

December, 2011



### Tournament Schedule for District 5

December 2011

- 5-11 District 5 Winter STaC

January 2012

- 6-8 Buffalo Winter Sectional
- 11-15 Cleveland Rock 'n' Roll Regional

### District 5 NAOP Winners

FLIGHT A

1. Greg Michaels – Pat Chisholm
2. Gail Carns – Mary Paulone Carns
3. Bernie Greenspan – Brian Ellis

FLIGHT B

1. David Frohlich – Frances Prus
2. Chongmin Zhang – Bert Feasley
3. Doris Kirsch – Lori Benacci

FLIGHT C

1. Jeffrey Tsang – Chase Bonnette
2. Peter Shui – Penny Shui



**GOOD LUCK IN MEMPHIS!**

## Whistfully Yours by Bev Carter

OOPS!!!! Big error in last column, but honest it wasn't my fault. Seems like the Holiday Inn Rockside, had one set of dates for our upcoming January Regional and ACBL had another. Luckily all has been worked out, so please change your calendars to show that the "real" dates are Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. New flyers should be out by now with the correction as well as on the website. Sorry 'bout that!!! Lots of new events for future life masters as well as seminars and reception. So if you have a hankering for gold points, be sure to "give it a go."

On Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, the bridge world lost one of its brightest stars. **Laurie Kranyak** quietly passed away after a 3+ year bout with cancer. Laurie was an Emerald Life Master, accumulating well over 12,000 points during her bridge career. She was ranked one of the finest women players in the ACBL. Last fall at the World Mixed Pair Championships Laurie and son John were leading the field after 2 qualifying sessions when she had to withdraw. We're sure she would have won if she had been able to continue. Again she battled back and later won the Platinum Pairs with hubby Ken at the Louisville NABC last spring. Laurie was always in good spirits, willing to help others improve their skills, funny, kind, feisty.....We could go on and on, so suffice it to say: She will be sorely missed by all.

Our Unit has established a scholarship in Laurie's name. Contributions can be sent to **Bev Carter** - 4505 Grand Teton Dr. - Medina, OH 44256. Checks should be made out to the CWC Scholarship Fund.

Our Unit Board also bid a tearful farewell to one of its hardest working members, **Barb Bacon**, who leaves us due to other commitments. Barb was our Vice President and Tournament Coordinator as well as site developer for our Sectionals and did a whole lot of other "stuff" for the Unit as well. She will be sorely missed!!! The Board is now in the process of soliciting members to fill her position. Not an easy task!

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***PLEASE NOTE NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR THE 5<sup>th</sup> COLUMN. It will now be possible to provide more timely information!***

**Deadlines for Columns  
And Tournament Information**

**February Issue – January 15  
April Issue – March 15  
June Issue – May 15**

**Send Items to:**

**Sharon Robertson  
23417 East Baintree  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
(216) 382-6948**

Our annual Master/Future Master Pair game was held in October with 25 tables participating. Congratulations to: **Don Sulgrove** and **Larry Boyd** scoring overall with a 66% game, **Neil Waletzky** and **Art Heuer** 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with a 65% game, **Lois Butler** and **Barb Speer** 64%, **Kitty Curto** and **Sharon Bilek** 63.7%, and **Lynne Rudolph** and **Linda Moskowitz** 62%. Really tight results!!! Wish we had room to list everyone but unfortunately we don't. Results are listed on our website [whistclub.org](http://whistclub.org) so check them out there.

Our winter STaC games are coming up the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to check the website: <http://whistclub.org/> for participating locations. On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a special STaC team game held at the Solon Senior Center. Please contact Kathy Sulgrove at [don7631@windstream.com](mailto:don7631@windstream.com) to sign up your team, find a pair or ask a question.

### ***Humor Time:***

Bridge Songs:

- **It's Not Unusual** – Partner's response when you misinterpret his 2NT bid
- **Monday, Monday** – what you wish it was when you single-handedly blow the Swiss Team event on Sunday
- **Till the End of Time** - normal duration of time before admitting your bridge mistakes
- **Bridge Over Troubled Waters** – Bridge Cruise that stops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya

## **Unit 111 News** *by Cathy Marsteller*

Our condolences go to **Nancy Tripodi** on the recent, unexpected death of her daughter-in-law. She was under 30 and had 2 children (ages 2 1/2 years & 9 1/2 months). Nancy is relocating to Coolsville, Ohio (near Athens) to help her son raise her grandchildren. We will certainly miss her!

