

# Northwest Arkansas Bridge Newsletter

April 2010

Issue Three



**Purpose:** This newsletter and our web site are intended to promote contract bridge play in Northwest Arkansas.

Our aim is to build a sense of community among all of the bridge players – young, old, new, veterans, party bridge or competitive.

Let's work together to promote bridge play at all opportunities. If you feel that playing bridge has been good for you, then accept the challenge to give something back to the world of bridge play.

**Focus On –**

## Couples Bridge

This Wednesday evening group meets at Bella Vista's Riordan Hall. Game time is 6:30 and any interested social bridge players are welcome to join in.

Players take turns hosting the weekly gathering – although no commitment to weekly attendance is expected of players. Reservations are not needed – just show up on Wednesday evening at 6:30 and play bridge.

This is a very friendly group of players, so grab your spouse and go play bridge.

For more information, contact John or Jan Franklin at 855-7236.

*Below are photos from the Wednesday evening Couples Bridge Group.*



## Announcing An Exciting Bridge Program

Beginning on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, a bridge instructional and play program will begin. This program will be for party-bridge players who would like to try some duplicate-style bridge in a casual setting.

There will be a basic instructional segment, followed by open play. Robert Makela, NWACC instructor and Accredited Bridge Teacher will lead the group.

These games will be in the Riordan Hall conference room, Bella Vista, from 12:30 until 4:30. For non-POA members, admission to Riordan Hall costs \$2.00.

There is no cost for POA members and ACBL membership is not expected. For current members of the American Contract Bridge League, you must have less than 10 master points to participate in this program. Returning bridge players are welcome. This is a nice way to get back into playing bridge.

Please call Robert Makela (855-6030) for more information or to sign up for the program.

We already have two tables signed up and expect that we will have several more tables. Bring your favorite partner and have fun.



### Rubber Bridge Corner

Q. When playing with my friendly bridge group, there is a player who feels that he/she needs to recap and analyze each hand. Personally I find this annoying, but there seems to be no way to rein in this behavior. Do you have any suggestions?

A. Your situation is fairly common. I've played in social bridge groups that had a strict rule against this type of behavior. Yet what you described was still occurring.

If we recognize why the person engages in these post-bidding and play recaps, then maybe we can come up with ideas that can alter the behavior somewhat.

First of all, the person is just trying to feel good about their self. While it may seem that they are criticizing other player's that is an outcome and not the offenders' objective.

You might want to complement the player on his/her abilities and see if that reduces the urge to do recaps.

You might want to tell the player that doing your own analysis of the hands helps you to learn and that he/she is so much faster at the analysis that you are not getting the experience that your need.

Offer to discuss the hands after the entire playing session is over. Then tell the player that you really need to get home.

Please think about kindness rather than harsh words in dealing with this player and you both will enjoy the game more fully.



### Duplicate Bridge Corner

Q. It seems to me that opponents are overcalling a strong 2 Club bid more often today. My partner and I have had some bad results because we did not know how to proceed after the interfering call. Is there anything that we should consider to deal with these situations?

A. Yes, you are right that opponents are much more willing to enter the auction, after a strong opening 2 Club bid.

Most players play an artificial 2 Diamond response as a waiting bid. So let's assume that is your partnership agreement.

The overcaller may double, they may bid a suit or they may use a conventional bid that shows a two suited hand.

This leaves the advancer (partner of the opener) with the options of bidding their own suit (showing 5+ cards and two of the top three honors), doubling or passing.

So you and your partner need an agreement that defines what a Pass and what a Double means.

I recommend that you use the Double as a bust hand (balanced with no more than one queen) and the Pass as a positive, waiting bid.

This actually gives you and your partner a lot of information to work with. For example, after advancer doubles, then advancer can freely bid, keeping the auction open as opener completes the description of their hand.

Having announced a balanced, bust hand, advancer can bid no-trump or a cheaper minor, without opener expecting anything from you.

Since your hand is balanced, opener knows immediately that you have at least two-card support for any of opener's suits.

I hope this is helpful and that you won't feel that the opponents are pushing you around at the table. Good Luck.

