

Northern Colorado



BRIDGE



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ACBL Unit 363 Newsletter

The RECAP

January 2009

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Larry Matheny

2008 was another good year for Unit #363. Our February and August sectionals were very successful and the new 299'er Sectional held in November was a great addition to our schedule. Many of our local clubs experienced increased attendance and our unit games continued to set new records. I think it's safe to say that bridge is alive and well in Northern Colorado.

These accomplishments are all positive but I want to discuss an area where I feel improvement is needed. That is the old problem of proper etiquette at the bridge table. Good manners are always appropriate but with so many new players at our games, they are essential. The last thing we need is to lose new players "back to Rubber Bridge" and have them tell everyone duplicate players are rude. I know how competitive this game is and I'm sometimes guilty of being on less than my best behavior so this is a reminder to me also. Be nice!

Looking ahead to 2009, our unit games have become too large for the church in Loveland so we are moving them to St. John's church in Fort Collins. This is a very nice facility with room for growth as well as air conditioning for the summer months. And, as I reported in the last newsletter, the Elks Club in Fort Collins has been sold and the Monday and Wednesday games have moved to new locations.

Now go out and have fun at our local clubs and don't forget our Winter Sectional (see page 4).

UNIT 363 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Matheny-----	President -----	461-3136
Doug Watt-----	Vice President, Unit Games -----	667-2432
Bill Stoltey-----	Secretary, Web Site -----	206-1202
Ed Yosses-----	Treasurer-----	667-5312
Andrea French-----	Sectionals, Education, Publicity-----	225-0243
Rena Hansch-----	Intermediate/Newcomers-----	223-0611
Sue Simmons -----	Charity Coordinator -----	351-1035
Dick Webster-----	Membership, Directories-----	635-9417

Other important volunteers within Unit 363 are:

Bill Dorin-----	Sectionals, Web Site-----	282-1842
Jon Gustafson -----	Web Site -----	267-9691
Barbara Meier-----	Unit Games-----	282-4331



RESULTS & SCHEDULES

UNIT GAME REPORT

By Larry Matheny

Our Unit games continue to have very good attendance. At the October Election game Larry Matheny and Doug Watt were re-elected to the board and joined by newcomers Rena Hansch and Dick Webster. We want to thank retiring board members Marilyn Pultz and Mark Spaeth for their many contributions over the past few years. The December Holiday Party was well attended with 20½ tables in the morning and 16 tables in the afternoon session. There were many delicious treats and Stella O'Neill did her usual good job of selecting door prizes. Our thanks go to Doug Watt for organizing the Unit games in 2008.

October Election Party

	A	B	C
Larry Matheny – Neil Petrie	1		
Jim LaForce – Suzanne Jones	2		
P.K. Avery – Billie Turner	3		
Bill Darden – John Krueger		1	
Adele Benter – Ruth Logan		2	
Paul Flanders – Andrea Kutscher		3	

November Unit Championship

	A	B	C
Earl Tackman - Jim Zuboy	1		
Jim LaForce – Ginny Steele	2		
Larry Hulse – Larry Mason	3	1	
Jasper Brundege – Leo Yudien		2	
Alice Agan – Ruth Roden		3	
Donna & Tom Roberts			1
M. Nickodemus – R. Alexander			2
Rena Hansch – Craig Snowden			3

December Holiday Party

Morning STaC session

	A	B	C
Frank Demeyer-Ling Tio	1	1	1
D. Landwehr - Ginny Steele	2		
J. Gustafson-Neil Petrie	3		
Doug Watt – Norm Watt		2	
Jim Turner - Ruth Turner		3	
Paula Giarratan-Ray Hedberg			2
Andrea French – Gail Hanson			3

Afternoon STaC session

	A	B	C
J. Gustafson–Neil Petrie	1		
Stella O'Neill–Bill Stoltey	2		
Jim Turner- Ruth Turner	3	1	
Carol Irvin – Julie Larson		2	
J. Baryames–M. Nicodemus		3	1
Ramona Baker–S. Simmons			2
Don Mitchell-Craig Snowden			3