**Bern Olmstead** has been hospitalized and is trying to get his health under control. In the meantime **Cathy Marsteller** is temporarily taking over the management of the Warren Bridge Club. Please be patient with me. There is a lot involved that I knew nothing about!

There was a large group from our unit that took a Caribbean cruise. Those taking the vacation and playing lots of bridge along the way include: **Nancy Michael, Brenda Merkich, Pauline Sostarich, Becky & Terry Murray, Carole Johnson, Dale Fishbeck, Mildred Artman, and Jon Oheren**. I hope I didn't forget anyone. Of course there is always one in the group that manages to fall and break a bone. I'm sure that given the above names you picked Carole Johnson and you would be correct. Hope her wrist heals quickly!

The winners in the September Unit game:

1. **Chuck Coleman/ Nancy Michael**

2. **Sally Veauthier/ Mary Alice Baluck**
3. **Robert Carroll/ Carole Johnson**
4. **Dale Fishbeck/ Carol Beardsmore**
5. **Bill and Shirley Schaffer**

The winners in the October unit game:

1. **Cathy Marsteller/ Claudia Ivan**
2. **Lynn Rafferty/ Marilyn Entzi**
3. **Vern DeJong/ Dee Bloom**
4. **Joe Dragoun/ Bill Cornwell**
5. **Irene Lenno/ Anthony Matrazzo**

There are a few people in our unit who are climbing the ranks. As of November, we had two new Junior Masters from Youngstown. They are **June Drennen** and **Elizabeth Goldthwait**. **Carolyn Orsini** is a new Club Master from Canfield.

**Robert Carroll** is a new Silver Life Master from Warren. **William Cornwell** is a new Gold Master. Congrats to you all!

Our unit sectional was held in September. The following had winning games:  
Saturday afternoon:

1. **Cathy Marsteller/ Irene Lenno**
2. **Kalina /George Braun**
3. **Sally Veauthier /Chuck Coleman**

#2 in the Saturday Compact KOs were **Robert Carroll, Pauline Sostarich, Jon Oheren,**and **Millie Artman**.

Saturday evening:

3. **Terry and Rebecca Murray**
4. **Maureen Irwin and Fran Egger**

Sunday Swiss:

1. **Sally Veauthier, Chuck Coleman, Joe Dragoun, and Bill Cornwell**
2. The team of **Lynn Rafferty** playing with out-of-towners
4. **Bill and Shirley Schaffer, Dale Fishbeck, and Carol Beardmore**

It is hard to believe, but it is time to talk about our Christmas parties!

The Youngstown party will be a brunch on Saturday, December 17. Price for food and bridge is \$16. You must have reservations, which you can make by contacting Jane at 330-758-2869.

The Warren party is being held this year at Avalon on Saturday, December 3 at 11:00. Food and bridge will cost \$15. There will be some subsidizing by the club for all. Make reservations either by calling Cathy @ 330-652-7265 or by e-mailing me at [cmarsteller@att.net](mailto:cmarsteller@att.net).

There was an error in the date of the Rock'n'Roll tournament in January. New flyers are being distributed with correct info of January 11- 16.

Our snowbirds are leaving and our games are going to be shrinking so remember it is important to exercise your brain! See you at the bridge table!

## Bridge is cool in Buffalo *by Dian Petrov*

Great bridge and good food is what players experienced during the weekend of September 16-18, 2011 at the Unit 116 Fall Sectional. During the Sunday Swiss teams the unit honored **Dick Rasmus** for his many years of dedicated service. It was "Thank You Dick" Day. The Unit presented Dick with a gift card and everyone enjoyed a delicious cake. He retires officially at the end of the year but the Sectional was the last official duty for Dick for our unit. We will miss his smoothly run tournaments and his wealth of knowledge. Thanks Dick and Happy Retirement!!

This year edition of Buffalo "Spooktacular" Regional was interesting in many aspects – for one the tournament was attended by number of professional players, coming as far as from Bulgaria which, combined with players from China and our regular Canadian visitors, gave a truly international spirit to the tournament. It was very successful for many of our local players – especially for those who got their last gold masterpoints to achieve Life Master status.

**Jay Levy** reports the following deal which he played in a knockout event – against a client and a pro. Lightner double is one of the most controversial conventions in bridge. It can hurt the declarer as well as defenders – depending on the level of knowledge and understanding of the method. Judge for yourself: Jay's partner (West) opened 1♦ and after bidding that they want to forget, reached a slam contract of 6♣ missing 3 Aces.

