

ACBL Unit 373 Newsletter



Summer 2008

Upcoming Events

STaC Games	August 4 -10	Several Local Clubs
NABC Worker Appreciation	August 7	Local Clubs
Unit Game - Barometer	September 21	Riviera Hotel & Casino
Glitter Gulch Sectional	September 22 - 28	Riviera Hotel & Casino
Unit Game	October 19	
Laughlin Sectional	October 24- 26	River Palms Resort
General Membership Meeting & Unit Game	November 2	
Holiday Party & Unit Game	December 14	

Visit Our Web Site

www.lasvegasbridge.com



Message From the Editor

By the time this arrives in your mailbox, the Nationals will be behind us and monsoon season will be with us. Haven't had enough bridge? Several local clubs will be participating in the Summer STaC. You get a chance to compete against players in the Western United States without leaving Las Vegas. As an additional incentive, for those of you who volunteered during the Nationals, **Thursday, August 7 will be Worker Appreciation Day** at local clubs. In order to play for free, just turn in the free play card that your Chairman gave you when you worked.

We are pleased to announce that Unit 373's designated charity for the 2008 season is Keep Memory Alive (KMA). KMA is a Las Vegas based nonprofit organization dedicated to the fight against Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, ALS, and Memory Disorders. These disorders affect many Unit members both directly and indirectly and we are pleased that they will be the recipients of this years charitable donations, including the local charity game at the Nationals.

We will be publishing a new directory in November. Our source of information for the directory is the ACBL master list of members. If you have recently moved to Las Vegas and have a different phone number than in your previous location, please change your phone number with ACBL. Their phone number is . If you have internet access, visit lasvegasbridge.com to find out the name and address ACBL has on file.

The last bit of news is the closing of the Las Vegas Bridge Center. For those who have lived in Las Vegas more than 20 years, The Las Vegas Bridge Center was the only club in town. Jeff and DeeDee Neal ran the Center for 37 years and have been a cornerstone of Bridge in Las Vegas. Jeff has taught countless people to play bridge and has sponsored many new directors. The good news is that Jeff will continue to teach through UNLV continuing education and hopes to continue the home-style games that are popular with some snowbirds. All we can say is "job well done" and a big thank you to Jeff and DeeDee.



Why are Jeff and DeeDee smiling?

Unit News

Sunshine

Condolences were sent to Charlyn Johnson, who lost her mother in April, and to the families of Richard Shepard and John New. John New was a former member of our Unit.

Get well wishes were sent to Bobbi Hayes (broken hip), Jay Hardy (knee replacement), George Schneider (heart attack), Judy Belknap (hospitalization), Helen McCourt (shoulder surgery), and Barbara Harris (re-hospitalization). Thinking of you cards were sent to Sandy Stern (medical procedures) and Grace Richard (husband ill).

Ginger Stickell, 435-6636, is the Sunshine Committee Chair. Please contact Ginger if you hear of someone in need of a little sunshine.

What is a Unit Game?

The best place to start defining a Unit Game is to define a Unit. The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), headquartered in Memphis, TN, is broken down geographically into Units. We belong to Unit 373 of ACBL. Units are further grouped into districts (we are in District 17) and Districts are grouped into Conferences (we are in the Western Conference).

At the Unit level, we can hold special games for the purpose of providing interesting, competitive bridge events. These Unit games are typically held at a central location and provide an interclub competition. Although we sometimes hold them at a club, they are not connected with a particular club. Masterpoint awards are about 85% of those awarded at a sectional.

Speaking of clubs. Clubs are privately owned entities. They hold games that are sanctioned by ACBL and provide a place for us, as individuals, to play on a regular basis.

Unit 373 is you. You elect a board of directors. They coordinate, among other things, an annual regional, sectional tournaments, unit games, newsletter publication and year-end holiday party. The Unit is run by volunteers. We derive our income from membership fees (approximately \$3.50 of your annual ACBL membership fee), tournaments, and Unit games.