Our Next Unit Games

The following Unit sponsored events are coming up in the next few months. Our playing site for the Unit games is **Saints John's Lutheran church at 305 East Elizabeth Street in Ft. Collins**. There is great close-in parking and the playing site is smoke-free and roomy. The Unit maintains a calendar of coming events that can be accessed over the Internet. The calendar lists all of the ACBL Nationals, District 17 regionals and the Colorado and Cheyenne sectionals, along with all of the unit games. Access the calendar through: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/norcolobridge/>

January Grand National Team Qualifier

Event: Two-Session Team Game
Date: Saturday, January 3, 2009
Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$6/person each session

February Championship

Event: One-Session Pairs Game
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009
Starting Time: Lesson at noon, Game 1:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$6/person each session

March Championship

Event: One-Session Pairs Game
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2009
Starting Time: Lesson at noon, Game 1:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$6/person

April Championship

Event: Two-Session Pairs Game
Date: April 18, 2009
Starting Times: 9:30 AM and 2:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$6/person each session

Fall 299'er Sectional Tournament

By Marilyn Pultz

We held our first one-day Sectional Tournament for 299'er players on November 1st at St. John's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins. Flawlessly organized and executed by tournament chairpersons Gail Hanson and Beth McGregor and assisted by numerous volunteers, we had 24 ½ tables at the morning session and 25 tables in the afternoon.

In our on-going effort to bring in new players to duplicate bridge, we had a separate section for 0–20 MP players that attracted a total of 8 tables. From the great coffee and donuts welcome in the morning, to the excellent box lunches, to trophies for session winners, to the church's janitor volunteering to vacuum up for us in the late afternoon, everything flowed smoothly and as planned. Thanks to all of you who helped with set-up, marketing, lunch and homemade goodies, managing the day, and clean up.

We had around 10 tables of players from Denver/Boulder/Cheyenne as well – great marketing produces great results. Everyone's feedback was very positive and we expect even more tables next year.

Overall trophy winners included: **Rena Hansch** and **Walt Hutton** (morning 0 – 300 MP), Shirley Flynn and Diane Boyer (afternoon 0 – 300 MP), **Judy Stevens** and **Jeannette Perich**, (morning 0 – 20MP), and John and Pamela Rifkin (afternoon, 0 – 20 MP). See all the results at: www.northerncoloradobridge.com. Plans are already underway for next year's *Falling Leaves 299'er Sectional*.



Bridge for the Younger Set

By Andrea French

We are starting efforts to introduce our wonderful game to a younger generation. As many of you know, eleven-year old Burke Snowden has been playing in many of our events over the past year. His father, Craig Snowden, recently visited Traut Core Knowledge School to meet with a group of 5th and 6th graders. His mission was to teach them mini-bridge, an abbreviated form of the game. Over twenty interested pupils showed up eager to find out more about the game. The first session went well and Craig plans to return soon for a follow-up lesson. He also plans to visit other schools in the near future and set up similar programs. Based on his efforts we will help to ensure the future of bridge in Northern Colorado. Thanks Craig!



2009 WINTER SECTIONAL

NORTHERN COLORADO UNIT 363 2009 WINTER SECTIONAL

THE RANCH
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
EXHIBITION HALL - EAST

Hot Lunch Between Sessions Sunday

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN - 1ST ROUND9:00
KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN – 2ND ROUND 1:00
STRATIFIED PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLE SESSION 1:00
STRATIFIED PAIRS 199'ER SINGLE SESSION 1:00
KNOCK OUT OR ROUND ROBIN – 3RD ROUND 7:00
STRATI-FLIGHTED PAIRS 7:00
STRATIFIED PAIRS 199'ER SINGLE SESSION 7:00

