

SUNSHINE BRIDGE NEWS



ACBL - DISTRICT 9

Volume 4 - Number 2
November/December 2007

ACBL BRIDGE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE MIKE BECKER



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www.District9ACBL.org

Daytona Regional

DAYTONA BEACH PLAZA RESORT & SPA

November 5-11

600 N. Atlantic Ave
Daytona Beach, FL
800-874-7420
386-255-4471

Hosts

Bob Parlin
239-774-1139
Jayne Thomas
813-727-5796
jtacbl1289@aol.com

Partnerships

Betty Grandoff
727-669-5283
BSGrandoff@aol.com

Unit 128's Great Hospitality

STRATA

Open & Senior Events
A=2000+ B=500-2000 C=0-500
I/N Events
A=100-200 B=50-100 C=0-50

DIRECTIONS

(Hotel is on the Oceanfront)

From I-95 Northbound or Southbound: Take Exit 87 East to A1A. Head north approximately 1.2 miles. Hotel is on the right.

From US-1 Northbound or Southbound: Take Seabreeze/Mason East to A1A. Head south approximately 50 yards to hotel on left.

From I-4 Eastbound: Take US-92 Northbound exit east through the business district to A1A. Head north approximately 1.2 miles to hotel on right.

Monday, Nov 5

1:00 Charity Open Pairs
7:00 Charity Open Pairs
7:00 Bracketed Open KO's, Round 1 (cont'd Tues. 9:00 am, 1:00 & 7:00)

Tuesday, Nov 6

9:00 am Morning Side Game Series (1 of 5)
10:00 am & 3:00 Stratified Senior Pairs (two-session event)
10:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
1:00 & 7:00 Primetime KO's I, Rounds 1 & 2 (cont'd 1:00 & 7:00 Wed.)
1:00 & 7:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two-session event)
1:00 Side Game Series I (1 of 6)
3:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
7:00 Side Game Series I (2 of 6)
7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single-session)

Wednesday, Nov 7

9:00 am Morning KO's, Round 1 (cont'd 9:00 am Thu., Fri., Sat.)
9:00 am Morning Side Game Series (2 of 5)
10:00 am & 3:00 Stratified Senior Pairs (two-session event)
10:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
1:00 & 7:00 Primetime KO's II, Rounds 1 & 2 (cont'd 1:00 & 7:00 Thu.)
1:00 & 7:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two-session event)
1:00 Side Game, Series I (3 of 6)
3:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
7:00 Side Game Series I (4 of 6)
7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single-session)

Thursday, Nov 8

9:00 am Morning Side Game Series (3 of 5)
10:00 am & 3:00 Stratified Senior Pairs (two-session event)
10:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
1:00 & 7:00 Primetime KO's III, Rounds 1 & 2 (cont'd 1:00 & 7:00 Fri.)
1:00 & 7:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two-session event)
1:00 Side Game Series I (5 of 6)
3:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
7:00 Side Game Series I (6 of 6)
7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single-session)

Friday, Nov 9

9:00 am Morning Side Game Series (4 of 5)
10:00 am & 3:00 Stratified Senior Pairs (two-session event)
10:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
1:00 & 7:00 Primetime KO's IV, Rounds 1 & 2 (cont'd 1:00 & 7:00 Sat.)
1:00 & 7:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two-session event)
1:00 Side Game Series II (1 of 4)
3:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
7:00 Side Game Series II (2 of 4)
7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single-session)

Saturday, Nov 10

9:00 am Morning Side Game Series (5 of 5)
10:00 am & 3:00 Stratified Senior Pairs (two-session event)
10:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
1:00 & 7:00 Primetime KO's V, Rounds 1 & 2 (cont'd 10:00 am & 1:30 Sun.)
1:00 & 7:00 Stratified Open Pairs (two-session event)
1:00 Side Game Series II (3 of 4)
3:00 Intermediate/Novice Pairs (single-session)
7:00 Side Game Series II (4 of 4)
7:00 Stratified Swiss Teams (single-session)

Sunday, Nov 11

Swiss Teams are playthrough
10:00 am Stratified Open Swiss Teams
10:00 am Stratified Senior Swiss Teams
1:30 Single Session Stratified Swiss Teams *If attendance warrants*
ALL TIMES ARE PM UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE



5th Annual BRIDGE RETREAT



in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona
at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort

February 10 - 16, 2008



Sharon & Zeke Jabbour

STUDY WITH THE STARS! They are back...

Join Zeke & Sharon Jabbour and Eddie & Yvonne Kantar and laugh as you learn in a lavish and lovely resort atmosphere! Come help us craft yet another set of fond memories.

Enjoy extensive bridge lectures and panels with your hosts, as well as daily ACBL sanctioned duplicate games.



