

THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

www.villagecardclub.org

NEWSLETTER

A Zero Tolerance Club

1st QUARTER 2006

MARCH 2006

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 2006

17th-19th – HSV Spring Fling Sectional

26th – Open Swiss Team Game (1:00)

APRIL 2006

5th – ACBL-Wide Charity Game (6:00)

10th – Charity Club Championship
(1:00 & TBA)

23rd – Open Swiss (1:00)

29th – Unit-Wide Championship (12:30)

30th – Junior-Senior Prom (1:00)

MAY 2006

1st – Upgraded Club Championship (9:00)

11th – ACLB-Wide International Fund
Game (12:30)

15th-21st – Resort City Regional
(Club Closed)

JUNE 2006

2nd – Worldwide Bridge Contest (7:00)

3rd – Worldwide Bridge Contest (12:30)

8th – Semi-Annual Meeting (12:30)

10th – Unit-Wide Championship (12:30)

11th – Swiss Marathon Party (1:00)

12th-18th – StaC

16th – StaC Open Pairs (9:00 & 1:00)

18th – Open Pairs (1:00)

26th – NLM North American Pairs (9:00)

27th – NLM North American Pairs (7:00)

LIFE MASTER ACHIEVERS

BRONZE

Barbara Chaplik

Mary Ladd

Bob Roberson

Ann Taylor

Bill Taylor

SILVER

Adair Atkinson

Bill Stuart

Astrid Wolf

GOLD

Millie Heisler

VCC SECTIONAL

March 17-19, 2006

Don't Miss It!

Support your club

We would like all of our members to participate. Plan to play often and earn silver points.

Please bring your baked goods to Casa de Carta on Thursday.

Check the work sheets and see if there is a spot where you can help out. Many hands will make everything easier.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK...

What is the difference between a transfer and a relay following a no trump opener?

After a no trump opener a bid of 2D or 2H is a transfer to the next highest suit

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|----|---|-----|---|----|---|
| 1NT | P | 2D | P | 1NT | P | 2H | P |
| 2H | | | | 2S | | | |

The bid of 2S is a relay to 3C (or 3D). No trump bidder bids 3C. If responder has a weak club suit he passes; if he has a weak diamond suit he corrects to 3D and opener passes.

| | | | |
|-----|---|------------|---|
| 1NT | P | 2S | P |
| 3C | P | P (or 3 D) | P |
| P | P | | |

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Three VCC pairs will represent District 10 in the North American Open Pairs finals at the ACBL Nationals in Dallas. They earned the honor by placing in the top three at the District 10 finals.

Flight B:

Peg Birzer & Barb Stiff
Cindy Devish & Marilyn Biegler

Flight C:

Don & Valerie Smeltzer

Washington DC Director, Ted Ying:

"I especially do not let my more experienced players intimidate my newer players no matter how right they may be. The game is my job to run and not theirs. They come to play, not to direct or educate in the game/laws. That's my job, and they don't need to come back if they feel the need to do that."

2005 Top National Rankings

Barry Crane

- #625 Betty Schultz 398 MP
- #635 Ned Irving 397 MP
- #832 Jack Leach 357 MP
- #911 Louallen Leach 344 MP

Mini McKinney Top 100

Junior Master of the Year

- #68 Becky Rice 78 MP

Club Master of the Year

- #17 Don Smeltzer 161 MP

Sectional Master of the Year

- #57 Val Smeltzer 161 MP

Bronze Life Master of the Year

- #19 Ned Irving 397 MP

Silver Life Master of the Year

- #81 Betty Schultz 398 MP

Ace of Clubs Top 100

Junior Master of the Year

- #39 Becky Rice 53 MP

Club Master of the Year

- #86 Don Smeltzer 60 MP

Bronze Life Master of the Year

- #7 Ned Irving 184 MP

Silver Life Master of the Year

- #23 Betty Schultz 223 MP

Gold Life Master of the Year

- #66 Jack Leach 199 MP
- #95 Gina Doss 186 MP
- #96 Louallen Leach 185 MP

CONGRATULATIONS!