## 2010 World Bridge Series goes to Philadelphia

The World Bridge Series Championships, the world's biggest and most complex bridge competition, held quadrennially, will be organized in 2010 in Philadelphia, PA, USA, October 1-16; it is the first such event to be held in the United States since 1994. Up to 100 nations are expected to participate in the World Series, represented by thousands of the world's best players competing for world titles in many categories.

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you sit at the bridge table.

Here are the tournament results  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and the  
master point awards.

**299er Sectional  
Little Rock  
1/22-24/2010**

4.96 Joe Patton, Bella Vista AR  
4.96 Elaine Patton, Bella Vista AR  
4.54 Pauline Longstaff, Bella Vista

**Bartlesville Gusher  
Bartlesville OK  
Jan 22-24, 2010**

5.84 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR  
4.55 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith AR  
2.59 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR  
1.54 Linda Richmond, Fort Smith AR  
1.54 Ann Haggard, Fort Smith AR  
1.30 Linda McRay, Fort Smith AR  
0.90 Peg Atkins, Fort Smith AR  
0.90 Juanita Huckelbury, Van Buren

**Springfield Sectional  
Springfield MO  
05-07 March 2010**

11.82 Len Fettig, Bella Vista AR  
3.59 Robert Messer, Eureka Springs  
3.59 Margaret Gilmore, Shell Knob  
2.53 Thomas Graff, Fayetteville AR  
2.53 Roger Koeppe II, Fayetteville  
2.43 Pat Malmanger, Bella Vista AR  
2.43 Jeanette Briggs, Bella Vista  
2.36 Rose Schuler, Eureka Springs  
2.28 David Hirsch, Holiday Island  
2.28 Brenda Hirsch, Hiliday Island  
1.99 Pauline Longstaff, Bella Vista  
1.99 Judy Bappe, Bella Vista AR  
1.69 Harriet Rhea, Shell Knob MO  
1.69 Erma Sack, Shell Knob MO  
1.66 Robbie Tyler, Bella Vista AR  
1.66 Carole Van Hook, Bella Vista  
1.60 Stephen Noller, Shell Knob MO  
1.60 Robert Dray, Holiday Island AR  
1.55 E Adams, Golden MO  
1.55 Cathy Nelson, Shell Knob MO  
1.48 Janice Swiggart, Holiday  
Island AR  
1.48 Betty Adams, Holiday Island AR

1.45 John Pfenenger, Windsor MO  
1.45 John Gilmore, Shell Knob MO  
1.45 Dolores Weiss, Holiday Island  
1.41 Margaret Jack, Van Buren AR  
1.41 Emily Jane Gaer, Van Buren AR  
0.78 Curtis Bell, Shell Knob MO  
0.54 Michael Foley, Springdale AR  
0.54 Brian Simet, Rogers AR

**Spring Fling  
Hot Springs Village  
March 26-28, 2010**

20.17 Ronnie Burns, Fort Smith AR  
12.01 Darlene Ray, Fort Smith AR  
8.83 Sandra Gromatka, Bella Vista  
8.83 Robert Gromatka, Bella Vista  
8.82 Judy Worden, Fort Smith AR  
8.34 Linda McRay, Fort Smith AR  
6.73 Carolyn Thomas, Fort Smith AR  
4.54 Pauline Longstaff, Bella Vista  
4.54 Judy Bappe, Bella Vista AR  
4.32 Suzanne Krutsinger, Rogers AR  
4.32 Kay Pantier, Bentonville AR  
3.71 Cathryn Jones, Rogers AR  
3.71 Beverly Cunningham, Rogers AR  
2.53 Linda Richmond, Fort Smith AR  
2.14 Julia Farrar, Lavaca AR  
1.20 Ann Haggard, Fort Smith AR  
0.81 Sharon Easley, Fort Smith AR  
0.50 Mary Goebel, Ft Smith AR

**District 15 STaC  
District15  
Mar 29-Apr 5, 2010**

8.50 Willa Wulz, Shell Knob MO  
8.50 Erma Lee Sack, Shell Knob MO  
3.94 Marina Scott, Rogers AR  
3.94 Joe Scott, Rogers AR  
3.59 Lorraine Ivnik, Eureka Spgs AR  
3.59 Harriet Rhea, Shell Knob MO  
2.52 Cathy Nelson, Shell Knob MO  
2.16 John Gilmore, Shell Knob MO  
2.15 Robert Gromatka, Bella Vista  
2.15 Brian Simet, Rogers AR  
1.88 Linda Huber, Shell Knob MO  
1.88 Bob Dray, Holiday Island AR  
1.84 Dolores Weiss, Holiday Island  
1.41 Stephen Noller, Shell Knob MO  
1.07 Robert Walker, Siloam Springs  
1.07 Bernie Walker, Siloam Springs