FLIGHT A = 3000+; X = 0-3000
B/C/D -- 750-1500; 200-750; 0-200
E/F/G -- 100-200; 50-100; 0-50

*TROPHIES TO OVERALL WINNERS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

STRATIFIED PAIRS 10:00 & 3:00
A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
STRATIFIED 199'ER PAIRS* 10:00 & 3:00
A: 100-199 B: 50 – 99 C: 0 - 50

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

STRATI-FLIGHTED (OR ROUND-ROBIN) SWISS TEAMS

10:00 & TBA

A: 3000+X: 0-3000
B: 750-1500 C: 200-750
D: 0-200

Short Break, Hot Lunch Between Sessions

ENTRY FEES

\$9 per Player per Session
\$94 per team Sunday (includes hot lunch)
Rookies (0-5 points) play Free on Friday
(Additional \$1if non-ACBL member)

PARTNERSHIPS

Every effort will be made to accommodate
timely requests for partners. Please contact:
Stella O'Neill – 482-1253

TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Andrea French – 225-0243
Bill Dorin – 282-1842



EDUCATION

BRIDGE CLASSES

BRIDGE-2: Declarer Play & Two-Level Opening Bids

Dick Webster - ACBL Certified Teacher

This eight-week course concentrates on **DECLARER PLAY OF THE HAND** after the bidding has ended ... and assumes a knowledge of fundamental modern bidding (***opening bids, responses, rebids, overcalls, and takeout doubles***) plus the mechanics of the game. "***Playing in the 21st Century***" is the second of five courses published by the American Contract Bridge League. In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of card play...

promotion

trumping in dummy

making a P-L-A-N

suit development

discarding losers

the dangerous opponent

the finesse

trump suit management

-- plus advance your knowledge of defense and bidding...

Stayman -- Strong 2-Club -- Weak Twos -- slam bidding -- preempts --

The Text-Workbook needed for your weekly preparation, classroom activities and review will be available for purchase (\$19) at the first class.

Wednesdays (1:00-3:00pm) Feb 11 - Apr 1

Min 8 / Max 19 (ages 18+) -- *Sign-up Deadline: Jan 23rd*

\$57 with Senior Activity Card -- \$61 without

Registration: Chilson Senior Center -- 700 East Fourth Street, Loveland -- 970-962-2783

For course content questions, call Dick Webster: 970-635-9417

BRIDGE-4: Conventions for Competitive Bidding & Slam Bidding

Dick Webster - ACBL Certified Teacher

This eight-week course for novice and intermediate players focuses on those conventions needed when the bidding becomes competitive ... or when your partnership is considering a slam bid. You will be introduced to many types of DOUBLES (*Negative, Takeout, Balancing, Cooperative, Lead-Directing, Penalty*) ... and many types of OVERCALLS (*Simple, Weak Jump, 1NT, Michaels Cuebid, Unusual NT*) as well as REDOUBLES and CUEBIDS. You will strengthen your understanding of when to use (and when not to use) the Blackwood and Gerber conventions ... will learn how to use cuebidding to identify specific key cards ... and will enhance your defensive signals. The Text-Workbook needed for your weekly preparation, classroom activities and review will be available for purchase (\$19) at the first class.

Fridays (1:00-3:00pm) Feb 13 - Apr 3

Min 8 / Max 19 (ages 18+) -- *Sign-up Deadline: Jan 23rd*

\$57 with Senior Activity Card -- \$61 without

Registration: Chilson Senior Center -- 700 East Fourth Street, Loveland -- 970-962-2783

For course content questions, call Dick Webster: 970-635-9417



Updated Standard American Classes
Julie Larson 484-4767

All levels of bidding plus a "Play of the Hand" class are included. The classes are presented in a 6-week course evenings 7:00-9:00 in Fort Collins. Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday classes are possible. The next course starts in January. Other sessions will be presented February through May.



Beginning Bridge Lessons
Curt Cramer

This 8-week course is Beginning Bridge 2. Cramer, who has many years of teaching experience, will base his instruction on the "Bridge for Dummies" book.

