

THE VILLAGE CARD CLUB

www.villagecardclub.org

NEWSLETTER

A Zero Tolerance Club

3rd QUARTER 2007

SEPTEMBER 2007

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 17th – Club Championship (9:00)
- 17th – 49er North American Pairs (12:30)
- 18th – Club Championship (7:00)
- 19th – ACBL Match Point (7:00)
- 20th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 24th – 49er North American Pairs (12:30)

OCTOBER 2007

- 1st – ACBL Club Appreciation (9:00)
- 4th – ACBL Club Appreciation (12:30)
- 8th – ACBL Club Appreciation LM/NLM Mixer (7:00)
- 10th – Mentor Game (6:30)
- 13th – Unit-Wide Championship (12:30)
- 16th – ACBL Club Appreciation (12:30)
- 18th – Life Master Party (12:30)
- 20th – ACBL Club Appreciation (12:30)
- 20th – North American Pairs Flight C Unit Finals at Hot Springs Bridge House (9:30)
- 23rd – ACBL Club Appreciation (7:00)
- 24th – ACBL Club Appreciation (1:00)
- 26th – ACBL Club Appreciation (9&10:30)
- 27th – North American Pairs Flight B Unit Finals at Hot Springs Bridge House (9:30)
- 29th – ACBL Club Appreciation (1:00)
- 31st – ACBL Club Appreciation (9:00)
- 31st – Halloween Party (1:00)

NOVEMBER 2007

- 2-4 – DeGray Sectional (Club Closed)

NOVEMBER 2007 (continued)

- 6th – Club Championship (12:30)
- 7th – Club Championship (1:00)
- 7th – Sadie Hawkins (7:00)
- 9th – ACBL Membership Game (9:00 & 10:30)
- 12th – Club Championship (9:00)
- 12th – LM/NLM Mixer (7:00)
- 13th – Club Championship (7:00)
- 14th – Mentor Game (6:30)
- 16th – Club Championship (9:00 & 10:30)
- 22nd – Thanksgiving (Club Closed)
- 26th – ACBL Charity Game (7:00)

DECEMBER 2007

- 1st – Club Championship (12:30)
- 3rd – Club Championship (12:30 & 1:00)
- 5th – Club Championship (9:00)
- 6th – Annual Meeting (12:00)
- 8th – Unit-Wide Club Championship (12:30)
- 10th – LM/NLM Mixer (7:00)
- 13th – Christmas Party

The **DeGray Sectional Tournament** will be held **November 2 – 4** at the **DeGray State Park Lodge**. Come enjoy the fall foliage and a fun time at a wonderful state park. The tournament is for all levels of players. Make plans to pick up a flyer and get a partner or team and join the fun. This is a Unit 161 sponsored tournament and profits are distributed to the participating clubs.

LIFE MASTER ACHIEVERS

LIFE MASTER

Nancy Luehring

BRONZE

Pat Bowles

Loretta Parks

Diane Patterson

Don Russell

SILVER

Verdie White

GOLD

“Wen” Wenger



VILLAGE CARD CLUB'S

VALENTINE SECTIONAL

February 15-17, 2008

The sectional tournament will be much earlier this year. Put it on your calendar now and plan to play often with your favorite partner.

Go for the Gold

The 21st ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game will be held Wednesday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m. The contest features one gold point for section-top winners. The game also features a booklet with complete analyses of the deals by many-time NABC champion Larry Cohen. This is the only club event awarding gold points.

There will be a pot luck dinner before the game. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. COME JOIN THE FUN!

Club Appreciation Day

Come join us on September 20th at 11:30 for a pizza party to honor everyone – directors, teachers, volunteers, and the membership. Be sure to sign up for this club championship game. Players are asked to bring either a salad or dessert.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Masterpoint Achievements

5 MP	Patricia Kaddatz Joi Miller Jane Moore Pat Robbins Linda Smith
20 MP	Sue Baltz Russ Choyce Gene Hamon Bob Jackson Glynn Jackson Betty Price
50 MP	Judy Belt Bill Chandler Roger Clarke Rex Jones Dorothy Liljegen Johnnie Niemann Ronnie Rice
100 MP	Ed Bertnolli Diane Condon Ginna DeThomas Rebecca Elliott Marilyn Jones Sandy Stevens Sondra Welch Jan Wells
200 MP	Jim Podawiltz Ralph Reynolds Carolyn Strout Chris Voeller

For the Good of the Club

Hello everyone!

I hear a lot of comments from folks about how important it is for all of us to do what we can “for the good of the club”.

