

# "THE NEWS AT CASA DE CARTA"

December 2011



Check on all the great events we have going on at the VCC in December – semi-annual meeting, elections, STAC week – Christmas party – have fun!! If you have something you would like included in the

VCC newsletter, please e-mail Peg Birzer at [birz3134@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birz3134@sbcglobal.net) . Also, if you would like to receive the newsletter in a different form, please notify Peg.

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## **VCC ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 12:00 NOON**

2011 VCC Board Election Dates are as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 1 (11 am to 1 pm)

Friday, Dec. 2 (11 am to 1 pm)

Monday, Dec. 5 (11 am to 1 pm)

Tuesday, Dec. 6 (11 am to 1 pm)

Wednesday, Dec. 7 (11 am to 1 pm)

Anyone requesting an Absentee Ballot must contact Ron Rice at 922-3346. The Absentee Ballot must be received back prior to Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Following are those running for VCC Board positions:

**President** - Andy Cosby



(or) Doris Waugh

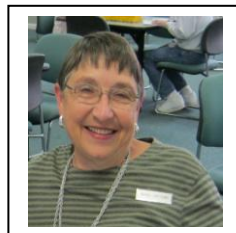


**Vice-President** – Rick Wendricks



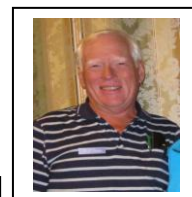
**Program Director** –  
Teri LaBove

**Secretary** – Kathie Riedel

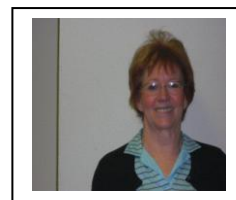


**Player Development-**  
Marge Gortsema

**Logistics Director** – Chuck Stofer  
(or)



Marcie Bearden



**Treasurer** – Clark Vernon



**THE VILLAGE  
CARD CLUB  
CELEBRATES  
CHRISTMAS ON  
THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 15.**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 NOON!!**

Christmas party luncheon tickets are available for \$5 from December 1 through December 10 from the following persons: *Ginna DeThomas, Hospitality Chair or Alicia Fetters, Lillian Estes, Judy Belt, Marcie Bearden, Fran Anderson or our Directors.*

**NOTE: THE VCC WILL BE CLOSED ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2011**

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH BRIDGE EDUCATION

We're nearing that time of the year when we have to choose the \*perfect\* gift for our loved ones. Here are some bridge books recommended by BridgeBase



Fred Gitelman's favorite book  
*Adventures in Card Play*

Jeff Rubens - *The Secrets of Winning Bridge*

2011 Book of the Year (Suitable for  
Advanced/Expert)  
*The Rodwell Files*

*The Hog takes to Precision* (No need to have knowledge of precision to enjoy this collection of Hideous Hog tales.)

S. J. Simon  
*Why you lose at Bridge*

For Advanced/Experts  
*Bridge Squeezes Complete*

For Beginners/Intermediates  
*Bid Better Play Better : How to think at the Bridge table*

*Master Class: Lessons from the Bridge Table*

## WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR THIS MONTH:

*Each Wednesday, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am, a two-hour workshop is offered.*

Dec. 07: Basic Slam Bidding – Andy Cosby, BI

## TUESDAY PLAY AND LEARN

Dec. 06: Review II, 10 boards

Dec. 13: Review III, 10 boards

**WATCH THE BULLETIN BOARD OR THE WEBSITE FOR DATES IN JANUARY THAT NEW CLASSES ARE PLANNED.**

## GAME OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWCOMERS

For your enjoyment, we have Newcomer Games (Stratified 20/10/5) on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 9:00 am. We have 49er Games (Stratified 50/20/10) on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings; and we have 99er Games (Stratified 100/50/20) on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. All of these are for you!

"Stratified" means that you play against everyone and can win the whole event (Strat A) or win your stratum (B or C).

Come with or without a partner! I guarantee you a nice partner. . .if you haven't yet tried the Tuesday morning Newcomer Game, why not give it a go?

*Lots of nice folks there.*

*If you have friends who would like to learn more about bridge*, our current plans are to start a new **Easybridge!** series on Friday mornings (9:00-11:00) beginning January 20, 2012. Nancy Luehring will lead the Easybridge! presenters. You can read a description of this program at <http://www.villagecardclub.org/education/EasyBridge/Easybridge1.php>

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## ASK THE EXPERTS???

This month we have a question:

Both vulnerable, as South you hold the following hand:

Dlr: S	V: all
♠ K 10 9 8 6 5	
♥ K83	
♦ AK	
♣ 76	

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	1NT	3♦*
?			

\*pre-emptive

What action do you take?

