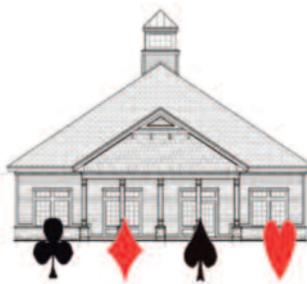


The Shuffler

The Newsletter of the Petoskey Bridge Club



Fall 2015

2144 Cemetery Road

Petoskey, Michigan

The President's Message



What a summer we have had – both outdoors and at the bridge club. On Tuesday, August 25 a “perfect storm” hit the club. Ever since we opened Tuesdays to players of all levels those games have proved to be the most popular at the club with about 20 tables on most Tuesdays in the summer. Then on August 25 it rained heavily and nobody wanted to potter in the garden, head to the golf course or spend the day on the beach so they all came to the bridge club. The newly expanded parking lot (the long grass at the back was mowed to provide more room) overflowed and vehicles were parked everywhere including along the driveway into the club. Inside the club was chaotic at first as we set up a 25th



table in the big room and added two more tables in the sit-out room. A total of 26.5 tables easily beat our previous record. Including director Lynne Parker and rover Dave Williamson there were a total of 108 people inside our great clubhouse! When Pam told Shirley Carpenter the next day she was absolutely delighted.

The record-breaking did not stop there. The attendance for April, June, and August all broke previous records for those months. With your help (come more often, bring friends, stay longer before heading south, or volunteer to be a rover) we could beat the previous annual attendance of 2,225 tables. Would you believe that last year our club had the fourth highest attendance in the state of Michigan! We're aiming for third highest this year.

The bridge lessons for Petoskey Middle School students will now start in September. Bernadette Burkhardt and Allison White drove to Chicago in early August to receive training in teaching bridge to the students. We are grateful to them for their efforts in introducing a younger generation to the great game of bridge

Our thanks also go to Jonathan Friendly for his tireless efforts in developing a brand new website for the club. The address you have always used, www.petoskeybridgeclub.com will take you to the new website. Take a look at the wonderful articles and photos. As always you can find the results to the game you just played or any game in the last several years by clicking on RESULTS.

Fall Schedule Effective Thursday October 1st through April 30th

Monday - 12:30am - Open game
Tuesday - 12:30am - Open game
(Strats are 0-50, 50-200, 200 up)
Wednesday - 12:30am Open game
Thursday - 12:30am Open game
Friday - 12:30am 0-199 er game
(Strats are 0-20, 20-50, 50-199)
Sunday - 1:30pm A Swiss team game
will be held on the second Sunday
of the month. *(Reservations are
needed for the Swiss.)*

On September 25-26-27 the Petoskey Sectional will be held at the Fairgrounds. This time the Friday and Saturday pair games will be held at 10:30 and 3:00 each with a separate section for 0-100 players. The Sunday Swiss game (in memory of Jean Carpenter) will consist of 7 rounds of 7 boards starting at 10:30. Lunch will be provided on Sunday. Nancy Colbert has done a fantastic job organizing the tournament. Lynne Parker is the partnership chair and she is ready to find a partner for you or teammates for the Swiss.

The next Pro-Am game will be held on Friday, October 2. Like last fall, cheese and wine will be served after the game – or during if you need it! As last time the split between Pros and Ams will be at 200 MPs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the club.

Larry

Kudos to our Club Stars

Change of Rank

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Barb Selleck
Janice Smolinski
Steve Ahnen
Wendy Ahnen
Larry Shepherd
Gloria Ferri
Mary Kraushaar

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Leslie Allen
Barb Harbaugh
Joel Scheitler

NEW NABC MASTER

Bob Hannah
Sarah Veil
Martha Treiber
Jeanette Aspenleiter

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Bob Carter
Sandra Gay
Margaret Onkey

