



**October 2005**

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League

Editor: [Karen Walker](#), Champaign IL

## District 8 North American Pairs Final

**Win gold points and a spring trip to  
Dallas!**

**November 12 & 13, 2005**

**Illinois Dept. of Transportation, Springfield IL**



**Saturday: 1:00 & 7.00 pm – 2-session qualifying (Flts. B & C)  
-- 2-session finals (Flt. A)**

**Sunday: 10:00 am & 3:00 pm – 2-session final (Flts. B & C)  
Open side games (if attendance warrants)**

The District NAP event is open to all District 8 players who qualified in any club-level game in any ACBL District this summer.

**Flights:** Separate events will be held in three flights: **A** (2000+); **B** (0-2000) and **C** (Non-Life Masters with 0-500 pts.). Eligibility for each flight is determined by your masterpoint holding on June 1, 2005.

**Please note schedule changes:** The Flight A event will be **one day only** (two sessions on Saturday). The Flight B and C events will be two days -- two qualifying sessions on Saturday and two final sessions on Sunday.

**Entry fees:** \$12 per person per session

**ACBL prizes:** The top two pairs in each flight will win travel awards to play in the national finals in Dallas TX in March. Each member of the first-place pairs will win round-trip airfare and three nights in the host hotel. Each member of the second-place pairs will win round-trip airfare.

**Sunday Pairs:** Two one-session Stratified Pair events (10 a.m. & 3 p.m. Sunday) are sectional-rated and open to all. You do not have to have played in the NAP event to enter.



## District President's Report

by **Martha Leary, Urbana IL**

**President of the District 8 Board of Directors**

For those of you who do not know me, I am a Board Representative from Unit 208, Central Illinois. I have been President of the District since January of this year. The District Board meets three times a year at District regionals to conduct business -- Champaign in May, St. Louis in August and Fort Wayne in September. There are five Units in our District and each Unit has three representatives on the District Board. These awesome volunteers contribute their time to ensure that our District provides outstanding services to its members.

Other Board officers are Vice-President **Bob Carteaux** (Fort Wayne IN) and Secretary-Treasurer **Debbie Avery** (Champaign IL). Board members who represent our five units are:

Unit 143 (St. Louis) -- Mike Carmen, Tom Oppenheimer, Jennifer Luner (Unit President)

Unit 208 (Central Illinois) -- Ron Sholes, Martha Leary, Chuck Zalar

Unit 223 (Southern Illinois-Paducah) -- Jay Coleman, Doug Edwards, Dalton Darnell (Unit President)

Unit 239 (Northwestern Illinois) -- Karl Dencker, Rajahneen Dencker, John Pree (Unit President)

Unit 154 (Northern Indiana) -- Richard Ellis, Bob Carteaux, Jim Davis (Unit President)

Fall always offers a full schedule of bridge in our District, and I hope all of you can find the time to participate in one or more of these special events:

We have our annual **District-wide Charity Game** is right around the corner! District clubs are invited to hold this event on the afternoon of **Tuesday, October 11**. Everyone enjoys the hand records and the opportunity to win District-wide awards. Please plan to play if your area is having a game. And speaking of charity games, I hope all of you had the opportunity to play in the September games the ACBL encouraged us to hold for the Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund. What a great feeling it is to be able to participate in this effort and play bridge at the same time.

**Sectional-at-Clubs Week** starts on **Monday, Oct. 31** and runs through Sunday Nov. 6. Silver points galore!!!

The District 8 finals of the **North American Pairs** is quickly approaching also. It's scheduled for the weekend of **November 12-13** at the IDOT Building in Springfield IL. **Flight A** will be a two-session, one-day event on Saturday. **Flights B and C** will each have a two-session qualifying on Saturday and a two-session final on Sunday. We're hoping for a large turnout. It's a great opportunity to earn the right to represent District 8 in Dallas in the national finals this spring.

If you're planning ahead, it's not too early to start thinking about the **Grand National Teams (May 6-7, 2006)**, again at the IDOT Building in Springfield IL. You'll be hearing lots about this event in the upcoming months. We really would like to have record-breaking attendance. Any and all suggestions are welcome to help get our players to attend.

Should you ever have any questions, suggestions, complaints or accolades regarding the workings of our District, please contact your representatives. As President, I'm more than happy to communicate with any of you. My email is [martha@marthaleary.com](mailto:martha@marthaleary.com) and my phone number is 217-766-6294.



**Win silver points at your local club**

## District 8 Sectional-at-Clubs -- October 31-November 6

Plan now to play in your local club the week of October 31 in District 8's annual Sectional-Tournament-at-Clubs (STAC). All club games this week can award sectional silver points to winners and runners-up in three flights. In last year's event, almost 1200 District players won silver points in STAC games at their local clubs.

**Masterpoint awards:** The STAC event offers 12 different sessions -- a day and an evening session on each weekday, plus day only sessions on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the silver-point section awards at each site, each session will be scored across the District for overall awards. In last year's STAC, the biggest session was Tuesday day (265 pairs), which paid 15.22 silver points to the District winners.

**Stratification:** Open Pair games will have three strata — **A:** 1500+; **B:** 0-1500; and **C:** Non-Life Master (0-500). Clubs can also run stratified novice pairs and victory-point team games.

**Entry fees:** Sanction fee is \$6 per table, so expect to pay an extra \$1.50 over your club's regular entry fee. Proceeds help fund the *Advocate* newsletter, the District finals of the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams, and other District 8 activities.

**Online results:** District-wide results from each session will be updated on the STAC website: [www.mt.org/district\\_8\\_stac.htm](http://www.mt.org/district_8_stac.htm)

**Game sites:** Call your club manager for details on the STAC games in your area. If you have other questions, call or write:

STAC chairman: Mike Tomlianovich (309-662-5832) [m@mt.org](mailto:m@mt.org)

Director-in-charge: Jim Chiszar (630-355-5560) [jacee1201@attbi.com](mailto:jacee1201@attbi.com)



## District 8 Solvers Forum -- October 2005

by Scott Merritt, Abuja, Nigeria

Welcome to the Nigerian Independence Day (October 1) version of the District 8 Solvers Forum. I am here in sunny, warm Abuja, in the Federal Capital Territories, right smack dab in the center of Nigeria. I know it is a path that few District 8ers have managed to tread, but hopefully I am representing us well. I would also just like to note that some of you may be confused as to when Nigerian Independence day is, and why Abuja is now the capital (or even what the old capital was), and what kind of bad luck must I have had to land in a foreign country on Thursday and break my ankle on Saturday. I will say that there are good answers to those questions, and they will come in due time. In the meantime, suffused as I am with Nigerian political issues, forgive me if I occasionally lapse into "Embassy-speak".

### 1. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West North East South  
Pass 1H Pass 1D  
???

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
1NT	100	14	66
2D	70	2	30
2C	50	0	4

What is your call as South holding: ♠864 ♥AQ  
♦AQ652 ♣1043 ?

Just like getting off the plane and trying to start a new life in Nigeria and promptly breaking your ankle playing soccer, I was equally disappointed in the responses to this first problem. We understand that the scoring system would severely penalize any attempt to get creative with a 1S or 2C call, but on the other hand, there were people who really bid 2D with this hand. I am sure that no one could sell me on a 2D call, but I'll let them have their say and see if I'm convinced.

**Bernhard:** "2D. Bid notrump with two unstoppable suits or lie about my distribution. I choose to lie about one little diamond. 1NT will be the highest-scoring answer, but I wouldn't bid it at the table."

**Guthrie:** "2D. An attempt to avoid wrong-siding notrump. If partner passes, then 2D may be the wrong bid. But the opponents' silence increases the likelihood that partner will bid again."

