



The Newsletter



Volume 2: Number 3

December 2017



**Annual Holiday Party on Sunday December 10th at Noon
-Lunch, Unit 383 Annual Meeting, and STaC Game-**



NO Game on Christmas Day (Monday, December 25th)

Special December Events

**Monday-Sunday
Dec 4th-10th**

STaC Week

**Sunday, Dec 10th
12 noon
*LHBC**

**Annual Unit 383 Meeting
and Holiday Party/Game**

**Friday, Dec 29th
1:00 pm
*LHBC**

**8 is Enough Team Game
See Page 2 for details**

Upcoming January Events

**January 15-21, 2018
Albuquerque**

**Navajo Trail Regional
([Tournament Flyer](#))**

Big Tournament Winners in November

Richard McCombs won all 3 events (3 session KO, 2 session pair, and swiss team) at the ABQ sectional Nov. 3-5. He was first overall and was awarded 48 points. Neil Hunter was a team member and also won the KO and swiss team event. Neil finished second in the 2 session pair event and was awarded 43 points and finished 3rd overall. Jim Joy was a partner with Neil in the 2 session pair event and won 21 points to finish 9th overall.

Fine showing for Santa Fe players.

Congratulations.

♥♣♦♠ **WELCOME** ♥♣♦♠

New Members of ACBL and Unit 383 in November:

- ♣ Lorenzo Atencio
- ♣ Ed Stroupe

**Masterpoint Achievements
! Congratulations !**



New Sectional Masters:
Susan Gibbs

New Regional Masters:
Margaret Norton
Patty Stevens

New NABC Masters:
Jo Anne Skinner

New Advanced NABC Masters:
Gary Lowenthal

New Silver Life Masters:
Paul Hummel
Matilda Rubin

*LHBC = Leonard Helman Bridge Center, 3827 Thomas Road, Santa Fe NM

From Sally Sabo, President, Santa Fe (Leonard Helman) Bridge Center

James Ewert is planning an interesting and fun variation on his very successful series of team games that take place on the last Friday of the month. We are always looking for events that are conducive to players getting to know each other better. In this team event the idea is for players to make teams that add to eight. "Eight what" you might ask. It goes as follows: if a player has points between 0 and 750 that is designated as "1." Between 750 and 2000 equals "2." Points greater than 2000 gets a "3." Thus, teams need a count of not more than "8" to participate. This arrangement theoretically gives each team a more even chance to win, but more to the point, it's a lot of fun.

After literally years of trying, the Bridge Center is finally able to own the lot next door to us. As you might know, we own a lot on the other side of the street. We have been able to persuade the owner of the lot next door to trade with us. She is asking for an extra sum of money as well because the one next door is considered more desirable. The Board sees the trade as very desirable indeed. At first the lot will be used for parking; later we will need it if we expand the Center. It's only a matter of time before the lot directly across the street becomes unavailable for our use.

Here is a request from those who catch colds and the flu easily: Please, if you are feeling ill do not play at the Center. We try to keep the club as germ free as possible by having toilets, door knobs and faucet handles wiped down twice a week, but with lots of people handling cards and bidding boxes it's inevitable that germs spread. Your help in minimizing them will save someone from a cold or the flu.

We hope to see lots of players at the annual holiday party scheduled for December 10. Don't forget to sign up on the white board. People bring lots of goodies and the Unit provides the meat dishes. It's a good way to get in the holiday mood. See you there.

Sally

Thank You to Newsletter Contributors! Sally Sabo, Dennis Dawson, James Ewert, Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Adelsheim, Jerry Ruther, Art McHaffie, Joe Bruno.

I/N* Tip of the Month from Kathy Adelsheim

Defense

When I first was learning to play golf, I noticed we spent most of our time practicing with our drivers, but when I was playing nearly half my shots were putts. Why wasn't I spending half my time practicing putting?

It seems to me that this is the same in bridge. If all were equal I would be declarer 25% of the time, dummy 25% and on defense 50%. But how to improve defense? Personally, I read books on defense and take any classes offered such as Dennis Dawson's class in January.

