



The Fifth Column

February, 2015

Upcoming Tournament Calendar

FEBRUARY 2015

- 21-22 Canton President McKinley Sectional [Information](#)

MARCH 2015

- 13-15 Akron Springtime Sectional [Information](#)
- 20-22 Pittsburgh Spring Sectional [Information](#)
- 27-29 Titusville Seven Cities Sectional [Information](#)

APRIL 2015

- 10-12 Cleveland Ohio Masters Sectional
- 17-19 Buffalo Spring Sectional [Information](#)
- 25-26 District 5 GNT 1 *Flights A & C*

Deadlines for Columns and Tournament Information

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

Bridge is cool in Buffalo *by Dian Petrov*

Happy New Year 2015 to all bridge players!

We will start with congratulating **Pat Rasmus** for achieving the status of Gold Life Master. It happened at a club game and she was playing with her husband **Dick Rasmus** – famous for many years as a member of the ACBL Tournament Director staff. Actually – congratulations to both of them! Patty was known for her unmatched organization skills driving the Buffalo “**Spooktacular**” Regional for many years. In 2009, she received the prestigious “Volunteer of the year” ACBL award and she and **Roni Gitchel** are the only ones from District 5 ever to achieve this. Speaking of the Buffalo Regional – mark your calendar for dates October 25-31, 2015. Former Unit 116 president **Betty Metz** is working hard to return the event back to its glory. She and **Chris Urbanek** are the new Chairpersons and the exiting event is shaping up.

The Unit 116 annual meeting and party was enjoyed by 24 tables of players. There was lots of good food, great bridge and the introduction of the new Unit board. Officers were elected and committee appointments were filled. President - **Sue Neubecker**, Vice-President- **Liz Clark**, Secretary – **Howard Foster** and Treasurer – **Tova Reinhorn**. The rest of board members are **Dian Petrov**, **Larry Soong** and **Paul Zittel** joined by the new members – **Chip Kean** and **Elaine Kurasiewicz**. Feel free to contact any of them - contact information is on www.unit116.com .

Other Rank changes:

We have three new Life Masters – **Jan Hasselback**, **Thomas Koralewski** and **Andrei Reinhorn**. **Mary Ball** and **Martha Welte** are now Regional Masters. **Larry Abate** is Junior Master.

Congratulations to all!

Whistfully Yours *by Bev Carter*

Congratulations to **Dr. Eva Lefton** who became a Gold Life Master in December and to **Don Sulgrove** for becoming an Emerald Life Master the same month. Our Unit only has a total of 4 Emerald Life Masters so you can see how impressive reaching this plateau is. **Ginny Padvoric** became a Silver Life Master in January and **Celeste Krejsi** joined her husband as a new Life Master. **Mary Alice Woodlock** became a Bronze Life Master recently so our *congratulations* to her also.

A new class of 9th graders has started at the Middleburg Heights Junior High School mentored by **Chuck Bisesi** and **Bev Carter**. These young folks have passed level one pertaining to bidding and are now sharpening their skills by delving into play of the hand. Chuck and Bev are also teaching a first level class there on Tuesdays. There are also classes being held at Riverside Junior High for 6th and 7th graders. **Doug Henderson** and **Kathy Kovacks** head up the team of instructors for the 6th grade there aided by **John Woodward**, **Tom LaMatte** and **Ernie Demanelis**. **Sally Hotchkiss** has the sole responsibility of teaching the 7th graders. Wade Park is hosting the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade bridge classes, taught by **Doug Henderson**, **Pat Koberg** and **Robin Oliva**. Alas, the program at Whitney Young has fallen by the wayside due to a lack of instructors. **If you would like to volunteer** to help out at any of these schools, or start a program at a school in your area, please **contact Doug** at **440-356-2825**. It has been proven that the students who participate in this program test out significantly higher in all areas of scholastic education than those who don't.....except in language (go figure that one???) so it has proven to be a very worthwhile endeavor—one your local junior high should be participating in. Doug is willing to go to any school you suggest and present the program to the school officials and board of education upon request.

The Sunday STaC game held on December 14th was a huge success. There were 13 teams participating. The team of **Don Sulgrove - Kathleen Sulgrove**, Twinsburg OH; **Paul Facinelli**, Avon OH; **Dan Roseberry**, Dover OH; came in first overall, the team of **Chantal Whitney**, Shaker Heights OH; **Nicholas Ogan**, Moreland Hills OH; **Becky Shugart - G. Eric Shugart**, Lakewood OH came in first in B, and in bracket **C Kristen Kemp - Sally Sharp - Linda Beringer**, Akron OH; **Barbara Cruce**, Copley OH came in first. Congratulations to all!!! The next STaC program will be presented in June of 2015. Encourage your local club to participate.

By the time you read this, the January Rock and Roll Regional will be a thing of the past so go to the ACBL website for particulars on who won what. We are now looking forward to the February Sectional to be held in Canton on **February 21st and 22nd** and the March Sectional hosted by the Akron Unit on **March 13th through 15th**. Details on these two events have not yet been sent to our Unit and you can always check out their websites, www.Akronbridge.org or <http://www.bridgewebs.com/canton>. We're sure they would love to see you there.