Okay, I was right; I still don't buy it. Guthrie makes a good point about the advantages of a 2D rebid if partner can muster up another call, but that's a big gamble. Not only does 2D force you to take an extra trick with a flat hand, but you'll be playing against the whole room. Every other South will be rebidding 1NT with this hand, so even if you can get partner to declare 2NT or 3NT, you're going against the field.

**Paulo:** "1NT. This shows a balanced minimum opening bid, which is exactly what I have. Wrong-siding the contract may be awful, but any other bid is a distortion."

**Walker:** "1NT. A 1NT rebid never guarantees stoppers in all unbid suits (or in this case, *any* unbid suit). 1NT isn't ideal, but it's a much better description than rebidding 2D with only 5 cards (and anemic ones, at that) or an eccentric 2C."

**Hudson:** "1NT. What's the problem? Stoppers? Pshaw!"

**Nelson:** "1NT. You opened this hand; now you must rebid it, and with this pattern, it should be 1NT. I certainly think it would distort the hand to rebid 2D. You still have the same losers."

**Strite:** "1NT. 2D shows six. Not with these anemic spots. How many people do we know who bid 1S on this hand?"

**Kessler:** "1NT. Nothing else makes much sense. Whatever problems there are with 1NT, I believe there are more problems with any other bid."

I kept reading the comments for 1NT and each one makes more sense than the last. It is interesting that all of these comments can be spot on, and yet all the comments are different. For anyone who thought about rebidding 2D with this hand, reread those answers from quality players, and then decide again if you really want to rebid 2D with this hand. If so, go back and read the answers a third time.

## 2. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
	Pass	1H	1NT	3S	100	8	50
2H	2S	Pass	???	3C, 3D	90	2	6
				Pass	80	6	25
				4S	50	0	16

What is your call as South holding: ♠AKJ6 ♥Q92  
♦87 ♣AK84 ?

Seeing as how it's Nigerian Independence Day as I am writing this, I just wanted to remind everyone that there are roughly 100 million Nigerians living on less than 1 U.S. dollar a day. That is something too staggering for me to really comprehend, and I am here on the ground, so I prefer to divert myself with ideas like bridge.

Big "ups" to the Solvers, who showed a strong preference for the advance to the 3-level. First up are the arguments for the try for game:

**Strite:** "3S. Not quite a 4S bid. Even if partner has a stiff heart, we could easily have three minor-suit losers. Pass the baton to pard."

**Bernhard:** "3S. Five losers outside trumps, and I really don't think partner will cover two of them, so I'll go slow. I would have made a takeout double instead of bidding 1NT."

**Jonquet:** "3S. I'm not unilaterally hanging partner for competing, but he should have something. He could have both black queens, but he could also have four quick losers in the red suits."

**Walker:** "3S. There's a good case for passing, since partner didn't open a non-vul 2S, but I think this hand is worth a courtesy raise. Still, I have a feeling I'm hanging him."

**Feldheim:** "3D. Worth a game try, but this is a question of language. My interpretation of 3D is that it shows a useful doubleton; others show side-suit concentration and bid 3C. 3S is a 'nothing' bid."

I like the combination of what these panelists are saying, more than the exact tenor of any particular comment. STRITE has the general thrust and FELDHEIM wisely points out that 3S surely doesn't get enough of the point across. The key is that a good partnership will need to discuss what an advance in

these sequences would usually mean. In some partnerships, a new suit bid would be treated like any other game try (i.e. what would 1S-2S-3D mean?), while other pairs would treat this like a super-accept hand in a transfer sequence (1N-2H\*-3D). Making sure that you and partner are on the same wavelength is crucial in these situations. The good news with 3D on this hand is that whatever partner believes it to be, that should be okay.

The passers take a reasoned approach.

**Kessler:** "Pass. Matchpoints means take your plus. Just as many hands will go down in three as will make four. Do not hang partner."

**Nelson:** "Pass. I won't penalize partner for finding a bid on his cards. He doesn't have much, and my heart queen I wouldn't count. Allow partner the ability to bid."

**Rabideau:** "Pass. Partner could have invited via Lebensohl but instead is asking us to pass. This is just an average hand after discounting the heart queen and spade jack."

I like the concept of going plus at matchpoints, but I feel that this is counteracted by the fact that we know we're going to bid 3S if they compete to 3H. Since we're probably on the way to 3S anyway, it seems as though we should invite partner, just in case he really does have the magic fitter. I simply feel that the risk of going down in 3S is less than the risk of us missing a game, after taking into consideration all the hands where we'll have to bid 3S anyway. There is also the small vigorish that we receive when partner was completely busted and they can make 4H.

## 3. IMPs, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
	1C	Pass	1D	2D	100	7	50
Pass	2C	Pass	???	3D	80	4	12
				2NT	70	2	20
				Pass	60	3	16

What is your call as South holding: ♠J85 ♥KQ6  
♦KJ9862 ♣5 ?

Transparency International ranks Nigeria as one of the three most corrupt societies in the world, and while the U.S isn't a global leader on the anti-corruption front (ranked in the 40s), Nigeria has only one way to go. Corruption thrives because there is no free flow of information, and while bad in regards to governments, it is certainly what makes bridge the game that we know and love.

On this hand, you certainly have something to communicate, and partner certainly has something, but where should we go with these two unknown quantities? "Meckwell" has gotten away with stealing contracts, very much like Nigeria, on these very hands for years. If we had full information on this hand -- Is partner on a maximum? Does he have a fitting diamond card? -- I could then give up writing this column and lots of people would have access to clean drinking water and anti-malarial bed netting. That isn't the case, so here are the comments from those who choose to maintain the status quo.

**Nelson:** "Pass. Without a fit, I have nothing more to say. I am not bidding 2NT just because I have a 10 count."

**Jonquet:** "Pass. At IMPs, stop bidding before the doubling starts."

**Feldheim:** "Pass. Get out with a misfit as soon as possible. 2NT without a fit is idiotic."

I don't buy it. The status quo is broke. We clearly have the assets to aid a partner in need. We have commodities (10 high-card points) and a shape feature that may help. I feel that leaving partner to fix his own problems is neither just nor prudent. Can we instead shove partner to where we want to go -- the promised land of equal rights, a living wage and medicine for all? Is game all that it is cracked up to be?

**Rabideau:** "3D. Ugly, but I gotta make a try at IMPs. Thank you for the 98 of diamonds."

**Kniest:** "3D. About right on values, and this suit can play opposite a stiff. 2NT is also right on values, but maybe it needs to be played from partner's side. It's IMPs, so pass is not in the ballpark."

Well, it's non-vul at IMPs, so stretching to an iffy game doesn't offer that great a reward. Still, the limit jump to 3D is one ham-handed attempt to get partner to bid game. If we aren't careful, we can push too hard in ineffective ways, and then partner can blame us for overstating our position, and not offering enough aid in either quality or quantity cards. In the end, a sustained, nurturing relationship is clearly the best way to reach everyone's long-term goals of a Vanderbilt win.

**Hudson:** "2D. Conservative, but I'm pulling in a notch because of my ratty suit and lack of fit for partner. 2NT, 2H and 3D are overbids. 2NT lacks a spade stopper and 2H is short a heart."

**Kessler:** "2D. This doesn't rate to be worse than 2C, and now partner may be able to compete to 3D over the expected balance. This is *very* important."

**Walker:** "2D. It's close between 2D and 2NT, and at IMPs, I'd normally resolve that dilemma in favor of the game try. There's a lot to be pessimistic about with this hand, though -- no club help, no spade stopper, no aces and few (if any) entries to my picket fence of a suit. Plus, we're non-vul., which makes a stretch to game less attractive."

**Guthrie:** "2D. Keeps the bidding open for welcome competition from the opponents. Any other bid is an overbid. Pass is worth consideration, but overly pessimistic."