- Have you ever found yourself disagreeing with someone about something going on at the club? Then consider,
- Respect others viewpoint as much as you want your view respected. (All bridge players know about the “Golden Fit”...maybe we all should remember about the “Golden Rule” as well).
- Even *Diamond Rio** gave us some tried and true words of advice in their number 1 hit “*Meet In The Middle*”:

*“I’d start walking your way
You’d start walking mine
We’d meet in the middle
‘neath that old (Woodland’s)** pine
We’d gain a lot of ground
‘cause we’d both give a little
And there ain’t no road too long
When you meet in the middle”.....*

* A country/western group with five number one singles since 1991

** Well, maybe they used *Georgia* here...

- If you have ideas to improve the club, tell a board member about it...then volunteer to help us make it better.
- If you have ideas to improve our Constitution and Bylaws, use our process for change. Contact Jan Farnsworth, the C&B chair. Her team includes Dick Banks and Kathy Harris and they are reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws now for final presentation to the membership in December.
- If you are worried about the future direction of the club, volunteer to serve on the Board! Contact Lois Schoenrock, chair of the Nominating Committee. Her team includes Johnnie Niemann and Don

- Russell. They will recommend a slate to the membership in mid-November. Seven positions are up for election this year! We need volunteers! If you know of someone who would be a good board member for the club, let the Nominating Committee know that also.
- Make an effort to spread positive fun thoughts! Fun and laughter always seem to be contagious. Make a stronger effort to end negative bad thoughts. If you never pass on someone else’s negativity thoughts and untrue rumors, they will probably “die on the vine”...And a vine full of dead negativity and withered rumors would make a wonderful bouquet in our club. After all, whose responsibility is the atmosphere of the club??? Usually, the strongest voice sets the atmosphere in a club...So if you join with your positive-minded friends and be really noisy, then we will have a positive-minded atmosphere. Do your part to help the atmosphere of the club! We should always remember the advice of most of our mothers...“If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” There is no better time to “practice what she preached” than now!
- Appreciate those that help give you one of the best bridge-club experiences in the country! The behind the scenes hours that it takes is huge. They need your encouragement and your active participation to help the VCC be the best it can be!

Thank you all for your tremendous support!

Ned Irving, VCC President

Be sure to attend the VCC annual meeting at 12:00 on Thursday, December 6th. The meeting should be shorter because officers’ reports will be posted on the bulletin board prior to the meeting.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS *

NATIONALS (NABC)

Nov. 22-Dec. 2, San Francisco, CA

REGIONALS

Sept. 24-30, Tunica, MS

Jan. 28-Feb. 3, Biloxi, MS

May 5-11, Hot Springs, AR

SECTIONALS

Oct. 12-14, Monroe, LA

Oct. 19-21, Jackson, MS

Oct. 26-28, Shreveport, LA

Nov. 1-4, Nashville, TN

Nov. 2-4, DeGray, Bismark, AR

Nov. 8-11, Metairie, LA

Nov. 16-18, Biloxi, MS

Dec. 6-9, Baton Rouge, LA

Feb. 15-17, Hot Springs Village, AR

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

MENTORING PROGRAM

The Mentoring Program is held twice a year February-April and September-November. Our fall program is under way with 29 mentors and students. After a mini lesson there is a play and learn session once a month. The mentor and student play three other times in sanctioned games to help improve their bridge skills and learn new conventions that the student wishes. All this is free to the student.

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

Check the website for more details on the Mentoring Program.

Seventy Percent Club

6/9	Ray Banks & Ned Irving	71.53
7/3	Betty Schultz & Ned Irving	70.69
7/5	Pam Harris & Joi Miller	74.17
7/11	Carole & Ron Trainer	72.69
7/31	Peggy Grant & Joi Miller	70.00
8/2	Bernice Deano & Marion McConnell	71.52
8/17	Patricia & Larry Kaddatz	75.76
9/3	Judy Belt & Ginna DeThomas	74.24

Do you realize how difficult a 70% game is?

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

June

Open	Betty Schultz
0-1000	Becky Rice
0-300	Becky Rice
0-20	Linda Smith

July

Open	Betty Schultz
0-1000	Ginna DeThomas
0-300	Ginna DeThomas
0-20	Larry Kaddatz

August

Open	Betty Schultz
0-1000	Randy Lusk
0-300	Dick Condon
0-20	Linda Smith

Oops!

A pair was omitted from the World-Wide Bridge Contest in the last issue –Gloria Van Ert and Bob Engels placed 607th out of 5,397 pairs.

Also omitted was Louallen Leach who earned 11.51 MP at Nationals in St. Louis.

Belated congratulations to all three.

Being a Good Partner

A lot of your success at bridge will depend on your partner. Does partner play best with you across the table? Do the two of you function well together?

“We all know that the rapport one has with a favorite partner is worth all the conventions in the books.” – Victor Mollo’s Hideous Hog

One of the intangibles that make bridge unusual is the importance of good chemistry between partners. Everything that happens within your partnership can affect how well you do – not only your individual technical skills and depth of partnership understanding, but also your will to win, your mental stamina and your morale.

