

The Shuffler

The Newsletter of the Petoskey Bridge Club



Fall 2013

2144 Cemetery Road

Petoskey, Michigan

President's Message

On June 21, we held our first ever Pro-Am game. The pre-game publicity worked well and 20 tables of players arrived for breakfast at 9:00. Using the classic names-in-a-hat routine, players with over 300 MPs were randomly paired with the 0-300 players. The newly-matched pairs were able to discuss conventions before the game which started at 10:00. We took a break half way through so the Pros could gently coach the Ams. Everyone had fun and there were prizes for the winners in both sections plus (luckily for me) booby prizes for the last place finishers. Thanks to Pam Ziegel and Dave Deal for organizing this fun event. Feedback was so positive that we have decided to hold a Pro-Am game twice a year. So for the next one mark your calendars for Friday, October 25 at 12:30 PM. A potluck dinner will follow the Pro-Am game.



Pro-Am Game

In late June, the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Peter Cullman. It is truly regrettable to lose a board member who has contributed so much to the club and always added insight and humor at board meetings. Thank you, Peter, for your past contributions to the club.



Peter Cullman

It was a difficult act to follow, but Joe Hollis replaced Peter on the board. Don't let Joe's low-key demeanor fool you. His quick-wit and thoughtful contributions make him a valuable addition to the Board. Thanks, Joe, for accepting the challenge.

The first ever Split-Regional in the state of Michigan was held simultaneously in Petoskey and Kalamazoo in August. The tournament was a success with excellent daytime attendance. Three people became Life Masters during the tournament: Bernadette & Don Burkhardt and Betty Stephen. Congratulations to all of them. Thanks to Mike for organizing the tournament.



Joe Hollis

Starting in October, our weekday games will revert to the 12:30 start time. Also, we will hold a Swiss team game twice per month - on the second and fourth Sundays.

Larry



As many of you know, our club is quite active in embracing new bridge players and encouraging them to join us. We've had numerous classes for those who have never played, and who are anxious to learn the game. The most recent of these classes was concluded in August. Twenty folks came for the 6-week class, graduating with honors and now enjoying the world's finest card game. To help those new players as well as novice and intermediate players further their enjoyment of the game, we hold duplicate games which are restricted to those players with less than 200 masterpoints every Tuesday and Friday. In fact, on these days, our entire facility is dedicated to these players to ensure that they are comfortable coming to the bridge center to continue their learning progress and playing in a friendly, competitive environment. It must be working! Some weeks our Tuesday/Friday games have more players than our open games on Wednesday and Thursday! Of course, as our novice and intermediate players hone their skills, we encourage them to join the open game for the increased level of competition and the never-ending learning that the game offers. THAT'S what keeps each of us young!



...a mini-lesson

MARCY ROSE ... BEGINNING SERIES OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE LESSONS

Marcy Rose's beginning duplicate bridge classes were offered for the first time at Petoskey Bridge Club. Over 22 people took the class and completed the six week course. Marcy plans to be back in the North next year and we hope we'll be able to talk her into offering this course again.



The graduates



ADJUSTED LOSING TRICK COUNT

From a lesson given by Jack Malstrom Summer 2012 part three



Finally we are ready to talk about Adjusted Losing Trick Count (ALTC). You saw how it fits into the scheme of the nine different ways I evaluate bridge hands. With both Standard LTC and ALTC it is how many A, K and Q are missing from each suit. Jxx 10xx 9xx Jxxx is a 12 loser hand. (not 13, just three losers per suit for a total of twelve). It's the worst hand you can have.

KQx AQJxx xx Axx is a sound hand with 1 loser in S, 1 in H, 2 in D (not more losers in a suit than you have cards in that suit), and 2 in C. It's a six loser hand whether you count the Standard LTC or the Adjusted LTC.