Message from the President

Isn't it great to live in the Village! We have so many fun choices of activities as well as many, many interesting and like-minded people.

One of my primary objectives this year is for our club to get more serious about ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy.

Take a strong look at the key points of the Zero Tolerance Policy, taken from the ACBL website:

Be cool! Bridge is fun.

The ACBL Board of Directors and Management are committed to improving acceptable player behavior at all times. The following policy outlines what is expected of all players during ACBL sponsored events, as well as in the playing area before and after each session.

The ultimate purpose of the Z-T policy is to create a much more pleasant atmosphere. We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which while not required, significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

- Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table
- Greeting others in a friendly manner
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents
- Having two clearly completed convention cards readily available to the opponents.
(This one is regulation, not just a nicety)

The following list has some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

- Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence
- Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding
- Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table
- Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called **immediately**. Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might

interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited. Law 91A gives the director the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

Now, each of us should ask ourselves this question: "**Am I the best ambassador of bridge that I can be—at all times?**" I think if we are totally honest, we know that almost all of us can improve. I know I certainly can! How about you?

My challenge to each of us is to focus NOT on what others should do, but instead, focus on yourself and make you the best you can be. If we all did this, I would bet that the few who really have the greatest opportunity would also improve—*from our good example*.

From my life experience, I have found that the most appreciated human personality traits are kindness, humor, and (positive) attitude. Below are some thoughts written primarily by SENIORS as they examined their lives and what they had learned.

Kindness

- I've learned that kindness is more important than perfection.—Age 70
- I've learned that you shouldn't speak unless you can improve on the silence.—Age 62
- I've learned that it's just as important to forget a wrong as it is to remember a kindness.—Age 72
- I've learned a good deal is a good deal only when it's a good deal for both parties.—Age 47
- I've learned that I am happy when I'm kind to others and unhappy when I'm not.—Age 88

Humor

- Almost nothing is more helpful in dealing with people than a sense of humor. Now, a sense of humor doesn't necessarily mean a knack for telling jokes. Rather, it means the ability to take some setbacks and still see that the world has not come to an end.

If you can keep from taking a situation or yourself too seriously, you'll get better results. If you don't

take yourself too seriously, there are always things in any situation that are still amusing, that you can still smile about. And a smiling, cheerful person invariably wins more cooperation than a grim or gloomy one.

If all you do in a crisis is add to the heat and confusion, you tend to add to the problem, rather than helping resolve it.

Yes, some problems are serious—but there's nothing to be gained by exaggerating their importance. Get in the habit of taking yourself and your problems less seriously. Learn to smile at yourself and the world as well. You'll have more good things to smile about—when you do.—No age given

I've learned that if you can't forgive and forget, you can at least forgive and move on.—Age 77

I've learned that it's never too late to improve yourself.—85

Attitude

There are basically two types of people: those that live and the ones that watch them live. Attitude is everything.—No age given.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.—No age given

I've learned that people are about as happy as they decide to be.—Age 79

I would welcome any ideas you have on the subject; please contact me at theirvings@cox.net.

Thanks

Ned Irving

A special thank you to Rick Wendricks who installed the shelves in our kitchen storage closet. What a difference they make.

Masterpoint Achievements

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 5 | Judy Belt | 20 | Marge Gortsma |
| | Ronnie Rice | | Cathy Irving |
| | Jim Rush | 50 | Jeri Carroll |
| | Donna Noss | | Mickey Bearden |
| 20 | Gerald Grimes | | Jane Kearby |
| | Sherry Evans | | Jeff LaCaze |
| | Bob Fisher | 100 | Lee Kern |
| | Pamela Murphy Fisher | | Jim Podawiltz |
| | Shirli Kaskie | | Diana Podawiltz |
| | Janet Davis | | Carol Reed |
| | Eileen Pyles | | Rebecca Rice |
| | Walter Kann | 200 | Luci Lewis |
| | Bonnie Rolli | | Randy Lusk |
| | Betty Hoepner | | Dick Johnson |
| | Joe Kaskie | | Lu Hagen |
| | Hadley Kurtz | | Greg Bono |
| | John Wild | | Bobby Haggard |
| | Alice Kurtz | | Don Smeltzer |

GREAT JOB!

