his son. Carl retired at age 91 and now enjoys lunch with his curling pals on Fridays and hopes to see all his great grandchildren enter college.

Many happy returns, Carl.
Ardsley Juniors Take Silver at the Junior National Championship

Bill Stopera

Andrew Stopera and Will Pryor playing on Team Dunnam won the Silver Medal at the 2014 United States Junior National Curling Championships, at the Granite Club in Seattle, Washington. Their team included Scott Dunnam (Skip – Philadelphia CC), Andrew (Vice), Steven Szemple (2nd – Plainfield CC), Andy Dunnam (lead – Philadelphia CC) and Will (5th).

The team started the round robin with a big win against Team Dropkin, the 2013 Champion. They finished the round robin tied for first at 7-2, which qualified them into the page 1-2 game with the winner going directly to the final. In the 1-2 game they beat Washington’s Team Vukich 7-5. This win gave them the spot in the championship game. Team Vukich then beat Team Dropkin, in the semi-final to set up the rematch. The final was a close battle early on with Vukich leading 3-2 at the 5th end break. The Vukich rink played a strong second half, stealing a single point in 6, two in 7 and one in 8 to go up 7-2. Team Dunnam then scored 3 points in the 9th end to close the gap to 7-5. Team Vukich then ran the Dunnam rink out of stones in the 10th to capture their first national championship, securing a spot at the Junior World Championship in Switzerland.

Stopera said “We came out playing pretty well, but couldn’t really get anything going in the second half of the game. It was a good week overall and we are pretty excited about winning the silver medal.”

The boys should be proud of their accomplishment – congratulations Andrew and Will!

Team Eaton Wins B Event Final at Norfolk Buildspiel

Raymond Ullmer

Ray Ullmer, Seth Altman and Leslie Eaton joined skip Andy Eaton for the “Buildspiel” at the brand new Norfolk Curling Club facility. After losing their first game to the eventual A-Event winners (a team from both Potomac and Norfolk), Eaton ran the table and finished up 3-1 with the B final win on Sunday. Leeza Furman subbed in the final for an ailing Leslie who tried to soldier on but was sidelined by the flu.

A great pleasure to be a part of the comeback of the Norfolk CC!

60th Tobacco Belt Cash Bonspiel D - Event Winners

Jon Peter, Dave Schrull, Jeff Klein and Dave Wagenheim participated in this men’s open bonspiel at the Tillsonburg Curling Club in Ontario, winning the D Event Final. Congratulations, guys!
That may seem a jumble of numbers and symbols to some, but for people who enjoy the modern hobby of Geocaching, it’s the unmistakable format of precise latitude and longitude coordinates. A precise location that marks the spot of hidden treasure, like an “X” on a pirate’s map.

Geocaching is a hobby where people equipped with GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers go on high tech scavenger hunts to seek out sealed containers filled with small trinkets and a log book hidden in bushes, trees, and other above-ground hiding places. There are currently over 2 million active geocaches and more than 6 million geocachers worldwide. You may not realize it, but any time you are in a public park the odds are that you are walking very near a hidden geocache.

At the Ardsley Curling Club, we have several Geocaching members, including your Duck Soup editor. But no member can match the devotion and commitment of Lynn Salmon, who sometimes teams up to hunt with her husband John and has uncovered 4,850 individual caches!

If it isn’t unusual enough to have curling as a hobby, it’s a pretty rare distinction to be both a curler and geocacher. I asked Lynn how on earth she got started and what keeps it so interesting.

“John stumbled upon the geocaching web site by accident in 2002. At the time we owned a GPS receiver but used it only once or twice a year when travelling in areas that were not well-mapped. That first day, we learned there were a dozen geocaches near our home. The hobby has grown in popularity, and today there are 762 geocaches within ten miles of our home. Out of curiosity, we went and found one geocache the first day, four more the next day, another five a week later, and I’ve continued along these lines over the years”

“On the very first weekend we tried geocaching, one geocache took us down a side trail to an interesting ruin we were unaware of despite having walked in that area repeatedly for years. Another geocache took me to a mural painted on a building I’d driven by for a decade without stopping to notice it. This sense of discovery and sometimes surprise at the little things around us that are taken for granted continues with each new cache find.”

But nearly 5,000 caches found? How did you accomplish that?

“Over the last 12 years I have averaged a little over 1 cache find per day. I like to spend time outdoors, so you will likely find me geocaching on any day with reasonably nice weather. John typically joins me for geocache outings on the weekends and has been along for approximately 25% of our finds.”

Lynn and John’s geocaching nickname is “Team Mumu”. You can find them on Geocaching.com, which is a website that lists current geocaches along with info about the cache and log entries from the folks who search for and find them.

And by the way, the title of this article is not just any location on earth. It happens to be where the “Curling Rocks” cache created by Team Mumu is hidden. If you can find it, curling treasure awaits you! Not all that far from our warm room in the Juhring Nature Preserve, entrance at Briary Rd and Heather Way. Good Geocaching!