The Standard LTC has been used throughout the world for many years. The trouble with the Standard LTC is that an ace and a queen are the same value. Axx and Qxx are both 2 loser suits, which is ridiculous. A little more than 40 years ago Jeff Rubens, editor of the Bridge World magazine, developed the adjusted losing trick count. Instead of counting 4-3-2-1 like Goren HCP. Rubens counts $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 - $\frac{1}{2}$. This changes the value of the top honors in each suit as compared with the HCP scale as follows:

Goren HCP	Ruben ALTC	Revised ALTC
A - 4	A - $1\frac{1}{2}$	A - 5
K - 3	K - 1	K - $3\frac{1}{2}$
Q - 2	Q - $\frac{1}{2}$	Q - $1\frac{3}{4}$
J - 1	J - 0	J - 0

If we step-up the ALTC values by a factor of $3\frac{1}{2}$ so they total 10 per suit like the HCP values, the revised ALTC values would be as shown above in the Revised ALTC column.

As you can see the A and K are worth more than the HCP scale, but the Q and J are worth less. Any seasoned bridge player will tell you that the A and K are worth more and the Q and J are worth less than 4-3-2-1.

These three hands: (A) Axxx Axx Axx Axx (B) Kxxx Kxx Kxx Kxx (C) Qxxx Qxx Qxx Qxx are all three hands all 8 loser hands on the Standard Losing Trick Count scale which, again, is ridiculous.

On the Adjusted Losing Trick Count scale:

(A) Axxx Axx Axx Axx is 8 losers $4\frac{1}{2}$'s = 6 losers (minus $\frac{1}{2}$ for each ace)

(B) Kxxx Kxx Kxx Kxx is 8 losers no adjustment required

(C) Qxxx Qxx Qxx Qxx is 8 losers + $4\frac{1}{2}$'s = 10 losers (plus $\frac{1}{2}$ loser for each queen)

Evaluating these hands at 6, 8, and 10 losers is certainly closer to reality than calling them all 8 loser hands.

But rather than going through all the fractional adjustments it is easier to calculate this way: KQx AQJxx Ax Qxx is a five loser count with two aces and three queens. The two aces cancel two queens, so there is just one extra queen. The final answer is a five loser hand plus $\frac{1}{2}$ more loser for the extra queen; it's a $5\frac{1}{2}$ loser hand.

Some magic numbers for ALTC:

$6\frac{1}{2}$ - 7 = are opening bid hands

$7\frac{1}{2}$ - 8 = are limit bids (invitational hands)

$8\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 - $9\frac{1}{2}$ = are simple raises

The standard losing trick count says that two opening bids subtracted from 24 (12 losers in declarer's hand and 12 in dummy) equals: $24-7-7=10$. This indicates that your partnership can win 10 tricks. But, because the first six tricks don't count (book) you can use the number 18 instead of 24: $18-7-7=4$ which indicates that your partnership can make a four level contract. The answer is the same, just smaller numbers. If your partner opens the bidding and you have 5 ALTC: $18-7-5=6$ you are in the slam range if you have a good fit.

If you and partner are bidding along with the game force "on" neither of you should make a move toward slam unless you have 6 ALTC or less. Then maybe it's $18-6-6=6$ slam range. But if partner makes a move when you don't have 6 ALTC you should sign off as soon as possible. She can insist on slam with a good fit and 5 ALTC because $18-7-5=6$ slam range.

(The final part to Jack's lesson will appear in the Spring Newsletter)

Special Birthdays • Special People • Shirley & Jean Ninety Years Young • Summer 2013



ROVERS ...a special gift to the club

They are called ROVERS and their participation is what makes our club so special. They allow us to guarantee that anyone who comes to the club without a partner will have a partner for that day. Because of our Rover system many people come to play without a partner confident that their journey will not be wasted! It's a good way to attract new players and visitors to our club. The Rover plays free for the day's round and is given a 2nd round free play for another day. Should the Rover not be necessary to form a pair, they receive two free plays for future days of their choice. A good deal for all! Even long-time partnerships can be formed through the Rover program.

To those of you who have never signed up to be a Rover, think of it as your donation to our club, to ensure it continues to grow and prosper! The Rover sign-up calendar is on the office counter.

