

February, 2012



Tournament Schedule for District 5

FEBRUARY 2012

- 18-19 Canton President McKinley Sectional

MARCH 2012

- 9-12 Cuyahoga Falls Sectional
- 30 - Apr 1 Titusville 7 Cities Sectional

APRIL 2012

- 13-15 Cleveland Ohio Masters Sectional
- 20-22 Buffalo Spring Sectional
- 27-29 Pittsburgh Spring Sectional

As of the December, 2011 issue, there is no longer a print version of the 5th Column.

Please remember the new submission dates for 5th Column information below. Since we do not need to deal with a printer anymore, we will be able to add information closer to the online publication date!

Deadlines for Columns And Tournament Information

April Issue – March 15
June Issue – May 15
August Issue – July 15

Send Items to:

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Beachwood, OH 44122
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UNDER THE BRIDGE *by Carole Shanahan*

Sorry I was among the missing last edition. No excuses-my mind left me; so I have lots to catch up on.

Let's give much deserved congratulations to those who have achieved a milestone in the bridge world. Ursula Brown, Larry Gesso, D. J. Hammerschmidt, Robert Heasley III, Judith Perman, and Bharat Shah have been awarded their Life Masters. Their wallets will be a little heavier carrying around the metal card but it will be with pride in their accomplishment.

Both Ronald Brown and Edward Elikan are distinguished Bronze Life Masters; and apparently Ronald got this award the same month he got his Life Master--quite an achievement.

Silver Life Master has been awarded to Alan Colker, Annamarie Gordon, Phyllis Del Signore, Steven Nolan, Ed Spitzer, and Dennis Gibboney and how wonderful it is to get to this level.

Since I know Cathy Caplan, I am especially happy that I can say she is now a Gold Life Master; she is such a good and friendly player.

Of course I saved the best and most prestigious honor for last: Frank Cordier is now a Diamond Life Master. Success has not turned his head though; he is still the same Frank at the bridge table, always friendly and helpful. Congratulations to him and all of those from our area. It is so nice to look through the Bridge Bulletin and see so many people from our area moving ahead.

After the good news there is always some dark cloud. We are sorry to note the passing of Bea Hackenburg, Alma Michael, Evelyn Bazzana, Elaine Mast, and Dr. Elsie Broussard. Of these, I only knew Elsie Broussard. She was an inspiration though, always beautifully groomed and dressed, as well as friendly. Dr. Broussard had taught at my school, Graduate School of Public Health, and so I felt a special bond with her and talked with her every time I saw her at a game. I will miss her.

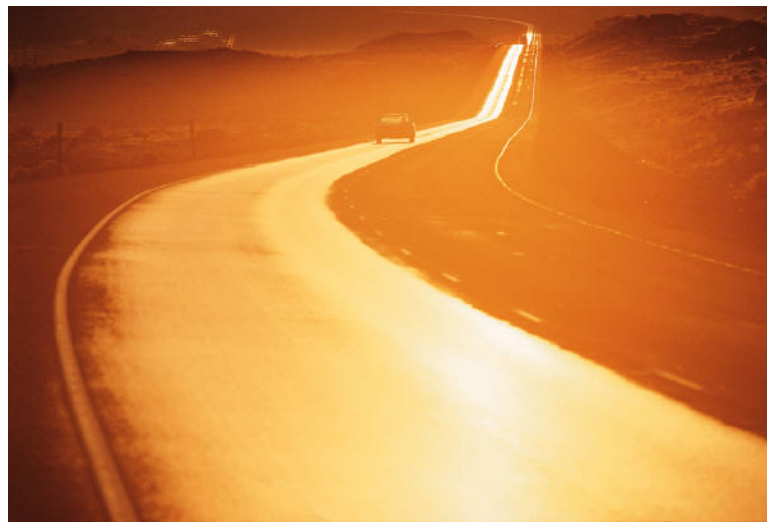
While we may be heading into snow and cold, there are always upcoming national events that look like a lot of fun if you do not mind a car trip. There is Memphis in the spring (March 15-25) and Philadelphia in July. I have been to Philly and enjoyed walking around taking in some of the history of the city. There are always the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, but also the lesser-known Elspeth Alley, Philly's oldest street, and the church where George Washington had a pew that was occupied by British General Howe during our Revolution. The houses on this street are very

narrow although very deep. In those days, the owner was taxed on his "frontage" on the street, but the house could be as deep and high as you could build. Also, Betsy Ross House is nearby with its kitchen deeply hidden in the basement.