I learn from my partners. Before any game I want it to be clear to both of us what defensive signals we will be using, both when following suit and for the first discard. For example, did you know attitude signals usually continue throughout the hand? I also want to have a conversation about leads, what they mean, returning leads, leading partner's bid suit, NT leads, leading away from Aces and Kings and the intentional ruff/sluff.

The more I communicate with my partner the better our defense will be. And on those days when it seems the other guys get all the good cards? We have something of our own to celebrate!

*Intermediate/Newcomers (I/N) players is generally defined by ACBL as players with less than 500 masterpoints and includes a spectrum of playing skills from novice to intermediate/advanced

ASK Carolyn:

How to read the timer. First two (smaller) numbers are showing which round is currently in play. They second two numbers (larger) are showing how many minutes REMAIN in this round. The first time you hear 2 beeps the clock is indicating 2 minutes left in the round and no new board should be started from this time on. The length of rounds is based on the standard of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes per board as suggested by ACBL. Yes, sometimes, given special circumstances, directors are allowed to add or subtract time from a round, such as: an accident at a table, illness, death, resuscitation or it is starting to snow, and everyone is already on the next round. Don't "bug" us about it!!

Regularly Scheduled Games at LHBC

TYPE	DAY	TIME	DIRECTOR	Email
Open Pairs, Handicapped				
	Monday	1:00 pm	Jim Joy Richard Leonardon	dr.jjoy@yahoo.com richard38@q.com
	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Joe Bruno	joebruno63@yahoo.com
	Thursday	1:00 pm	Carolyn Anderson Frank Moran	jackcarolyn@earthlink.net helenandfrank@aol.com
	Friday	1:00 pm	James Ewert	ewert.james@gmail.com
Limited Games				
Mini-Lesson followed by 0-20 MP's Game	Monday Monday	9:00 am 9:30 am	James Ewert Carolyn Anderson	ewert.james@gmail.com jackcarolyn@earthlink.net
NLM less than 300 MP's	Tuesday	12:30 pm	James Ewert	ewert.james@gmail.com
NLM less than 200 MP's	Friday	9:00 am	Art McHaffie	ermchaffie@msn.com
NLM less than 500 MP's	Saturday	12:30 pm	Carolyn Anderson	jackcarolyn@earthlink.net
Supervised Play				
No MP's awarded; no partner needed	Thursday	9:30 – 11:30 am	Su Gibbs	su.susangibbs@gmail.com

CLUB/GAME DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Santa Fe Games at LHBC

(Monday, Thursday, Friday Afternoon and Friday Morning)

Week of Dec 3 - 9 STaC Games T, Th, F pm. Regular \$7 game Fri am.

Week of Dec 10-16 All game will be Charity Games \$8

Week of Dec 17-23 All games will be \$7 Membership Games. Only paid-up ACBL members can earn MPs

Week of Dec 24-30 M-no game Th & Fri am - Reg. \$7 game Fri pm - Team game \$7

Joe's Wednesday Afternoon Game

12/13 Charity Game (Local) \$8
12/20 Club Membership Game \$7 Only paid-up
ACBL members will earn points
12/27 Regular Game \$7

Carolyn's Saturday Afternoon Game

There will be a STaC game on Dec. 9th \$9.00
Dec. 16 will be an \$8.00 charity game for the Food
Depot.
Dec. 23 will be directed by James Ewert
Dec. 30th will be Carolyn's New Year's Eve, Eve
champagne game, bring nibbles to go with! \$8.00 for
the ACBL Jr. Fund.

Art's 199er Friday Morning Game

Regular Schedule with mini-lessons from "A First
Book of Bridge Problems" by Patrick O'Connor..

James' Tuesday Afternoon Game

Regular Schedule

Hand of the Month for December

by Dennis Dawson



'Twas the night before Christmas
Two guests in our house
Were playing some bridge
With me and my spouse.