**You never know who you are going to play with
when you're the ROVER!**



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People in the tip of Michigan's lower peninsula started playing cards at least as long ago as when some fur trappers needed a way to pass the winter hours. Exactly when bridge got to the Tip of the Mitt is less certain. Auctions must have been contested at the fancy resort hotels of the late 1800's, on the boats and trains bringing summer folk up from Chicago and St. Louis and, of course, at private homes. Serious duplicate play, however, began about 75 years, after the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) was founded and started sanctioning games. Regular games were under way quickly in the larger downstate cities such as Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids, but gathering enough players was more of a challenge for the less populated areas of the Tip. A quick perusal of the ACBL archives offered no authoritative data, so understanding the evolution of duplicate here means relying on local memories.

First Steps

One of the first clubs was started in the late 1950's by Don Gragg in Petoskey. The club met year round and usually had approximately ten tables. It met in a variety of places, including the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches. Carol Bertschinger remembers many a time in the winter when all the tables and chairs that had been set up for bridge had to be taken down and put away because the winter weather prevented anyone from coming.

Action in Cheboygan

There was no sanctioned duplicate bridge game in Cheboygan in 1969 when Bob Kazmierowski got there as a young certified public accountant. One day he noticed his secretary was playing with a deck of cards during her lunch break. She said she was trying to figure out a bridge hand and asked Bob if he played bridge. When he said no, she offered to teach him. Turned out that Bob was a pretty good learner. A doctor in town had a unsanctioned bridge game going regularly, but over time Bob ended up running the action and getting ACBL sanction for it. For many years they had 5 or 6 tables in the winter and more in the summer. They played in public schools as well as office buildings in town. After almost 40 years the game had

dwindled to a few tables, as players died off. When the game closed Bob decided that the only fair thing to do was to split the money remaining in the bridge account and he sent a check "for about \$35" to all the people who were left.



Cheboygan player's home for a period



Bob "kaz" Kazmierowski

The Bertschinger Effect

Carol moved to Petoskey in 1982 and began playing at Don Gragg's club on Tuesday evenings. Carol became Don's manager and later became a director and eventually owner of the club 1985, when Don retired due to illness.

After she and Walter Bertschinger met and married in 1995, they decided to remodel their home and established a permanent bridge room in the lower level. Sogonosh Duplicate Bridge Club Game is still played there every Monday year around. In the summer players enjoy looking at Carol's beautiful gardens when they drive up.



Carol and Walter Bertschinger



Carol's beautiful garden

Carol and Walter both taught bridge for many years at the Community Center in Harbor Springs. Carol says the biggest difference in the game came with the ACBL establishment of Zero Tolerance Policy in 1998. And applauds Mike and Pam for continuing and enforcing the policy in Petoskey.

Among the early players were Shirley and Jean Carpenter, June Jackson and Dave Muzzall.

For the Love of Bridge

Mike Sears and Pam Ziegel met at the Bertschinger's game. Both were looking for something to do after retiring to Northern Michigan. They wanted to play more bridge during the week and liked the idea of opening a game in Petoskey. In May of 2007 they opened the Petoskey Bridge Club at the Knights of Columbus. Every Wednesday and Thursday the room they leased had to be set up for the game each Wednesday, hauling out the tables, chairs and boxes, and even hanging heavy duty lights around the dark room. On very hot days Mike hoisted a portable air conditioner into a small window to cool the room.



Mike and Pam

And cold nights were occasionally worse. Because storage space was so limited, Pam kept the cans of pop in her car. One fine winter day she opened the car door to find the cans had exploded all over the interiors, from floor to ceiling.



Knights of Columbus -

Pam and Mike's hard work was appreciated by many, and the game grew. It drew players from all over Northern Michigan, from as far as Cheboygan and Traverse City.



Lights and air conditioner have been hoisted in place.