So the next time you receive an email or a phone call about a Unit Game you will know that this game attracts players from all over the Las Vegas valley; and any proceeds from the games go back to you in the form of newsletters, directories, and the year-end party.

Bridge The Incurable Disease

Bridge is a highly contagious, progressive and incurable disease. According to WHO estimates there are currently between 50 and 100 million infected people worldwide. Unlike other epidemics of this scale, *bridge* attacks primarily in developed countries. While rarely fatal, the disease has enormous negative impact on the lives of infected individuals and on the whole society. This

page presents the current state of knowledge on the origins, symptoms and prevention of *bridge*.

Etiology. Earlier theories assumed that bridge is an addictive drug, much like alcohol. In 1976, however, two independent teams of Dutch and American scientists isolated *Baccillus bridgeus*, a very small bacteria causing *bridge*. This discovery explains why earlier treatment programs such as 'Bridge Players Anonymous' were unsuccessful. *Baccillus bridgeus* transmits primarily via contact with bridge players. Once inside the human body, it lodges itself in the brain, where it attacks the parts responsible for higher cognitive functions. During the tertiary stage (see under symptoms) of bridge, the patient's brain is little more than a tool for *Baccillus bridgeus* to transmit itself to other victims.

Origins of the epidemics. The bridge epidemic started around 1890, almost simultaneously in Great Britain and in the USA. It appears that a relatively benign bacteria causing whist mutated itself into *Baccillus bridgeus*. While the reasons for this mutation are not completely determined, a likely hypothesis suggests that it was a result of exposure of the whist bacteria to high doses of alcohol and boredom among civil servants in certain parts of the British Empire (mostly Egypt and India).

Symptoms and relief. The development of the disease is naturally divided into three stages. During the first stage, which is not at all unpleasant, the infected individual enjoys an occasional social game of bridge and does not think of bridge in between those. Only a small area of brain has been attacked and there are not infrequent reports of a spontaneous arrest of the disease and even of complete recovery.

The beginning of the second stage is usually marked by the victim starting to analyze the hand just played. It can be also recognized from the fact of the patient buying the first bridge book, usually with a title like 'Improve your play technique' or 'Killing defense at bridge'. During this stage the victim often joins a bridge club and participates in the first tournament. Once this happens, the prognosis is almost always bad.

The tertiary stage of bridge can be recognized by the victim being able to name the current World Champions, winners of the Bermuda Bowl and other major tournaments. At this stage the infected individual loses interest in other pursuits, is a common sight on the tournament circuit, and often dabbles in bridge theory. In extreme cases the victim neglects even the most elementary functions such as eating or personal hygiene. While there may be periods of marked improvement, which often lull the patient and concerned relatives into a false sense of security (with the patient thinking 'I can take it or I can leave it'), it is important to recognize that a relapse is unavoidable. Nevertheless, some symptomatic relief can be achieved by simple methods such as getting the victim interested in other pursuits (sex, fly-fishing, crocheting), taking away his/her pocket money, and keeping the patient locked up during club games and local tournaments.

Cure. Currently, the only available cure for bridge is

lobotomy. This is performed only in extreme cases.

Prevention. Bridge is highly contagious. Conservative estimates indicate that it is 65 times as contagious as chess and about 5-6 times as the most infectious of the so called *Nintendo viral* group (which usually attack only children and adolescents and disappear, without causing any damage, upon victim's reaching the adulthood). Thus it is very hard to prevent a bridge infection. One should avoid any contact whatsoever with bridge players. If complete avoidance is impossible, do not allow the

infected individual to talk about bridge and never, ever agree to be 'introduced to bridge'. Recently published results of a 20-year long study by John R. Williams of the Hopkins University lead to surprising conclusions. Thus it is not particularly risky to be in company of bridge carriers, when their number is divisible by 4. On the other hand, it is extremely dangerous to be alone with 3 (or 7, 11, etc.) bridge players for a prolonged period of time (a cruise, chalet holiday, etc.). The reasons for this dichotomy are at present completely unknown and underline our lack of knowledge about *Baccillus bridgeus*.