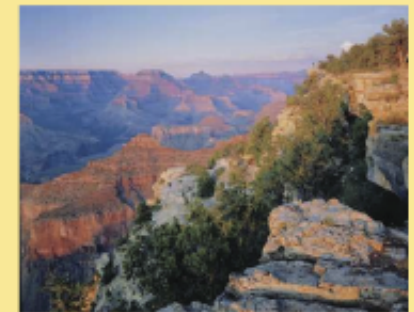
Eddie Kantar

Zeke Jabbour: 2007 ACBL "Man of the Year"; 2006 GOODWILL "Man of the Hour"; Winner of the Barry Crane, George Burns, Sally Fishbein and many other trophies. Author of the popular "WINSOME AND LOATHSOME" bridge column. ACBL's most successful senior player.

Eddie Kantar "Mister Bridge": A world champion, Eddie is widely considered to be the most important and prolific bridge writer and lecturer of our time. One of the all-time greats, Eddie reveals the secrets of "THINKING BRIDGE".

Included Features:

- 6 nights at the deluxe Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Two group dinners at the hotel
- Bridge lectures and panels with your hosts
- Afternoon ACBL sanctioned duplicate games
- Private welcome and farewell receptions
- All taxes, tips and gratuities



For more information call

CONLIN
ENRICHMENT TOURS

888-426-6546

and ask for the

Bridge Retreat in Scottsdale

\$2,375 per person, per week,
based on double occupancy.

Price includes bridge activities, hotel accommodations, most meals, parties, taxes and gratuities. Price does not include air.

Improve your bridge, hone your golf and tennis, and have a wonderful time.
Ask your friends who have attended our previous bridge retreats!



Orlando New Year's Regional

December 31 -
January 6, 2008



Matchpoint Results Posted Daily
on the Internet

Swiss Team Games Seeded for First Match

ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program

Newcomers & Intermediate Program
with Expert Lecturers

Free Parking

Spectacular Fireworks at
New Year's Eve Soirée

Lake Buena Vista Palace

Call before November 30th for
bridge rate of \$119 (single/double)

1900 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
Toll Free: 866-397-6516

Tournament Chair

Jane Formet janeformet@yahoo.com 407-649-2022

Partnerships

George & Julie Clark julieclark08@earthlink.net 321-267-6713

Information

John Christman jwc2708@bellsouth.net 407-896-8567

The most up-to-date version of this flyer is on the Unit 240 Website:
www.acblunit240.com

MONDAY December 31

Win-an-Entry Kickoff Pairs		1:00		
Bracketed Open KOs			7:30	
Charity Pairs				7:30

TUESDAY January 1

Brktd KOs (continued)	9:00	1:00	7:00	
Morning Fast Pairs Series	9:30			
Stratified Senior Pairs	10:00	3:00		
Stratified Open Pairs		1:00	7:00	
50/100/300 I/N Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Tuesday-Wednesday Brktd KOs		1:00	7:00	
Side Game Series I		1:00	7:00	
Stratified Open Swiss			7:00	

WEDNESDAY January 2

Morning KOs	9:00			
Morning Fast Pairs Series	9:30			
Stratified Senior Pairs	10:00	3:00		
Stratified Open Pairs		1:00	7:00	
50/100/300 I/N Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Tuesday-Wednesday Brktd KOs (cont)		1:00	7:00	
Wednesday-Thursday Brktd KOs		1:00	7:00	
Side Game Series I		1:00	7:00	
Stratified Open Swiss			7:00	

THURSDAY January 3

Morning KOs (continued)	9:00			
Morning Fast Pairs Series	9:30			
Stratified Senior Pairs	10:00	3:00		
Stratified Open Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Easybridge! Pairs		1:00		
50/100/300 I/N Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Wednesday-Thursday Brktd KOs (cont)		1:00	7:00	
Thursday-Friday Brktd KOs		1:00	7:00	
Side Game Series I		1:00		
Side Game Series II			7:00	
Stratified Open Swiss			7:00	

FRIDAY January 4

Morning KOs (continued)	9:00			
Morning Fast Pairs Series	9:30			
Stratified Senior Pairs	10:00	3:00		
Stratified Open Pairs		1:00	7:00	
50/100/300 I/N Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Thursday-Friday Brktd KOs (cont)		1:00	7:00	
Friday-Saturday Brktd KOs		1:00	7:00	
Side Game Series II		1:00	7:00	
Stratified Open Swiss			7:00	

SATURDAY January 5

Morning KOs (continued)	9:00			
Morning Fast Pairs Series	9:30			
Stratified Senior Pairs	10:00	3:00		
Stratified Open Pairs		1:00	7:00	
50/100/300 I/N Pairs		1:00	7:00	
Friday-Saturday Brktd KOs (cont)		1:00	7:00	
Compact Knockouts		1:00	7:00	
Side Game Series II		1:00	7:00	

SUNDAY January 6

Stratified Open Swiss	10:00	Play-through	
Stratified Senior Swiss	10:00	Play-through	
Stratified I/N Swiss	10:00	Play-through	

Stratified	I/N	Easybridge!
A=2000+	A=100-300	A=10-20
B=750-2000	B=50-100	B=5-10
C=0-750	C=0-50	C=0-5

Table Fees: \$12 for paid ACBL Members, \$14 for all others.