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Christie McGue

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Connie Messner
Nancy Kohler

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Marilyn Keil
Betsy Howe



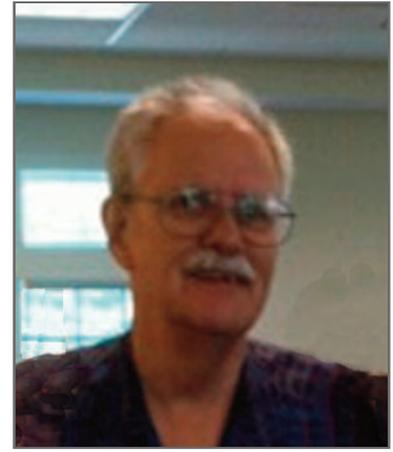
Congratulations to *Marilyn Keil and Betsy Howe*, Silver Life Master



Wonder where most of those great photos that appear on the website, on facebook and in The Shuffler come from? Our resident photographer is *Jonathan Friendly*.



Nancy Nardazzi often arrives with incredible cookies and desserts.



A beautiful bowl of fruits often arrives whenever *Thomas Beukema* plays



In June our Pro-Am tournament drew 78 players for a morning that started with pizza and ended with prizes. Winners were *Dick Culhane and Betsy Howe, Julie Kennedy and Michael Kiwak, Marsha Harrison and Don Burkhardt, Susan Trimble and Mary Kaye Goldblatt.*

Another Successful Non-Life Master Tournament

Our 2015 sectional for non-Life Masters for players with fewer than 500 Masterpoints was another successful event for the Petoskey Bridge Club. Table counts increased by 25 percent. Tournament Chairs Joe Hollis and Nancy Colbert are to be applauded.

The weekend's big winners were Nancy Colbert and Joe Hollis, with wins in all three sessions that brought them 8.89 silver points. Nancy and Joe, who were the organizers of the tournament, played with Martha Treiber and Sarah Veil in the Swiss, winning 6 of their 7 matches.



Joe and Nancy going over the opening round of the tournament.

Seventy-nine players won a total of 136.24 masterpoints.

The weekend's top score, 65.48%, went to Becky Bills and Mary Lou Dinon, playing Saturday morning and walking away 4.30 silver points richer. Larry Willis did his usually fine job of directing the games, and the Saturday session was brightened by a lovely bouquet of peonies that Debbie Sears arranged.



Bob Hannah muting his phone before play begins.

Need a phone number ? Find the Club Roster at www.petoskeybridgeclub.com. Listed are telephone numbers and email addresses of our members. Obtain the password from any director or board member. To add, change or correct your listing email updates to: petoskeybridgeclub@gmail.com



Feel disconnected at the Club? Not anymore, Thanks to Jonathan Friendly a WIFI hot zone has been established in our bridge center. Check with the director for the password.

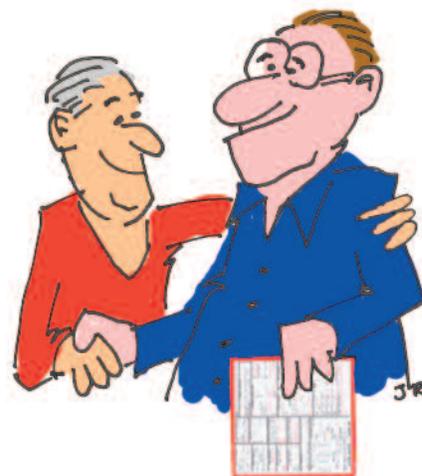


Formal management of the club resides with a non-profit corporation. Larry Willis is the president. Pam Ziegel is the vice-president. Bernadette Burkhardt, Dave Deal, Joe Hollis, LaVonne Reed, and Mike Sears are board directors as are Larry and Pam. The board has regular and special meetings to conduct its business, and is elected annually at a July meeting of members of the non-profit corporation. Any ACBL member may be a member of the non-profit corporation and participate in the July meeting. Annual dues is \$50 payable prior to July 1.

All who play at the club are considered club members. No annual dues are required.