Location: Fort Collins Senior Center
Date: 2/1 – 3/22
Sundays 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Cost - \$44



Bridge Lessons in Estes Park

John Krueger is currently conducting beginning bridge classes in Estes Park. Contact John at 577-0657 for information on his next session.



DID YOU KNOW?

By Dawn Foltz

Law 68 reads, in part:

"After any claim or concession, play ceases. All play subsequent to a claim or concession shall be voided by the Director."

Law 70 reads, in part, regarding a contested claim:

"The Director requires claimer to repeat the clarification statement he made at the time of his claim. The Director shall not accept from claimer any successful line of play not embraced in the original clarification statement if there is an alternative (includes careless or inferior) line of play that would be less successful."

From *Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge*



IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

Many people become confused during the auction and think that points and tricks are the same. However, as you will see with this hand, holding a lot of high card points does not mean you have a lot of defensive tricks.

Scoring: Matchpoints (pairs)

Hand #1 ♠ K1073
 Dir E ♥ K873
 Vul E/W ♦ 3
 ♣ KJ75

♠ QJ
 ♥ AQ42
 ♦ AKJ2
 ♣ Q62



♠ A86542
 ♥ J
 ♦ Q8765
 ♣ A

♠ 9
 ♥ 10965
 ♦ 1094
 ♣ 109843

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
DBL	2NT*	Pass	4♠
DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass

*Limit or better spade raise

BIDDING: South held only eleven high card points but his 6-5 distribution made this an opening hand. West had a very nice hand and started with a takeout double. North's 2NT bid showed a limit raise or better in spades. This convention allows the partnership to use a jump to 3♠ over a takeout double as preemptive. South really liked his distributional hand opposite four or more trumps so he bid the game. West couldn't stand it and doubled again. Poor East decided that bidding his long suit at the five level would be suicidal so he passed.

PLAY: West led a high diamond, cashed the Ace of hearts, and switched to a trump. Declarer had no trouble winning the rest of the tricks. He was able to ruff two diamonds in dummy, discard one on the heart King, and another on the club Jack after the Queen was ruffed out. Making an overtrick was worth +690 and all of the matchpoints. As he left the table West said to his partner "But I had nineteen points".

♣♦♥♠

DEFENSE AGAINST TWO-SUITED OVERCALLS

By Larry Matheny

It's difficult enough to communicate effectively with just your partner, but when the opponents interfere it can become a nightmare. One of the many tactics employed by the opposition is an overcall that shows a two-suited hand. The most common of these irritants are the **Unusual NT** and the **Michaels** cue bid. While there are several ways to describe your hand when these bids are made against you, perhaps the simplest is **Unusual versus Unusual**. Here is a brief description.

When the opponents have shown two suits, we consider the other two suits ours. A cue bid of their lower suit shows our lower suit and a cue bid of their higher suit shows our higher suit. That may sound confusing but if they are showing clubs and diamonds, we cue bid clubs to show hearts and cue bid diamonds to show spades. This gives us ways to show competitive hands as well as stronger hands. Take a look:

PARD RHO YOU

- 1♠ 2NT* DBL= our hand; willing to defend. Promises another bid.
3♣ = limit+ in hearts (lower of "our" suits)
3♦ = limit+ of spades (higher of our suits)
3♥ = 6+hearts non-forcing
3♠ = non-forcing raise

*promising the two lower unbid suits

PARD RHO YOU

- 1♠ 2♠* DBL = our hand; willing to defend. Promises another bid.
2NT = natural, invitational with heart stopper
3♦ = forcing, natural
3♥ = limit+ raise of spades
3♠ = non-forcing raise

*promising hearts and a minor

PARD RHO YOU

- 1♦ 2♦* DBL = our hand; willing to defend. Promises another bid.
2♥ = limit+ in clubs (lower of our suits)
2♠ = limit+ diamond raise (higher of our suits)
2NT = natural, invitational with major suit cards
3♣ = 6+ clubs, non-forcing
3♦ = non-forcing diamond raise