Club News

Seville Terrace Duplicate Bridge

2000 North Rampart
Bill & Irene Price 228-1024
Peg & Dewy Cundiff 645-5778
Leon & Judy Angel 263-0135

Open duplicate Friday 12:30 pm

We are pleased to have four Atria Seville resident members. Join us for a happy, gentle game of bridge.

May Series Winners

Strat A: Mady Shibe, Harumi Beers, Shirley Waldman.
Strat B: Larry Beers, Bob Hiltz, Bill & Irene Price, Bob Scherer. Strat C: Val Anderson, Oscar Chiodi, Sheila Davis, Ursula Epstein, Sid Goldstein, Judy Mirisch, Gerry Fischer, Roberta Pensler.

June Series Winners

Strat A: Harumi Beers. Strat B: Bill & Irene Price, Leon & Judy Angel, Larry Beers. Strat C: Jackie Hedges, Lew Aronow, Sid Goldstein, Gilda Pensler, Bobbie Pensler, Oscar Chiodi, Sheila Davis

Las Vegas Bridge Center

610 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 11
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

Recent neighborhood local meetings have announced that a new 40-story condominium and business complex will be built on the site of our bridge club. This will entail the demolishment of our place as well as a number of other area establishments.

Therefore, after 37 years of running the Las Vegas Bridge Center, Dee Dee and I have decided to hang up our spurs and relax for a while. We will miss our almost daily contact with many of our friends but we are remaining in Las Vegas as this is the home we love. Since we are still in "the game", we will still see our friends throughout the Las Vegas area.

When you read this, our club will already be closed as we ran our last duplicate game before the Nationals and our last home-style game during the tournament. We hope to continue our home-style games but not at the Sahara location.

Jeff, DeeDee

Bridge World II

Charleston Heights Cultural Arts Center
800 South Brush
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
Manager: Loretta Brown 735-3114

Tuesday through Friday Duplicate: 12:30 pm
Free coffee and home made goodies! Call to see if we are playing at another site.

Please see our online calender for upcoming events.

Spring Mountain Bridge Club

450 S Buffalo Dr #107
Teacher and Director: Charlene Mintz
278-8614 or 364-9960

Evening Open Games-6:30 pm

Sunday, Tues, Thurs & Sat

Novice 0-200 pts - presentation, discussion and game

Mon 6:00 pm, Tues & Thurs 12:00 pm

Beginning & Refresher Classes - Lesson & game

Wed 9:30 am, Tues & Thurs 1:00 pm

Presentations and discussions, included before all games, are geared toward a solid foundation in bidding modern style. Basic concepts and conventions are presented for the mere enjoyment of this fascinating game or to master intricate tricks of bidding and play. Our evening games are popular because of the friendly camaraderie of the players and our beautiful playing room. We are attended by players within the novice rank all the way up to Life Masters and above. If you need a partner, call Charlene. Watch your email for our next Swiss Team games.

Upcoming Events

August

STAC - Silver points Mon 4 (0-200 pts), Tues 5,
Thurs 7, Sat 9, Sun 10

Club Championships: Sun 3, Tues 12, Tues 19

ACBL Club Membership: Sat 23

Potluck & Upgraded Championship: Sun 31, 5:30 pm

September

Club Championships: Sat 6, Thurs 11, Tues 23

ACBL Club Membership (extra points): Sun 14

Potluck & Upgraded Championship: Sun 28, 5:30 pm

October

Club Championships: Sun 5, Tues 14, Thurs 23

Potluck & Upgraded Championship: Sun 26, 5:30 pm

Recent Masterpoint Winners

Congratulations to top masterpoint winners:
Harumi Beers, Donna Duncan, Bob Hiltz, Stan Hall,
Janet Fidelman, Ev Dahl, Diana Cooper, Mel Fineberg,
Al Ambrosio, Virginia Howells, Barbara Quintero,
Teddi Mikkelson, Connie Jones, Toby McEvoy,
Barbara Wishnev, Bob Lafleur, Bobbie Pensler,
Joyce Modica, Nancy McCormick, Fred Kaplan,
Helen Newton, Tony & Gretchen Stella, Irene & John
Phillips, Della Wilis, Bill Johnson, Jackie Gremore

Hope to see you soon.