First day of the Mike and Pam's game

Its success drew the attention of Jean and Shirley Carpenter. In 2008 they approached Mike and Pam with an idea. Jean said that he always wanted to do something for the community, that he and Shirley had been here since the 1970's and that it was time for them to give back. They particularly liked the fact that what Mike and Pam were doing at the bridge club was drawing all kinds of people from the community. Jean and Shirley offered to fund a permanent Bridge Center.



Existing buildings for sale kept coming up short, mainly because they lacked enough parking space. So the Carpenters decided to build. They bought the property on Cemetery Road, and an architect began to draw up plans. Pam recalls that Jean, trained in architecture as well as law, was a very hands-on part of the team. Among other things, he insisted that the ceilings be made higher so that the building would have this wonderful open feeling.

Building was completed and the Petoskey Bridge Club opened on September 30, 2009. Over eighty individuals donated to complete the furnishing for the interior of the club. Mike and Pam donated their for-profit operation as the nucleus, forming a new not-for-profit organization to manage the operation. The club continues to grow, guided by a volunteer board, and many members who support the club with donations of treasure or time or both.



Ground breaking for the Bridge Center



The Petoskey Bridge Club



Our wonderful room ...

The Play Must Go On

In addition to the larger clubs described above, the Tip has had many other ACBL-sanctioned playing opportunities through the years. The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, for example, offers weekend tournaments twice a year; the next one is in October. The Indian River Country Club has Tuesday night play by invitation only, but the year-old game at the Indian River firehouse on Tuesday afternoon is open.

We don't have many bored fur trappers left in the Tip of the Mitt, but thanks to the efforts of a lot of dedicated people, the trap pass -- not to mention all the other wonderful and unexpected strategic twists and turns of modern duplicate bridge -- is flourishing here.

PETOSKEY/KALAMAZOO SPLIT REGIONAL AUGUST 12 - 18 2013



As all of you are aware, northern Michigan hosted its first-ever ACBL-sanctioned Regional bridge tournament August 12-18. Also a first for our unit, this Regional tournament was conducted simultaneously with the tournament held in Kalamazoo, making it what is formally known as a "split regional." Ours was held in Odawa Casino's Ovation Hall where we set up 80 tables to accommodate an expected large number of participants. And we did have a large number. Three hundred seventy-five players came to the casino to play in at least one of the 18 sessions. A total of 515 tables were played during those sessions. Combined with the over-700 tables played at Kalamazoo, this Regional tournament generated an increase in participation of greater than 30% over that of recent years.



*SISTER POWER
...going for the gold*

MPs	B	C	D	Names	Score
8.27	2	1		Pamela Ziegel, Petoskey MI; Katherine Grant, Riverview FL	61.46%
4.30	3	2		Jane Huff, Columbus OH; Nora Miller, Grandtun NHI	60.04%



*Nancy & Dave Fowler, John Hastie & Eva Walker
at the regional*

Upcoming 2013 - 2014 Tournaments

- Lansing NLM Sectional - September 28
- Midland Sectional - October 4 - 6
- St. Joseph Sectional - October 4 - 6
- Motor City Regional - Farmington Hills October 14 - 20
- Spooktacular Sectional - Bloomfield Hills October 25 - 26
- Glass City Sectional - Toledo October 25 - 27
- Grand Haven Sectional - October 31 - November 2
- Apple Cider Sectional - Farmington Hills November 7 - 10
- Fall STAC - November 11 - 17
- Fall NABC - Phoenix, AZ. November 28 - December 8
- Michigan State Sectional - Livonia January 23 - 26, 2014
- Valentine Sectional - Farmington Hills February 13 - 16, 2014



It's well known that there is an accepted order of priority for final contracts of your bridge hands. Major suits contracts rank first. No trump contracts rank second and minor suits rank third. So when we get a minor suit hand, are we just stuck? Here are some things for you to consider:

- You have a minor suit hand when 8 or more of your 13 cards are in the minor suits.
- If your minor suits are 5/5, 5/4, 4/5 or 4/4:
 - Open 1 diamond (even if clubs is a longer suit) if you have a basic opening hand; your rebid would be 2 clubs. When you do this, it allows your partner to pass your 2 club bid should she have a minimum hand and prefer clubs.
 - Open 1 club (even if diamonds is a longer suit) if you have a hand with extra values (16-18); your rebid would be 2 diamonds. This is called a "reverse" and tells your partner that you have minor suit hand with extra values.
 - Responder can place the contract now understanding Opener's minor suit hand. No-trump should be a definite consideration if Responder can "handle" stopping the major suits.
- If your minor suit is long and weak, be sure to preempt. If Responder bids 3 NT over your preempt, pass if your preemptive suit will run (e.g., 7 card suit headed by the A K Q). Also pass when you don't expect your preemptive suit to run (e.g., 7 card suit headed by K J 10) but you also have an entry to your hand (an outside A or K). If neither of these is the case, BID 4 OF YOUR PREEMPTIVE SUIT!

No, we really don't prefer to get minor suit hands, but when we do, we should think No Trump, especially if the opponents are not bidding the majors (bidding No Trump does not promise a stopper in the unbid suits, only the opponent's bid suits!). If playing No Trump is too risky (or obviously fatal), we should compete and play the minor. Remember that we need approx 29 points to have a good shot at game in a minor.

Play the cards you're dealt . . . and play them well, even if they are clubs and diamonds!

PRO -AM WINNERS

A "Pro" 300 points and above was paired with a "Am" under 300 points and it was our first Pro-Am at the Petoskey Bridge Club. Everyone agreed it was a fun event with over 20 tables in play. A scrumptious breakfast was provided by the club and a great time was had by all. The next Pro-Am will be Friday, October 25 at 12:30 PM. A pot-luck dinner will follow.



Winners: Ann Hyndman, Lavonne Reed, Joe Hollis, Mason Rosenthal, Linda Roberts and not pictured, Carol Bertschinger

JULY SWISS TEAMS WINNERS



*The winning team:
Melissa Georges, Don Burkhardt, Anne Albrecht,
Bernadette Burkhardt*

Dave Muzzall, a 90 day wonder

Early in December 1942 I was getting close to the end of my first semester at the University of Michigan. Due to World War II the University offered the first full 16 weeks summer semester. The likelihood of being drafted by the US Army was hanging over my head. The Army did not appeal to me nor the Air Corps or the Marines so I enlisted in the Naval Reserve in December 1942 and finished another year at the University.



On July 1, 1944 I received orders to appear at Columbia University in New York City for Midshipman's school. We were referred to as "90 day wonders." I received my commission "Ensign, U.S. Navy" late in September 1944 at St. John's Cathedral in New York City. Twenty years old and a naval officer!



In early December, I boarded a ship in San Francisco and headed for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. As you might imagine, Pearl Harbor was a very busy spot at that time. By the end of December, I was assigned to an LCT (Landing Craft for Tanks.) An LCT is 119.5 feet long and about 36 feet wide. The crew consisted of 12 enlisted men and two officers. Can you imagine being 20-year-old officer and having to tell 30 and 40-year-old men what to do?

After a stay of about two months in Pearl Harbor, a flotilla of 36 LCTs headed for the Philippines guided by six destroyer escorts. We could only travel about 6 knots per hour. As a result of our slow speed we stopped in Guam, Ulithi, etc. for fuel, water, food and supplies. If I remember correctly, we arrived in San Pedro Bay in the Philippines on the 62nd day.

San Pedro Bay was busy with many naval vessels including destroyers, aircraft carriers and a battleship or two. Did you know all battleships are named after states? We kept were kept busy hauling cargo and ammunition from various cargo ships to navy vessels. We often took several hundred sailors to the beach for a day's of liberty.

Sailors were allowed two cans of beer on their day of of liberty. It was not unusual for a sailor to obtain extra beer from his friends and get "Smashed" before we returned him to his ship. Most of the sailors spent their day of liberty shooting craps.

