



The Santa Fe Bridge Club Newsletter



Volume 8: Number 4

January 2024

All games are stratified!!

Sunday

2:00 p.m. James' 0-499 Game

Virtual Game on BBO

Monday

9:30 a.m. Carolyn's 0-99 Game

1:00 p.m. Jim Joy's Open Pairs

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. James' 0-500 Pairs

Wednesday

1:00 p.m. James' Open Game

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Susan Gibbs-Supervised Play
and Lessons

1:00 p.m. Jim Joy's Open Game

Friday

1:00 p.m. Doug's 0-399 Game

Saturday

12:30 p.m. Carolyn's 0-999 Game



Welcome

None this month

Masterpoint Achievements

New Junior Master

Steven Goldstein

New Regional Master

Abigail Willmer

New Bronze Life Master

Patty Stevens

New Silver Life Masters

James Ewert

Gary Lowenthal

**Contributors: Carolyn Anderson, Neil Hunter, Kathy Adelsheim,
Su Gibbs, Don Hinsman, James Ewert, Tom Carr, Diane Spilman**



Santa Fe Bridge Center News (Leonard Helman Bridge Center)

Dear Members of the Santa Fe Bridge Center,

We hope everyone had a lovely and safe holiday season. The directors of the building board want to thank the Unit Board members for decorating the beautiful Christmas tree! Last year Maggie Auld graciously donated the tree. Ellen Walton donated boxes of lovely ornaments and this year Audrey Miller donated her collection of bridge books for anyone who needs them. They were fun to see under the tree. If you want to return them when you are finished, we can add to our bookcase for others to learn from. AND...a special thanks to Vinny who retrieved everything from the attic! Did you wear your handsome "hazmat suit" Vinnie?

The BOD wishes to thank Diane Spilman for doing such a beautiful job with this newsletter for the last few years! Diane is moving to Oklahoma, and we will miss her so much! We wish her and her husband much happiness in their new home and hope she finds a bridge club as nice as ours!! We sincerely thank Susy Moesch for volunteering to take over the responsibility of this monthly publication as soon as she has recovered from knee surgery!! In the meantime, super Diane will be publishing from her new home!

It looks like the club will be in "full swing" with a great lesson schedule for '24. If you know of anyone who may be interested in learning to play or improving their play and who does not receive this letter, please forward it to them.

Thank you all for your continued attendance, which supports our club. I will send out the end of year financial position when it is completed in January.

Happy 2024!!!

Your Board of Directors:

Carolyn Anderson, Sally Sabo, Rick Rosenthal, Stan Weinstein, Tom Pratt, and Kevin Bursley.



Unit 383 News

Letter from the Unit 383 President

Hi folks,

Happy New Year!!! May you never underbid in 2024!!!

The Holiday Party was a great success despite the inclement weather. We had a total of 13 tables - 5 in section A and 8 in section B (the limited section). We expected a few more pairs, mais c'est la vie. The overall winners in section A were **Ann Moon and Camille Ovitsky**, second was **Joe Durlak and James Werbel**. The winners for section B were **Tom and Judy Carr**, with **Jane Nantz and Suzy Moesch** coming in second. The food was fantastic. Thanks to everyone for feeding us. Also, thanks should go out to the Unit Board for doing the decorating.

Dates to remember:

GNT qualifying team game - Sunday, January 14th starting @ 11.00am.

Albuquerque Regional - January 15th - 21st, 2024

Los Alamos Sectional - March 22nd - 24th

Santa Fe Open Sectional - May 3rd - 5th, 2024

Albuquerque Open Sectional - June 14th - 16th

We had an election for the Unit Board during the holiday party. **Ann Perilloux-Ross and I** successfully ran for re-election for two-year terms. It was tough competition!!!! **Rita Levin** was also elected to the Board. The Unit Board now consists of Tom Pratt, Ann Perilloux-Ross, Mac Ennis, Mary Newburger, Abby Willmer, Rita Levin, and me.

Once again, we must thank **Diane Spilman** for the wonderful job she has done for the newsletter. Diane will continue as editor for a couple of months at which point **Susy Moesch** will take over. Welcome aboard Susy!!!

Note the date and time for the next team shown above.
Have fun at the bridge center.

Neil Hunter
Unit 383 President

Club Financial Overview

By Tom Carr

During 2023, the Club had total income of \$46,451, expenses of \$37,148, and net income of \$9,303. However, deducting \$9,120 in contributions and accruing for real estate taxes, insurance, and association assessments that are paid on a “lump-sum” basis rather than monthly, the Club had a loss from operations of \$6,164. During the year, the paid table count from scheduled games and supervised play was 2,145, which was about 83% of the table count necessary to break even.

However, had the game fee increase put into effect in mid-August been in effect for the entire year, the Club would have had a profit from operations of \$1,190. Thus, it appears that the fee increase is accomplishing the Board’s objective of assuring that the Club operates at a small cash surplus without having to solicit contributions from members or Unit 383.

At year’s end, the Club had cash in the bank of \$31,951, an increase of \$6,328 from December 31, 2022, and during the year reduced its loan balance \$4,897 from \$120,333 to \$115,436.