September 2007

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Special Events! Orlando New Year's Regional

ACBL TAP Course

Become an ACBL Certified Bridge Teacher

Three Sessions (10 Hours Total)

Teacher: Pat Harrington

Friday, January 4, 2008

9:00 a.m. to noon

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 5, 2008

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration Contact:

Celia Phillips

cinnabread@hotmail.com

321-956-9208

Price:

\$50 for Unit 240 members

\$100 for non-members



Buy One Get One Free

Everyone wins Monday afternoon!

Play in the afternoon game, get a free entry for a single session the next day.

New Year's Eve

Fireworks, champagne & hors d'oeuvres

Mini Vacation Give Away

Win a 3-day/2-night stay at any luxury LXR Resort.

Expert Speakers: Lectures at Noon
– Enjoy Mike Cappelletti, Sr., Jeff Hand and others.

Swiss Team Games

Seeded for the 1st match of each session.

Bring Your Laptop:

Matchpoint results posted online every night.

Hotel: Spa, golf, tennis and pool.

Parking: FREE

UNIT 102
2008 SARASOTA-MANATEE REGIONAL

Manatee Convention & Civic Center
 Palmetto, FL
 One Haben Blvd.

February 18-24, 2008

TOURNAMENT CHAIRS:

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 mjhawes@verizon.net

Ruth C. Howard - (941) 746-4999
 ruth_bridge@msn.com

Intermediate-Novice Chair:
 Duane Rancourt - (941) 923-3694
 duanerancourt@comcast.net

HOST HOTEL:

Holiday Inn Riverfront
 100 Riverfront Drive West
 Bradenton, FL 34205
 (941) 747-3727
 www.holiday-inn.com/bradentontl
Bridge Rate: \$139/night
 Reserve by January 12, 2008

Shuttle service will be provided between Host Hotel and Convention Center.

For complete information on area hotel rates and locations, please access our website at: www.unit102.com or contact co-chair.

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 KTMateyak@Verizon.net
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, February 18

Charity Pairs 3:00pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 7:30pm
 (1st of two 4-round sessions-gold)
 Win-An-Entry Pairs 7:30pm

Tuesday, February 19

Tues.-Wed. Bracketed KO's 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Open Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
5/10/20 & 50/100/200 Pairs (Single Sess) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Primetime Side Game Series I 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 7:30pm
 (2nd of two 4-round sessions-gold)
 Evening Side Game Series 7:30pm

Wednesday, February 20

Tues.-Wed Bracketed KO's (cont'd) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Wed.-Thurs. Bracketed KO's 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Open Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
5/10/20 & 50/100/200 Pairs (Single Sess) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Primetime Side Game Series I 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30pm
 Bracketed Compact KO's 7:30pm
 (1st of two sessions)
 Evening Side Game Series 7:30pm

Thursday, February 21

Wed.-Thurs Bracketed KO's (cont'd) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Thursday-Friday Bracketed KO's 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Open Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
5/10/20 & 50/100/200 Pairs (Single Sess) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Primetime Side Game Series II 10:00am
 Primetime Series II 2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30pm
 Bracketed Compact KO's 7:30pm
 (2nd of two sessions)
 Evening Side Game Series 7:30pm

Friday, February 22

Thursday-Friday Bracketed KO's (cont'd) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Friday-Saturday Bracketed KO's 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Open Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
5/10/20 & 50/100/200 Pairs (Single Sess) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Primetime Side Game Series II 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 7:30pm
 (1st of two 4-round sessions-gold)
 Evening Side Game Series 7:30pm

Saturday, February 23

Friday-Sat. Bracketed KO's (cont'd) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Bracketed Compact KO's 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Open Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Senior Pairs 10:00am&2:30pm
5/10/20 & 50/100/200 Pairs (Single Sess) 10:00am&2:30pm
 Primetime Side Game Series II 10:00am&2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 2:30pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 7:30pm
 (2nd of two 4-round sessions-gold)
 Evening Side Game Series 7:30pm
Sunday, February 24
 Stratified Open Swiss Teams 10:00am (playthrough)
 Stratified Senior Swiss Teams 10:00am (playthrough)
50/100/200 Swiss Teams (if attendance warrants) 10:00am (playthrough)

(Intermediate/Novice program in **BOLD**)

- All Swiss Team event stratifications based on team's average masterpoints
- Stratified events: A-2000+, B-750-2000; C-0-750

ALL PAIR GAMES AND SWISS TEAMS ARE STRATIFIED
 ALL KNOCKOUTS ARE BRACKETED

Jerry Helms at the

♠ St. Petersburg Bridge Club
 8800 49th Street North, Suite 110
 ♥ Pinellas Park, Florida 33782
 ♦ 727-544-5040



♣ St. Petersburg Bridge Club
 Is pleased to present a day with
 One of North America's Premier Bridge Presenters

Jerry Helms

("Ask Jerry" from the Bridge Bulletin)
 Who will present two different seminars

Play of the Hand (9:15-12:15)
Defense (1:30-4:30)

Tuesday November 13, 2007

Each seminar will include Jerry's presentation and a bonus "Ask Jerry" period for your questions.