I like GUTHRIE's idea of trying to suck in the mad balancers. In my book, the advantage of a simple 2D response is that it lets partner know we're still there (we did not pass) and that he still has time to speak. We need to continue to build our partnership. If partner knows we won't be over-aggressive with lousy pushes to game, and that we trust him to bid again if game may be a good bet, there will be a sustained partnership growth that will be good for all involved in due course.

#### 4. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
			ID				
Pass	1H	Pass	2D	3H	100	8	58
Pass	2NT	Pass	???	3NT	90	6	24
				Pass	70	1	15
				3D	60	1	3

What is your call as South holding: ♠A7  
♥J103 ♦AQJ974 ♣102 ?

The Solvers surprised me on this one. I would have been fairly certain that they would be split about 2 to 1 between 3NT and Pass. When I looked at this hand, I guessed that it was a slightly jumbled up companion hand to the last one (interchange the clubs and the diamonds and make partner bid

diamonds instead of hearts). On that hand, people were as timid as they could be, but on this hand, they charge off to game. I guess perspective is reality. Let's start with two panelists who applied the breaks:

**Feldheim:** "3D. Passing 2NT is too much like threading a needle. 3D is most descriptive."

**Nelson:** "Pass. This hand could be right to accept the invite and bid 3NT, but most of my partners would just bid 3NT if they had a fit."

I think that both of these arguments are much sounder than the scores that I expect at the table, but I must admit that I am starting to get a bit rusty. I do like my aces, my real suit and the fact that of the field chose to bid on, which is why I awarded the lower scores. Do the arguments for bidding merit my scoring? First the direct route, with the caveat that I'm sure to deduct points from any imbecile that repeats Hamman's Rule.

**Hudson:** "3NT. My good suit and fit with partner make up for a lack of high cards. 3H is a reasonable alternative, but it's unlikely this should play in hearts. Nine tricks is probably the limit."

**Kessler:** "3NT. Very anti-percentage to pass, as the field will bid with these cards. Pass is only acceptable if you need a good board and are willing to gamble against the field."

**Strite:** "3NT. Could be laydown, and it won't often be worse than 50 percent."

**Kniest:** "3NT, but Pass is certainly in the ballpark at matchpoints. This could go down two or make an overtrick. I can feel that spade lead coming from RHO's hand right now. They play king and another spade, then hold up the diamond king and we're down two or three!"

Whooh! We escaped Hamman's Rule this time. Again, these are solid arguments. Are the minority's arguments better?

**Walker:** "3H. This is absolutely forcing and gives partner a choice of games. Partner will bid 2NT with lots of hands that have 5-card heart suits (and weak spade stoppers). If that's what he has, the two doubletons make my hand more suitable for the trump contract."

**Guthrie:** "3H. I would have raised to 2H immediately."

**Paulo:** "3H. On the way to game, I show 3-card support."

**Rabideau:** "3H. I want to be in game with this hand, so let's give partner a choice."

While "support with support" is one of the fundamental tenets of good bridge, I really can't see the argument for it here. Your hand looks like 9 tricks in notrump, so that's where you want to play. Partner has suggested the notrump game, you don't have a singleton and your hearts are three dead. I think a 3H bid here should show something along the lines of ♠x ♥AQx ♦KQJ10xx ♣xxx .

#### 5. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South	Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
			ID				
1S	DBL	Pass	???	2NT	100	10	48
				1NT	70	3	30

What is your call as South holding: ♠KQ97 ♥Q10

♦AKQ64 ♣43 ?

This hand gets the Nigerian Independence Day Special Award. There were as many answers to this problem as there are Nigerian Independence Days, and like those holidays, only a few of the answers have any staying power. To explain the reference, Nigeria has gone from colonial rule to military rule to civilian rule, back and forth at least five times in the last 50 years. And with every transition, a new National Day is declared. Unfortunately, for those who like the old way, or who bid poorly, there can only be one winner, and the panel has spoken.

3D	60	1	2
3NT	60	1	8
2D	60	1	4
Pass	60	0	8

**Tafjord:** "2NT. I'd have opened 1NT."

**Paulo:** "2NT. Partner shows heart and club values. With good stoppers, heart honors and a fine suit, I think this is not an overbid. As a matter of fact, at IMPs, I would bid 3NT."

**Walker:** "2NT. I suppose this is another opportunity to rebid a 5-card diamond suit, which is a strategy I'll continue rejecting. With such good spade stoppers, diamonds and fillers for partner's hearts, this hand looks more like 18 pts. than 16 (or 11, which is what you might have for a 1NT or 2D rebid)."

**Hudson:** "2NT. A slight stretch, hoping partner has me covered in clubs."

**Nelson:** "2NT. I wish I had opened 1NT; do I underbid with 1NT now? I don't think so. I up the value of the heart queen, and I love my fifth diamond. I hope my revaluation of this hand is correct."

If people look at my choices, I chose the option that Karen rejected and bid 3D, as I would felt that the lie that was calling AKQxx a 6 card suit was smaller than calling your hand an 18 count, on the other hand, eking out a 3D contract for 110 when notrump scores up 120 or 150 won't look so good either. Whatever the case, I will again use my rights as a columnist to say that these votes all stink.

Unfortunately, the remaining options don't seem so peachy either. We had no takers on the panel for the penalty pass of 1S, but here are two other ideas:

**Feiler:** "2D. The choices are underbidding or overbidding. I decided on the low road to give everyone more room to bid."

**Kessler:** "1NT. Again, at matchpoints, go for the plus. This is punishment for not opening 1NT. I really do not want to bid 2D -- which just as much an underbid as 1NT -- when notrump pays more."

Yuck. I guess we need to rule out *all* calls on this hand, until someone can come up with a decent answer. I really don't think that opening 1NT would be the ultimate answer either. If you had opened 1NT, your LHO might have passed, as would partner if he held an 8-count. Lots of those 8-counts would give you a good play for 3NT -- especially with a spade lead -- so maybe your 1D "underbid" the first time around was a master stroke.

## 6. IMPs, EW vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1C	DBL	1D	???

What is your call as South holding: ♠1098762 ♥952

Action	Score	Votes	% Solvers
3S	100	9	24
4S	80	2	16

♦962 ♣7 ?

We have come to the end, and while we don't have very much, we are still asked to do our part, because one person can change the world. Here we start with a smattering of spades, and not much else. But at least there is potential. Partner has made promises to us, so what shall we do? First, we have the psychic 2S call:

1S	70	1	22
Pass	60	3	32
2S	40	1	6

**Rabideau:** "2S. Bridge World Standard doesn't appear to cover this situation, so I'll try 2S and hope partner has a good sense of humor if it turns out badly."

If I was your partner, it doesn't seem likely. Since the jump should show around 9-11 playing points, 2S is clearly a psychic call. But if you're going to psych, why not go whole hog and cuebid, or get really cheeky with 1NT or 2H. Partner will then at least understand that this was a *real* psychic when dummy comes down.

Better strategies -- but only slightly -- are proposed by the completely meek and the almost completely meek:

**Strite:** "Pass now, bid later."

**Kessler:** "1S. Get the lead director in early."

If there weren't so much talent offering those last two answers, I would really skewer this choice as well. Instead, I will show the respect they are due and chalk this up to their playing experience, with only silent thoughts that they are crazy. I have long been of the mind that I should bid the full limit of my hand when I get the chance, accepting that earlier responses fall into a larger data set (i.e., if you are going to bid, do it sooner rather than later, even if sooner isn't perfect). Now for the preempters:

**Feldheim:** "3S. Preempting to the max seems correct. Anything less is super-chicken."

**Nelson:** "3S. Get it over with. I play this is totally preemptive, with no values except length in my suit. I plan on buying the contract with my bid."