Soon we began to hear rumors that the war was going to end. The 36 LCT's headed north to Okinawa and we ended up working in Bruckner Bay. One job that we had was hauling ammunition to the battleship Pennsylvania. A few days after we completed the job the Pennsylvania was bombed and she dropped 20 feet in the water. That was the only battleship that was badly damaged after Pearl Harbor. There was also a troop ship close by. She was bombed shortly after dropping anchor. Fortunately, all the troops had vacated the ship the day before.

The war ended while we were in Okinawa. We were then assigned to a small harbor in Japan named Wakahama. The major harbors in Japan were unsafe due to mines laid there. We were kept busy bringing troops and vehicles to shore where they were put to work immediately. After a few more months, I had accumulated sufficient points to come home. When I boarded the troopship to come home I made a real bonehead mistake.. The troop ship captain offered all Ensigns a promotion to Lieutenant/JG if they would stand a daily watch on the way back to the US. I was tired of taking orders so I declined. What a fool.

editor's note: At our regional tournament David partnered with Mike Sears amassing over 22 masterpoints, mostly gold. This leaves Dave 1.4 gold points shy to become a Life Master. He is called our "life master in waiting" as Dave has over 600 masterpoints to date.



Gripes Growls and Grins... Claiming

In duplicate bridge, a claim or concession
ENDS the play.

When there is any dispute the director
is called to hear the claimer repeat his statement
and to adjudicate the result.



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Mackinac Island at the Grand Hotel
October 12 -15 2013
Information: Call Jane Paquette
906-255-1456
All games ACBL sanctioned

Petoskey Bridge Club 2013

Non-Profit Corporation Management

- President - Larry Willis
- Vice-President - Pam Ziegel
- Board Director - Bernadette Burkhardt
- Board Director - Dave Deal
- Board Director - Joe Hollis
- Board Director - Lavonne Reed
- Board Director - Mike Sears

Fall & Winter • 2013 • Game Schedule	
Tuesday	12:30 pm 0-199mp
Wednesday	12:30 pm Open
Thursday	12:30 pm Open
Friday	12:30 pm 0-199mp
Sunday	1:30 pm Open
Swiss 2nd and 4th Sunday of each Month	

Change of Rank

Don & Bernadette Burkhardt Life Master



Betty Stephen Life Master



Pam Ziegel Silver Life Master



Lavonne Reed Silver Life Master



Bill Trimble Silver Life Master



NABC MASTER

Steve Billings, Arlene Loca, Patricia O Wilke

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Ginny Braidwood, Catherine A Francis

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Kathi L Kan, Janice I Haynes

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Leslie Allen, Liz Dickinson, Kathy Snyder, Carolyn Whittle, Marion Stetson, Dave Patchkowski, Sally Stump, Pat L Steffes, Ann E. Hyndman, Nancy Colbert
Joel K Scheitler, Jonathan Friendly

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Mary Street, Patricia Jeffs, Jack Hobey, Vicki Hobey,
Dorothy Litzer, Mary O'Hare

Give the Gift of Bridge

Bridge Bucks Gift Certificates are available at the Petoskey Bridge Club. Each Bridge Buck is good for one game at the Petoskey Bridge Club. There are unlimited ways for using these gifts. For birthday and special occasions, for a thank you, for apologies, are but just a few. To purchase ask the director. Price is \$8.00 comes with an envelope and card with room to include a note.



*We regret the loss of
Dwight "Whitey" Black, 82, died
June 24, 2013*

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide individuals opportunities to enjoy the competition of an ACBL sanctioned game of duplicate bridge, and opportunities to improve their own skill via play and lessons, while socializing with one another in a welcoming, friendly environment. We recognize the various levels of skill and confidence of our players, and agree that this mission statement applies to the novice/intermediate level players as well as the more experienced.

Please send your comments, corrections, suggestions concerning the newsletter to: lroberts@racc2000.com

Be sure and check online for the latest news.

at the Petoskey Bridge Club. <http://www.petoskeybridgeclub.com>