The Remarkable Helen Shanbrom

Fifty-seven ACBL members currently have the truly grand total of 20,000 or more master-points to their credit. The newest one, as we prepare to go to press, is our own Helen Shanbrom, of Tamarac. When Helen went over the 20,000 mark in June, the local clubs where she plays celebrated her milestone with parties in her honor. As many of you know, Helen does frequent these clubs quite a bit. For 17 years, she has been the member who has won the greatest number of club points in District 9, and for almost all of those years, she has beaten out all the other ACBL members in points won in club games.

Helen’s “home court”, the Tamarac Bridge Club, started off the round of festivities in Helen’s honor. Joyce Klein presented Helen with a special trophy from the club, and read a poem. To read the poem turn to page 54 in the Unit 243 section of this issue.

Helen’s many regular partners said a few words about their own relationships with Helen.

Frank Moyer said she’s the only one of his regular partners who knows what he has in his hand, so she must be supernatural. “She’s the greatest!”

Joyce Klein said the best advice Helen gave her was to play your own game. Do not try to play your partner’s style.

Rick Gross said “Having had the pleasure to play with Helen for years I have many thoughts about this very special person. Her quick play and analysis are incredible. Her wit is unique and needs to be carried on. Few good players have her humor or ability to say funny expressions and this is key to the future success of the game. This is a small sampling: when she makes a mistake she will say, ‘I was stupid, but don’t agree with me.’ Her best is: ‘I hate this game.’” Rick continues: “My game has improved thanks to her; she is special and deserving of all the praise she receives.” Al Cohen says; “As a fellow Michigander, Helen and I go back forever to our roots in Detroit. We have been partners for a long time and I enjoy her particular style. Most partners look for a 4-4 or a 5-3 trump fit, not Helen. Her forte’ is playing in a 4-2! No one can play their cards as well as she does. Helen is a good friend whom I cherish dearly.”

Marty Robins, another of Helen’s regular partners, tells us; “When playing with Helen, you learn more than reading ten bridge books. Her table presence is unsurpassed. It is without a doubt an honor to be one of her regular partners.”

Joan Gowder states; “It has been my pleasure to be one of Helen’s regular bridge partners, and while I absorb some of her knowledge she frequently asks me how to cook dinner.”

The Pompano club held a dinner in Helen’s honor. Rick Waugh charmed people with his Helen comments. We hope to have his comments to publish for you in our Nov/Dec issue.

The Fort Lauderdale club held a special game honoring Helen and the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel came to immortalize the celebration on tape.

Helen was the honoree at the Goodwill Party at Unit 243’s Fourth of July Regional, and Jeanni Blume told the party-goers Helen’s life story, up to the present when she gladly plays with newer players as well as her usual great partners.

Helen was born in 1919 in Sebree, Kentucky. She received scholarships to Wayne State University, University of Michigan, Boston College and Yale University. She taught school for many years in Detroit and has served on the Rules, Ethics and Goodwill Committees of the ACBL since 1960. Helen moved to Florida in 1975. In many people’s eyes, Helen is the grandest of Grand Life Masters, and she has been the gracious recipient of everyone’s congratulations at this very special milestone. At the party, she imparted a few of her many words of wisdom. Good luck to Helen as she continues to amass masterpoints and entertain partners and opponents!
APOLOGY & CORRECTION FOR OMISSION

The Sunshine Bridge News was pleased to publish the February Rank Changes in the May/June 2007 issue. What came as an unpleasant surprise is that an entire section of the February Rank Changes was omitted by mistake. We regret this error and apologize to those who earned a new level and were left searching for their names in vain. In this case, your distress is our shame.

You can now view the missing section from the February Rank Changes below. If you see someone you know listed below, please acknowledge them for their achievement.