Charlene & Stan

Boulder Bridgers

Senior Citizen Center 813 Arizona St.
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
Anita Leighton (702) 457-3111

We are dark during the summer and resume play
Wednesday, September 3 at 6:00 pm.

A Bridge Connection

2041 North Jones #101 - 102

Las Vegas, NV 89108

Carole Chapman (702) 648-4739

E-mail: abridge1@earthlink.net

Web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~abridge1>

Fees: \$5.00 Members - \$6.00 Non-Members

Monday through Friday, Duplicate Pairs 12:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday Pairs, Duplicate Pairs 1:00 pm
Wednesday, Masters' Club 6:30 pm

Partners are available for all player levels. Watch the website calendar for the game schedule or pick up a calendar at the Club

The Club celebrated its third anniversary on the Fourth of July. The Club's membership and games continue to grow and I thank each of you for your kind support over the past three years!

The total of the March and April Club charity donations given to the National Transplant Assistance Fund was \$880. Liz Halloran thanks all bridge players at A Bridge Connection for their donations to support a kidney transplant for Amber Osborne, a family member.

Becky Rogers is now the Club Recorder, a position created for the purpose of having a professional consultant work with me to resolve any and all problems. The proper procedure is to put in writing any questions or an accurate description of any situation that may be upsetting to a player. Questions will be answered and situations resolved in a quiet, timely, professional manner.

Upcoming Events

August

Great Western STaC IX: 4 - 10. Eight sessions of pre-duplicated boards and silver points in the second largest sectional in the country.

ACBL Inter-Club Championship: Tues 12

September

ACBL-Wide Club Championship: Mon 8,

ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game: Thurs 11 evening

District 17-Wide Charity Pairs: Mon 15

October: The entire month is designated for ACBL's Jane Johnson Appreciation Games.

BRIDGE LESSONS: Educational programs and classes are planned for fall. Phyllis Pratt teaches ongoing beginner through intermediate classes every Thursday morning at 10:45 p.m. The class is 1-1/2 hours, ending at approximately 12:10 p.m. Call Phyllis at 316.4133 for more information about the classes.

The MENTOR PROGRAM is a very successful program. For more information about the program and becoming a mentor or mentee, please call Carole at 249-4902.

Carole, together with Becky Rogers, Club Recorder, and Directors Barbara Vasilevsky, Don Greenwood, Patty Holmes, and Cyndi & Phil Goatz

Henderson Bridge Club

1536 N. Boulder Hwy

Owners: Don and Shirley Weglin 420-0122

EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR CLUB!! A beautifully furnished building provided for us by Terri Sunderland will be our new home. Our planned opening date is Saturday, August 9th. Until August 9th all our games will be at their current times and locations. Once in our new home we will be expanding the number of games and changing some of the start times. Below is our proposed schedule, but be sure to check lasvegasbridge.com for the most current schedule and a map to our new location.

Monday	6:00 pm
Tuesday	12:30 pm
Wednesday	12:30 pm
Thursday	12:30 pm
Friday	10:00 am
Saturday	10:00 am
Sunday	1:30 pm

Our directing staff will include some new faces. Justine Hancock will be directing the Friday morning game. Charlyn Johnson will be teaching a beginner's class so if you know of anyone who has expressed a desire to learn bridge, have them contact Charlyn at 614-8019 or Shirley at 269-6679. We will also be holding a novice game directed by Judy Kulic. Judy is excited about making this a very friendly and relaxed game, and has planned a series of short lessons to be given before game time. This stratified game will be limited to non-life masters. The starting date for this event is still to be determined.