"Please tell me," she shouted
"Why didn't you double?
Twas plain from the start
We had them in trouble."

"Tis futile, my Dear --
I am taking no stand.
So please stop your nagging
Let's play the next hand."

"Remember next time"
 She said with a frown
 "To double a contract
 That's sure to go down."

So I picked up my cards
 In a downtrodden state.
 Then I opened one Spade
 and awaited my fate.

East Deals	♠ 9 8 7 6		
N-S Vul	♥ 6 5 4 3 2		
	♦ 8 7 6 5		
	♣ —		
♠ —			♠ A K Q J 10
♥ Q J 10 9			♥ A K 8 7
♦ K Q J 10 9			♦ —
♣ K Q J 10			♣ A 9 8 7
	♠ 5 4 3 2		
	♥ —		
	♦ A 4 3 2		
	♣ 6 5 4 3 2		

The guy sitting South
 Was like many I've known.
 He bid and played
 In a world all his own.

"Two Diamonds," he countered
 With scarcely a care.
 The Ace in his hand
 Gave him courage to spare.

My wife, smiling faintly
And tossing her head,
Leaned over the table,
"Double," she said.

And North for some reason
I cannot determine
Bid two Hearts,
like preaching a sermon.

I grinned as I doubled
Enjoying the fun,
And turned round to South
To see where he would run.

But South, undistressed
Not at loss for a word
came forth with "two Spades" --
Did I hear what I heard?

The other two passed
And in sheer disbelief
I said "Double, my friend,
That'll bring you to grief."

South passed with a nod
His composure serene.
My wife with a flourish
Led out the Heart Queen.

I sat there and chuckled
Inside o'er their fix.
But South very calmly
Ran off his eight tricks.

He ruffed the first Heart
In his hand right away.
And then trumped a Club
On the very next play.

He crossruffed the hand
At a breathtaking pace,
'Til I was left holding
Five Spades to the Ace.

In anguish my wife cried
"Your mind's growing old.
You should see that Six No Trump
for us is ice-cold!"

By doubling this time
I'd committed a sin.
It just goes to prove
That you never can win.





Winter Bridge Classes

with Dennis Dawson

National Champion

New Duplicate and Class!!

Thinking Bridge – for Masterpoints!

WEDNESDAY MORNING 9:30 – 12:00 FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING JAN 3 (NO CLASS JAN 17)

A duplicate game with pre-selected hands will highlight problems in bidding, declarer play and defense (or all three!) After each hand, Dennis will discuss the hand. You cannot play this game by memorizing a lot of rules. You are too likely to forget them, and there are just too many exceptions.

You must learn **how to think through a hand one step at a time, and then focus on what matters.** Then you will be able to tackle even the most difficult hands with confidence.

Win Masterpoints! Ideal for intermediate and advanced players who want to improve their game. Notes included. Standby partner available.

How to Take More Tricks on Defense

SATURDAY MORNING 9:30 – 11:30 FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING JAN 6 (NO CLASS JAN 20)

The focus is on the opening lead and how it impacts the subsequent defense. It will cover:

- When to lead partner's suit...and which card to lead
- Why you should avoid leading the opponent's suit...and what to do if you can't
- What to lead from a sequence...and why it matters
- When to lead "top of nothing"
- How to win more trump tricks

Win Masterpoints! Ideal for new and intermediate players who want to improve their game. Notes are included. Standby partner available. Audrey Grant's *The Impact of Opening Leads Against Notrump Contracts* is the text. It is highly recommended and is available from Baron Barclay Bridge Supply and perhaps from Amazon. Half price if you have taken it before.

To Register for Either Class

- \$149 per person for all six classes if paid by December 29
- \$169 per person if paid after December 29
- \$30 per class

Email dennis@bridgevacations.com, then send check to 105 Michelle Dr, Santa Fe, NM, 87501.

Save the Dates!

Entries: Can You Get There from Here?

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 10.

MORE WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY MORNING CLASSES ARE COMING!