**Kniest:** "3S. This is a textbook Law-of-Total-Tricks bid, non-vul and with at least a 9-card fit. If partner raises, my hand won't be a disappointment, and I may have paved the way for a possible sacrifice. I don't have enough to bid 4S on my own (100-300-500-~~800~~ now, remember?)."

**Walker:** "3S. A double-jump is a preempt, and partner shouldn't raise unless he has the world's fair. I'd like to have a queen somewhere, but I have pretty much the textbook distribution for this bid."

**Feiler:** "3S. I might bid more if I had a high-card point."

Karen would like to have a queen for her 3S bid; Kent would require only a jack to bid on to 4S. High standards. Still, both think this hand qualifies for the 3-level preempt. That brings us to the super-preempters:

**Hudson:** "4S. If partner has a normal takeout double, the opponents have a lot of clubs. An advance sacrifice is indicated. If partner has a square 19-count, I've done wrong, but that is less likely."

**Guthrie:** "4S. This should give the opponents the last guess. I hope partner understands this. With the boss suit and a good hand, I would start by cuebidding one of their suits. Otherwise, I may have given partner the dreaded last guess."

While either 3S or 4S could be right at the table, I feel the pros outweigh the cons for 3S. For one, we won't miss a game. As our panel points out, 3S is the "standard" or "book" bid with this hand, so partner will know what you have, and if 4S is right, he'll bid it. You also have a second way to win, in that 3S may steal the contract one level lower, before they've found their best fit. The "con" for 3S -- that giving the opponents an extra level may allow them just enough room to support at the 4-level -- is certainly a risk not to be taken lightly.

Thanks to all who sent in answers and to our guest panelists, **Doug Jonquet**, **Bob Bernhard** and **Oyvind Tafjord**. Congratulations to **Gary Dell** and **Eric Kaye**, who led all Solvers. They're invited to join the December panel.

The six new problems are below. Please submit your solutions by **November 22** on the [web form](#) or by email to our December moderator:

**Tom Dodd** -- [fieldtrialer@yahoo.com](mailto:fieldtrialer@yahoo.com)

How the Panel voted (Panel/Staff Avg. -- 534):	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
<b>Bob Bernhard</b> , New Smyrna Beach FL	2D	3S	2NT	3H	2NT	3S	540
<b>Kent Feiler</b> , Harvard IL	1NT	3S	2NT	3H	2D	3S	530
<b>Harold Feldheim</b> , Hamden CT	1NT	3D	Pass	3D	2NT	3S	510
<b>Nigel Guthrie</b> , Reading UK	2D	3S	2D	3H	3NT	4S	510
<b>Jim Hudson</b> , DeKalb IL	1NT	Pass	2D	3NT	2NT	4S	510
<b>Doug Jonquet</b> , Decatur IL	1NT	3S	Pass	3H	1NT	Pass	490
<b>Mark Kessler</b> , Springfield IL	1NT	Pass	2D	3NT	1NT	1S	510
<b>Larry Matheny</b> , Loveland CO	1NT	Pass	2D	3H	2NT	Pass	560
<b>Bev Nelson</b> , Fort Myers FL	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT	3S	510
<b>Manuel Paulo</b> , Lisbon, Portugal	1NT	3S	2D	3H	2NT	3S	600
<b>Larry Rabideau</b> , St. Anne IL	1NT	Pass	3D	3H	2NT	2S	500
<b>Oyvind Tafjord</b> , Eugene OR	1NT	3S	3D	3NT	2NT	3S	570
<b>Toby Strite</b> , San Jose CA	1NT	3S	2D	3NT	2NT	Pass	550
How the Staff voted							
<b>Tom Kniest</b> , University City MO	1NT	3S	3D	3NT	1NT	3S	540
<b>Scott Merritt</b> , Abuja, Nigeria	1NT	Pass	3D	3NT	3D	3S	510
<b>Karen Walker</b> , Champaign IL	1NT	3S	2D	3H	2NT	3S	600

**Solvers Honor Roll** (Average Solver score: 505)

<b>Gary Dell</b> , Champaign IL	580	<b>Steve Babin</b> , Normal IL	540
<b>Eric Kaye</b> , Sarasota FL	570	<b>Mike Giacaman</b> , St. Louis MO	540
<b>Greg Berry</b> , Sleepy Hollow IL	560	<b>Dave Wetzel</b> , Rantoul IL	540
<b>Bud Hinckley</b> , South Bend IN	560	<b>Zoran Bohacek</b> , Zagreb, Croatia	530
<b>Jim Feinstein</b> , South Bend IN	550	<b>Jody Castillo</b> , Warsaw IN	530
<b>Arbha Vongsivut</b> , Godfrey IL	550	<b>Terry Goodykooontz</b> , Champaign IL	530

## Solvers Forum -- December 2005 Problems

### 1. IMPs, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1S	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2C	Pass	???

\* Forcing notrump

What is your call as South holding:

♠Q5 ♥A9765 ♦K109542 ♣Void ?

### 2. Matchpoints, both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1S	DBL	2S*	Pass
3S	4D	Pass	???

\* Non-constructive raise (5-7 pts.)

What is your call as South holding:

♠J42 ♥A104 ♦J93 ♣J865 ?

### 3. Board-a-match, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1C	Pass	1S
3D	Pass	Pass	DBL
Pass	3H	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠AK854 ♥QJ4 ♦65 ♣QJ10 ?

### 4. Matchpoints, none vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1C
1H	Pass	2H	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠AK ♥A4 ♦K6 ♣AJ108543 ?

### 5. IMPs, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1D
Pass	1H	3S	Pass
4S	5C	Pass	???

What is your call as South holding:

♠A4 ♥K8 ♦KJ9653 ♣J62 ?

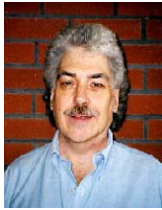
### 6. Matchpoints, NS vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2C	Pass	2S
Pass	3D *	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	???

\* Forcing, 5+-card suit

What is your call as South holding:

♠KJ72 ♥K6 ♦K10 ♣AJ973 ?



# Pair Fare

## News from Northwestern Illinois Unit 239

**Editor: Dennis Ryan, 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53545**  
[drchezmoi@aol.com](mailto:drchezmoi@aol.com)

### Barry Burren: Life Master



*Old buddies never die. They just play away!*

That paraphrase sums up the bridge career of Barry Burren of Elgin, one of our Unit's latest Life Masters. Barry made Life Master in a Lake Geneva regional in April while playing with Robert Corron of St. Charles. Barry has earned all his gold points playing with Robert. Barry and Robert are old college buddies. They first met as freshmen in Calculus 201 at Knox College in Galesburg 40 years ago. Corron suggested at that time that Barry start playing bridge. Now, they play Monday nights at the St. Charles Bridge Club.

Barry was born and raised in Elgin, and he has practiced dentistry for 32 years in his hometown. He recalls his boyhood years when his great aunt played bridge at social functions with three or four tables. When he was 10, he was allowed to join the game and play an occasional hand or to fill in an open seat. "I still regress to some of the bad habits that I picked up nearly 50 years ago," asserts Barry.

Although he did not join the ACBL until 1982, Barry played a lot of social bridge, especially in college. "A group of us went to a tournament in Peoria in 1966," he remembers. "All of us were 'duplicate virgins.' I played with a friend with whom I'd played cards in the cafeteria in high school. We came up against Barry Crane, and had no idea who he was. I can still hear Crane's intimidating call of 'Di-rec-tor!!' ringing in my ears."