Cost of each seminar is \$40
 Attend both seminars and enjoy lunch for \$75

Go to www.stpetebridge.org for information on future seminars with Jeff Meckstroth (January 8), Larry Cohen (January 25) and Audrey Grant (March 1).

To register for the seminar, call 727-544-5040
 Or email cfgill@verizon.net and indicate your name and phone number and the number attending

St. Petersburg Bridge Club is located at 8800 49th St. N. Suite 110 Pinellas Park Florida 33782
 From I-275, take Exit 28 and drive west on Gandy/Park approximately 1.5 miles to 49th St. N.
 Turn north (right) on 49th St. N. 8800 is 3/4 mile up 49th on the left.

REMEMBER

November 1-30
GNT Qualifying

November 26
ACBL-wide
Charity Game #2

November 12-18
Unit 240 & Unit 102 STaC

December 1-31
GNT Qualifying

November 25
Unit 128 Swiss

December 10-16
Unit 128 STaC

FOUR TIMES AS NICE

Playing in the Swiss team during the District 9 STaC week, at Temple Sinai, Boca Raton, in a 32 team event Jay Cohodes, Rick Gross, Marty Robins and

Helen Shanbrom won all four matches and did not lose one IMP in 24 boards. **Four shutouts in four rounds!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DISTRICT 9

Jeff Overby, District 9 President
KeysBridgePlayer@aol.com

As you are reading this you should be headed out the door to attend the last full Regional of the year, held in Daytona Beach at the Daytona Plaza Resort and Spa, November 5-11.

If you have not made your reservations to attend the first Regional of 2008, you should know that the room block expires this month. The Orlando Regional will be hosted at a new hotel, The Lake Buena Vista Palace. It is located only a short distance from where the tournament was held in 2007. Please also note the new starting date: December 31, 2007. The new hotel was unable to accommodate the tournament one week later, so the Orlando Unit 240 decided to forge ahead with a New Year's eve soiree. The tournament will be held Dec 31-Jan.6. This tournament is one of the largest offered in District 9 and players can enjoy bringing in the new year in Orlando.

Your District Board has been looking at the schedule of events offered. Please tell us if you like or dislike the starting times and the events. Many are enjoying the Swiss teams at night during the week and the new knockouts which start each day. If you are enjoying the schedule and/or times, it is important that you let your Unit and District Board members know. All of their addresses are contained in each issue of the Sunshine Bridge News.

Your District tournament scheduling committee has been very busy processing all the sectional tournament requests. Their job is a thankless one, ably chaired by Shirley Seals. This committee balances all the requests for tournaments, with the ability of staff to cover each one, and at the same time minimize the negative impact that sectionals have on club games and on each other...In Florida, one can play in a sectional event almost every weekend.

I hope that we can soon offer a survey to our readers to find out exactly what you like and don't like about the District, its publication, and our tournaments. Prizes will be awarded to a number of players that complete the survey. Look for it in the next issue. In the meantime, feel free to continue to share your constructive suggestions with me and other members of the District Board and your own Unit Board members.

J. Jefferson Overby

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MIKE BECKER INDUCTED INTO THE ACBL BRIDGE HALL OF FAME

Mike Becker was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2006 and inducted at the annual ceremonial dinner held last year in Chicago at the NABC. . . . **Page 20**



Cover photo courtesy of the ACBL Bulletin

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The Sunshine Bridge News is mailed six times a year to households of paid-up members of District 9 of the ACBL. The mailing list is prepared about a month before the publication arrives in your mailbox. Mailing is by bulk mail.

ACBL members of other districts and non-members residing anywhere in the U.S. may subscribe.

Subscriptions to the SBN are available at a cost of \$15 for six consecutive issues. A check made out to Sunshine Bridge News should be sent to Shirley Seals, P.O. Box 1534, Ponte Vedra, FL 32004 with address information.

Subscription issues will be mailed by first class mail, a few days after the full District 9 mailing list goes to the Bulk Mail Office for distribution. Address changes for subscriptions may be sent by email to Shirley at ShirleySealsFL@aol.com.

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DISTRICT 9 UPDATE DISTRICT 9

Shirley Seals, District 9 Director • ShirleySealsFL@aol.com

GOOD NEWS FROM ACBL Insurance Policy Renewed

The Insurance policy that covers Directors and Officers of ACBL Districts and Units has been renewed for another year at a cost of approximately \$120,000 to ACBL. This is a saving of \$15,000 each year to our District and a savings of \$850 to each Unit. This policy covers Units/District Directors and Officers, as well as committee/volunteer members for actions taken in that capacity. The policy does not cover physical injury or damage; however, it does cover slander and libel.