Sincerely,

Sunshine Bridge News Publishing Staff

FEBRUARY RANK CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB MASTER</th>
<th>SECTIONAL MASTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Zdenek</td>
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<td>Shalimar</td>
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<td>Barbara Zmach</td>
<td>Judy Abrams</td>
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<td>Winter Park</td>
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<td>Dorothy Bauman</td>
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<td>Largo</td>
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<td>Margaret Bernstein</td>
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<td>Robert Zdenek</td>
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<td>Charles Boneparth</td>
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<td>Una Churchhill</td>
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<td>Fort Pierce</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arthur Cohen</td>
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<td>Ft Lauderdale</td>
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www.Unit102.com

UNIT 102 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I have decided to use this issue’s President’s Message to inform you all about what we have done with some of the money we have collected in our Unit. The Board of Directors chose the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation as the charity to receive our donations for this year. The Florida District (District 9) was one of the Districts designated to receive funds from the ACBL National Charity Foundation, and each Unit within the District was asked to designate a charity to receive these funds. As a result, the Healthcare Foundation received $4000 from the National Charity Foundation and $1000 from our Unit’s Charity Event.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital is a non-profit hospital, and the Healthcare Foundation uses its funds to improve Emergency Care services, to fund Free Clinics, to improve education for tomorrow’s physicians and nurses, to espouse prevention programs for public health, and to support a myriad of worthwhile causes.

Another area we intend to fund this year is a School Bridge program. We will be starting an after-school Bridge Club at Booker Middle School this fall, and hope to expand to other venues in the near future. We hope that this will become a significant area of activity for our Unit.

I hope you have all had a good summer. I can’t believe that it is almost time to welcome back our snowbird friends. Time certainly does fly by. I look forward to seeing you all at the bridge table.
NEW FORMAT A HIT FOR AWARDS EVENT

Trying a new format for this year’s awards, a four round Swiss Team game was held on June 16, with a wonderful luncheon salad provided in the middle, during which the various 2006 awards were announced.

Mini-McKenney winners received medallions and Ace of Clubs winners were awarded certificates in recognition of their achievements. An engraved pen was awarded to each of our new life masters as congratulations from Unit 102. Mary Riegel was honored as the Volunteer of the Year and Terry Mays received a special award for his contributions to the Unit.

Sandra Gagnon was also recognized for her years of service as a member of the Unit 102 Board of Directors.

UNIT 102’S NONAGENARIAN BRIDGE POPULATION, PART II

As promised in our last issue, we continue to recognize our local bridge players who have passed their ninetieth birthdays, and continue to play a fine game of bridge.

Betty Latimer (recently turned 93!) was taught to play bridge as a young girl by her father, who ran two games at their church. She remembers filling in as needed when she was 11 or 12 years old. Betty plays bridge at various locations around town, including the In-Between Club and the Senior Friendship Center. She is always a smiling and friendly presence at the table, but don’t expect to get any easy points at her table! Betty still lives in her own home, drives her own car, and gets out for lunches with friends regularly.

Betty Lindenberg (a young 90) and her late husband Alvin learned to play bridge as young adults when they lived in Charleston, W.Va. When they moved to Sarasota, they decided to play some tournament bridge, and went to an Orlando tournament, where they placed very high in a three-session Masters event, beating some of the area’s finest players to come in third overall and win 35 points (a huge award in those days). That inspired them to become life masters, and they played together right up until Alvin’s passing this spring.

Bud Dreifuss, 93, is a regular player at the In-Between Club, and enjoys the game immensely. He always has a happy-go-lucky attitude and is a pleasant opponent. Bud learned to play bridge with his wife when they were young adults. Needing colored points to become life masters, they decided to go to Hawaii for a National Tournament many years ago. They got the points they needed, and also fell in love with Hawaii, as evidenced by 12 return trips. Bud was also a regular tennis player, playing 4 times a week up until last year. He also loves cruising, and travels regularly with his daughter, friends and family.

NEW SUNCOAST MEMBERS

Unit 102 welcomes new ACBL members to the Suncoast Bridge Association. We wish each of you a rewarding bridge career.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alyyn D. Clayman</td>
<td>Theodore R. Rehl</td>
<td>Sandra Klingler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald R. Novak</td>
<td>Ron Glass</td>
<td>Kaare A. Westby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda M. Gawel</td>
<td>Nina D. Van Gundyn</td>
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72% CLUB

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77.82</td>
<td>Arnold Malasky &amp; John Velti</td>
<td>InterCity Bridge Club</td>
<td>06/26/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.50</td>
<td>Pandora Peek &amp; Joan Peterson</td>
<td>Field Club</td>
<td>07/13/07</td>
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</tbody>
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UNIT 128

President's Message

Some players know, but most do not understand that Unit 128 does NOT run all the Regional Tournaments that are conducted in Florida each year. The Naples Regional, September 24-30 this year, the Daytona Beach Regional, November 5-11, 2007, the Southeastern Regional, Ft. Lauderdale, April 21-27, 2008, The Palm Beach Gardens Regional, May 26-June 1, 2008, and Clearwater Beach, August 16-24, 2008, are always sponsored and run by Unit 128. Other Regionals are hosted and run by other Units. Each Unit sets the schedule and the hospitality that is offered for their tournament.