After undergraduate school in Galesburg, Barry attended Northwestern University Dental School in downtown Chicago. He and his wife Karen have a daughter, Barrie, who is a freshman at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Active sports have always figured prominently in Barry's life. "But I'm getting away from the active stuff, now, like the city league basketball and softball teams. Besides bridge, I bowl, play golf and enjoy gardening. For the past 15 years I have bowled in the national ABC tournaments. Karen plays golf, too, so we enjoy our golf villa at Eagle Ridge every chance we get. I even have a hole-in-one. But my four buddies on the Thursday night bowling team all have at least one 300 game and I don't, so we're even."

Clearly, Barry Burren's intensely competitive spirit, sportsmanlike attitude and constant quest for new adventures will continue to find a fertile home in Unit 239 and make our bridge lives all more interesting.

### Cheré Morrison: Life Master



The single aspect of tournament bridge that means the most to Cheré Morrison of Poplar Grove, one of our most recent Life Masters, is the remarkable friendships that she's made along the way. "I've picked up partners and team-mates in New York City, Toledo, Santa Fe, Holland MI, and Los Alamos," asserts Cheré. "I've gone to visit many of these wonderful folks and play bridge with them again, and some of them have come to visit me. So bridge isn't just entertainment or recreation: it's added an important dimension to my life."

Cheré already had all her "colors" before making Life Master last July. She actually went over the 300-mark in a club game in Rockford, playing with Rachel Campbell of Elgin. "But the ACBL recorded my points from a tournament in Arlington Heights first," she admits, "so I don't quite know what to count."

Social bridge at Evanston Township High School in Evanston IL and at the First Methodist Church there started Cheré on her way. But she only started duplicate four years ago. "A few of us in social bridge groups were just plain bored," Cheré recalls. "There just had to be something more out there. So Grace Selby of Huntley, assisted by Edna Williams of Elgin, gave us some lessons. Three of us got permanently hooked."

Then came lessons and workshops from Kathy Owens and Mary Jo Sergent at the Bridge Center of Rockford, plus encouraging programs for beginners in Santa Fe where she lived a part of each year. "I also want to thank my mentors in Rockford: Mary Jo Sergent, Gene Condon and the late Pam Eden," she acknowledges.

Born and raised in Evanston, Cheré attended National Louis University there, majoring in social sciences, education, and English. She taught social studies and English, but spent additional years in Elgin as a reading specialist. Her husband Les is a retired language arts and reading teacher. They have one daughter, Marissa, who lives in Pittsburgh and who is carrying on the family tradition of commitment to education by teaching in a charter school. She is also carrying on the family tradition of playing bridge. "Marissa's first job out of college as an editor for an encyclopedia," Cheré relates. "When she first applied, the editors narrowed the field from 100 candidates to three and asked her to come to Chicago for an interview. The final screeners were all bridge players. I'll never know if that was her ultimate edge in winning the position, but perhaps the ACBL is missing out on a useful bridge-marketing ploy."

"The game of bridge itself is not so complicated," Cheré insists with a smile. "But get six ladies and one dog all sharing one house with two bathrooms while attending a bridge tournament in Lake Geneva: that's complicated."

### Lu Jenkins: Life Master



Lu Jenkins of Rockford, one of Unit 239's latest Life Masters, must surely be reckoned as one of the bridge world's ultimate oxymorons: she's a marriage counselor who often plays tournament bridge with her husband.

Lu made Life Master in a knockout in the Rockford regional in June, playing with Rich Whitsitt of Rockford. And while she's grateful to all her partners and mentors who have helped her over the years, she feels especially indebted to the late Ed Stoyanoff of Rockford. Ed's memorial service was held several months after his recent untimely death, so Lu was able to whisper, "I got my Life Master's, Ed," at his funeral. She cherishes the bittersweet memory.

Lu began bridge in high school, and was already playing bridge with her future husband David when she was in college. "We started playing duplicate together in Rockford in the 70's," she remembers. "The game was held at the Lafayette Hotel back then. We've had a long love affair with bridge: when we dated we played bridge; when we were first married and poor we played bridge. We still belong to two social duplicate clubs, and play at the Rockford club often."

Teaching English occupied Lu after she received her B.A. in English education from the University of Illinois in the '70's. But then came the MSW in social work and a career as a social worker in Rockford and Rockton schools. She has also taken mediation training, and has been a divorce mediator for 13 years. Today, she runs her own business out of her home, specializing in marriage and family therapy. She co-authored a manual on working with children with ADHD that was published, presented at professional conferences, and sold through bookstores. She was named the School Social Worker of the Year for the State of Illinois for 1999 by the Illinois Association of School Social Workers.

Lu and David have two sons: Erik is a musician with Guzzardo's Music in Rockford, and David is with Larson and Darby Architects. She lists theatre, music, and bowling as hobbies. "Well, I used to bowl a lot," she laughs.

Lu recalls that as a bridge beginner she once got two top boards in a pairs game against a nationally ranked expert. "I was so nervous that I kept doing the wrong thing and got very lucky," she recollects. Today, Lu gets her top boards the "honest" way: "I'm not nervous at all any more," she says with a mock-threatening grin.

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## Joan Bailey-Murray: Life Master



It's not so much that Joan Bailey-Murray made Life Master at the Arlington Heights regional last July, it's how she did it: in a knockout event, with a pick-up partner, who also made Life Master in the same event.

Joan started bridge back in high school and continued during her college career in Rockford and Freeport—she remembers area expert Dick Benson from those early bridge years. And then, she didn't touch a card until 1998, when she started attending the Thursday morning rubber bridge games sponsored by the Center for Learning in Retirement of Rockford College. This led, in turn, to her being

mentored by Bob Coffey at the Bridge Center of Rockford. And the rest, of course, is history.

Joan spent two years at Beloit College, but graduated with a B.A. degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. She later earned a Master's degree from Rockford College. "But I was the 'beatnik/flower child' type," Joan asserts, "so I bummed all around Europe for six months after college. This developed my yen for travel, so I've been to Africa, China, and all over Europe—especially the Iron Curtain countries."

One of Joan's biggest bridge thrills was a knockout match victory over Mike Passell and Eddie Wold, playing with Audrey Danocup of Beloit WI. "It was a handicapped match, but we won without the handicap," Joan declares proudly. "That's a 'bridge moment' that will always remain special."

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## Unit Board Officers to Change

Unit 239 President John Pree (St. Charles) has resigned his presidency as of December 31, 2005, but

will continue on as a member of the Unit Board for the remainder of his term. Taking his place will be Karl Dencker (Lake-in-the-Hills). The new vice-president will be Doug Gugger (Freeport). Your current Unit 239 Board consists of:

John Pree, President, 41W782 Hunters Hill Dr., St. Charles IL 60175 630-377-6116

Karl D. Dencker, 1009 Mason Lane, Lake-in-the-Hills IL 61056 847-458-8089

Doug Gugger, 418 S. West Ave., Freeport IL 61032 815-235-7566

Gene and Jan Condon, 3513 Applewood Lane, Rockford IL 61114 815-633-4979

Susan Mackinney, Treasurer, 215 N. Airlite St., Elgin, IL 60123 847-697-6977

Lucille Chaffee, 496 Bethany Rd., DeKalb IL 60115 815-758-6407

Mary Jo Sergeant, 6105 Halverson Dr., Rockford IL 61109 815-874-4157

Dennis Ryan, Secretary (non voting,) 118 Glenview Court, Janesville WI 53548 608-756-0060

Our Unit representatives to the District 8 Board are John Pree, Karl Dencker and Rajahneen Dencker.