Notice to all Units

Be sure your IRS form 990 is filed in a timely manner. It is important to stay in strict compliance with all laws pertaining to not-for-profit (501©4) organizations. While no taxes will be due, non-compliance will be dealt with in a very strict manner and can lead to organizations losing their non-profit status.

ACBL May Relocate

The building housing the ACBL headquarters on Airways Boulevard has been sold and ACBL has become a tenant on a temporary basis. Preliminary work is in progress for possible relocation options.

Marketing

Things have been rather slow this year in the Marketing Department and the search continues for a Director of Marketing. ACBL promoted bridge and membership at the Annual AARP "Life at 50+" convention in Boston. This year ACBL member Bob Levey, an award winning talk show host

and former Washington Post columnist, was a featured speaker for ACBL.

Policy Changes

There has been a Policy Change in Tournament Director Status. (The entire change in policy can be read on the District 9 Website as part of Jay Baum's CEO report dated May 2007.)

In brief, this may change the way Sectional and Regional tournaments are charged for the service of Tournament Directors. Overtime may be due directors for hours worked beyond 40 hours per week. This will not affect charges in 2007, but increased charges for Directors at our Sectional and Regional tournaments will most likely occur in 2008.

Also, beginning in 2008, STaCs will be run by three DICs (yet to be named) located from coast to coast. I have voiced my strong objection to this new policy...stating that the "DICs in Florida/District 9 provide an excellent level of service that cannot be matched by a DIC who does not know the clubs and their needs within our District". I have been told that this new STaC procedure will save ACBL \$200,000 annually...but I feel that our STaC table count will suffer...thus costing ACBL money, rather than creating a savings.

I have talked to many of you who will be attending the NABC in San Francisco in November. District 9/Florida is always well represented at our National.



OFFICERS

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Speaking of District 9 FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Muriel Altus, Communications Chair • msa1289@yahoo.com

Sometimes I marvel at how much easier my

life is, having discovered a cell phone. Meeting somebody, asking for help finding someplace when out driving, even asking a spouse for advice about buying something at the super market all are times when cell phones can turn a half hour production into a two minute endeavor.

I think, though, that the new gadget I would miss the most, should it be taken away, is my computer. Here's an example of how much easier the 'net makes my life. Did you see the article about bridge playing in the New Yorker magazine on September 17th? I didn't see the magazine, nor did anybody hand me a copy of the article. No fewer than three friends, however, forwarded me the article in my e-mail. If you haven't seen it, you can go to your local library and ask for that issue of the New Yorker, or you can find it online. In fact, if you are not a computer addict or officianado or even a random user at home, the library is a great place to begin learning about computers, by experimenting in their high speed connection to the world wide web.

Here's how to find the article, if you're curious. Go to www.newyorker.com and find the little "search" rectangle. Type in "bridge". You'll get 100s of articles, but you also get an "advanced search" area. The author you want is David

Owen, and you can type from September 17, 2007 to September 17, 2007. Now all of a sudden, you'll get the very article! Anyway, I enjoyed reading it, and I hope you do, too.

Another interesting site I sometimes visit is one called rec.games.bridge and I've found one or two of YOU out there posting, on occasion. This is a bit trickier to find for some of us. You can go to groups.google.com/ and muddle around until you find it.

I actually had never gone there until my brand new computer (running Windows Vista) showed up with a Google sidebar that often shows me various discussions in rec.games.bridge and I've found some enjoyable discussions.

Now, back to cell phones. Since so many of us have a cell phone, and since many of us travel to tournaments with a Sunshine Bridge News in our car, I'd like to suggest/request that tournament organizers put a phone number in their ad that will allow players to call on the day of the tournament, prior to starting time. This can help if we're lost, or if we need to say, we're on our way, there's an accident causing delays.

Thanks for letting me visit with you here.

Muriel Altus



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Older or Wiser?

by Larry Cohen



Larry Cohen

AM I GETTING OLDER, OR WISER?

I get a chuckle when people complain about getting old. "The alternative," I tell them, "is much worse." We are all getting older, of course, but with that is supposed to come wisdom.

In bridge, we also get wiser with age. Youthfulness is usually equated with wildness in the bidding. I used to be a reckless preempter. Now, I am more disciplined. When it comes to opening the bidding, I am also moderating my ways. No, I'm not going into one of those ultra-sound shells (a la the "Roth-Stone school"). I still believe that striking the first blow is the way to go--I hope I never become a stodgy opening bidder. Still, there is room to learn. Recently, I dealt with this hand:

- ♠5
- ♥QJ42
- ♦AK10
- ♣J10765

In the past, I wouldn't have asked "am I vulnerable?" I wouldn't have cared if it was matchpoints or IMPs. I would have just opened the bidding 1♣, and gone on with my life. I have 11 HCP plus 1 for this, 1 for that--good enough. Alternatively, the Rule of 20 would dictate opening this hand (11 HCP + 5+4 in the longest suits).