Most folks don’t know the difference, they just know that the tournaments are being held in Florida. Most folks don’t realize that their Board Members are volunteers. They are not paid to bartend, hand out section top awards, desserts or other snacks after the games or to serve the Senior Breakfasts. Please remember to thank your Board Members when you see them at the various tournaments.

We are always looking for new ideas and ways to make your bridge playing experience more enjoyable. If you have suggestions for snacks, after the game, or types of section top prizes you think would be popular with the players, drop me or any of the Board members an email or a note.

If you do plan to attend one or more of the Regional tournaments this year or next, please do yourself and us a favor by reserving your accommodations early. Many of the host hotels are very popular and sell out early, and nothing beats the convenience of playing where you are staying…There are only a few rooms left in Naples at the Naples Grande, and the block of rooms in Daytona Beach will be full well before the next issue of this magazine goes to press. Reserve now so you won’t be disappointed.

I look forward to seeing you at the tournaments.

J. Jefferson Overby

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Hammet Eaton
Betty Grandoff
Marshall Hall
Janet Laudenslager
Jeff Overby
Linda Perlman
Phyllis Ranagan
Betty Sandifer
Shirley Seals
Marianne Timmons
Ray Wise
Education Liaison
Betty Sandifer
SBN Liaison/Unit Editor
Muriel Altus
SBN 72% Club
Marshall Hall
I/N
Marianne Timmons

28 ACBL - District 9

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The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am by President Jeff Overby. Board members present were Muriel Altus, Harriet Eaton, Betty Grandoff, Marshall Hall, Janet Laudenslager, Jeff Overby, Bob Parlin, Linda Perlman, Betty Sandifer, Shirley Seals, Marianne Timmons and Ray Wise. Board member absent was Phyllis Ranagan. Staff present were Adrienne Muslin and Jayne Thomas. Craig Hemphill was absent.

President Overby filled the following positions:
- Education Liaison–Sandifer
- Discipline–Wise
- Recorder–Perlman
- Membership–Altus
- Electronic Contact–Altus
- Intermediate/Novice–Timmons
- Sunshine Bridge News–Altus & Hall
- Website–Altus.

The minutes of the Daytona meeting were read, discussed and approved. Patty Johnson was unable to attend and there was no Tournament Director report.

Shirley Seals gave her District Director’s report: The report from the Spring NABC board meeting in St. Louis has been written up in the Sunshine Bridge News. Nashville will be the site of the Summer NABC and the election of president of ACBL for 2008 will be the first item of business.

Jeff wished Shirley luck from all of Unit 128.

Treasurer Marshall Hall reported on CDs being moved from Bank of America to SunTrust for a more favorable interest rate. He explained the checking and savings account set-up at SunTrust and some accounting notes. The tournament reports for Bradenton and the Southeasterns were distributed and discussed. Moved by Parlin, seconded by Seals to accept the entire treasurer’s report.

Executive Manager Jayne Thomas gave her report. The current tournament is up a few hundred tables. The evening starting time of 7 pm seems to be very good for the local players. She pointed out the difference in attendance from a regional with a board meeting (12 out of 13 are here) vs. without a board meeting (6 out of 13 were at the Southeasterns). Jayne works much harder when there isn’t a full complement of board members to help. Marshall Hall moved we use up to two extra staff rooms for extra helpers if there will not be enough board members in attendance. Seconded by Betty Sandifer. Muriel Altus amended the motion to say free rooms and/or free plays and the amendment was accepted. Sign-up sheets in advance will allow Jayne to know when she will need this type of help. Motion passed. Jayne urged board members to plan to attend four out of five unit regionals per year, if at all possible.

Jayne is working with the United States Bridge Federation on their 2009 Regional, which they have placed with us in exchange for a per-table fee to be paid to them.