## Upcoming Tournaments in Unit 239

March 11-13, 2006: Early Spring Sectional, Elgin, Elgin Community College

June 19-15, 2006: Rockin' Rockford Regional, Rockford, Clock Tower Resort

September 8-10, 2006: Rockford Classic Sectional, Rockford, Clock Tower Resort

November 24-26, 2006: Turkey Bowl, Aurora, Prisco Community Center

March 2-4, 2007: Early Spring Sectional, Elgin, Elgin Community College

June 18-24, 2007: Rockin' Rockford Regional, Rockford, Clock Tower Resort

## The Changing Scene . . .

**New Club Masters:** William Demlow, Sandwich; Amnon Harel, Batavia; Glorya Kayser, Lena.

**New Sectional Masters:** Paula Demlow, Sandwich; Julia Kelley, Geneva; Judith Sweet, Davis.

**New NABC Masters:** Robert Coffey, Rockford; Edward Cohen, Geneva; Richard Gierat, Belvidere;

Rosemary Kerwin, Rockford; Harold Miller, Belvidere; Ronald Sester, Kingston.

**New Life Masters:** Joan Bailey-Murray, Rockford; Cheré Morrison, Poplar Grove.

**New Bronze Life Masters:** Rebecca Joice, Rockford; Trevor Joice, Rockford.

**New Gold Life Masters:** Will Engel, Freeport.





# CIBA Digest

News from Central Illinois Unit 208

Editor: Karen Walker, 2121 Lynwood Drive, Champaign 61821  
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## Illinois Senior Olympics

Jerome Civic Center, Springfield, IL  
Wednesday, September 14 (28 pairs competing)

### North-South:

- 1 - (60.30%) Marj Loewenstein & Phyllis Collins, Spfld.
- 2 - (57.28%) Donna & Cam Barbian, Sherman
- 3 - (57.01%) Caryl Harrison, Canton & Carol Umbach, Havana
- 4 - (55.49%) Betty Kunkel & Jenny Sgro, Springfield
- 5 - (53.98%) Lucy & Ed Breitung, Springfield
- 6 - (53.85%) Gail Moon & Betty Capodice, Bloomington
- 7 - (52.75%) Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap & Alan Wienman, Morton



North-South medal winners:  
Marj Loewenstein & Phyllis Collins

### East-West:

- 1 - (61.13%) Jean Barnett & Laura Addison, Bloomington
- 2 - (57.83%) Liz Zalar, Spfld. & Richard Blumenthal, Lincoln
- 3 - (56.73%) Cindy & Gene Wheeler, Chatham
- 4 - (55.36%) Buffie Kelly & John Woodruff, Springfield
- 5 - (51.79%) Charlie Morton, Bloom. & Dewey Gronau, Fmr City
- 6 - (51.24%) Gail Chesnut & Pamela Waughop, Springfield
- 7 - (50.65%) Phil Wagner & Thad Hanna, Springfield
- 8 - (50.27%) Marilyn Stickel, Lacon & Ray Russ, Henry



East-West medal winners:  
Jean Barnett & Laura Addison

## ♣ Mini-McKenney & Ace of Clubs Leaders (through 9/6/05)

Category	Ace of Clubs (# pts. won)	Mini-McKenney (# pts. won)
Rookie (0-5)	Camilla Rabjohns, Peoria Hts. -- 20 Paul Holmes, Champaign -- 19 Bill Lindemann Sr., Champaign -- 12	Bill Lindemann Sr., Champaign -- 78 Paul Holmes, Champaign -- 70 Camilla Rabjohns, Peoria Hts. -- 34

<b>Junior Master</b> (5-20)	Sara Ratterree, Springfield -- 17 Marilyn Winter, Mt Zion -- 15 Bev Upp, Bloomington -- 14	Bev Upp, Bloomington -- 23 Marilyn Winter, Mt. Zion -- 20 Sarah Ratterree, Springfield -- 18
<b>Club Master</b> (20-50)	Stevie Holcomb, Springfield -- 24 Janice Badgett, Chatham -- 22 Hal Bach, Springfield -- 21	Judi Sulzbach, Champaign -- 38 Stevie Holcomb, Springfield -- 36 Fred Barilla, Rantoul -- 33
<b>Sectional Master</b> (50-100)	Fred Roese, Springfield -- 38 Cindy Wheeler, Chatham -- 30 Susan Donnelly, Springfield -- 27	Fred Roese, Springfield -- 78 Linda Albrecht, Mt Zion -- 56 Bret Van Fleet, Bloomington -- 54
<b>Regional Master</b> (100-200)	Jack Sanders, Champaign -- 46 Joseph Franz, Springfield -- 43 Al Wagner, Danville -- 40	Eric Gettleman, Normal -- 169 Gary Dell, Champaign -- 88 Dan Faulkner, Monticello -- 87
<b>NABC Master</b> (200-300)	Zach Freehill, Bloomington -- 58 Steve Hawthorne, Bloomington -- 54 Gary Schechter, Springfield -- 54	Stephen Hawthorne, Bloomington -- 159 Zach Freehill, Bloomington -- 142 Cal Corbin, Champaign -- 116
<b>Life Master</b> (300-500)	Gene Wheeler, Chatham -- 50 Ruth Wettaw, Bloomington -- 48 Dariel Richardson, Rochester -- 35	Dariel Richardson, Rochester -- 80 Gene Wheeler, Chatham -- 77 Larry Wilcox, Springfield -- 74
<b>Bronze LM</b> (500-1000)	George Veenstra, Springfield -- 67 J. S. Bruner, Springfield -- 56 Margaret Hansell, Champaign -- 54	Madhu Viswanathan, Champaign -- 132 John Weber, Watseka -- 104 John Burdon, Washington -- 104
<b>Silver LM</b> (1000-2500)	Janice Franz, Springfield -- 73 Richard Schnepf, Springfield -- 71 Betty Primm, Athens -- 68	Jim Melville, Springfield -- 546 Gail Moon, Bloomington -- 185 Betty Capodice, Bloomington -- 162
<b>Gold LM</b> (2500-5000)	Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap -- 45 Robert Butz, Kankakee -- 44 Donald Florida, Marshall -- 29	Don Florida, Marshall -- 136 Mike Halvorsen, Champaign -- 110 Phyllis Rahn, Dunlap -- 106
<b>Diamond, Emerald &amp; Platinum LM</b> (5000+)	Dan Requard, Springfield -- 24 Gary Kessler, Springfield -- 21 Karen Walker, Champaign -- 19 Dick Benson, LeRoy -- 10 Colby Vernay, Lacon -- 10 Mark Kessler, Springfield -- 2	Colby Vernay, Lacon -- 655 Dick Benson, LeRoy -- 341 Gary Kessler, Springfield -- 276 Chris Benson, LeRoy -- 222 Mark Kessler, Springfield -- 179 Karen Walker, Champaign -- 152

Visit the [ACBL Unit Awards](#) page to view lists of the top ten Unit 208 players in each category.

## Club News

### ♣ Club Appreciation Month -- October 1-31

ACBL designates October as Club Appreciation Month and offers all clubs the opportunity to host "extra" club championships, with no added fees. Each sanctioned session can host one pairs

championship and one Swiss Team championship anytime during October. These events do not take the place of your club's regular quarterly championship. The games offer extra masterpoints (black points, 85 percent of sectional rating). Team games also pay 5-percent gold points. Ask your club manager for the dates of the games in your area. Club managers received announcements about these games in their sanction-renewal packets. More information is also available from [specialevents@acbl.org](mailto:specialevents@acbl.org).

#### ♣ **Sectional-at-Clubs (STAC) -- Monday through Sunday, Oct. 31 - Nov. 6**

Lots of silver points will be available the week of November 1, when all clubs in the district can award sectional-rated silver points at all sessions. The event also offers overall awards, giving you the chance to win as many as 15 silver points in one session. See the [STAC homepage](#) for updated results during and after STAC week.