0.99 Thomas Graff, Fayetteville AR  
 0.99 Roger Koeppel II, Fayetteville  
 0.86 Ray Klassen, Shell Knob MO  
 0.86 Jerry Bauer, Shell Knob MO  
 0.79 Rosie Schuler, Eureka Springs  
 0.75 Michael Smith, Bentonville AR  
 0.75 George Breslau, Garfield AR  
 0.71 Marion Thornton, Rogers AR  
 0.71 Anthony Maurer, Siloam Springs  
 0.66 Jean Razer, Holiday Island AR  
 0.66 Betty Adams, Holiday Island AR  
 0.60 Curtis Bell, Shell Knob MO  
 0.53 William Ward, Fayetteville AR  
 0.53 Pauline Longstaff, Bella Vista

### At the Clubs



Club Managers – please email us information about your clubs and about any special games you are hosting. (nwa-bridge@cox.net)

### Web Site

Several new pages have been added to our web site; including a Club Manager Section.

There is a wealth of information there. If you have not yet checked out the site, please do.

<http://members.cox.net/nwa-bridge>

### Tournament Schedule – 2010

McAlister, OK Sectional April 10 - 11  
 Kansas City, MO Sectional April 23 - 25  
 Hot Springs, AR Regional May 17 - 23  
 Topeka, KS Regional June 16 - 20  
 Kansas City, MO Sectional July 9 - 11  
 Tulsa, OK Sectional August 20 - 22  
 Springfield, MO Regional Sept 27 - Oct 3  
 Kansas City, MO Sectional October 8 - 10,  
 Kimberling City, MO Sectional Oct 29 - 31  
 Kansas City, MO Regional Dec 26 - 31

On our web site we have a longer-range tournament schedule as well as a link to the tournament flyers.

### Bridge Classes

Robert Makela is teaching bridge at the Northwest Arkansas Community College – Bella Vista site at Lancashire (US 340) and Forest Hills Blvd.

The next classes begin the first week of June. On Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> is the class on Declarer Play. On Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the class on Bidding.

Details about the schedule are available from NWACC.

Mr. Makela is teaching three classes on a revolving basis, with the class on Defense being offered in the Fall session.

The classes cover bidding, play and defense. As his students complete one class, the next class in the sequence will be offered the following session.

Suzanne Krutsinger is teaching bridge at the Adult Wellness Center in Rogers (behind the Dixieland Mall).



Classes begin on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9-11 a.m. Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays for four weeks – a total of eight 2-hour sessions.

These classes are for current bridge players and they cover beginning Duplicate Bridge. Some basic conventions will be included, as well as lots of practice time.

In addition to her classes, Mrs. Krutsinger has open forum practice sessions for her current and former students on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 9:30 am at the AWC.

Both Mrs. Krutsinger and Mr. Makela are ACBL Accredited Bridge Teachers.



### Editorial Policy

We plan to make mistakes in the content of this newsletter. If we have omitted someone or misstated information, please let us know. We will cheerfully announce corrections in the following issue. Information has been collected from a variety of sources that we feel are reliable and whose content we believe to be Public Domain.

Contact us at:  
[nwa-bridge@cox.net](mailto:nwa-bridge@cox.net)

### Worldwide Bridge Contest

The 2010 Worldwide Bridge Contest is scheduled for Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Players can play in either (or both) of these single session pair events. The Friday game is an evening game. The Saturday game is played in the afternoon.

We have several players from the Bella Vista/Bentonville/Rogers area who plan to play on Saturday afternoon in Ft. Smith. If you want to car pool with this group of players, please email us so that we can include you on our list.

### April is Charity Month

All sanctioned club sessions may be held as Charity Games during April. These games support the ACBL Charity Foundation and Canadian Bridge Federation Charitable Fund or may support local charities. Masterpoints are 100% sectional rated black.