However, a new and more mature guideline has entered my brain. I look ahead to the future. I



ask myself, "What will happen if I open 1♣ with this borderline hand?" The answers are mostly negative. For one, partner might lead a club (from, say, Kxx, or Axx). That wouldn't be so good. Even worse, it might be our hand. What do you think partner will respond? You know how partners are. Surely, you can look forward to the pleasure of his 1♠ response. Now what? The death rebid. You can't rebid notrump with a singleton, can't rebid your 5-card suit, and can't reverse into 2♥. You can't pass, so you have to make one of those lovely rebids. Yuk! So, why not show a little maturity and just pass? I gave it a try. (It hurt a little, but I got over it.)

What happened next? I actually got to have a good auction. LHO opened the bidding 1♣, and my partner overcalled 2♥. RHO passed, and I got to make a splinter bid of 3♠. The hand was off my chest. I had painted a nice picture of my shape and strength, and I managed this all without opening the bidding. Had the opponents bid and raised spades, I could have entered the auction with a takeout double, again providing a good description.

Anyway, I'm still opening light, but when awkward hands arise, I have become emotionally capable of passing. I hope it doesn't ruin my reputation.

AGE AND PREEMPTION

Another facet of maturity (age?) is the development of a sane preemptive philosophy.



The younger they are, the more they are, the more they bid. This philosophy isn't restricted only to the young--I see many tournament players that bid every time it is their turn. They preempt with 5-card suits, and they don't care about suit quality.

Why?

Having played such a style (in my Marty-Bergen days), I feel well qualified to comment. Opening 2♥ with, say:

- ♠52
- ♥J87642
- ♦A32
- ♣75

is what I'm talking about. Such actions certainly can work. You might preempt the opponents (especially if partner can raise) and force them into a ridiculous position. Opening 2♥ could easily hit a home-run. But, there is the flip side. It can often strike out. It is a real swingy, "top-bottom" action.

I prefer to go more down the middle. I wouldn't open 2♥ with that hand, but would do so, with:

- ♠52
- ♥QJ9842
- ♦A32
- ♣75.

This is still not a good-enough suit/hand for the really stodgy crowd, but I think they need to loosen up a little. They would probably need at least the ♥10, and maybe even that

wouldn't be sufficient. They hardly ever get dealt a hand on which they can preempt.

So, what qualifies me to recommend this middle ground? Having played all 3 styles (sound, medium, and aggressive) I can tell you that I've seen it all. I am 100% convinced that "medium" is the long-run winner. If I had to give up "medium," the next-best would be "aggressive." I don't like the pain of enduring the strikeouts, but there are almost as many homeruns and fun to make up for it. In a weak field, especially, aggressive is not a bad way to go.

SOUND -- RED LIGHT

As far as "sound,"--count me out. I have seen first hand how this is clearly a losing preemptive strategy. Yes, on the few deals where it comes up (you actually get to preempt), you are usually a winner (partner gauges the auction, opening lead, and/or defense quite well). However, the sound preempters are losing out big time by not setting enough problems for their opponents. I love to play against such (non)preempters. They never get in my way--life is good when the opponents are in love with passing.



If you enjoy Larry's articles, you might like to join his email list (it is free) at his website (<http://www.Larryco.com>). You'll receive a monthly newsletter to entertain and enlighten you.

The Contract is 4♥...What is Your Plan?

by Jon Shuster



Hand 1: IMPS, NS Vul, North deals

Hand 2: MPs, neither Vul, East deals

North
 ♠-AK10
 ♥-J10
 ♦-98532
 ♣-AQ9

South
 ♠-6532
 ♥-AKQ43
 ♦-None
 ♣-7532

North
 ♠-Q1085
 ♥-K4
 ♦-A95
 ♣-QJ102

South
 ♠-74
 ♥-AQ10753
 ♦-K8
 ♣-A86

West	North	East	South
-	1NT (14-17)	P	2♦(1)
Dble	P(2)	P	3♥(3)
P	4♥	P	P
P			

West	North	East	South
-	-	P	1♥
Dble	Rdble	P	P
1♠	2NT	P	3♥
P	4♥	P	P
P			

(1) Transfer (♣ suit is too poor for Smolen or Stayman)

(2) Shows doubleton ♥.

(3) Could have transferred again, but chose not to as a void is usually nice to be led up to.

West led the ♦K, asking for count, East followed with the 4. Plan your play.

West led the ♦2, East plays the J, and you win the K. What is your plan?

Solutions

For **Hand 1**, did you ruff and start pulling trump? If you did, you will be set.

Ruff the opening lead, and lead a ♣ to the Q (better than the 9 when West plays low).