Upcoming Events

STAC GAMES:

All of our games during the week of August 4th through August 10th will be STAC Games.

Recent Winners.

ACBL-Wide International Fund Game: Randy Zeibert and Terri Sanker (a,b); Trudi Callahan and Pat Worrall (c).

May STaC Games Overall Winners: Mon: N/S: Bob Porter & Hannah Moon (a); Gary Miller & Gerry Hoffman (b,c). E/W: Carol Stewart & Paul Ivaska (a); Jo Smith & Shirley Weglin (b); Richard Levin & Steve Sacks (c). Tues: N/S: Marion Hargrove & Don Weglin (a) E/W: Nancy Jansen & Faye Stanhope (a,b); Rene & Felix Ohana (c). Sat: N/S: Nancy Jansen & Ray Misch (a); Midge Cristadoro & Harriet Wells (b); Gary Miller & Gerry Hoffman (c). E/W: Carol Stewart & Paul Ivaska (a); Joan Willard & Joe Corbo (b,c).

Overall winners in the NAP QUALIFYING GAMES:

Mon: Fred Manus & Paul Goldensohn (a,b,c). Tues: Judy & Marcy Kulic (a,b). Thurs: Carol Stewart & Paul Ivaska (a); Bruce & Jane Rubin (b). Sat: Jim Earlam & Marty Saffian (a,b) Marion Stanhope & Tom Sheridan (c).

Membership

New Members

Jounghe Achenbach	Thomas Knowles
Marvin Adelman	Virginia Kundzic
John Ahxton	Stephen Purdom
Cheryl Azevedo	Fay Richmond
David Crowell	Diane Rosowsky
George Farley	Hal Rosowsky
Renee Hall	Helena Segal
Everett Hetrick	

Transfers Into Unit 373

Frank Callom	Ralph Meyer
Laraine Callom	Sandra McIntosh
Stephen Chiarello	Tony Patchin
Eileen English	Maryann Quick
Carol Gordon	Raymond Troik

Transfers Out of Unit 373

Frank Billera	Betsy Rhodes
Helen Fishman	Judy Skaggs
Ellen Hamil	George Stull
Errol Lecesne	Alan Susskind
Abbie Lecesne	Mark Teaford
Toni Mayberry	Thomas Thayer
Sandra Nuttall	Roger Wolthuis

My apologies to Rosemary Hayden who we reported had transferred out of our Unit. Rosemary still lives here but is having her mail sent to her childrens home in AZ.

Bridge Milestones

New Junior Masters

Peggy Galin	Audrey Payne
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New Club Master

Toby McEvoy

New Sectional Masters

Douglas Bufis	Steve Seiden
Jean Capillupo	Wesley Wu

New Regional Masters

Richard Hollander	Mark Suhany
Marvin Weitzenhoffer	

New Silver Life Masters

Harry Horwitz	Lucille Maranda
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New Gold Life Masters

Barbara Dunkley	Greg Nowak
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New Platinum Life Master

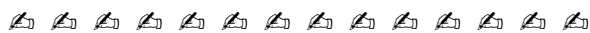
Proctor Hawkins



In Memoriam

Richard Shepard	John New
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 Contributors to this newsletter issue include Ginger Stickell, and club owners. Thanks to Diane Graese, and Tom Shulman for proofreading and Adis Dombu for help with mailing. The deadline for the next issue is October 15. Contributors are always welcome.