West	East ( Jay)
♠ K xx	♠ x
♥ Axx	♥ K Q J x
♦ K Q J x x	♦ void
♣ Q J	♣ K 10 x x x x x

The pro sitting North and holding ♠A and ♦A doubled for a diamond lead, but apparently he didn't teach South what the double means... because the lead was a spade. Had the South player led a diamond the declarer can make the doubled slam contract missing three Aces by pitching a spade on the established diamond, but after a spade lead contract is down. Lightner doubles anyone?

Getting their Life Master Status at the "Spooktacular" were

**Rita Sofia, Sue Neubecker, Helen Panza, Mike Silverman, and Rita Sierocinski.**

The first three also become Bronze Life masters and the last two – making a "triple play" by becoming Life, Bronze and Silver masters.

**Mr. Gunther** traveled from Chicago to Grand Island in a search of 16 gold points – he got 39 to become Life Master.

Thank you - **John Toy, Patty Rasmus** (with her magic spoon) and the number of their dedicated helpers for another smooth Regional.

District 5 NAP finals took place at Meadville on October 22-23, 2011  
Representing Unit 116 at the Spring NABC 2012 at Memphis for Flight B will be **Chongmin Zhang and Bert Feasley** and for Flight C – **Peter and Penny Shui**.

On a sad note one of our local clubs, “**The Whist**”, is closing its doors after 75 years. But the game should go on... For the last decade and more The **Whist Club** has been sharing the bridge facilities of the Zion United Church of Christ in Tonawanda with the **B&P Duplicate** and most recently with **Bridge Club Meridian**. The Monday Night Game was "The Game" in Buffalo for a quarter of a century - drawing the top players in the area in a high level competition. Starting November 7, 2011 **Bridge Club Meridian** - in an attempt to preserve the spirit of the **Whist Club** - will offer a continuation of the Monday evening games at Zion UCC - same time, same place, same tradition!

#### **Elections to Unit 116 Board of Directors**

December 18 (Sunday) will be our annual meeting, hot lunch and game held the Bridge Center of Buffalo. Tickets for the lunch and game must be purchased in advance from any board member. Of course, anyone with or without a ticket may attend the meeting. Ballot boxes will be at participating local clubs in early November through early December and prior to the annual meeting until 12 noon.

Candidates are **Joyce Kindt, Tova Reinhorn, Alex Kowal, Betty Metz and Paul Zittel**.

Read their statements at [www.unit116.com](http://www.unit116.com)

**Other Milestones:** Congratulations to **Paul Ziebarth** for becoming Club Master, **Judy Zeckhauser** for Junior Master, **David Donaldson** and **Richard Cramer-Benjamin** for Sectional Master, **James Reineck** for Silver Life Master, Bridge Center of Buffalo President **Joanne Kelley** for becoming Gold Life Master and **Bev Cohen** for Diamond Life Master status!

At the bridge table as in life, be pleased if you do well, be overjoyed if you have fun! And if you do both, then life is good.

## **Akron Alert** by *Jim Sullivan*

**Holiday Parties** - December brings about many Christmas or Holiday Parties at the individual Clubs. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and read the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these Parties. The **Akron Unit will hold its Holiday Party at 6 PM Friday, December 9 at the Quirk Center Ballroom**. Dinner of meat, potatoes, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Unit. Bring your favorite special holiday hors d'oeuvres' to share with everyone. For more information contact **Dan Cavanaugh** at 330-836-7043. Pre-registration is requested, but not required. At 7 PM there will be a **STaC Game** that will award Silver Points. The winners

from this game receive more Masterpoints if they place in the District Overall for that session.

**STaC Games** – Many of the other clubs will be holding STaC Games during the week of December 5 thru 11. Plan to play in these games and maybe you can win some of the big Masterpoint awards. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and read the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these STaC Games.

**2012 Mentor/Mentee Program** - The Mentor/Mentee program will begin its 6th year. This Mentoring Program is for the Akron Friday Afternoon game at the Quirk Center. **Carolyn Sullivan** is the Program Registrar. Anyone wanting to improve their Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentee. Anyone willing to help a less experienced player improve their Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentor. Mentor/Mentee pairings must be registered with **Carolyn Sullivan**. Mentor/Mentee can sign up as a pair or contact **Carolyn Sullivan** to be matched. The Mentor/Mentee fee will be \$3 each for all 2012 Friday Afternoon games at the Quirk Center.