I am also looking forward to the Gatlinburg Regional. I have not been there in a couple of years but this year we will meet some bridge friends from North Carolina and play in team games. It is wonderful to have such a large regional event, bigger than some nationals, since you get to play team games at your level. Smokey National Park is close and in the spring, woodland flowers will be blooming in the lower part of the mountains although you can drive up to where the trees still do not have leaves. We are hoping to find the eateries that we discovered on previous trips. There is a little mall off the main street as you walk to the convention center and it has the "Donut Friar," a deli with many cheeses, a small cafe with good sandwiches, and a more upscale deli with soups, quiches, and fantastic desserts. I am hungry thinking about it.

Well, I have run on and now I am hungry and will stop for lunch. Until next time, play bridge as much as you can; I hear it keeps the mind in shape. Happy New Year.

Let me know if i have missed anything; my email is bridgeplayerx2@verizon.net



BRIDGE IS COOL IN BUFFALO *by Dian Petrov*

Happy New Year 2012 to all bridge players and their supporters!

Any resolutions for the New Year? Here are some "ideas":

I will...

... focus until the last card is played in every session.

... not make faces and slap my cards on the table when I don't like my partner's defense
... not exceed time limits, particularly in pair games.
... play one game a week or more with a newer player.
... treat all opponents with dignity and respect, no matter what their skill level or recent results against me.
... always count my winners and losers at trick 1.
... not describe my hand twice.
... plan my defense ahead of time (such as whether to cover an honor or duck an Ace or King before the critical moment).
... not punish partner for bidding under pressure.
... seek out new partners and/or teammates

The Unit 116 annual meeting and party was enjoyed by 20 ½ tables. Lots of good food, great bridge and the results of the voting with Betty Metz reelected. Paul Zittel and Tova Reinhorn were both elected to 3-year terms. Thanks to all who ran for the board this year and all past years; your interest in serving is very important to the Unit. The old and new board members met Tuesday, December 20. Officers were elected, committee appointments were filled and the new board appointed Elaine Moon to fill Frank Kidd's position. Elaine will serve this year until the next election. The rest of board members are Judy Kaprove, Fran Kurtz, Sue Neubecker, Dian Petrov and Kathy Pollock. Feel free to contact any of them - contact information is on www.unit116.com .

The unit game was won by Joel and Jill Wooldridge with 73%. The 2011 ACBL Player of the Year and Bermuda Bowl finalist Joel Wooldridge spoke at the meeting thanking the Buffalo bridge community for all the support. Check the February 2012 issue of Bridge Bulletin for exclusive coverage of Joel's bridge career!

Calendar of events - Upcoming Unit games - Pro-Am "Taste of Buffalo" will take place on February 26 at the Bridge Center and "Wearing of the Green" - an evening game on March 5 at Bridge Club Meridian. The Unit knock-outs will start in April.

The Winter Sectional was enjoyed by 133 tables. That is an increase of 16.5 tables over last year. Great bridge (see results on this web site), friendly atmosphere and lots of food; sounds like a bridge player's dream. We send thanks to Mother Nature for cooperation, sun and above normal temperature. A HUGE "Thank You" to Fran Kurtz, chair of this event. Wonderful job!! Thanks also to Mike Roberts, our director. He managed with good humor and timely decisions. Another thanks to all who pitched in with clean-up. There is real truth to the saying "many hands make light work". At the end of a long weekend, everyone wants to leave but many, many "hands" remained until all work was done.