In response to your question I would simply pass. I have just about what I had when I opened 1 spade. My partner doesn't have a good holding in spades since he responded 1 NT. In addition to the fact that he won't have 3 spades, he might not even have 1 spade. Based upon our non-fit in spades we have no denomination to play in that I know of from my side of the table. I cannot double the pre-empt because I have no club spots. Since I am looking for a plus score at matchpoints it looks like a misfit hand for us; them also possibly. My pass ought to be made without a great deal of delay [above the required 10 seconds] so that my partner doesn't get barred. My partner is free to bid at this point but he will need his own long suit to compete. Spades is not the suit in which to play since the pre-empter and my partner rate to be short in spades unless partner freely returns us to spades. What we don't want to do is rebid 3 spades and go for several vulnerable undertricks probably doubled.

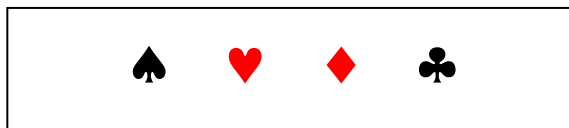
**Ray Banks**

**WE HAVE HAD ONLY THE ONE ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, SO THANK RAY FOR TAKING TIME TO HELP!**

Could you take time to let me know if you want this column continued??? Just send me a e-mail: [birz3134@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birz3134@sbcglobal.net)

## A QUOTE FROM BOBBY WOLFF

*"Bridge is like jujitsu, an activity where you want your opponents to do all the hard work so that you can exploit their actions."*



## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### Membership Dues

Just a reminder! Please pay your 2011 Membership dues before December 31st, 2010. The membership directory will go to the printer the first part of January and we would love to have everyone listed. Pick up an application at the card club or print one directly from our website: [www.villagecardclub.org](http://www.villagecardclub.org).

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STAC

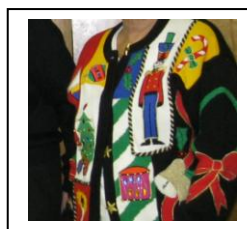
(Sectional Tournament at Club Level - Silver points)

December 12 -18, 2011

ALL GAMES \$3.00

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*Who was wearing this Beautiful sweater last Christmas?*

*First correct E-mail to [birz3134@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birz3134@sbcglobal.net) wins a free play!*

Jean Weber was the first with the answer to last month's question and won a free play.

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The annual **BRIDGE BOWL** (open game) will be Sunday, January 1 at 1:00 pm. Let's get 2012 off to a slamming (7 no trump) start with a large crowd at VCC.

## FROM A MEMBER'S RECIPE BOOK

This recipe was much requested at our summer tournament.

### PRETZEL RECIPE

- 1 Container of UTZ pretzels 3.25 lbs  
(Sam's Club bakery section)
- 1 ½ - 16 oz bottle of Orville Redenbacher's buttery popping oil  
(Walmart)
- 1.5 oz. HiddenValley Ranch dry dressing  
(Sam's in spices)
- 1 tsp. of lemon pepper seasoning
- 2 tsp. garlic seasoning

Divide pretzels into 2 containers. I like to use 2<sup>nd</sup> empty pretzel container. Blend popping oil, ranch dressing and seasoning and pour even amounts over pretzels. Close containers and gently shake or roll containers frequently to distribute oil mixture for first 6-8 hours. As tops tend to leak, I use Saran Wrap under top to minimize leakage. Pretzels will be ready in about a day.

This recipe was shared with us by our neighbor, Pat Perilloux. His recipe originally called for 3 tsp. of lemon pepper, but I like the added garlic flavor. Enjoy!

*From Helen Raxsdale*

*Be sure you say thanks when you see her.*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### DIRECTOR RULINGS: What is a MINOR PENALTY CARD ??

A minor penalty card is a single card 9 or LOWER and exposed by accident. (As in playing 2 cards to a trick or dropping one accidentally).

The following facts are true about a minor penalty card:

1. It must be left face up on the table.
2. It does NOT have to be played at its first legal opportunity.
3. It must be played before any other card, 9 or lower, of the same suit is played.
4. It is permissible to lead or play a card, 10 or above, in the same suit before playing the minor penalty card.
5. It is permissible to play another suit.
6. The offender's partner is NOT subject to lead penalties, but Law 16A, Unauthorized Information may apply.

### What is a MAJOR PENALTY CARD ??

A major penalty Card is a single card, 10 or above, exposed accidentally, or **any** card exposed through deliberate play (as in leading out of turn or correcting a revoke), or two or more penalty cards (note that the same defender cannot have two minor penalty cards) belonging to one defender.

The following facts are true:

1. It must be left face up on the table until played or until options have been exercised.
2. It must be played at the first legal opportunity.
3. When a player has a major penalty card, his partner may not lead to a new trick until declarer states which, if any, of his three options he is selecting.

These are the major factors. ALWAYS call the Director for all options to be exercised.