#### ♣ **New playing site in Springfield**

The Springfield Duplicate Bridge Club is now hosting games at 7:00 every Wednesday night at Hope Presbyterian Church, 211 Wabash. Each session features a pre-game lesson with Leah Newell at 6:30. For information or partners, call Liz Zalar (217-793-8066) or visit the club's new web site: <http://springfield.bridge.home.insightbb.com/>

## Movin' Up

### **Congratulations to these Unit members who recently advanced in rank:**

#### **New Junior Masters (5 pts.)**

Rhonda Berberet, Springfield  
James Gardner, Springfield  
John Melin, Springfield  
Diane Nelson, Dunlap  
Marjorie Slight, Bloomington  
Caroline Tillman, Springfield

#### **Club Masters (20 pts.)**

Wendy Anderson, Bloomington  
Bob Derber, Springfield  
Nancy Drake, Springfield  
Sidney Goldman, Springfield  
Dennis Moll, Bloomington  
Susan Poludniak, Springfield  
Bettie Winslow, Springfield

#### **Sectional Masters (50 pts.)**

Fred Barilla, Rantoul  
John Healy, Springfield  
Steve Lane, Champaign  
Bill Lindemann Sr., Champaign  
Ann Lisenbee, Springfield  
Marlene Rinehart, Springfield

#### **Regional Masters (100 pts.)**

Lela Smith, Decatur  
Cindy Wheeler, Chatham

#### **NABC Masters (200 pts.)**

Doug Jonquet, Decatur  
Marsha Kent, Springfield  
Layton Lamb, Springfield  
Jack Sanders, Champaign  
Anne Thiede, Danville

#### **Life Master**

Cal Corbin, Champaign  
Claire Kruenberg, Charleston  
Larry McLaughlin, Decatur  
Peggy McLaughlin, Decatur

#### **Silver Life Master (1000 pts.)**

Lee Wolfert, Mahomet



# Greater St. Louis Bridge News

*News from Greater St. Louis Unit 143*

*Editor: Susan Rechter, 35 Upper Ladue Rd., St. Louis MO 63124 (314-993-5080)*  
[susanrechter@yahoo.com](mailto:susanrechter@yahoo.com)

## Bridge Booty

Bridge Booty is often thought of as treasure ... silver and gold masterpoints falling onto one's lap. Bridge Booty may also be important bridge interpretations that one hears at the bridge table, similar to a windfall profit tax, sacking the opponents, or finding a great partner. Sasanka Ramanadham's column "Ask the Experts". That's bridge booty. Sasanka has thoughtfully put together a panel of experts, of various fortes, who offer their advice on problematic hands. It's a great column tucked away in Unit 143's web site and it's always full of insightful analysis by players we all know! Here's the direct link:

<http://www.unit143.org/August05ATE.html>

Then there's the other bridge booty. The ladies recognize it the morning after a long week of bridge and their pants are too tight. "Damn! I just got me a bridge booty!" Men know theirs as "the bridge belly ... burp". North-South players are predisposed to it. I know. I was struck by it! So be careful! Sit East-West as often as you can!

I was fortunate to attend a casual -- living room style -- lecture given by Sheldon Margolis the other week. Jackie Sincoff was there, too, sans Roger Lord. We didn't play bridge with Sheldon, but sat sipping drinks on sofas exchanging ideas, bidding styles and holdings with him. So erudite! It was a great way to learn how experienced players handle their bids. By the way, Sheldon earned close to 80 masterpoints at the Tunica Regional a few weeks ago!

Julia Torres, Bill Bunn, Naomi Orsay and Jay Shah. Need I say more? These four have been partying at Olivette Community Center and I want a copy of their Ripper Party Mix! If that's the way to get masterpoints, I want me some ... NOW!

Speaking of Rip Party Mixes ... Judy Putzel and Marvin King mixed up a great 68% game at Beth Percich's Tuesday-night game. That's a blood-sucking game if ever there was one! All the St. Louis heavy hitters (Oppenheimer, Popkins, Behrens, Giacomo, King[kong], Shapiro) play in it. I've come home anemic after that game but I'll always go back for more. Maybe I like the neck thing or feeling wasted.

KB ...you're looking great, baby!

Remember, don't get locked, or lock your partner, in a stagnant game. Be open to learn new styles of bidding and willing to play with new partners. I know people who are dying to move on but won't because they don't want to insult their long-time friend. Hey, I have great friends with whom I cannot play a decent game. And don't give me that line, "But we sure had fun!" No you didn't! Losing sucks and a low score is embarrassing after so long. There are tons of people in the same boat who want to meet new bridge partners. If you sense there is some tension, you can always say, "Hey, let's mix it up. Let's each find a new partner once a month instead of playing together all the time!" Don't be shy about asking. Your partner was probably thinking the same thing!

There are those who would love to play with you as well as the tutors and teachers willing to impart their bridge wisdom. It's smart to get theories from a lot of sources, you don't have to stay at the same place, so to speak. Move around and see how other people play bridge. Learn about new friends and ideas.

I recently read some research done by a team of doctors in Sweden who found that people who engage in complex thought processes had a 22% lower incidence of showing signs of Alzheimer's Disease. Complex thought processes include bridge.

I also read about how important it is to exercise one's brain by learning new concepts. I've always known bridge was like learning a language. Words and logic that had to be put together and reasoned out. It is shown that when we are introduced to new information, a part of our brain -- the Prefrontal, lateral, dorsal cortex (translated: just a little at the front of the top of your noggin and to the left) -- kicks into gear. It is usually not as active, as we tend to operate in a world with which we are familiar. When we encounter new facts, this prefrontal cortex starts galvanizing and signals another brain part, the anterior singulet, to kick in to help us recognize and understand. Imagine that! Bridge stimulates unused parts of our brain! That's why it is so important to switch partners occasionally and learn new bids and plays! It's invigorating.

I am always amazed at the delights I uncover from the beautiful game of bridge!

Also excited about the upcoming Nationals in Saint Lou! Yo-yo-yo! It's been a long time coming! I have never played a National in my hometown and I'm bothered because I won't be writing about it. This is my last contribution.

I bid a fond farewell to Jim Lopiccicolo. Jim fed my children with their first delicious avant-gout of bridge and for that I will always remember him.

Regards, *The Swiss Miss*



## Unit 223 Reporter

**News from Southern Illinois-Paducah Unit 223**

**Editor: Karen Coe, 12761 Webb Hill Rd., Ewing IL  
62836**

**(618-435-4200) [finesse002002@yahoo.com](mailto:finesse002002@yahoo.com)**

## Mark your calendars!

Please make note of two interesting District 8 events coming up in October and November.

An important event being held in Springfield, November 12 and 13, at the IDOT Building (2510 Dirksen Parkway) is the District 8 Finals of the **North American Pairs** (NAP). Play will commence at 1:00 Saturday afternoon, and the event coordinator is Mike Tomlianovich (phone: 309-662-5832; email: m@mt.org)

The NAP has been a major ACBL event since 1979. Originally known as Grand National Pairs, the national winners of the event are issued a trophy -- the Baldwin Trophy -- named in honor of Russell Baldwin, former director and treasurer of the ACBL and co-inventor of the McKenney-Baldwin movements used in tournament bridge. First place at the national level also carries a "qualification" to play in the Blue Ribbon Pairs held at each Fall NABC.

The highly prestigious NAP starts at the "grassroots" level with qualifying events held at local clubs during June, July and August and concludes at the Spring NABC. Many of you may have participated in club-level NAP qualifying games during the last few months and received a Qualifying Slip from your local club director. If you did, don't lose that slip! And if you already have lost it, ask your director for another ... the sooner the quicker ...