SPRING & SUMMER SEMINAR

Through the Spring and Summer, a series of mini classes, specific to a given topic or convention will be offered. At present, approximately 25 different items, ranging from Basic Bidding Overview to Counting, and encompassing Tough Love in the process, will be offered.

Some will be free, generally VCC topics and Procedural Topics, such as the Team Game classes being offered on the 15th or March by Cindy Devish and Peg Birzer. Others will have a small cost, depending on the length of the class and preparation required by the instructor. Handouts will define this further, the classes will be listed, and a sign up notebook will be available sometime later this month.

Interest in any class other than those listed will be welcome. A minimum of 8 students will be sufficient to generate a class. If you have any questions, class input, or wish to teach, please contact Dick Condon.

TEACHER
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The ACBL will offer a Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP), if possible, at the Hot Springs Regional Tournament, May 15-21. This is a 10 hour course, offered in a 4, 3, 3 hour sessions. Playing in the open, or high masterpoints, are not necessarily a criteria for teaching, especially at the basic level. Those with somewhat recent experience could be of benefit to others, and to themselves by taking the TAP. If interested or have questions, please contact Dick Condon.

VCC APPEALS POLICY

All VCC members have the right to request an appeals committee for director rulings that you disagree with regarding facts on bridge laws.

The VCC board encourages your use of the appeals committee to review these situations. If you do not request a committee but choose to vocalize disagreement with a director's ruling you may be violating ACBL Zero Tolerance.

Check the VCC website to review the appeals policy.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS *

NATIONALS (NABC)

March 30-April 9, Dallas, TX

REGIONALS

April 17-23, Gatlinburg, TN

May 1-7, Oklahoma City, OK

May 15-21, Hot Springs, AR

SECTIONALS

March 17-19, Hot Springs Village, AR

April 21-23, Lake Charles, LA (0-300)

April 21-23, Houston, TX

April 28-30, Jackson, MS

May 5-7, Nashville, TN

May 5-7, Pine Bluff, AR

June 12-18, District 10 STaC

* Check ACBL's *The Bridge Bulletin* for other games and details.

Unit 161 2005 Ace of Clubs
Final Results

Rookie of the Year

- 1) Sherry Evans 2) John Wild 4) Bob Fisher
5) Annette Bono 6) Pamela Murphy-Fisher
9) Cathy Irving 10) Marge Gortsema

Junior Master of the Year

- 1) Becky Rice 3) Mickey Bearden 5) Marilyn Jones
7) Sandy Stephens

Club Master of the Year

- 1) Don Smeltzer 2) Marcy Jordan 3) Nancy Luehring
5) Diana Podawiltz 6) Jim Podawiltz
8) Pat Bertnolli 9) Dick Condon 10) Carolyn Myatt

Sectional Master of the Year

- 2) Val Smeltzer 3) Randy Lusk 4) Bob Prestridge
6) Mack Williams 7) Bill Parry 9) Carol Case
10) Gayle Hall

Regional Master of the Year

- 1) Bob Rogers 3) Jeanette Campbell 5) Greg Bono
7) Michelle Johnson 8) Bob Davis

NABC Master of the Year

- 1) Peggy Ross 2) Tom Martick 3) Rita Martick
5) Estelle White 8) Elaine Hunziker 9) Fran Anderson

Life Master of the Year

- 2) Fran Bazemore 3) Alicia Fetters 4) Bill Bazemore
5) Cindy Devish 6) Carmen Drake
7) Ken Drake 10) Marilyn Biegler

Bronze Life Master of the Year

- 1) Ned Irving 2) Sherman Olson 4) Teri LaBove
5) John Hegner 7) Bill Stuart 9) Shirley Stollsteimer
10) Kathleen Haley

Silver Life Master of the Year

- 1) Betty Shultz 2) Andy Cosby 3) Tony Hofstede
4) Joe Fischer 5) Millie Heisler 6) Mickey Washington
8) Wen Wenger