Memoriam – Frank Kidd passed away suddenly while serving his second term on the Unit's Board of directors. He played in several clubs in Buffalo area as well as many nearby tournaments. Frank volunteered for many activities including chairing

Non-Life Master Sectional and Unit games. Frank was especially instrumental in selecting the new tables used at our Sectionals. His bridge partners, fellow volunteers, board members, and others who knew him will miss him. He was a Life Master.

Rank changes:

Dordy Donaldson reached the level of Junior Master, Leuben Zaykov became Club Master, Beena Deshmukh and James McClure reached the level of Sectional Master, and Barbara Sadkin and Elsie Rogers are now Regional Masters. Reaching NABC Master status are Bruce Burr and Ross Markello, while Chongmin Zhang (Flight B representative from Unit 116 at the 2012 Spring NABC at Memphis) became Silver Life Master.

The staff reporter Dale Anderson made triple play achieving Life, Bronze and Silver Life Master status simultaneously at the Niagara Falls Regional.

Congratulations to all!

AKRON ALERT by Jim Sullivan

Fall 2011 IMP League—The winners of the Fall session that ended in December were:

Bracket A:

1st Dick Early, Monica Early, Bob Ryan, George Grant, & Mat Van Sickle

2nd Dick Traxler, Chantal Whitney, Graham Kelly, & Alper Buldum

Bracket B:

1st Jim Sullivan, Rose Cassmer, Mike Marks, Larry Rosenthal. & Irene Nicodemus

2nd Judi Shapiro, Marv Shapiro, Rick Roberts, & Susan Roberts

Congratulations to all of the winners. Thanks to Marv Shapiro who chaired this IMP League and Susan Bedall who provided great hospitality.

Springtime Sectional March 9-11 - The location is the Quirk Center at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. To get directions use one of the Internet direction's finders, e.g. MapQuest. If you don't have access to the Internet, contact Tournament Chair Bob Ryan 330-819-4895 or e-mail bob@rdinsurance.com and he'll get directions for you. If you need a partner for any of the events, contact Monica Early at monica@msinsagency.com or phone 330-958-0074.

There will be a Stratified 499ers Pairs game and Stratified Open Pairs events at both sessions on Friday and Saturday. This Sectional will feature a three-session Bracketed Handicap KO Team event, with the first session at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and the final two sessions on Saturday. Times for the sessions will be 1 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday and 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. This should still

allow players time for their Saturday night social events. The Sunday event will be a Stratified Swiss Team Game starting at 11:00 a.m. with a pasta lunch. The calculations for all of the events will be the average of the players.

Membership Meeting - Membership Meeting and Banquet will be held at the Quirk Center on Sunday, April 1. After the banquet, there will be a short meeting followed by recognition of new Life Masters and awards presentation. A Unit Championship Game will then follow.

Friday Unit Games - Get a partner, come on out to the Quirk Center and enjoy the fun, competition, and hospitality. If you need a partner call Jim Sullivan at 330-659-4707. See the Friday Unit games Schedule on the akronbridge.org Web Site, in the Newsletter/Calendar, or below:

- Feb. 3 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game
- Feb. 10 – 7:30 The second Winter IMP League Team Game
- Feb. 17 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game
- Feb. 24 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game
- Mar. 2 – 7:30 The third Winter IMP League Team game
- Mar. 9– No Game Akron Sectional at the Quirk Center
- Mar. 16 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game
- Mar. 23 – 12:30 A Club Championship Game
- Mar. 30 – 7:30 The fourth and final Winter IMP League Team Game
- Apr. 1– 1 2:30 Annual Meeting & Unit Championship Game
- Apr. 6 – No Game Cleveland Sectional
- Apr. 13 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game



Erie Excitement by Kathy Dammeyer

Now that January has brought winter to Erie, we can be grateful to have a wonderful indoor sport (duplicate bridge) to keep us active...at least mentally. Although many snowbirds have flown the coop, we have a hardy contingent of players filling our games.