What We Want in a Partner

Being nice trumps being a good player when we are looking for partners. For a week in August The Shuffler asked players to list the two most important qualities they sought in a partner. Overwhelmingly, the players said they want someone "nice," "kind," "friendly" and with "a sense of humor." The calls for "being a good player" or "very qualified" were much fewer and further between. The results tend to confirm what we already understood: the Petoskey Bridge Club is a community of friends with a shared passion for bridge.



Following is the complete set of answers we got to our poll, with the replies from the mid-week game first. (Over 85 of us filled in the anonymous poll)

Nice personality -- Competent player :)
Compatible convention card with 300mp -- Friendly
master points -- Good fundamentals
Friendly -- The ability to relax at the table
Sense of humor -- Fun
Disposition -- Good attitude
Reasonably capable player -- Someone who loves bridge
Someone not critical of themselves or others -- A sense of humor
Patience -- Kind
Serious about bridge -- Can trust their bidding (the card we are using)
Like the person -- Good company while playing (good or bad games)
Interested in being a PARTNER -- not pursuing individual objectives
Willing to learn/work on partnership
Understanding, forgiving, encouraging
Sit down -- Shut up
Smiles during adversity -- Can count to 13
Positive attitude -- Ability
Honesty -- Non-critical
Same convention card
Fun

Positive attitude -- Relaxes and thinks
Kindness -- Freedom to follow hunches
Even temper -- Card "Smarts"
Systems compatibility -- Friendliness
Flexible attitude -- Good humor
Good sense of humor -- Strong sense of self and bridge
Friendliness towards opponent or myself -- Understanding
Being friendly -- Good sport
I like them -- Nice player
Friendliness -- Flexibility
Honesty -- Sense of humor
Good player -- Kind
Helpful -- Kind
Friendly -- Helpfulness during rehash
Good bridge player relaxed and enjoyable to be with -- Competitive/NICE
Interested in winning/paying attention -- Not grouchy or mean
Smile -- Smells Good
Smiles -- Doesn't stink
Convention knowledge -- Timeliness in play
Similar style - Serious but fun

Responses from Friday's game for players with fewer than 200 masterpoints asked for many of the same qualities that more experienced players sought. But they had a slightly different weighting of what was wanted. They stressed the need for partner to be kind, forgiving and not critical of them as less-experienced players. One respondent was very detailed, saying: Quality 1: Give no lessons at the table. You already feel bad enough when you make a mistake. It doesn't help for partner to point it out when it happens. Circle the hand and discuss later. Quality 2 :Smile and enjoy the day. Remember it is only a game. This is a journey and everyone will improve with experience

Rapt attention to signals -- Expertise
Good attitude (bridge is a game) -- Plays a similar game (conventions)
Pulse -- Respiration
Understanding
Kind and gentle -- Not critical
Patience (I'm still learning) -- Communicate if I can do something better
(Don't be afraid to critique me)
Expertise -- Personality
Plays a similar game (conventions) -- Forgiving
Tolerance -- Competence
Consistency -- Sense of humor
Calm, not nervous - Here for fun

Doesn't tell me what I should have done while I'm still playing
Knows bidding rules -- Kindness
Realizes everyone makes mistakes -- Realizes no one is always right
Good attitude! Nice knowledgeable player. Friendly -- Not criticizing
Someone who plays the same conventions I do -- Someone forgiving
Patience -- Willingness to talk about conventions
Calm, not nervous -- here for fun
Someone who will play with me -- Someone who is here
That we play the same conventions
Someone fun
Similar style bridge -- serious but fun
That we play the same conventions
Someone who wants to play with me

THE BRIDGE HANDS PUZZLE • IDENTIFY THE MOST PLAYERS AND WIN A FREE GAME.

Identify each photo by number and email your answers to jfriendly39@hotmail.com deadline is March 1st 2016.



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The Common Game: An Uncommon Tool for Learning *By Jonathan Friendly*

Ever wonder how your level of play at the Petoskey Bridge Club compares with what players at other clubs around the country might do with the same cards? Just how good or bad or average your play was on a particular day or even a particular hand?