The hospitality suite continues to be very well received but is not without problems. Lengthy discussion took place, exploring various options. The board chose to maintain the status quo with additional reminders that food and drink must stay inside the suite. Jayne continues to look for other suggestions for hospitality.

Jayne is aware of complaints about bidding boxes, boards and cards and will continue to be vigilant about all of these items.

Old Business: Bob Parlin moved and Shirley Seals seconded that we use the remaining Education Foundation funds (approximately $1500) to do the following three things: reimburse Mark Goldschmidt of Clearwater for up to $500 of out of pocket expenses in relation to his teaching middle school students to play bridge; reimburse Joanne Casen for any out of pocket expenses in relation to her teaching middle school students to play bridge; purchase Adventures in Duplicate Bridge from Baron Barclay, for distribution to teachers for their students who finish bridge lessons. Motion passed.

New Business: Shirley Seals reported that the amount the units pay to the district whenever they hold a tournament has not gone up for 15 years. She will ask at the next district board meeting for the amount per regional to go up $250 per category (e.g. from $1250 to $1500 for a tournament which has between 1000 and 1500 tables).

President Overby thanked the entire board for being hard-working and happily doing their jobs. Every board member is contributing to the fine running of the unit. Having Bob Parlin assist our superstar, Jayne Thomas, seems to be working great.

Linda Perlman moved that we buy or rent a mobility device for Jayne to use at all tournaments that have a great deal of walking involved from her room to the playing space. Harriet Eaton seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Muriel Altus
Recording Secretary
### DISTRICT 9 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEP</td>
<td>49er Pairs Club Qualifying</td>
<td>Sep 1-30</td>
<td>St. Petersburg Sectional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct 1-31 GNT Qualifying</td>
<td>Oct 1-31</td>
<td>Daytona Sectional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct 1-31 Club Appreciation Games</td>
<td>Oct 3-7</td>
<td>Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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<td>Oct 1-31 Matchpoint Game</td>
<td>Oct 5-7</td>
<td>Sarasota Sectional</td>
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<td>Oct 12-14 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
<td>Oct 12-14</td>
<td>Venice Sectional</td>
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<td>Oct 26-28 NAP Finals + Sectional Vero Beach</td>
<td>Nov 1-30</td>
<td>Clearwater Sectional</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nov 1-30 GNT Qualifying</td>
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<td>Clearwater Sectional</td>
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<td>Nov 2-4 Deland Sr/NLM Sectional</td>
<td>Nov 5-11</td>
<td>Ft Lauderdale Sectional</td>
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<td>Nov 10-16 Deland Sr/NLM Sectional</td>
<td>Nov 12-18</td>
<td>Orlando Sectional</td>
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<td>Dec 6-8 WIN Inc. Sectional</td>
<td>Dec 6-8</td>
<td>Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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<td>Dec 19-21 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
<td>Dec 21-23</td>
<td>Pensacola Sectional</td>
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<td>Dec 26-28 Winter Haven Sr/NLM Sectional</td>
<td>Dec 31-Jan 6</td>
<td>Orlando Sectional</td>
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<td>Jan 1-31 Jan 1-31</td>
<td>Jan 1-31</td>
<td>ACBL Wide Charity Game #2</td>
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<td>Jan 10-13 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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<td>Jun 6-8 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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<td>Jul 18 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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<td>Jul 31-Aug 3 Jacksonville Sectional</td>
<td>Jul 31-Aug 3</td>
<td>Jacksonville Sectional</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Dates and locations are tentative and subject to change.*
When we had completed half of 2007, these were the leaders in the various Mini-McKenney races and Ace of Clubs races:

Categories refer to your total masterpoints on January 1, 2007.