Since every partnership must face bad results, you’d do well to handle these trying situations as gracefully as possible, so you can try for a better result on the next board with absolutely no distraction.

“People ask you for criticism, but they only want praise.” – Somerset Maugham

We don’t like our mistakes broadcast to the world (or even to two opponents). So, consider your partner’s feelings. No purpose can ever be served by emotional criticism. After each session of play, the pair should carefully go over their results, good and bad, looking for areas that merit discussion.

Partner probably feels worse about personal mistakes than you do. (If you can’t assume your partner is trying as hard as possible, start looking for another partner.)

“A good partner always has a smile on his face.” – Benito Garozzo, Italian World Champion

Bridge is like any other pursuit – you get as much out of it as you are willing to put in. Fine-tuning a partnership requires plenty of hard work on the technical side. Work toward cultivating a mature, considerate attitude in your partnership. You might see your results improve.

An excerpt from *An Intermediate and New Player Guide to the NABCs*

Fall Bridge Classes

Bridge classes start September 17th. **It is not too late.** Just show up at the class you wish to attend.

Schedule

Bidding (Connie Fitch)

Monday, Sept. 17th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Defense (Ray Banks)

Tuesday, Sept. 18th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Play of Hand (Barbara Stiff)

Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Intermediate Conventions (Greg Bono)

Thursday, Sept. 20th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Bidding (Connie Fitch)

Friday, Sept. 21st, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Beginning Conventions (Teri LaBove)

Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

All classes are 8 weeks in length. The cost is \$40 for the classes and \$15 for a book, except for the Bidding Class, the book is \$20.

Jim Hull on moving to Albuquerque 10 years ago: “I found the bridge club before the first restaurant.” We do have our priorities in bridge.

Nominating Committee

We will be starting the nominating process in the near future. Our hope is that we will all work together to develop the best slate possible always keeping the good of the club in mind. Written and verbal announcements will be out soon listing the positions that are open.

Louis Schoenrock, Nominating Chair

TULSA, OK REGIONAL TOURNAMENT June 25 – July 1, 2007

Randy Lusk – 21.20 MP
Nancy Luehring – 19.16 MP
Marcy Jordan – 19.16 MP
Becky Rice – 19.16 MP
Vonna Fischer – 5.07 MP
Millie Heisler – 4.16 MP
Carol DeCastro – 4.16 MP

SAN ANTONIO, TX REGIONAL TOURNAMENT July 2 – 8, 2007

Sandra Snyder – 15.60 MP
Vicki Jennings -- 14.06 MP
Enid Scripture – 11.12
Becky Rice – 9.98 MP
Norma Marvel – 5.38 MP
Joan Burlingame – 5.38 MP
Mark Williams – 4.26 MP

NASHVILLE, TN NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP July 19 – 29, 2007

A number of VCC players were very successful at the NABC tournament.

The highlight for VCC was Cathy Irving and Ginna DeThomas high point winners in the Intermediate/Novice players. **WAY TO GO!**

Ned Irving – 46.72 MP
Denny Penticoff – 40.72 MP
Bob Case – 21.08 MP
Verdie White – 21.08 MP
Ginna De Thomas – 20.84 MP
Cathy Irving – 20.84 MP
Pat Bowles – 17.64 MP
Monica Mitchell – 16.51 MP
Doris Ham – 16.51 MP
Greg Bono – 10.35 MP
Susan Trimble – 8.95 MP
Bill Trimble – 8.95 MP
Glenda Barrow – 6.94 MP
Dave Barrow – 6.94 MP
Anne Holt – 4.46 MP

EMMY CLARK MEMORIAL GAME August 3, 2007

The VCC held its third annual Emmy Clark Memorial duplicate game recently in memory of Emmy Clark, a wonderful lady who worked endlessly and tirelessly for the club.

Overall Winners were Flight A, Billie Roberson and Joe Fischer; Flight B, Becky Rogers and Astrid Wolf and Flight C (tie) Glenda and Dave Barrow, Ellen Weber and Doris Van Skiver.

UNIT-WIDE GAME August 11, 2007

The Unit 161 game was held in clubs across the unit. VCC players who placed in this event are as follows:

Flight A
3rd – Betty Schultz & Gina Doss
4th – Verdie White & Bob Case
5th – Becky Rogers & Andy Cosby

Flight B
2nd – Verdie White & Bob Case
3rd – Joyce Edwards & Jim Zimmerman

Flight C
1st – Jeanette Campbell & Bob Rogers
4th – Loretta Parks & Helen Sheehan

Planning ahead?

Be sure to include the RESORT CITY REGIONAL on your calendar – May 5-11, 2008. It will be held at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs. There will games for all level of players. This is a great opportunity to earn GOLD without having to travel.

Flyers are ready – be sure to pick up your “green sheet”.