*promising majors

♣♦♥♠

BRIDGE FOR NEW PLAYERS

Straight Talk for Beginners

1. Take a beginner's class from a qualified teacher.
2. If possible find a partner with equal ability and interest in learning.
3. Begin with three conventions: Blackwood, Stayman, and negative doubles. (Include Jacoby Transfers if these are taught in your class.) There are no simple conventions. They are fun, but too many too soon are counter-productive.
4. Understand that director calls are part of the game and necessary to restore fairness. If an opponent bullies you or puts you down, call the director. The ACBL has a Zero Tolerance policy in place for bad behavior.
5. When time allows, better players sometimes analyze the deal just finished. Listen, don't talk.
6. Be friendly, quiet and try not to hold up the game. Bridge is a timed event.
7. After the game, ask an approachable expert how he would have bid and played a specific board that was difficult for you.
8. Learn who the blowhards are and avoid them and their "lessons."
9. Don't ask an expert to play with you unless there's a Mentor game scheduled. Better yet, let the director know you would like to play with an advanced partner and see if she/he can help you line one up for those special games.
10. Make it a habit to read the daily bridge column in the newspaper. If the bidding is baffling, concentrate on the columnist's description of the play and defense.
11. Bridge is a game of counting. For example: opener's 15-17 point bid of 1NT is raised to three. Dummy comes down with 12 points. You have 10 points. How many points does partner have? During the play, practice counting the number of cards in all suits in each player's hand. Practice counting the points in every hand. Start slowly with these exercises. They will pay off for you.
12. After six months of play, take a more advanced class.



TOURNAMENT TERMINOLOGY 101

If you're confused by the terms used to describe the different types of bridge events played at clubs and tournaments, you're not alone. Here's a list of common bridge events with explanations.

Masterpoints: the unit, which measures bridge achievement in competition. Masterpoints are awarded at ACBL clubs and tournaments in amounts proportional to the size and classification of the event and the rating of the club or tournament.

- **Black points:** awarded at club games. Some special club games award silver, red, or rarely, gold.
- **Red points:** awarded for section placements at regional and national (NABC) tournaments. Also awarded at clubs for special events such as the qualifying rounds of the North American Open Pairs and the Grand National Teams.
- **Gold points:** awarded for section firsts and overall placing in regionally rated events that have no upper masterpoint restrictions.
- **Platinum points:** awarded for NABC+ events. Gold points are also awarded for section firsts and overall placing in regional events of two or more sessions that have a masterpoint limit of 750 or more points. One gold point is awarded to section winners in the annual ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game in sections of seven or more tables. In addition, new players may now win gold points in their own NABC events: 1.50 gold in the National 199er Pairs at the Summer NABC and 1.00 gold in the National 99er Pairs at the Fall NABC (the remainder of the award is in red points). A major source of gold points is the *bracketed knockout teams*. The overall awards for the top brackets are all gold while the lower brackets may receive a percentage of gold points and the remainder in red points.
- **Silver points:** awarded for section firsts and overall placing at sectional tournaments. Also awarded at Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (StaC).

Barry Crane Top 500 race: This trophy is presented to the ACBL player who wins the most masterpoints during a calendar year.

Mini-McKenney races: In 1974 the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize masterpoint achievements among player below the rank of Life Master. *The Bridge Bulletin* recognizes leaders ACBL-wide. At the unit level, winners in each category receive recognition and special medallions. All points won during a calendar year are counted in these races.

Ace of Clubs contests: This competition was created in 1984 to recognize achievement at the club level. Winners are recognized at the unit level as well as ACBL-wide. Points won only at the club level --- excluding the North American Open Pairs, the Grand National Teams and Sectional Tournaments at Clubs --- are counted in these races.