Good luck to all in the final four months of the year.
WIN Inc. “the bridge club” presents a Silver Sectional in Boca Raton

September 6, 7 and 8 2007

Open Pair single Sessions
Thursday and Friday 9am and 1pm
Silver Knockout starts 9am Thursday
Saturday Silver Swiss Teams
(Starting at 9am play through includes lunch)

Stratifications
C = 0-500  B = 500-1500  A = 1500+

Located at ST. MARK Greek Orthodox Church look for the GOLD DOMES West of Military Trail on the South side of (2100) Yamato Road parking is on the East side of the church enter the doors facing the parking area

Call Dean at 561-338-2995
or email wininc@hotmail.com
Web site http://www.bridgescore.com/win

Senior & Non-Life Master Sectional
September 7–9, 2007
Bridge Center of Bradenton
Where Friends Get Together to Enjoy Bridge
7437 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
941-795-8981

Friday, September 7
Stratified Senior Open Pairs  10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Stratified NLM Open Pairs  10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
All Games are Single Session

Saturday, September 8
Stratified Senior Open Pairs  10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Stratified NLM Open Pairs  10:00 AM & 3:00 PM
All Games are Single Session

Sunday, September 9
Stratified Senior & NLM Swiss Teams - Playthrough  10:00 AM
Lunch Included

Strats: Seniors:  A = 1500+   B = 500 - 1500   C = 0 - 500
NLM   A = 200 - NLM   B = 100 - 200   C = 0 - 100

Tournament Chair:
Brian Howard  941-795-8981
E-Mail: LBKBrian@aol.com

Partnerships/Hospitality:
Brian Howard  941-795-8981
E-Mail: LBKBrian@aol.com

Orange Juice • Coffee • Overall Awards
No Smoking in Building

Stay at the Holiday Inn Express, 941-795-4633
Take I-75 to exit 41 (State Road 70); west to Highway 41; north to Cortez, west to 47th Street into parking lot.
Directions:
Take I-75 to exit 42 (State Road 64); west 9.5 miles to Beachway Plaza. Take left at Village Greenlight and then it’s on the right in Albertson’s Shopping Center.
**The Venice Duplicate Bridge Center**

**is Proud to Present...**

**VENICE SILVER POINT SECTIONAL**

**OCTOBER 4–7, 2007**

**Venice Duplicate Bridge Center**  
The Friendly Place to Play Competitive Bridge.  
Having Fun is what we do. A Zero Tolerance Club.  
Rialto Shopping Center • 648 South Tamiami Trail

**TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

**Thursday**

7:00 pm  Bracketed Knockout (Round 1)  
Stratified Open and 199er pairs- Single Session  

**Friday**

10:00 am  Stratified Open Pairs & 199er Pairs - Single Sessions  
Bracketed Knockout (Round 2)  
3:00 pm  Stratified Open Pairs & 199er Pairs - Single Sessions  
Bracketed Knockout (Round 3)  

**Saturday**

10:00 am  Stratified Open Pairs & 199er Pairs - Single Sessions  
Compact Knockout (Round 1 & 2)  
3:00 pm  Stratified Open Pairs & 199er Pairs - Single Sessions  
Compact Knockout (Round 1 & 2)  

**Sunday**

10:00 am  Playthrough SWISS TEAM EVENT

**Open Strata:**  
A: 2000+  B: 750-2000  C: 0-750  
Novice: 0-200  
Seven Rounds – Seven Boards – Thirty Point Victory Scale

**Great Playing Area - Great Hospitality**

**CONTACTS**

Chairperson: Jim or Bonnie Gordon  941-488-0799
Partnerships: Jean Seward

All pair games are single session • A Zero Tolerance Tournament  
199er Pair games only if attendance warrants

Directions to Playing Site:

**From the North:**  
Coming from the North use exit 36 or 35A then go to  
southbound 41 then pick up the map at the area marked Nokomis.  
To return to the north use 41 Northbound and follow signs to I 75.

**From the South:**  
Coming from the south exit 35 follow either Venice  
Avenue or Center Road East then follow map.  
To return to the south go west on Venice Avenue or Center Road and follow Signs to I 75.

**Hospitality**

Three Days of Food, Fun and Prizes!!  
Continental Breakfast & Lunch served  
Daily • Lunch between Sessions

**Suggested Accomodations**

Marriott Courtyard  
4600 San Pablo Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32224  
Phone: 904-223-1700  
Free Continental Breakfast

Ask for $65.00 special bridge rate.  
(Two week advance reservation required.)