Alerts and Transfers

The purpose for saying “Alert” (and tapping the Alert flag or displaying the Alert bid card) is to warn your opponents that Partner’s bid has a special meaning. You don’t say “Alert” to reassure Partner that you understood his bid. Since the “Alert!” is for the opponents’ benefit, it is important that Partner not take any action based on your having said “Alert!” or based on the fact that you failed to say “Alert!” (perhaps communicating that you did not read his bid correctly). Partner needs to act as if he cannot hear your “Alerts!”

You should “Alert!” every time Partner’s bid is listed or underlined in red on your convention card, and any time an otherwise un-alertable call has a different meaning than the opponents would assume. For example, a cuebid of the opponent’s suit is usually not alertable. Most of the time, it shows 2 suits (as with Michaels), it is a limit raise of Partner’s bid or it asks Partner for a stopper (as with Western cuebids). But, if you and Partner have agreed that it means something other than what the opponents would assume, you should warn them with an “Alert!”

Some people are saying “Transfer!” when they should be saying “Alert!”

Example #1: Many players use the auction 1NT-P-2 Spade as a relay to 3 Clubs. After Opener bids 3 Clubs, Responder may pass or bid 3 Diamonds which Opener is expected to pass. Look closely at your convention card: in the 1NT responses, 2 Spades is black, but the line after it is

red (not blue!). In this auction, Opener should say “Alert!” not “Transfer!” and certainly not “I’m taking that as a transfer.” Just “Alert!” If asked by his LHO, Opener would explain, “It is a Relay to 3 Clubs, suggesting he has 5+ Clubs or 5+ Diamonds.

Example #2: Some players use “4-suit transfers,” so the auction 1NT-P-2 Spades is a transfer to 3 Clubs, and the auction 1NT-P-2NT (or 3 Clubs is a transfer to 3 Diamonds. In this case, Opener still says only “Alert!” But when asked, he would respond, “It is a transfer to (whichever) showing at least 5.”

So why does it matter?

In the first place, you should only make the announcement “Transfer!” if the bid is printed in blue on your card, as with Jacoby (2♦ or 2♥) or Texas (4♦ or 4♥) transfers. Making such an announcement with other bids is prohibited (unauthorized information). In the second place, if your bid of 2 Spades shows either 5+ Clubs or 5+ Diamonds it is not a “Transfer”; it is a “Relay.” You see, “Transfer!” guarantees that the suit you are asking Partner to bid is your suit. “Relay,” in this case, says your suit may be Clubs or Diamonds. Since relays and transfers are different, telling your opponents that it is one thing when it is really the other is unethical.

VCC Bridge Ethics Newsletter #1 (April 2004)

North American Pairs

If you have qualified for the North American Pairs, be sure to attend the **Unit Finals** which will be held at the **Bridge House in Hot Springs**. You must qualify at the unit level in order to go on to the district finals January 12 in Vicksburg, MS.

Flight C will be held on **Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m.** **Flight B** will be on **Saturday, October 27th at 9:30.**

These are two session events and will cost \$20 per person which will include lunch and free beverages.

Flight A will be on **Sunday, Sept. 30th in Tunica, MS.**

VCC Schedule of Games

Monday

9:00 AM – 0-299 Stratified Pairs
12:30 PM – 0-49 Stratified Pairs
1:00 PM – Open Stratified Pairs

2nd Monday

7 PM – Non Life Master/Master Mixer Pairs

Tuesday

9:00 AM – Rubber Bridge
12:30 PM – 0-20 Newcomer Pairs
12:30 PM – Open Stratified Pairs
7:00 PM – 0-299 Stratified Pairs

Wednesday

8:45 AM – Men's Duplicate
9:00 AM – 0-299 Stratified Pairs
1:00 PM – 0-999 Stratified Pairs
1:00 PM – Open Pairs
7:00 PM – Better Bridgers

Thursday

8:45 AM – 0-5 Bridge Plus
12:30 PM – 0-299 Stratified Pairs
12:30 PM – Open Stratified Pairs

Friday

9:00 AM – 0-99 Stratified Pairs
10:30 AM – Open Stratified Pairs

Saturday

12:30 PM – Open Stratified Pairs

Sunday

First 1:00 PM – 199er Swiss Team
Third 1:00 PM – B/C Swiss Teams
Fourth 1:00 PM – Unit Team (mixed)

Be sure to check the bulletin board for all of our "Special Games".

VCC Board of Directors

President – Ned Irving
Vice President – John Wild
Secretary – Lois Schoenrock
Treasurer – Andy Cosby
Purchasing Agent – Betty Schultz
Membership Chairman – Teri LaBove
Player Development Director – Ginna DeThomas
Publicity Director – Marilyn Biegler
Club Manager – Fran Bazemore
Parliamentarian – Mabel Serpa

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