Gold Life Master of the Year

- 1) Jack Leach 2) Gina Doss 3) Louallen Leach
4) Billie Roberson 5) Virginia Matthews
6) Frank Matthews 7) John Tryon 9) Jean Pritchett
10) Betty Johnson

Diamond Life Master of the Year

- 1) Ray Banks

Unit 161 2005 Mini-McKenney Final Results

Rookie of the Year

- 3) Bob Fisher 4) Pamela Murphy-Fisher
6) Sherry Evans 7) Cathy Irving 8) John Wild
9) Marge Gortsema 10) Annette Bono

Junior Master of the Year

- 2) Becky Rice 4) Mickey Bearden 7) Marilyn
Jones 10) Sandy Stephens

Club Master of the Year

- 1) Don Smeltzer 3) Nancy Luehring 4) Marcy
Jordan

Sectional Master of the Year

- 2) Val Smeltzer 5) Randy Lusk 6) Bob Prestridge
8) Mack Williams 9) Beverly Brown 10) William
Parry

Regional Master of the Year

- 2) Greg Bono 5) Bob Rogers 7) Lu Hagen
8) Jeanette Campbell

NABC Master of the Year

- 2) Peggy Ross 3) Tom Martick 5) Rita Martick
10) Estelle White

Life Master of the Year

- 3) Alicia Fetters 5) Fran Bazemore 6) Bill
Bazemore 7) Jeannine Huber 8) Ann Taylor
9) Bill Taylor 10) Cindy Devish

Bronze Life Master of the Year

- 1) Ned Irving 6) Teri LaBove 8) Sherman Olson
9) Martha Blaine 10) Joan Burlingame

Silver Life Master of the Year

- 1) Betty Schultz 2) Andy Cosby 3) Millie Heisler
5) Tony Hofstede 7) Joe Fischer

Gold Life Master of the Year

- 1) Jack Leach 2) Louallen Leach 3) Gina Doss
4) Virginia Matthews 6) Billie Roberson
7) Frank Matthews 9) Jean Pritchett

Diamond Life Master of the Year

- 1) Ray Banks

**Have you noticed the Village Card
Club name on the Woodlands sign
at the entrance?**

RESORT CITY REGIONAL

The Unit-Sponsored Resort City Regional Tournament will be held at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs from May 15-21, 2006. This tournament offers something for everyone.

There are sixteen 299er pairs games scheduled, with trophies or script prizes paid to overall strata winners for each session. There will be speakers before each afternoon session. A separate 299er Swiss Team game is scheduled on Sunday, as is a Strati-Flighted Swiss Team Game.

Those with 0-5 points and those over 80 years old will pay \$8.00 for all pairs games. Those with 5-20 points will pay \$8.00 for all evening pairs sessions.

Single session Swiss team games paying red points will be played every afternoon. Knockouts begin each evening, continuing the next day. Stratified Pairs Games are offered each session Monday through Saturday.

Bakers (cookies, breads & Chex mix) and Volunteers (in many areas) will be needed.

Earn red and/or gold points, enjoy excellent hospitality and meet new friends from all over the US. Pick your partners and make plans to attend!

Please note the following change in the standing rules:

If a scoring error is found after the scores have been posted, the Director should change the score or notify the Club Manager. Corrections are permitted for a 24 hour period. The Director of the game at which the disputed score occurred must approve any score change.

The VCC is a club for all card games, not just duplicate bridge. We welcome our newest member, the Men's Duplicate Bridge Club. Other members include the Rubber Bridge Club and Better Bridgers.