(a) If this holds, you probably have 4 black suit winners, and need 6 trump tricks. After winning the ♣Q, cash the ♣A and ♣A, ruff a ♥, and lead a ♠ to the K. If this holds, (West has at least 2 ♠s), the hand is made. You now concede a black suit loser, and get to ruff your 4th card in the suit in dummy. So you score 4 black suit winners, one ruff in dummy, and five trump.

(b) If the ♣ finesse loses to the K, watch the opponents' count showing cards carefully. Hopefully, the opposition will woodenly return a ♦, and you will be able to figure out from the opponents' count what entry to use last, so East won't ruff it. If that all happens, you will ruff all five ♦s, score three minor winners, and the J10 of ♥s in dummy. Quite a dummy reversal!

Hand 2: If ♥s behave, you have 10 easy tricks (6♥, 2♦, 2♣). Nonetheless, it would be wrong to draw trump, since in view of West's takeout double, it is quite possible that East has 4♥, and you may need the ♥ entry to execute a trump coup.

To prepare for a possible trump coup or endplay when they break 4-1, lead a low ♠ toward dummy at trick 2, and if West (takeout doubler) plays low, play the Q not the 10. If a ♠ loses to East (even the 10 to the K), you will see a ♣ return, securing West's guaranteed ♣K, giving you three Black suit losers and a possible trump loser. If the Q indeed holds, you are playing for overtricks.

In actual practice, West wins the ♣K and leads the ♦10, which you win in dummy, ruff a ♦ (first shortening), and play a second ♠ to dummy. West will take the Ace and probably just plays another ♠ (best). You will win the ♠Q, and ruff a ♠ (second trump shorten-

ing) West bid ♠s so no ruff by left hand opponent will happen. Now play the ♣A and finally pull trump ♥K, ♥A, (they break 4-1 with East originally holding ♥-Jxxx), and exit with a ♣. You have 8 tricks (1♠, 2♥, 2♦, 1♣, and 2 ruffs) and wait for your ♥-Q10 over East's Jx. If you play trump too early, and West holds ♠-AKJx, you go down as you have 3 black suit losers and can't shorten yourself enough in trump to trap the ♥J.

Actual West

♠-AKxx ♥-x ♦-Q10xx ♣-Kxxx

The hand is friendly, as the ♣J falling gives you the hand even if you pulled two trump early. But that was a lucky fall. If you finesse the third ♠, having pulled two trump early, you do go down on the actual hand, but make if West started with ♠-AKJx! Why guess?

Lesson on these hands

Think twice before pulling trump too early. Delaying the pull is not always about ruffing in dummy!





DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A BID OR NOT A BID? . . . THAT IS THE QUESTION

by Harry Falk

In the early 1990's, I attended a North American Championships with my favorite partner. We entered the Red Ribbon Pairs, and we started out quite successfully--in fact, after the 1st day of the event, we had qualified for day #2 as the leaders of the event (that was back in the days when I knew how to play bridge). At the end of the session, the Director-in-Charge of the event informed us that we could arrive early the next day for a lesson in the use of bidding boxes, since we would be using them for the finals of the event.

This was my first introduction to bid boxes, and, after using them for the first session, I decided that this was the best innovation since sliced bread. I loved how they eliminated the need for constant reviews of the auction and confusion over what had actually transpired at the table. I came home from that event determined to introduce them to my local club and unit--even though they were practically unknown outside of National events. When I moved

to Florida, I decided to make my club the first one locally to use bid boxes for 100% of the games. Although the naysayers cried that people would never accept "those infernal things", many bridge players nowadays wouldn't even know how to bid verbally anymore. I can't think of a club anywhere in Florida that doesn't use them.

Of course, some of the rules and laws associated with the game had to be modified when bidding boxes came into widespread use. The first issue was to determine when a bid had actually been made.

When is a call considered to have been made using bidding boxes? Under ACBL regulations, a call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position as to indicate the call has been made. So, the act of removing a bidding card from the box does not constitute a bid until it has been placed in one of the positions listed above. So, if a player removes

the 1♣ card, but does not place it anywhere near the table, and then changes it to 1NT and places that bid on the table, the 1NT bid stands. However, the removal of the 1♣ card from the bid box is unauthorized information. The partner of the 1NT bidder is not entitled to the information that partner was thinking about bidding 1♣ and may take no inferences from this information.

A simple rule to follow when deciding what to bid is the one that I suggest when I'm called to the table in such situations. I always ask that bidders think with their minds, not with their fingers. Fingering a bidding box is usually done quite innocently, but this simple act can cause many problems at the table. Please make your decisions before touching any bidding cards.

There's an easy solution to the problem of pulling the wrong bidding card. Simply look down at the table after you've placed a bid on the table. Then, if the card isn't the one which you think you've

made, call the Director at once. For my part, I think that the bidding box is the best thing

“Under ACBL regulations, a call is considered made when a bidding card is removed from the bidding box and held touching or nearly touching the table or maintained in such a position as to indicate the call has been made.”

that has happened to duplicate bridge in the 20+ years that I've been playing. My colleague, Karl Miller, may not always agree (he's responsible for transporting 300+ tables of bidding boxes from regional to regional). But otherwise, the introduction of bidding boxes has made a great game even more enjoyable for the majority of our players.