Our Monday AM New Deal Player of the Year is our super-director Pat Smith. He also takes honors as the EBA Player of the Year. Jane and Tom Yusavage receive the award in the New Deal game in Strata B. Bob Rizzo is the Player of the Year in the Friday AM Grand Slam game and Bill Schneider takes the award in the Tuesday AM Double Trouble game. Congratulations to our big winners!!

Several players have reached new levels:
Regina O'Brien (aka. Queen Reggie) - Silver Life Master
Kathy Dammeyer - NABC Master
William Nichols - Regional Master
Richard Perfetto - Regional Master
Kathy Claunch - Club Master
Jim Mershon - Club Master

Our loyal players Lori Benacci, Rich Perfetto and Ron Smith are recuperating from surgery and will be back at our Erie Bridge Center very soon.

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Isobel Colt, who passed away this month. She began taking lessons several years ago and was a regular player at the EBC. She was a lovely lady and we will all miss her.

Whistfully Yours by Bev Carter

As I mentioned in the last column, Barb Bacon has resigned from the Unit Board. Replacing her is Bev Carter, long time prior board member and club owner. Bev was also elected Vice President at her inaugural board meeting. Also leaving the board due to other commitments was Mary Lou Vermerris. Sharon Robertson was appointed her replacement. Sharon is editor-in-chief of the 5th Column and brings a lot of bridge expertise to the board.

December STaC results are available through the link provided on the last page of this publication.

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races have been updated through December 6th. We congratulate Mike Creager who accumulated 651.41 and placed 3rd in the country in the national 500-1000 category and was first in our unit competition and

Hao Ge who garnered 642.81 points in the 1000-2500 category. He placed 6th in the country. Good goin' guys!!!! To check local results, please log on to our website: whistclub.org and click on the Awards and Races button. Would love to post all your names here, but there are way too many.

Our Vichill League has 37 teams this year and is going great guns. To see the results go to whistclub.org and click on the Vichill league link. The team event takes a sabbatical during the winter, so the next match won't be till Wednesday, March 28th.

The Unit Board will be electing five new members come the Sectional this spring. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Unit President Peter Miller at pdm22131@wowway.com or Secretary Sue Pisanelli at 440/842-6761 to get your name on the ballot. Meetings are held just once a month, 10 months out of the year. If you have never served, all the better. Fresh, new ideas are very welcome.

By the time you read this, our winter Regional will have ended. A link to the results is available on the last page of this publication. Hope you all had a great time and will return in May for the next one (also to be held at the Holiday Inn – Rockside) beginning Tuesday night May 22nd and ending Memorial Day, May 28th. More details on this next time.

Our annual Member of the Year Award will be presented at the annual meeting in May. If you know someone in our Unit who goes "above and beyond the call of duty" write a short "essay" on why they are so great and send it to Sharon Fairchild. Her email address is: shortsuit@sbcglobal.net. Or you can mail it to: 18740 E Shoreland Dr. Rocky River OH 44116 no later than March 1st.

OK, humor time.....

Reasons why Bridge is better than sex:

1. You don't have to hide your bridge magazines.
2. It is perfectly acceptable to play with a total stranger!
3. You can still do it in your 80's and people won't gasp when they find out.
4. A guy doesn't need lots of finesse(s) to be a successful player, but he does need some squeezes.
5. The phrase "could be short" carries no negative connotations.

Continued next
time.....

Results

Links are provided to give easy access to the results for all of the district tournaments!

2012

Cleveland Regional - January 11-15, Independence, OH

<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2012/01/1201016.htm>

Buffalo Winter Sectional - January 6-8, Amherst, NY

<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2012/01/1201096.htm>

2011

District 5 Winter STaC - December 5-11, Various Locations

<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2011/12/1112011.htm>