SECTIONAL AT SEA NEW ORLEANS, LA

December 29-January 1, 2006

Millie Heisler 11.33 MP
Joan Burlingame 8.46 MP
Norma Marvel 8.46 MP
Gina Doss 6.56 MP
Cecil Grattafiori 6.47 MP
Dick & Micki Johnson 6.17 MP
Rosemary Ochsenfeld 5.76 MP
Ray Steelsmith 3.03 MP
Lou Agnew 2.81 MP
Ken & Carmen Drake 2.38 MP

JACKSON, MS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

January 13-15, 2006

Friday AM Open Pairs (18 pairs)

B-5, C-4 Don & Val Smeltzer

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs (8 pairs)

A-3 Marcy Jordan & Nancy Luehring

Friday Evening Open Pairs (40 pairs)

B-5/6 Barb Stiff & Peg Birzer

Friday Evening 299er Pairs (10 pairs)

A-2, B-2 Jim & Diana Podawiltz

A-3 Lu Hagen & Mary Jo Kilker

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs (17 pairs)

A-3 Lu Hagen & Mary Jo Kilker

NASHVILLE, TN REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

January 23-29, 2006

Teri LaBove & Martha Blaine 11.40 MP
Rick Wendricks & Alicia Fedders 2.09 MP
Roger & Betty Wigdon 2.09 MP
Tom & Rita Martick 1.98 MP
Dave & Glenda Barrows 1.71 MP
Don & Val Smeltzer 1.16 MP
Bob & Jean Leister .89 MP
Lu Hagen & Mary Jo Kilker .38 MP

STaC TOURNAMENT

January 30-February 5, 2006

VCC players earned a total of 664.80 silver masterpoints during this STaC tournament. What a wonderful opportunity to earn silver points at our club. Plan to play often at the next STaC tournament June 12th to 18th.

BRANSON, MO SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

February 24-26, 2006

Don and Val Smeltzer attended this sectional and came in **6th in C** in the Friday Afternoon Pairs (45.5 tables), **1st in C** in the Friday Evening Pairs (51 tables) and **5th in B** in the Sunday Swiss Teams with their partners

Two safety bars have been installed in the ladies' restroom for the benefit of all our members

While on the subject of safety, please slow down when driving between the Woodlands and the Ouachita buildings.

MENTORING PROGRAM

The spring mentoring program is underway. This is a great program because of the many VCC experienced players and teachers who volunteer to be part of it. If you have not participated before, consider signing up for the fall program. It is open to all players with 20 to 199 masterpoints.

Students / Mentors

Mickey Beardon/Shirley Stollsteimer
Diane Blackwood/Don Russell
Greg Bono/Jack Leach
Jim Crawford/ Dwayne Ballew
Sally Crawford/Marcia Ballew
Richard Doss/Gina Doss
Rich Hagen/Teri LaBove
Gayle Hall/Jan Farnsworth
Lavonne Hein/Dick Banks
Gerry Heisler/Millie Heisler
Ann Hooper/Dolores Pilarski
Vicki Jennings/Diane Patterson
Marcy Jordan/Rosemary Ochsenfeld
Mary Jo Kilker/Cathy Bertrand
Ed Levy/Rick Wendricks
Lucy Lewis/Andy Cosby
Nancy Luehring/Bob Ross
Pat Luehring/Ray Banks
Beth Mainord/Becky Rogers
Bernie Payne/Lillian Estes
Jo McPherson/Ned Irving
Diana Podawiltz/Louallen Leach
Jim Podawiltz/Joe Fischer
Becky Rice/Sheila Cosby
Barbara Truesdell/Mabel Serpa

VCC Board of Directors

President—Ned Irving

Vice President--Dick Condon

Treasurer--Allan Walker

Secretary—Lois Schoenrock

**Acting Game Manager—Richard
Robertson**

Purchasing Agent—Betty Schultz

**Membership Chairman--Teri
LaBove**

**Player Development Director—
Vicki Jennings**

**Director-at-Large--Marilyn
Biegler**

**Parliamentarian--Mabel Serpa
Club Manager--Richard
Robertson**

NOTICE TO THE VCC MEMBERSHIP

The VCC board announces the resignation of Andy Cosby from the position of Game Manager effective 3-7-06.

Please join the board in recognizing and thanking Andy for his many outstanding contributions as well as his great dedication to the betterment of our Card Club. Andy has probably worked harder than anyone in the service to all of the bridge players in the club and his efforts will be missed.

Richard Robertson will temporarily handle the Game Manager's responsibilities until such time as the board approves a new Game Manager.

Marilyn Biegler, *Newsletter* Editor
biegler@cox.net