Thanks to a nationwide program called the Common Game, our Friday players are able to do just that. The Common Game is now being used at some 320 clubs in the U.S. and Canada as a way to help players look back at how they handled bidding and play challenges.

Bridge experts provide commentary on six to eight of the hands every day, a particular help to newer players but also useful to more advanced ones. The comparisons are available online, but your results are kept private unless you choose to share them with others.

The Petoskey Bridge Club used the program for a few months last winter but then suspended it to give our board time to analyze the results. Starting in October we will resume using it for the Friday play for members with fewer than 200 masterpoints.

Our game director, Dale Thayer, downloads the free Friday Morning deal file from The Common Game instead of the one he would normally generate using our Dealer4 software. Players can sign up online at TheCommonGame.com by using their ACBL number or by sending an email to FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com with their ACBL number in the subject line. They can then specify how often they want to see results and whether to get that information by text message or email.

Enrollment does not affect club scores or masterpoint awards, but the Common Game distributes monthly prizes based on matchpoints that are scored by combining the results from all participating clubs.

The program was created in 2012 by Jay Whipple of Boca Grande, FL, who serves on the national board of the American Contract Bridge League as well as on his unit and district boards. It began being used by a dozen Florida clubs but now is used by 3,000 to 5,000 players on a typical day.

In a telephone interview he said the biggest obstacle to the program's use has been players' fears that the boards are skewed to produce extreme suit distributions or more unusual factors such as off-side singleton kings or adverse trump holdings. Those fears are completely unfounded, he said, because the ACBL would not sanction games with such a distortion away from the normal random-distribution patterns.

He noted that in the past the national association has penalized operators who deliberately skewed games by tossing out deals with extreme distributions, "flattening the hands," to avoid players' complaints. Clubs that use the Common Game boards award ACBL masterpoints as usual, and Whipple noted that the league would not allow the Common Game hands if they deviated from the norms.

He said that on one recent occasion players in a STaC game protested about wild distributions in boards they thought came from the Common Game. In fact, the boards were generated by the ACBL itself.

Janet Matthews, who manages the game at The Villages in central Florida, the 8th most active club in the country, said that when she introduced the Common Game two years ago it met with "unbelievable criticism" from players who thought the hands were unfair, just as they had when the club started using a dealing machine a few years earlier.

The club suspended using the Common Game for several months, then reintroduced it without saying it was doing that. "We didn't get any complaints," she said, and "now everyone has accepted it."

She said the Common Game was "a fantastic teaching tool" for the club's less-experienced players and that it was now used for all 16 games a week at The Villages. "There's zero downside," she said.

*Where's the hand you held during the auction?
- A comment made when dummy hit the table.*

Our Club's New Face to the World

The Petoskey Bridge Club has a newly designed website to serve existing players and, we hope, be useful for new players thinking about coming to the club. It will even work well on mobile devices like phones and tablets, where the Results button is virtually the first thing you see.



The site retains the same web address, www.petoskeybridgeclub.com, and is now in the same easy link to current and past results and almost all the other content that was there before. It has been reorganized to make the content easier to find and use.



Jonathan and Pam checking out the new site on their iPad and mobile phone

Each of the seven navigation buttons across the upper part of the page, such as When to Play or News or ACBL Links, opens a page with that content. Drop-down menus allow faster linking to related information.

The new design, which went live on the weekend of August 22, will make it easier to display important news and remind players of upcoming events.

The site was designed by Jonathan Friendly, working with a web consultant in Royal Oak. They had continuing input from Pam Ziegel and Linda Roberts with additional guidance from Mike Sears, Larry Willis and Lynne Parker.

Did You Know?



The number of minutes allowed per round is not set by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). In July 2014 the board of the Petoskey Duplicate Bridge Club adopted a policy on the time allowed for our rounds -- 15 minutes for a two-board movement and 23 minutes for a three-board movement. No board may be played if it not been started (cards drawn from the board) prior to the 2-minute warning. In this event the director will award a No Play. This is NOT a penalty. At the end of play for the session, each pair is assigned a score on that board that exactly equals their average on all of the other boards they played during the session.