Overall, the Club seems to be in stable and sound financial condition.

For additional information regarding opportunities to play bridge in District 17, please visit the website at: <https://www.d17acbl.org>. Also check out the D17 Bridge Buzz Newsletter, available at that site.

Partnership Desk

Need a partner for a game? You can sign up on the whiteboard or contact Tom Pratt: 505-316-3796, thomaspratt16@gmail.com

I/N* Tip of the Month from Kathy Adelsheim

Opening Leads: unsupported honors in trump contracts

Do not lead away from an unsupported Ace.
Do not lead away from an unsupported King.
Don't underlead an Ace.
Don't underlead a King.

Guess what? These are just different ways of saying the same thing. We all know that the top of a sequence of honors is a good opening lead. Let's go back and see what we're really talking about. First of all, there are five honors: Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and 10. When we lead an honor it needs to be supported by (held up by/ touched by) the next highest one. The lead of an Ace promises the King. A King promises the Queen. A Queen promises the Jack. A Jack lead promises the 10 and a 10 promises the 9.

Just as it's a good idea to lead the top of a sequence of touching honors, it's not a good idea to lead an unsupported honor. If your A or K does not have the honor next to it (to hold it up) then it is unsupported. So if you are holding A Q X X or K J X X , just don't lead that suit to start. Pick another one. A good defensive hand may have an unsupported honor in all three suits that are not trump. What do you do? Lead Trump! Your partner will then have a good idea that you may have honors in the other suits.

Example: Against 4 Spades:

10 x x
A x x x
K x
K J x x

Make a passive lead of a small trump. You will be glad you did.

*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.

Upcoming Bridge Classes

Modern Bridge I: An Introduction

If you are new to bridge, or haven't played for years, this class is for you. Learn or review modern bidding, communicating with your partner, and techniques for playing the hand. Come alone or with a partner. Suggested textbook: Bridge Basics 1: An Introduction by Audrey Grant, ISBN 0-939460-90-4. Class meets off-campus at Helman Bridge Center.

Offered through Santa Fe Community College Continuing Education.

Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 8 sessions starting January 16, 2024

To register, call 505-428-1676 or go to <https://sfcc.augusoft.net/> and search for Modern Bridge 1: Introduction, class number 3966

Instructor: Su Gibbs, Fee \$149

(The class is currently listed in the SFCC catalog as taught by Chuck Case, but it will be taught by Susan Gibbs instead).

Later this year:

Bridge 2, 8 weeks on Tuesday morning beginning March 19
to be taught by Kathy Adelsheim

Bridge 2, 8 weeks on SATURDAY MORNING, beginning June 1
to be taught by Chuck Case.

Supervised Play

Supervised Play meets face-to-face every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30 at the bridge club. Please join us for a brief lesson, and then play some hands in a fun, friendly atmosphere. You can ask for help with bidding or play, and practice your skills. Come alone or with a partner; the cost is \$9, payable in cash, or by check or Venmo. Contact Susan Gibbs at su.susangibbs@gmail.com with any questions.

ONLINE CLASS

Advanced Modern Bridge II: Bidding & Play

If you have completed Modern Bridge II, you are familiar with the Stayman and Jacoby Transfer Conventions as described in Audrey Grant's Bridge Basic 3. Advanced Modern Bridge II presents a comprehensive modern approach to the other bids available to Responder and delves more deeply into Stayman and Jacoby Transfers. This approach is contained in Dennis Dawson's Beyond Stayman and Transfers, which is used as a reference during the class. We will also review and update preemptive 3-level and 2-level bids, as well as Strong 2C and 2NT openings and responses. Finally, Meckwell, a convention used by Defenders to interfere with the 1NT Partnership's bidding, will be presented.

In order to have practice following each lesson, Advanced MB II will be combined with Practice Hands for MB II in a class lasting 16 weeks. Each Advanced MB II class will be followed the next week by a Practice Hands class. Practice Hand lessons will occur on Sharkbridge; each Partnership will both bid and play every hand. Declarers will alternate for each hand.

The Class will take place online using Zoom and Sharkbridge. Textbooks and Notes include: Audrey Grant's: Bridge Basic 1, 2, and 3; and the following books and notes written by Dennis Dawson and edited by Don Hinsman: Beyond Stayman and Transfers; After They Open NT – Meckwell Workshop; and Losing Trick Count.

Classes will start Monday January 8, 2024 from 1 PM until 3 PM and continue each Monday for a total of 16 Sessions. Instructor: Don Hinsman (dhinsman@comcast.net). Fee \$240



Reminder – don't miss out!
James has a Sunday Online game!
Anyone with up to 499 Masterpoints can play



Thank you to all the loyal regular players – you are making this game a real success! Spread the word so that it can be even better!

If you have been looking for another opportunity to play bridge (from the comfort of your own home!), this is something to check out! (Still only \$5!)

You can find the game on BBO – Look for Santa Fe James 499er. (To find the game, type “James” into the top right search box and it will pop up.)
The game starts on Sundays at 2PM. Register early so you won't be left out!



If you have questions about how to play the game on BBO, or need a partner, please check with James Ewert (ewert.james@gmail.com)