The rules are: 1) Non Life Master Mentees must have a Life Master or above as a Mentor; 2) Life Masters and above can have a Mentor, but the Mentor must have at least twice as many Master Points as their Mentee; 3) Mentors can have more than one Mentee; 4) Mentees can use more than one Mentor; 5) Mentors and their Mentees each pay the Mentor/Mentee fee; 6) For Mentors with multiple Mentees, if the Mentor is playing with one Mentee at the same game that the other Mentees play they pay the Mentor/Mentee fee (The Mentor must be playing with another of their Mentees to be allowed to pay the the \$3 Mentor/Mentee fee); and 7) A Mentor may be a kibitzer to a pair of their Mentees (The Mentees pay \$3 each and the Mentor does not pay).

You can sign up for the 2012 Program via e-mail [bridgenews@aol.com](mailto:bridgenews@aol.com). A signup list will also be posted at the Quirk Center.

**Friday Unit Games** – Play Bridge at the 12:30 Friday Afternoon Game at the Quirk Center in Cuyahoga Falls. If you need a partner or more information, contact **Jim Sullivan** at [sullivan01@aol.com](mailto:sullivan01@aol.com) or 330-659-4707. Pick up a flyer for more details.

**Bridge Teams League** – The four night 2012 Winter Team League starts January 20. The other nights will be February 10, March 2 and March 30. All the matches will be played at 7:30 at the Quirk Center in Cuyahoga Falls. This TEAM LEAGUE event will use the “Eight is Enough” format. Teams must be made up so the team total is no more than eight points; where A players (1500 or more master points) are 3 points, B players (500 to 1500 master points) are 2 points, and C players (0 to 500 master points) are 1 point. Teams will be placed in brackets based on the ACBL masterpoints of the four highest team members. All matches will be handicapped based on the player used for each match. The handicap for each match will be assigned based upon the ACBL published team handicap table. Get a Team (4 to 6 players) together or contact **Marv Shapiro** at [judi.shapiro1943@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judi.shapiro1943@sbcglobal.net) or 330-867-4797 for help in getting you on a Team! Novices and Newcomers are very welcome. Learn or improve your Team skills. Pick up a flyer for more details.



**2011 Sectionals** - The Akron Sectionals for the year 2011 are now history. Many Bridge players from near and far enjoyed the competition, hospitality and fellowship that these tournaments provided. Most earned some of the Silver Master Points that were awarded. Also, a big thank you goes out to Chairperson **Bob Ryan** and the many volunteers who made these tournaments successful.

**Springtime Sectional March 4-6** - The location is the **Quirk Center** at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. The calculations for all of the Stratified events will be the average of the players. There will be Stratified 499ers Pairs 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 Saturday sessions will be **11:00 a.m.** and **3:00 p.m.** 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.** Look for a repeat of our Sunday lunch pasta.

**Candidates for the Board of Directors** - The Akron Bridge Association is looking for **Candidates for the Board of Directors**. Five of those nominees will be elected to three-year terms. If you would like to volunteer to be a candidate for the Akron Board of Directors, or if you would like to nominate someone, contact **Bob Ryan** or **Dan Cavanaugh** of the Nominating Committee. Also, if you are asked to run, please consider it an honor and accept the nomination. This is an opportunity to become part of the team that manages the Akron Bridge Association.

## Erie Excitement by Judy Lyons

Our Erie Sectional September 24-25 proved to be a very successful event. **Peggy Weibel** chaired the weekend in conjunction with our board president **Lois DiPlacido**. They provided a wonderful lunch on Saturday and kept everyone happy. We welcomed players from Buffalo, Cleveland, Franklin, Pittsburgh, State College and Tionesta who enjoyed playing at our comfortable facility.