**Directions to Hotel:**

I-95 to J Turner Butler Blvd exit.  
Go east approximately 10 miles to San Pablo,  
then north to Mayo Clinic entrance.  
Follow signs.
Tampa Bay Bridge Center

Senior and Non-Life Master Sectional
October 19-21, 2007
Tampa Bay Bridge Center
114 109th Ave. North, Tampa, FL

SCHEDULE
Friday, October 19  (All pair games are single session events)
10:30 a.m. Stratified Senior Pairs
10:30 a.m. Stratified Non-life Master Pairs
3:00 p.m. Stratified Senior Pairs
3:00 p.m. Stratified Non-life Master Pairs
Saturday, October 20  (All pair games are single session events)
10:30 a.m. Stratified Senior Pairs
10:30 a.m. Stratified Non-life Master Pairs
3:00 p.m. Stratified Senior Pairs
3:00 p.m. Stratified Non-life Master Pairs
Sunday, October 21  (Lunch is included with Swiss Games)
10:30 a.m. Stratified Senior Swiss
10:30 a.m. Stratified Non-life Master Swiss
Stratification
Senior: A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750
Non-life Master: A: 200-NLM, B: 100-200, C: 0-100

Directions:
From I-275 southbound, take Fowler Ave. west 2 blks to Florida Ave, go south 1/2 mile, then west 1/2 blk on 109th.
From I-275 northbound, take Busch Blvd west 2 blks to Florida Ave, go north 1 mile then west 1/2 blk on 109th.

Chairperson:
Rahn Smith – tbbc@verizon.net – 813-205-2303

Partnership:
Muriel Brathwaite – Mubrath1@aol.com – 813-987-9727

Hotels:
Grand Suites – 11310 30th St. – 813-971-7690
Clarion Hotel – 2702 E. Fowler Ave. – 813 971-4710
Motel 6 – 333 E. Fowler Ave. – 813-932-4948

Fort Myers • Florida
Silver SECTIONAL!
November 1–4 2007
COME PLAY FOR
FUN, PRIZES & FAME!

Win an entry pairs Thursday afternoon
Highest % pair game in tourney wins $100*
Overall awards • Free photos to event winners
Goodies at all events • Cocktail party Friday
Ice cream social Saturday
Our famous homemade lunch on Sunday

Schedule
ALL EVENTS STRATIFIED

Thursday Win an entry pairs** 12:30 pm
Bracketed KO Teams 7:00 pm
Friday 99er, NLM, & Open, KOs 10:00 am
99er, NLM, & Open, KOs 3:00 pm
Saturday 99er, NLM, & Open 10:00 am
99er, NLM, & Open 3:00 pm
Sunday NLM & Open Two-Session Swiss^ 10:00 am

Partnerships
Rick Covalcuiuc 239-433-4422 or 888-413-5252
Accommodations
Country Inn & Suites, 13901 Shell Point Plaza: 239-454-9292
Tournament Site
McGregor Point Bridge Club
15675-1 McGregor Blvd. • Fort Myers • 33908
Directions: www.thebridgeplace.com

* All pair events qualify **Black points^ Play through done about 5:00pm
Greetings once more! Is it hot enough for you? Our Florida warmth is indeed warm and we’re proud of it! Of course, Northwest Florida is the best of all worlds partially because of air conditioning that lets us escape the heat and play more bridge!

Great News! As you know, the ACBL has always mandated certain charity games where a portion of the entry fee has gone to the Charity Foundation for annual donation ($100,000) to such large organizations such as Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, etc. Now, however, they have decided to allocate $20,000 each to five districts annually on a rotating basis, the idea being that the local folks could choose the beneficiary!

Since this year our District Nine was a recipient, the District Board asked each unit for suggestions for donations to a local charity. That meant $4000 for each unit, i.e. money for us to give to a group of our choice that met the ACBL guidelines. (Of course, we could give it to a national charity if we wished, but thought the idea of a specific local benefit was especially meaningful.)

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After asking for nominations from our board, this year our money has gone to Manna Food Bank located in Pensacola. It is, as its name sounds, a food system with pantry locations in Pensacola, Milton, Jay (that’s almost to Alabama), and east to Midway, thus serving a huge geographical area. Our donation will especially be used in the community gardening program, wherein vegetables are grown so that recipients can get not only staples, but also fresh food! Now that’s exciting!

Isn’t it wonderful that we play the game we love and, although in a small way, can help the people in our own area! Hope to see you all at the Panama City and Ft. Walton tournaments!

Larry Westholm