The occasional awarding of a No Play is essential to avoid prolonged delays in starting the next round.

A NEW IDEA FROM THE ACBL...Introducing the ACBL Partnership Desk, the newest member benefit, that connects players for club, tournament and online play. From MyACBL, members can post requests and search for partners by club location or tournament. Profiles already contain rank and masterpoint information with options to add a picture, preferred systems and more. Learn more about the Partnership Desk and then see for yourself.

Want to visit a new club? Are you traveling or new to an area? Need some gold masterpoints but your partner isn't available for tournament travel? Log on to acbl.org and check out the ACBL Partnership Desk and never miss a game again!

Petoskey Middle School Bridge Lessons



Allison White and Bernadette Burkhardt attended the *Learn Bridge in a Day?* instructor accreditation program when they were in Chicago at the National Bridge Tournament. They will be offering a beginning bridge class for 6, 7 and 8th graders at the Petoskey Middle School this fall. The class, is sponsored by the local YMCA. The program will begin October 6th and run until Thanksgiving. Linda Dawson is the third important component in planning and implementing this new and exciting



program. Seed money anonymously donated will ensure that the program's needs will be meant.



Sue Watson takes notes during Lynne Parker's bridge lessons

Area Regional and Sectional Tournaments September 2015 thru March 2016

Sep 11-13	Traverse City	Sectional Open
Sep 20	Lansing	GNT/NAP
Sep 25-27	Petoskey	Sectional Open
Oct 2-4	Midland	Sectional Open
Oct 9-11	Marquette	Sectional Open
Oct 10-10	Lansing	Sectional I/N
Oct 12-18	Farmington Hills	Regional Open
Oct 23-25	Toledo OHIO	Sectional Open
Oct 29-31	Grand Haven	Sectional Open
Oct 30-31	Bloomfield Hills	Sectional I/N
Nov 12-15	Farmington Hills	Sectional Open
Jan 9-10	Jackson	Sectional Open
Jan 30-31	Ypsilanti [Ann Arbor]	Sectional Open
Feb 11-14	Farmington Hills	Sectional Open
Feb 27-28	Flint	Sectional Open
Mar 31-Apr 3,	Southfield [Detroit]	Sectional Open



Carl Nelson leads a helpful discussion on the bidding of the day's hands.

News and Notes



A look ahead... The Petoskey Bridge Club was represented at the 2015 Nationals in Chicago by Barb Harbaugh, Janice Smolinski, Catherine Francis, Jeanette Aspenleiter and Martha Treiber (not pictured). Jeanette achieved her goal of earning gold and reaching the NACB Master level.



A look back... At the Chicago Nationals in 2006, Linda Roberts, Marcy Rose, Carol Bertshinger, Pam Ziegel, Pandi Huff and Debbie Sears were in attendance. Except for Carol, who was already an experienced life master, the rest of them were newbies with under 100 pts each. Ten years later and lots of bridge in 2015 they have a combined master point total over 7000 points.



Shirley Carpenter chats with Pam Ziegel at the bridge center this summer. Shirley and her daughter, Lynne, stopped by to bring some of Jean Carpenter's bridge books for use in our library.



A big thanks... When Don and Bernadette Burkhardt donated this ficus tree to the Bridge Club little did they know that it would take a crane or at the least two strong and young bridge playing bothers, Alex & Jarret Lowell to move it to a new location in the center.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide individuals opportunities to enjoy the competition of an ACBL sanctioned game of duplicate bridge, and opportunities to improve their own skill via play and lessons, while socializing with one another in a welcoming, friendly environment. We recognize the various levels of skill and confidence of our players, and agree that this mission statement applies to the novice/intermediate level players as well as the more experienced.

Please send your comments, corrections, suggestions concerning the newsletter to:
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Be sure to check online for the latest news and updates at: <http://www.petoskeybridgeclub.com>
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