And, just in case you're curious, partner and I dropped from 1st to 24th on the 2nd day of the Red Ribbon Pairs--darn---it must have been those silly bidding boxes that caused it.

Harry Falk's web site is harrybridge.com and it contains information about the local duplicates in his area as well as tournaments at which he officiates.

INDUCTED

MIKE BECKER - DISTRICT 9's NEWEST MEMBER OF THE BRIDGE HALL OF FAME

By Marshall Hall

Mike Becker was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2006 and inducted at the annual ceremonial dinner held last year in Chicago at the NABC. He joined 80+ other experts--including his famous father B.J. Becker--in this exclusive "bridge club." His road to the bridge Hall of Fame is almost a mirror image of his very successful life in business.

While trading options on the American Stock Exchange from 1979 to 1994, he and Ron Rubin (his partner in both bridge and business) trained, backed and supervised over 100 games players as options traders. Over 50 of those are ACBL members while 15 of them are ACBL national champions. Mike and Ron spotted the relationship between playing games and trading options - discipline, focus, "card sense", the ability to know how to perform well under pressure, or when ahead or behind, or after being lucky or unlucky, etc., and built a trading model around it. In a 15-year period their traders earned over 100 million dollars.

In 1996, Mike retired and he and his wife Judy, and children Andrew and Lauren, moved to Boca Raton.

His business card now reads: Michael Becker--Professional Retiree.



Photo courtesy of the ACBL Bulletin

Tennis • Golf • Bridge • Dinner

In Boca Raton, he is known as "The Great Organizer." He runs the Wednesday Boca Bridge game, a two or three table, \$5 an IMP, all expert team game. It floats between Mike's home and those of David Berkowitz, Gaylor Kastle and Bernie Miller. He also runs the "South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour." Weekly, he shuttles up to 16 bridge player-golfers around seven of Boca's finest country club golf courses. Not only does he arrange the foursomes, but he also keeps track of money won and lost and who hosted whom. He annually conducts balloting for the "*Most Improved Golfer Award*," (these days it could be retitled the *Least "Deproved" Golfer Award*), and issues an annual report that includes several pages of statistics on various spreadsheets.

Michael Becker's resumé reads like

a textbook for success in all his endeavors. At the table, Mike has won the Bermuda Bowl, the Vanderbilt five times, the Spingold four times, this year's Grand National Teams, and a couple of national pair games. The only missing title here is the Reisinger where he finished second four times, once because his teammate revoked on the last board.

Away from the table, he was President of the Greater New York Bridge Association, Treasurer of the Cavendish Club of New York, Chairman of the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee, President of the US Bridge Federation (which runs the team trials and sends US teams abroad). He has chaired the International Team Trials Committee (which organizes the US Bridge Championships) for the past 11 years. He is the Problem Editor of the Bridge World's Master Solver's Club.

For a fuller perspective on "where he is today", I asked several of those closest to him for quotes and anecdotes as follows:

Ron Rubin--"Mike's golf bag is almost as famous as he is...It is so heavy it takes 2 bag boys to schlep it...Delivered by Dr. John Griscom to Mike's sixtieth birthday party-- 'The 'Bag' contains enough to respond to almost any and all emergencies--pain killers (Aleve, aspirin, Ibuprofen), antihistamines (pill or spray), eye-drops (both allergy and clear), a heat wrap (cold ice is in the cart cooler), bandages (both Ace and Band-Aid), a small first aid kit, a deck of cards (for bridge during rain delays), silverware

(lunch on the go), an eyeglass kit (screwdriver, nose pad, lens cleaner), all manner of golf accoutrements (balls, tees, gloves, range finder, batteries, ball retriever, extra hat, rain gear, sunscreen), and for the occasional woman player in the group--a tampon."

Arnie Malasky--"I played in a Florida Regional with Mike a couple of years ago not having played together since we were kids in the

"Mike has won the Bermuda Bowl, the Vanderbilt five times, the Spingold four times, this year's Grand National Teams, and a couple of national pair games."

60's. Not only did Mike still have our convention card but he was able to recall some of the hands from the scores."

Steve Becker--"We were playing at a sectional in NYC (as kids) and sat down to play two older men. At the end of the round South was explaining to his partner that his line of play on the second board had about a 60% chance of success. As we left the table Mike patted South on the shoulder and said 'Actually, it was 62.5%.' Later I asked Mike if he knew who that was and he said no, just some old guy. I said, no, Mike, that was Sam Stayman."

Dave Berkowitz--"Mike likes to psych. In the World Championships which he won, Mike and Ron bid to 7NT, doubled, after Ron psyched and