*Teri LaBove*

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## LAKE DEGRAY SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

Friday 299er Pairs winners were Bill Veal and Kim Kelley (1<sup>st</sup> in C, 3<sup>rd</sup> in A & B).

In the 49er event, Scott Luchesi and Roxana Whitmer were 1<sup>st</sup> in A and B.

Friday afternoon Open Pair honors went to Emil Dimitrov and Fran Anderson who were 1<sup>st</sup> in B and C.

In Friday afternoon 49er, Harold and Dash Broo were 1<sup>st</sup> in A, and they were 1<sup>st</sup> in A and B in the evening 299er.

Joyce Fritz and Sandy Romo were 1<sup>st</sup> in B in the Friday afternoon 49er.

**In the Friday Knockouts, Diane and Dick Condon playing with Ed and Pat Bertnolli came in 1<sup>st</sup> in Bracket II.**

On Saturday am in the 299er game, Sissy Toney and Elaine Weeter were 1<sup>st</sup> in C and in the afternoon they were 1<sup>st</sup> in A, B and C.

In the Saturday afternoon 49er game, John Symons and Roxana Whitmer were 1<sup>st</sup> in A.

In the Saturday evening Open Pairs, Bubba and Helen Raxsdale were 1<sup>st</sup> in B and C.

**In the Saturday Knockouts, Bracket I, Liz and Don Coonfer and Susan Trimble and Barb Meiners were 1<sup>st</sup>.**

None of our VCC players came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the Sunday Swiss. Joe and Vonna Fischer and Emil Dimitrov and Millie Heisler were 3<sup>rd</sup> in X and Don and Liz Coonfer and Doris Waugh and Teri LaBove were 5<sup>th</sup> in B.

Emil Dimitrov had the most points of VCC players. Sissy Toney was the high point winner for the Village 299'ers.

*(Sorry, no photos were available from DeGray)*

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Greg Bono –  
*Silver Life Master*



Linda Smith –  
*Bronze Life Master*

**SWISS TEAMS** are on December 11th  
Get your team together and sign up!!  
**Christmas Presents will be given!!!**  
Contact Teri LaBove @ 915-9101 for assistance.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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*The Business of Bridge*

## ADDITIONAL AIR-CONDITIONING INSTALLED AT CASA DE CARTA

by Andy Cosby, President

We have installed an additional 5-ton heat pump in our playing area. This unit is mounted in the ceiling of our west (smaller) playing area and provides additional cooling and heating to both playing areas, increasing our capacity from 9 to 14 tons. This should address the discomfort many players have experienced during summer heat waves and also take off the chill at our games on very cold winter days.

The Village Card Club paid \$6,450 for this upgrade from retained earnings. We have approximately \$30,000 remaining in the bank.

Several VCC members have told me they disagreed of this decision. *"POA, not VCC, should have paid for the upgrade because the air-conditioning was insufficient from the beginning."*

Casa de Carta was designed in 1997 when our membership and game sizes were half what they are now. The air-conditioning tonnage was appropriate for the loads anticipated at that time.

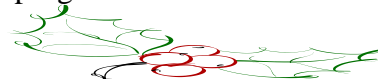
Further, our lease agreement is based on amortization of the construction cost over 20 years at 8.15% interest. The construction cost was \$324,500, and the interest over 20 years totaled \$334,498. (In reality, the 8.15% is not interest – but operating cost – and covers maintenance, insurance, utilities and custodial services.) If POA had installed 14 tons, rather than 9 tons in 1997, and if that additional unit had cost \$4,000, we would have paid \$8,000 over 20 years for it.

*"Well, since POA owns the building, they are obligated to pay for this."* No, they are not. The lease states clearly that the lessee is responsible for improvements.

*"Well, even if they aren't obligated to pay, we could have pressured them to do so by showing up in masse at a POA Board meeting."*

The POA has laid off good workers, trimmed expenses wherever it could, and has some big financial problems still to address. I had a lengthy meeting with POA General Manager Scott Randall. Under no circumstances would he approve or recommend POA's paying for this improvement. I do not believe that we, as good citizens, should have tried to create such pressure, nor do I think it would have been successful.

*"Well, if POA wouldn't pay for it, we should have done without."* We have money in the bank to deal with emergencies and to be used for the comfort and enjoyment of our members. Your Board of Directors is responsible for how this money is used. While this was not an "emergency," it will certainly add to everyone's comfort and enjoyment of our facility and programs.



## **FROM OUR CLUB MANAGER**

Puppet Stayman is no longer alertable, but all the responses are alertable.

**THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2011. PLEASE LET YOUR VCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO READ OUR NEWS IN THIS FORMAT. THE VCC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR IS ANNETTE BONO. YOU CAN CONTACT HER AT [anngbono@suddenlink.net](mailto:anngbono@suddenlink.net)**