Justine Hancock, Editor
jdase@mindspring.com

2008 Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Races

Point Range	Mini-McKenney	Ace of Clubs
0 - 5	D. S. Allsbrook (17.61) Helen Newton (12.92) Fred Kaplan (12.06)	Fred Kaplan (11.83) N.McCormick (11.72) Helen Newton (11.07)
5 - 20	Lenore Yellen (47.54) Toby McEvoy (24.96) B. Bovard (18.47)	Lenore Yellen (38.12) Toby McEvoy (19.59) Tony Stella (11.98)
20 - 50	A. Ambrosio (35.92) Dianne Maffia (26.00) Judy Mirisch (17.76)	A. Ambrosio (28.98) Dianne Maffia (20.70) Steve Seiden (17.53)
50 - 100	Bob Yellen (60.97) Sheila Jacobs (54.15) Ingrid Sturm (52.21)	Bob Yellen (48.41) Ingrid Sturm (42.84) Oscar Chiodi (25.4)
100 - 200	M. Weitzenhoffer (92) Mel Fineberg (63.76) G. Fischer (54.45)	M. Weitzenhoffer (52) G. Fischer (45.64) Mel Fineberg (43.86)
200- 300	Larry Lee (99.14) Marie Sullivan (62.01) Helen McCourt (59.13)	Larry Lee (76.94) Helen McCourt (39.5) R. Pensler (36.35)
300 - 500	Donna Duncan (102.8) Al White (87.14) Glen Hall (63.71)	Al White (78.41) Donna Duncan (61.92) Jan Condit (52.82)
500 - 1000	John Scibelli (168.75) Robert Hiltz (105.23) John Hibbs (86.48)	John Scibelli (114.94) Harry Horwitz (70.73) Robert Hiltz (64.37)
1000 to 2500	Bob Johnson (232.91) Barb Dunkley (180.24) K. Matsumoto (159.82)	Bob Johnson (144.8) Tom Shulman (117.3) Harumi Beers (103.84)
2500 to 5000	Carol Stewart (176.7) H. Ackerman (169.54) Tom Grue (154.15)	H. Ackerman (91.6) Jackie Karlen (91.02) Tom Grue (83.79)
5000 to 7500	Keith Garber (256.61) Mark Epstein (203.26) John Jeffrey (188.65)	Si Dombu (125.45) John Jeffrey (76.44) Marianne Keller (60.73)
7500 to 10000	R. Epstein (193.52) P. Hawkins (160.3) S. Weinstein (116.71)	P. Hawkins (78.35) Gary Tomczyk (64.67) R. Epstein (20.9)
Over 10000	Mike Passell (883.09) G. Hampson (674.32) M. Jacobus (616.02)	Carol Pincus (67.33) Gary Ullman (67.22) Lenny Ernst (62.63)

Visit www.lasvegasbridge.com and follow the Masterpoint Races link to check the current status..



2008 Unit 373 Board of Directors

Barbara Dunkley	President	645-6841
Marilyn Mason	Vice President	647-9791
Tom Shulman	Treasurer	367-2057
Justine Hancock	Secretary	435-2506
Charlyn Johnson	Membership & Web Master	614-8019
Bill Johnson	Supplies	648-0625
Della Willis	Calling Comm.	254-7819
Ray Jezek	Finance Comm.	243-3415
Barbara Harris	O-199 Appointee	869-6333

Behind the scenes at the Nationals



Jenny Pinto and Ralph



Richard Schneider, Carol Pincus,
and Phyllis Pratt



Toy Uchizono



Nancy Jansen



Elizabeth Ackerman and Nancy Habbas



Ginger Stickell



Barbara Vasilevsky and Ann Riesz



Barbara Bivins and Barbara Dunkley



Helen McCourt and Barbara Harris

Twas the day before opening
and all through the ballroom
not a creature was idle,
not even Prez Barb.

The registration packets were stuffed
by the workers with care
in hopes that the players soon
would be there

Don't forget worker appreciation day is at the clubs on Thursday, August 7. Even if you didn't help during the tournament, there will be goodies at all the clubs for everyone.

Upcoming Events

Worker Appreciation Game
August 7

Unit Game
September 21

Glitter Gulch Sectional
September 22 - 28

Unit Game
October 19

Visit us at

www.lasvegasbridge.com