Saturday Morning	N-S	A1. <b>Peggy Weibel-Anne Johnson</b> B1. <b>Tom Ritter-Judy Lyons</b> C1. <b>Tom Ritter-Judy Lyons</b>
	E-W	A1. <b>Barbara Grzegorzewski-Francis Tseng</b> B1. <b>Jane Yusavage-Tom Yusavage</b> C1. <b>Jane Yusavage-Tom Yusavage</b>
Saturday Afternoon	N-S	A1. B1. C1. <b>Cooper Oliver-Karen Steele</b>
	E-W	A1. <b>Carol Reitz-Ed Bissell</b> B1. <b>Al Walz-Bev Walz</b> C1. <b>Kathy Dobrzynski-Kathy Dammeyer</b>
Sunday Teams	A1.	<b>Marc Sylvester-Shirley Irish-Judie Lamberton-Francis Tseng</b>
	B1.	<b>Doris Kirsch-Lois DiPlacido-Elaina Dylewski-Peggy Weibel</b>
	C1.	<b>Ron Smith-Tonia Barbaro-Tom Yusavage-Jane Yusavage</b>
199er Pairs		



(Overall Winners)            N-S    A2.-B1.    **Jim Mershon-Ann Moffatt**  
   E-W    A1.            **Gene Krejsa-Celeste Krejsa**  
              B2.            **Rita Schmitt-Louise Bitzer**

Many local bridge players are taking lessons from a dedicated teaching staff including **Pat Smith, Doris Kirsch** and **Judie Lamberton**. With games at many levels at the EBC, we look forward to having them play regularly.

Unit #127 announces that **Terrence Kerest, Jane Yusavage** and **Tom Yusavage** attained the status of Regional Master and Unit #142 announces that **Mimi Baumann** became a Junior Master and **Scott Baldwin** an NABC Master. Our congratulations! Director **Jim Wise** has been teaching bridge at the State Correctional Institution at Albion and recently had his students play with our EBA players.

Our Monday "New Deal" Player of the Month is **Pat Smith** and our Friday "Grand Slam" Player of the Month is **Doris Kirsch**.

Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas party. It will be held Sunday Dec. 4.

## Seven Cities – by Barbara Grzegorzewski

2012 is a special year, as we celebrate the Seven Cities 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Cross Creek the last weekend in March. In the earlier years, the tournament was held in other locations within the seven cities.

As a young bridge player in my early twenties, I remember my first Cross Creek tournament in 1974. There were no vacant rooms, and players hustled to find lodging in Oil City or the Colonel Drake in Titusville. Bridge tables filled every available room. This was the debut tournament of the spring season, and Pittsburghers in particular swarmed to the event of the year regardless of the weather. I remember that many female bridge players dressed to the nines for the second session. As a first time tournament attendee, it was an awesome experience that inspired me to attend every year since the 70's. I was also amazed that all of these bridge players could party into the wee hours of the morning and still play competitively the next day.

Although the numbers aren't what they were in the 1970's, we have a wonderful time. We play three sessions on Fridays and Saturdays and in particular, party during the third session. Come join us and be a part of our 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration. If you have never attended, come to find out why this is such a unique tournament.

Our unit just finished running a six session Yalta Team League. Teams from our unit and Erie's compete and promote teams competition at clubs. First place this year: **Shirley Irish, Marc Sylvester, Judy Lamberton, Francis Tseng, Mike Roberts, and Doris Kirsch**, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Barbara and Steve Grzegorzewski, Vern DeJong, Chet**

**Mody, Pat Young** and 3<sup>rd</sup> place: **Roland Mariani, Frank Smith, Wayne Wagamon** and **Don Osborne**. Meadville and Erie's units enjoy a supportive relationship. Enjoy the Christmas season, and plan on attending Cross Creek this year.



*As of this issue, there will no longer be a print version of the 5<sup>th</sup> Column. There will be a few changes because of that decision.*

*Please note the new submission dates for 5<sup>th</sup> Column information (on page 2). Since we do not need to deal with a printer anymore, we will be able to add information closer to the online publication date!*

*It has also been decided that the results section provided in this publication need not duplicate information which is already available on this website. Links will be provided to provide easy access to the results for all of the district tournaments!*

## **Results**

September 16 – 18                      Buffalo Fall Sectional  
<http://www.d5bridge.com/Results/1109Buf.htm>

September 17 – 18                      Youngstown Sectional  
<http://www.d5bridge.com/Results/1109YT.htm>

September 24-25                      Erie Sectional  
<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2011/09/1109103.htm>

September 30 – October 2              Akron Autumn Sectional  
<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2011/10/1110078.htm>

October 1 – 2                      Altoona Horseshoe Curve Sectional  
<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2011/10/1110150.htm>

October 11 –16                      Buffalo Regional  
<http://www.d5bridge.com/1110Buf.htm>

November 4- 6                      Cleveland Buckeye State Sectional  
<http://web2.acbl.org/tournaments/results/2011/11/1111010.htm>

November 11 –13                      Pittsburgh Fall Sectional  
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/Results/1111PghRes.htm>