Board elections are coming up very soon for our Unit Board of Directors which are held at our Spring Sectional. If you are interested in helping promote the game of bridge in our area or know of someone who you think would be an asset to the decision making process, contact **Barb Greenspan** at **216/595-3266** or barbie22@sbcglobal.net. There are 12 directors, with 3 being elected each year. Terms are for 3 years, meetings

are usually held once a month generally at our Vichill League site or a local club. Dinner is furnished so all in all, it is a pretty nice "gig."

HUMOR TIME:

- There has never been an addiction with the grip of bridge...unless it is alcohol. You hear of reformed alcoholics, but who has ever heard of a reformed bridge player???
- Did you know that: Whist led to Bridge Whist, which led to auction bridge, which led to contract bridge, which led to duplicate bridge, which led to murder, divorce, suicide, mayhem and other social evils.
- Did you know that the phrase "What would have happened if you....." among bridge players is a phrase that generally means "You idiot, why didn't you....."
- And lastly.....a comment by **Barry Crane**..... "Partner, please don't put cards in my hand because I won't have them." How true is that!!!!

AKRON ALERT *by Jim Sullivan*

Fall 2014 IMP League—The winners of the Fall session that ended in November were:

1st Jill Smith, Doris Mikstay, Mike Marks, & Larry Rosenthal.

2nd Bob Ryan, Betty Miller, Mina Ronen, Gladys Martin, Indira & Subhash Agarwal.

3rd Judi & Marv Shapiro, Jim Pivarski, & Mary Lou Vermerris.

4th Jim Sullivan, Rose Cassmer, George Grant, Marilyn DeCarlo & Mary Spooner.

Congratulations to all of the winners. Another IMP League is planned for next fall.

Springtime Sectional March 13-15 - The location is the **Quirk Center** at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. To get directions, use one of the Internet directions finder, e.g. MapQuest. There will be a Stratified 499ers Pairs game and Stratified Open Pairs events at both sessions on Friday and 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 lunch included in the price. 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, May 17**. 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 – *All of the Friday Pairs Games will have pre-dealt hands with hand records automatic scoring.* 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. 6 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Feb. 13 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Feb. 20 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Feb. 27 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Mar. 6 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Mar. 13 – No Game Akron Sectional at the Quirk Center

Mar. 20 – 12:30 A Unit Championship Game

Mar. 27 – 12:30 A Club Championship Game

Apr. 3 – No Game Good Friday

Apr. 10 – No Game Garfield Heights Sectional

Apr. 17 – 12:30 A Club Championship Game

UNIT 229 NEWS *by Lois Porter*

November and December were active times in our unit. We had more than twenty members who and eighteen members who placed in STAC Week. In Elwood City we had some big games. In November, **Helen Greenberg** and **Barbara Norante** scored a 63.02% game and were followed up on the 24th by **Alan Leaver** and **Pat Wilde** with a 65.74% game. **David Ruppert** and **Alan Leaver** had a 62.96% game on December 15 and the biggest game of all was scored by **Alex Bealles** and **Lynn Rafferty** to start off 2015 with a 77.78% game. Look for them in the Bridge Bulletin!!

We had some rank changes in our unit. **Harry and Lucy Muckle** became Junior Masters. They are newcomers to duplicate games although they have played bridge with friend for thirty years. In fact, they have two other couples that have moved to now the third location with them and reside in Liberty Hills. With encouragement from **John and Catherine Lesjack**, they came to the new duplicate game in Zelenople with several other couples. They have been scoring well in the game and come early for the

bridge lesson at 5:45 by **John Bernhard**. They were first overall on December 16 with a 61.50% game. has also become a Junior Master. She is the retired school superintendent of the Beaver Area Schools and attends the Unit Games in New Brighton. She and her partner, **Joanne Alaica**, came in first in East-West on December 6 with a 60% game. By the way, **Gus Costanzo** and **Jean Picone** were first overall in that game with a 73.02% game. **Jan Metcalfe** of Zelenople has become a Club Master. She has a degree in education and frequents games in Elwood City and Zelenople. She is on the committee for the Zelenople game and was tied for first East-West with her partner **Lois Porter** during STAC week earning extra points.

In New Castle, **Hazel Allen** and **Larry Puntureri** were first overall in the club championship game earning 2.33 masterpoints. That same week in Butler, **Yvonne Coursen** and **Raymond Kramer** came in first with a 64% game.

Congratulations to the winners of the Ace of Cubs Award: **Pat Dotson, Jan Metcalfe, Donna Pazzuolo, Lois Porter, Catherine Lesjack, Art Aronson, Brina Segal, Nick Tredennick, Alex Bealles** and **Barbara Norante**. The Mini-McKenney Award is the same until the 500+ categories. Then **Cynthia Custer, David Ruppert** and **Henry Nelson** are in the top spots.

We now hope for a winter that allows all the games to function on a regular basis. We are appreciative of our directors and sponsors for providing a wonderful atmosphere for competition and friendship. Thank you for all your efforts.

RECENT RESULTS

2015

Buffalo Sectional - Jan 23-25, Williamsville, NY

Rock'n'Roll Regional - Jan 14-18 Cleveland, OH

2014

District 5 Winter STaC - Dec 8-14, Various Locations