Masterpoint races: ACBL recognizes the players who win the most masterpoints in their categories during the calendar year. The categories include Life Master, Bronze LM, Silver LM, Gold LM, Diamond LM, Emerald LM, Platinum LM, Grand LM, Youth, Junior, Sectional (points won only at sectional tournaments during the year), Senior, Online and Richmond Trophy.



MILESTONES

Big Games Reported (Sep –Dec 2008)

Sep 11 70.33% Miriam Johnson-Zoel Martinson
Sep 22 70.83% Earl Tackman – Jim Zuboy
Oct 20 74.94% Neil Petrie – Bill Stoltey
Nov 24 73.81% Earl Tackman – Jim Zuboy
Nov 25 72.12% Jim LaForce – Billie Turner
Dec 4 73.33% Dick & Marge Webster

Masterpoint Milestones

Junior Master – 5 Masterpoints

Arlene Connell
Mary Carol Evenson
Burke Snowden
Tommy Yardley

Club Master – 20 Masterpoints

Judy Lilly
Otto Luhrs
Craig Snowden
Grace Sokolik
Zoel Martinson

Sectional Master – 50 Masterpoints

Frank Demeyer
Rena Hansch

NABC Master - 200 Masterpoints

Walt Hutton

Bronze Life Master– 500 Masterpoints

Jan Green

Transferred into Unit

James Pirkle, from Southern Illinois Unit
Linda Hogue, from Houston
Leona Wingard, from Grand Junction

New Members

Lee Bennett
Mary Bopp
Naomi Clifford
Bob Link
Judy Stevens
Jeanette Perich

In Memoriam

Virginia Kissier -- Golden Age Master



The newsletter will continue to provide **Upcoming Events, Tournament Results, Membership Milestones** and the **Club Corner**, and from time-to-time, articles of general interest to bridge players in Northern Colorado and nearby communities. Please contact the editor with any news, special events, or items of general interest including challenging and interesting bridge hands. You can even win a **free play** for one of our Unit games. Just send us a bridge problem from a local game, and if it's website material, you're a winner.

Larry Matheny
Unit 363 RECAP Editor

Marilyn Pultz
Asst. Editor

CLUB CORNER

Fort Collins

Daytime Duplicate Bridge Club

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci-----223-0046
Mon – 12:30-----Open, standby available

Choice City Duplicate Bridge Club

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Marlene Aranci -----223-0046
Tue – 12:30-----Open, All ages welcome

Fort Collins Duplicate Players Club

Community of Christ Church, 220 East Oak
Barb Meier-----282-4331
Wed – 6:30-----Open, Teams 1st Wed

The Fort Fun Bridge Club-----0-200 Game

St. John's Lutheran Church, 305 E. Elizabeth St.
Marilyn Pultz & Bill Follis-----970-980-5366
FunBridge@comcast.net
Thurs – 6:30 -Call for reservation or a partner

Senior Center Duplicate (non-ACBL sanctioned)

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive
Mark Spaeth-----669-7329
Fri – 11:30-----Open

The RECAP
% Larry Matheny
941 Alexandria Drive
Loveland, CO 80538-1573

Brush

Fort Morgan Bridge Club

Don Mitchell-----842-4719
1st, 3rd Mon – 6:30 Carroll Building-- -----Invitational
Wed – 12:30 ----- Carroll Building-----Open

Niwot

Longmont Duplicate Bridge Club

The Lefthand Grange, 2nd & Franklin
Marlene Aranci -----223-0046
Thur – 7:00-----Open

Greeley

The Greeley Clubs

Donna & Tom Roberts-----304-0410
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Wed – Noon-----Open
Greeley Senior Center, 1010 6th Street
Sat – Noon-----Open

Estes Park

Estes Park Duplicate Club

Methodist Church, 1509 Fish Hatchery Road
John Krueger-----970-577-0657
2nd & 4th Mondays-1:00-----Open, Stratified
Call to reserve a seat or partner.

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