Once again, the next level of NAP competition -- District 8 Qualifying -- will be held in Springfield in November. This will be a stratified event:

Flight C = 0-500 Non-LMs    Flight B= 500-2000    Flight A = 2000+

### ***Some important facts to remember:***

- The Flight A event is one day only (Saturday). Flights B & C will be held over two days -- two-session qualifying on Saturday, two-session final on Sunday.
- To participate in this event, you must be an ACBL member in good standing. If you have qualified and are not a member, you can either pay your membership dues in Springfield with your entry fee, or you can ask your local club director for an instant Membership Application and join up now.
- You must have the Qualification Slip issued to you at the club qualifying game with you when you go to Springfield; you will not be admitted without it!
- You may play with any other District 8 player who has qualified. You are not restricted to the partner with whom you qualified.
- When you reach Springfield, you'll be asked to designate A, B or C flight. If you are a C Flight Player playing with another C Flight player but you qualified for A, B and C, you may choose any flight. Please note that if you are a C Player playing with either an A or B player, you will be flighted at your partner's level and will not be allowed to compete in C. Please note, too, that the three flights will be in separate sections. Keep in mind that this is one of the few C Flight

events which pays the 1st-place winners partial gold points (25%!)

The National Finals for this event will be held at the ACBL's North American Bridge Championships (NABC) this spring in Dallas. Now for the exciting part: The prizes at the District Finals in Springfield for all three flights -- A, B and C -- are:

First Place: Roundtrip airfare to Dallas and three nights' lodging at the Spring NABC

Second Place: Roundtrip airfare to Dallas

Third Place: An invitation to participate in the NAP Finals in Dallas

If you have never been to an NABC, they are a fabulous and fun tournament experience, and a free trip is a great way to go! So make your plans now to head to Springfield. Hope to see you there!

The second event of interest coming up is the **District 8 Fall StaC**. A "shorthand" name for Sectional Tournament at Clubs, this event offers players a chance to win Silver Points at their local bridge club. The Fall StaC will be held between Oct. 31st and Nov. 6th at clubs throughout the District. Twelve events will be offered during the week at numerous District 8 clubs: one daytime and one evening event Monday through Friday, plus one daytime event on Saturday and Sunday. The events may be Stratified Open Pairs or possibly Swiss Teams, depending on the Club Manager's choice. All pairs events are "shuffle and deal", and although players are not playing the same hands, comparisons are made across the District of game percentages of all players playing in simultaneous events. Remember that you will win Silver points for placing at club level, and if you and your partner or teammates come in overall in the District, you have a chance for really big Silver dividends!

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## UNIT 223 Players Who Have Advanced in Rank

New Junior Masters: **Marilyn Hayes**, Mt. Carmel IL; **Martha Lents**, Benton KY.

New Sectional Master: **James Lyon**, Paducah KY.

New NABC Masters: **Emily McGuire** and **Mrs. D. Ramage**, Paducah KY; **Pat Rezabeck**, Effingham IL.

New Bronze Life Masters: **Betty Fields**, Hickman KY; **Joan Musgrave**, Oblong IL.

And congratulations to new Life Master **Patsy Edwards**..

## Unit Masterpoint Races

Do you pay attention to the Unit Masterpoint Races on the ACBL website? If you are fortunate enough to see your name appear on either the Unit Ace of Clubs or Mini McKenney Lists, have you ever wondered how large the field that you are competing in is? Here is a breakdown of how many Unit 223 members are in each Rank:

19 Rookies	51 Regional Masters	53 Silver Life Masters
29 Junior Masters	29 NABC Masters	6 Gold Life Masters
27 Club Masters	41 Life Masters	1 Diamond Life Master
45 Sectional Masters	71 Bronze Life Masters	

## Upcoming Unit 223 Sectional

**Southeastern Illinois Sectional Bridge Tournament**, Robinson, IL., October 21-23. Play commences at 7:30 Friday evening with Open Pairs, continues with Stratified Open Pairs Saturday at 1:30 and 7:30 (new pairs welcome Sat. evening), and culminates with Swiss Teams on Sunday starting at 10:30 a.m. Chairman is Jay Coleman -- phone 618-563-9927; email [franklincoleman@hotmail.com](mailto:franklincoleman@hotmail.com). See the ad in this issue or on the Unit 223 web page (<http://unit223.tripod.com/>) for more details.



# St. Louis Fall Sectional

## October 14-16, 2005

### Blanchette Park Memorial Hall, St.

## Charles MO

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### Friday, October 14

1:30 pm -- Stratified Open Pairs (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)  
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs (0-199)

7:30 pm -- Flight A/X open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+)  
Stratified BCD Pairs (0-500, 500-1500)  
Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs (0-199)

### Saturday, October 15

9:00 am -- Knockout Teams (continues at 1:30 & 7:30)

1:30 & 7:30 pm -- Two-session Stratified Open Pairs (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)  
Single-session Stratified Intermediate/Novice Pairs  
Single-session Side Games

### Sunday, October 16

10:00 am & TBA -- Stratified Swiss Teams (NLM-500, 500-1500, 1500+)

Guest speakers -- Friday and Saturday at 12:45 and 6:45 pm

Beverages, popcorn and cookies at all sessions

Terrific hospitality after all evening sessions

Saturday lunch served to all participants in the Knockout Team event

Continental breakfast -- Sunday 9:00 am

Hot buffet meal between sessions of Swiss Teams.

**Directions:** From I-70, take 5th Street North 1.8 miles to Randolph, turn left, then 0.5 miles to park entrance on the right.

**Tournament Chairman:** Mike Carmen -- 314-872-8439 [macarmen@mail.com](mailto:macarmen@mail.com)

**Partnerships:** Mary Hruby -- 314-739-1574



## Southeastern Illinois Sectional October 21-23

Robinson Community Center,  
201 S. Lincoln, Robinson IL

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### Friday, October 21

7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs

### Saturday, October 22

1:30 & 7:30 -- Stratified Open Pairs (single-session entries available)

Pizza party after the second session.

### Sunday, October 23

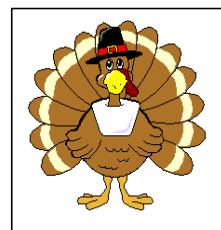
10:30 -- Bracketed Swiss Teams

Meal between sessions served by RexRoats of Effingham

**Local hotels:** Best Western (618-544-8448); Arvin Motel (618-544-2143); Quail Creek Resort (618-544-8674); Vincennes IN Executive Inn (800-457-9154); Vincennes IN Holiday Inn (812-886-9900); Mr. K's, Lawrenceville (618-943-5112).

**Strata:** A: 1500+ B: 300-1500 C: 0-300

**Chairman:** Jay Coleman (618-563-9927)  
[franklincoleman@hotmail.com](mailto:franklincoleman@hotmail.com)



## Turkey Bowl Sectional November 25-27, 2005

Prisco Community Center,  
Rt. 31 & Illinois Ave., Aurora IL

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### Friday, November 26

1:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open Charity Pairs  
1:00 & 7:00 p.m. -- Compact KO Teams (4-player teams only)  
7:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs

### Saturday, November 27

9:00 a.m. -- Handicapped KO Teams (continues at 1:00 & 7:00)  
1:00 & 7:00 p.m. -- Stratified Open & 99er Pairs (single sessions)

### Sunday, November 28

11:00 a.m. -- Brownbag Stratified Swiss Teams (bring your own lunch)

**Strata:** 0-300, 300-1000, 1000-unlimited

**Hospitality:** Door-prize drawings and free coffee, fruit and cookies all sessions.

**Directions:** Prisco Community Center is south of Route 88 (East-West Tollway), on the southeast corner of Route 31 and Illinois Avenue. Parking lot is east of the building.

**Chairman & partnerships:** John Pree -- (630) 377-9116